

Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought

Key Summary Points of the IWG Coordination Committee Virtual Meeting 11 May 2020, 14:00-16:00 Hours

1. Four task groups are established.

Members and leaders of the four task groups are confirmed (Table 1). To the extent possible, the groupings were made based on stated preferences, expertise, and regional balance considerations. However, members are free to attend and contribute to other groups. Expert members of the IWG will lead the TG1 and TG2, with regional representatives co-leading while regional representatives will lead the TG3 and TG4 and the experts will co-lead.

Table 1: Finalized Task Group Members

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Marc Svoboda*	Sara-Jade Govia*	Luca Perez*	Skumsa Ntshanga*
Robert Stefanski**	Abduvokgid Zakhadullaev**	Roger Pulwarty**	Michael Brüntrup**
Hou Wei	Andries Jordaan	Theodore Horbulyk	Gunilla Björklund (Chair)
Trevor Hadwen	Jose Fidel Pérez	Thizwilondi Rambau@	Nathalie van Haren
María de Estrada	Caroline King	Vinay Nangia	Yuriy Kolmaz
Issa Garba	Eduardo Mansur	Stephen Muwaya	Vanina Pietragalla
Amitabh Gautam@	Abdolhoseni Mohsen@	Gaius Eudoxie (Vice Chair)	Abdu AlSharif
	Marijana Solomun	German Kust	Andrew O' Sullivan
	Suruchi Bhadwal		Ali Mohamed

* Lead ** Co-leader

@ Alternate Members of the IWG

2. Terms of Reference for the Coordinating Committee (CC) is agreed upon.

The CC will consist of eight group leaders plus the IWG Chair and Vice-chair (Table 1). They will coordinate and facilitate the overall work program of their respective groups and serve as focal points of their group. With the support of the secretariat, group leaders will organize their own virtual meetings, while the meeting will be open to other members to participate. The IWG CC will ensure harmonization/ writing of the overall report and its timely submission.

To support the work of the IWG, the UNCCD has created folders in the Microsoft team, where related documents are being shared.

3. Tentative working topics for the task groups (TG) are agreed upon as below.

TG1- Early warning & monitoring Systems

TG2- Vulnerability & impact assessment

TG3: Risk mitigation & response measures -Economic and financing perspective

TG4: Risk mitigation & response measures - Policy and institutional perspective

Physical/infrastructural measures will be looked at in each of the TG3 and TG4.

4. Draft outline of the IWG report is discussed

The Secretariat presented a tentative working draft outline for the IWG report, which the IWG CC could consider.

- ❖ General introduction of the UNCCD process, the role played by IWG, and COP decision. This section will provide an overview of the policy, implementation, and institutional coordination frameworks.
- ❖ The first (core) chapter, Drought monitoring and early warning systems, will identify the best options available and recommend context-specific measures. These will be supplemented with lessons learned from case studies.
- ❖ The second chapter on assessing impacts, vulnerability, and risk of drought, will help countries assess - in a comprehensive manner- the extent of potential damage or loss in the event of a drought, and how to reduce vulnerability to droughts. Reducing vulnerability to drought for ecosystems and population is one of the strategic objectives of the UNCCD. This chapter also will be substantiated with relevant case studies.
- ❖ The third chapter, Risk mitigation and response -Economic tools and infrastructural measures, will examine appropriate economic, financing, and associated implementation measures for addressing drought, develop methodologies for cost of inaction and benefits of inaction, and case studies. It will recommend innovative financing mechanisms for drought risk reduction. Essentially, this chapter would focus on what the incentives and tools for action are.

- ❖ The fourth chapter, risk mitigation and response – Policy & infrastructural measures, will recommend appropriate policy, advocacy, legal, and implementation measures for addressing drought effectively under UNCCD – drought governance. It will highlight the communication, raising public awareness, education, and capacity development. Further, it can offer insights for international cooperation (south-south, north-south, and north-north) to foster drought policies.
- ❖ The last chapter will identify the gaps and additional arrangements for the UNCCD at the international level given all other initiatives, such as UNFCCC, UNDRR, and others. It will take a holistic and integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and enhancing the resilience of communities and ecosystems against drought. With this, the IWG comes up with concrete options for appropriate policy, advocacy, and implementation measures that can be applied at all levels for addressing drought effectively under the UNCCD. It is not about “what” but the “How”.

The outline is only a starting point for the IWG, and the identified task groups will further articulate and unpack the ToR of the IWG, as adopted at COP.

5. UNDRR Global Assessment Report (GAR) on Drought and its potential linkages to the IWG process

Roger Pulwarty (IWG member and GAR Coordinating Lead Author) presented the UNDRR GAR report and highlighted the potential synergies with the IWG. The drought was highlighted in the GAR 2011 ‘as a Hidden Hazard’ which was elaborated in 2019 following the IPCC to highlight the complex and cascading risks from drought. In addition, drought was highlighted in other international reports, such as IPCC, WHO and UNEP, and others.

With this in the background, the GAR 2021 has a special report on Drought. The goal of this report is to develop a compelling agenda and pathways to maximize the value of existing assets and approaches aligning across sectors and systems and strengthen the evidence-based and broaden the actor-network for present and future investments in resilience. The report has three sections. Section 1, modernizing our Understanding of Drought, brings out the complexity of long-term planning, rather than emergency response. Section 2 brings out the case studies on the economic, social, and environmental aspects while section 3, from Risk Management to Resilience, provides insights into characterizing and reducing systemic risk. Finally, the report concludes with the recommendation.

The IWG members were reminded of the opportunity to benefit from the GAR process and to seek ways how best to align the two processes. The UNCCD Secretariat and UNDRR had a meeting in October 2019 to identify synergies and alignment between the two processes.

6. Towards the 19th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 19), 24-26 November 2020

In line with the COP decision, it was agreed in the CC meeting that an interim report will be prepared to the CRIC. At the CRIC, the IWG could share the progress made so far – what is achieved and what remains to be done and find areas of convergence for refining the IWG report. This may not be a full-fledged report, but we will present one, as it is a major milestone in the IWG process to receive feedback from the UNCCD Parties. At the recent CRIC Bureau meeting, the chair of the CRIC Bureau suggested having a panel discussion on the IWG process. The IWG CC decided that each TG will work on their respective topics and present their findings (2-3 pager report) in the next IWG meeting. The reports from the TGs will then be compiled to produce the intended interim report which will be translated into all UN languages to be submitted as part of the CRIC documents in August.

7. The Way Forward

- ❖ The IWG CC decided to call for a TG meeting next week. The TG will unpack the topics and content as a way forward, and by reaching out to each other groups in order to ensure synergies.
- ❖ The Chair will send out emails to TG leaders to make sure TG meetings take place in the next two weeks.
- ❖ TG leaders will present what was discussed in the IWG CC in their respective groups and define/discuss the way forward with their group.
- ❖ To put the context, a quick presentation of the scoping paper and Submission analysis report will be made.
- ❖ The Secretariat and IWG members will keep adding relevant literature in the IWG Microsoft team's platform.

Participation

IWG: Abdu Gasem AlSharif, Gunilla Björklund (Chair), Gaius Eudoxie (V. Chair), Issa Garba, Trevor Hadwen, Sara-Jade Govia, Caroline King-Okumu, Stephen Muwaya, Andrew O'Sullivan, Jose Fidel Pérez, Luca Perez, Roger S Pulwarty, Robert J Stefanski, Mark Svoboda, Abduvokgid Zakhadullaev, Stephen Muwaya, and Skumsa Ntshanga

Secretariat: Daniel Tsegai, Jeroen van Dalen, Norah Ngeny and Saravanan Subramanian.

Annex: Agenda of the IWG Coordinating Committee Meeting

Date: 11th of May 2020

Time: 14:00 - 15:30 hrs CET (ex. Bonn)

14:00 – 15:30 Skype conference in Plenary – All IWG Members

Facilitator: Gunilla Björklund [Chair]

14:00-14:10	Opening Remarks: G. Björklund [Chair]
15:10-14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised Task Groups, Topics & Timelines: D. Tsegai [Secretariat] - Discussion on Writer-Editor - 19th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention: J. van Dalen [Secretariat]
14:30-15:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GAR*- IWG links: R. Pulwarty [Coordinating Lead Author of GAR] - Discussion & decisions on the way forward
15:20-15:30	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gunilla Björklund (Chair) - Secretariat

* UNDRR Global Assessment Report 2021, Special Report on Drought