

## Decision 13/COP.13

### **Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention – Terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (c), (d) and (h), of the Convention,

*Also recalling* article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b), and (c), and article 26 of the Convention, as well as decisions 14/COP.12, 14/COP.11, 5/COP.8 and 3/COP.8,

*Further recalling* decision 11/COP.9 on additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention,

*Taking into consideration* decision 15/COP.13 that decided on a four-year reporting frequency for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting,

*Recognizing* that regional meetings still play an important role in the review of progress made and make a useful contribution to the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

1. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention as a standing subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;
2. *Also decides* that the Conference of the Parties should, no later than at its nineteenth session, review the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, its operations and its schedule of meetings with a view to making any necessary modifications;
3. *Further decides* to adopt the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as contained in the annex to this decision;
4. *Decides* that the Conference of the Parties, through its Bureau, is to prepare appropriate modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework with a view to their adoption at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
5. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so as well as relevant international organizations and financial institutions to provide technical and financial contributions to the review process;
6. *Declares* no longer in force decision 11/COP.9 and all such provisions relating to procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention that are inconsistent with those contained in the present decision;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to review the provisions for regional meetings in preparation for meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, as

contained in its biennial costed work programme, and seek financial contributions to enable those regional meetings to occur.

*10<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting*  
*15 September 2017*

## Annex

### Terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

#### I. Mandate and functions

1. Under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and as an integral part of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS), the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) is to assist the COP in the review of the implementation of the Convention and shall facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties pursuant to article 26 of the Convention.

2. In particular, the CRIC is to perform the following functions:

(a) Undertake an assessment of implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (hereinafter referred to as “assessment of implementation”) through the review of information provided by Parties;

(b) Undertake a performance review of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (hereinafter referred to as “performance review”), following a results-based management approach (RBM) and on the basis of the report on the two-year costed work programme.

3. As part of the functions specified in paragraph 2 above, the CRIC, consistent with the RBM approach, is to, as appropriate:

(a) Consider information on the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency towards the achievement of the implementation of the Convention, including information from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Global Mechanism;

(b) Recommend methods that improve the communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP;

(c) Recommend further steps in the implementation of the Convention.

4. The CRIC is to report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work, in particular through:

(a) A final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention;

(b) Draft decisions prepared at sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP, containing substantive elements to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention, showing targets, assigned responsibilities and the expected financial implications of their implementation, as necessary.

#### II. Composition

5. The CRIC is to be composed of all Parties to the Convention.

6. Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, including civil society organizations and the private sector, which wishes to be represented at a session of the CRIC as an observer may be admitted unless one-third of the Parties present at the session object.

7. The CRIC is to elect its own four Vice-Chairs in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, of whom one is to act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chair, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they are to constitute the Bureau of the CRIC.

8. The Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the CRIC are to be elected at the final meeting of the session of the CRIC held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and are to assume their office immediately.

### **III. Stakeholders under review**

9. Information provided by the following reporting entities is to be reviewed as part of the work programme of the CRIC:

#### **Assessment of implementation**

(a) Parties;

(b) The GEF, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and the Council of the GEF;

#### **Performance review**

(c) Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies (the secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the CRIC).

10. Information relating to civil society and the private sector may be supplied by Parties through their reports or obtained through independent studies, as appropriate.

### **IV. Scope of the review**

11. Sessions of the CRIC are to be held during the COP and once between each of the ordinary sessions of the COP.

12. Intersessional sessions of the CRIC are to focus their work on the review of the implementation of the Convention by Parties through, inter alia:

(a) Undertaking an assessment of implementation against progress indicators every four years and against narrative sections within the reporting template every two years;

(b) Reviewing financial flows for the implementation of the Convention; with a view to submitting to the COP the report referred to in paragraph 4 (a) above.

13. The review of implementation at intersessional sessions of the CRIC is to be based on reports by the reporting entities included in paragraph 9 (a) above and submitted at the same intersessional sessions. In order to review inputs from the private sector, independent studies will be produced for an impact review subject to available resources.

14. The participation of United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations in the discussions of all public intersessional sessions of the CRIC are to be facilitated.

15. At sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, the CRIC is to assist the COP in:

- (a) Reviewing the multi-year workplans of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies;
- (b) Reviewing its report adopted at intersessional sessions of the CRIC on the assessment of implementation (progress indicators and/or information from narrative reporting) provided by Parties;
- (c) Carrying out a performance review of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies using an RBM approach;
- (d) Reviewing the collaboration with the GEF at any time the COP may decide;
- (e) Providing advice on issues as requested by the CST;

with a view to developing draft decisions, where necessary, as referred to in paragraph 4 (b) above.

## **V. Frequency of sessions**

16. Intersessional sessions of the CRIC are to be held once between ordinary meetings of the COP.

17. Intersessional sessions of the CRIC are not to be longer than one week (five working days).

18. Sessions of the CRIC during the COP should not exceed five working days.

19. Extraordinary sessions of the CRIC are to be held at such times as may be decided by the COP.

## **VI. Organization of work**

20. Sessions of the CRIC are to be public, unless the CRIC decides otherwise.

21. The CRIC is to adopt its agenda and organization of work at the beginning of each session.

22. The provisional agenda of the sessions of the CRIC is to be prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the CRIC.

## **VII. Nature of the review and methodology**

23. The review should be open and transparent, inclusive, flexible and facilitative, as well as effective in terms of the use of financial, technological and human resources, with due regard to geographic regions and subregions. It is to be an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise in an interactive format to identify successes, obstacles and difficulties with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

## **VIII. Transparency of work**

24. All the reports and the results of the work of the CRIC are to be in the public domain.