

Decision 18/COP.1

Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields, based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the establishment of a roster of independent experts,

Decides to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts on the basis of the procedures attached to the present decision.

Establishment and maintenance of a roster of experts

Introduction

1. A roster of independent experts is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its article 24, paragraph 2. Its purpose is to provide the Conference of the Parties with an up-to-date list of independent experts in the various fields of specialization relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, from which members of ad hoc panels may be selected.

Selection of experts to be included on the roster

2. Each Party may nominate experts on the roster, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and broad and equitable geographical representation. Nominees shall have expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

3. Nominations shall be communicated by the Parties to the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention through diplomatic channels. In addition to the names of the experts, the communications shall include a reference to their field(s) of expertise, as well as their addresses.

4. Experts nominated by the Parties shall *ipso facto* be included on the roster.

5. Parties may make new nominations or withdraw previous nominations to the roster at any time by so notifying the Permanent Secretariat through diplomatic channels.

Disciplines to be represented

6. The roster of experts should reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to provide advice on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention and the expertise required to implement the provisions of the Convention, notably its articles 16 to 19, including expertise from grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Review by the Conference of the Parties

7. The Conference of the Parties shall review the roster regularly and at least at every other ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and shall formulate recommendations in order for the roster to be consistent with the requirements provided for in paragraph 2 above.

Maintenance of roster

8. The Permanent Secretariat shall maintain the roster, which shall be in the public domain.