



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
20 June 2011

Original: English

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Tenth session

Changwon, Republic of Korea, 11–20 October 2011

Item 4 (a) (iv) of the provisional agenda

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and impact indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures

Format and methodological guidelines for reporting by civil society organizations (2012–2013)

Format and methodological guidelines for reporting by civil society organizations (2012–2013)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

Pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and the deliberations of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties submitted reports to the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention.

The present document builds on previous deliberations on this matter as well as the recommendations of the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention, and proposes a revised format and methodological guidelines for civil society reporting starting in 2012–2013, including through the national authorities in charge of the reporting and review process.

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I. Introduction and background information

1. Pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the expected inputs from civil society to the reporting and review process,¹ and the deliberations of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), the civil society organizations accredited to the COP were invited to submit reports to the ninth session of the CRIC (CRIC 9).
2. Eleven civil society organizations submitted online reports to CRIC 9,² which contained information on best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation, according to the template and the reporting guidelines made available by the secretariat for this purpose.³
3. CRIC 9 also reviewed document ICCD/CRIC(9)/11, which contained draft reporting principles and a structure for the reporting tools together with proposals on the content and modalities of reporting for accredited civil society organizations,⁴ and made recommendations on the draft template and reporting guidelines for civil society organizations in future reporting and review processes.⁵
4. The present document builds on previous deliberations on this matter as well as the recommendations of CRIC 9, and proposes a revised format and methodological guidelines for reporting by civil society, including through the national authorities in charge of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) process.
5. Following guidance from the COP on the involvement of civil society in the reporting process, the secretariat will be in a position to prepare the template and reporting guidelines for the 2012–2013 reporting and to continue facilitating civil society involvement in the reporting and review process under the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) of the Convention.

II. Format, content and modalities of civil society communications

6. According to document ICCD/CRIC(9)/11 and the relevant recommendations of CRIC 9, civil society organizations shall be invited to provide:
 - (a) Information complementary to the national reports of affected and developed country Parties and, as far as possible, to those of the other reporting entities, with the aim of providing the CRIC with more comprehensive and complete information;
 - (b) Information supplementary to the national reports of affected and developed country Parties and, as far as possible, to those of the other reporting entities, with the aim of widening the knowledge base of the CRIC.
7. This information shall be forwarded to the COP through the CRIC by means of:

¹ Decisions 11/COP.9 and 13/COP.9.

² See ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.6.

³ See ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.8.

⁴ ICCD/CRIC(9)/11 was developed by the secretariat taking account of: (a) the relevant COP decisions; (b) the guidance given by the CRIC Bureau on reporting by civil society organizations; (c) the preliminary advice received from a group of organizations which volunteered to assist in this process; and (d) the outcomes of a questionnaire-based consultation with accredited CSOs.

⁵ See ICCD/CRIC(9)/16, section III D, paragraphs 110–115.

(a) Communications through the national focal points (NFPs) and/or the institutional focal points,⁶ as relevant, for the information provided to be integrated into the reports of the various reporting entities;

(b) Communications directly to the COP, by uploading information to the PRAIS portal.

(c) According to the proposed approach set out below.

8. Communications through national and institutional focal points shall contain information on: (a) performance indicators relating to civil society involvement in the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework for enhancing the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy)⁷ and other relevant performance indicators as applicable;⁸ and (b) financial flows for the implementation of the Convention. All civil society organizations, regardless of their status in the UNCCD process, shall be invited to report to national and institutional focal points in a specific format that mirrors the templates and reporting guidelines prepared for country Parties and other reporting entities, as relevant;

9. Communications forwarded directly to the COP shall contain information on best practices, according to the themes and the timing decided by the COP, as well as additional information on the reporting and review process, with particular regard to civil society involvement. These communications will be directly uploaded by the accredited organizations only, following the template used by Parties and other relevant reporting entities.

10. The structure of the reporting tools is to be devised by the secretariat in cooperation with the Global Mechanism (GM), as relevant, according to their respective mandates, and will be as proposed in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/11.⁹

11. While revising the existing templates and designing new ones, the secretariat and the GM will take account of the recommendations of CRIC 9, with particular regard to the environmental, social and economic dimensions of best practices and the consequent classification.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The CRIC at its tenth session may wish to recommend that the COP:**

(a) Request the UNCCD secretariat, in cooperation with the GM and in consultation with civil society organizations and their networks, as appropriate, to prepare templates and reporting guidelines for civil society organizations, including the private sector, with the content and the structure proposed in the present document;

(b) Also request the secretariat to take into consideration the capacity-building needs of civil society organizations in future initiatives in support of the reporting process, in order to allow civil society to comply with the reporting requirements and participate fully in the reporting and review process;

⁶ Institutional focal points are those officers responsible for the reporting process (also referred to as “reporting officers”) in the accredited United Nations agencies and the intergovernmental organizations at the subregional, regional and global levels.

⁷ Consolidated indicators CONS-O-1, CONS-O-3 and CONS-O-4.

⁸ Consolidated indicators CONS-O-7, CONS-O-13 and CONS-O-17.

⁹ See section III D of ICCD/CRIC(9)/11.

(c) Invite developed country Parties and international financial organizations, including the GEF, to continue to support the process, acknowledging the specific needs and the important role of civil society in this process;

(d) Encourage NFPs and institutional focal points of subregional and regional organizations, and of other reporting entities, as appropriate, to facilitate exchanges and cooperation with civil society organizations with particular regard to the reporting and review process of the Convention;

(e) Invite civil society organizations, particularly those accredited to the COP, to network and strengthen cooperation with each other at the national level, and to submit consolidated reports to future sessions of the CRIC through the appropriate channels and according to the modalities proposed in the present document.
