



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Senior Consultant Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought (IWG)

Consultancy reference number: CCD/22/ERPA/C/45

Background

Established in 1994, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The mandate of the Convention and its 197 Parties is to support a future that avoids, and reverses desertification/land degradation and minimizes effects of drought (DLDD) in affected areas at all levels – and to achieve a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Droughts are the most far-reaching of natural disasters, causing short and long-term economic and ecological losses as well as significant secondary and tertiary impacts. To reduce societal vulnerability to droughts, there is a need to overcome the prevailing structures of reactive, post hazard management approaches and to move towards proactive and risk management approaches.

Against this backdrop, the Conference of Parties at its fifteenth session (COP 15) decided to establish a new Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) for addressing drought under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with a view to presenting its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16). The IWG consists of 21 Party representatives nominated by national governments and additional two representatives from international organizations that work on drought, two independent experts and two representatives from civil society organizations (as observers).

The aim of the IWG is to (i) review and analyse all the reports which came out of the first IWG (2020-21) on Drought, as well as other relevant documents and Conference of the Parties decisions related to drought; (ii) identify and evaluate all options, including, inter alia, global policy instruments and regional policy frameworks, and linking, where relevant, to national plans, as appropriate, to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management and (iii) prepare justifications and outline possible elements, processes, institutional arrangements and mechanisms for establishment for each policy option. The outcomes of the first IWG (2020-21) were published and can be found here: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/governance/intergovernmental-working-group-drought>

Objective of consultancy

Ensuring that the IWG 2022-24 carries out a rigorous process to enable it to deliver a high-quality report to UNCCD COP 16

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA), and the direct supervision of the assigned officer, the senior consultant will support the work programme and priority activities of ERPA as it relates to the activities of the IWG 2022-24. The mission of ERPA is to position the UNCCD as a credible and trusted partner in finding solutions to problems of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD).

Specifically, the senior consultant performs the following activities:

- supports all activities of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought ranging from producing substantive documents, gathering key inputs from literature, experts and other means to drafting and



collecting cases for preliminary key messages, body text and case studies as per the guidance of the IWG members.

- supports facilitating both virtual and in-person meetings of the IWG members and related preparatory documents.
- carries out a comprehensive mapping of the existing approaches to drought management and related policy, implementation, financing mechanisms and institutional coordination frameworks, including partnerships, on drought preparedness and response.
- produces substantive documents by gathering further inputs from the IWG Members and other key experts; consolidating ideas, arguments and, evidence coming out of the discussions in the IWG meetings, reviewing literature, policies, and best practices.
- identifies gaps and the need for additional information.
- These deliverables are subject to revision as the IWG progresses its work.

Other

- Supports the ERPA unit by providing substantive backstopping in the UN-Water interagency mechanism, Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Global Framework for Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), Bonn Water Network, World Water Forum, and related Programmes and platforms.
- Supports production of technical analyses, scientific articles, policy briefs, news articles and bulletins, discussion papers, reports, position statements, and other substantive communication and technical products on drought and water scarcity issues to support Parties of the UNCCD.
- Provide substantive input to the Drought Toolbox as well as science and technical matters directly related to drought policy issues as well as other global processes addressing DLDD issues.
- Performs any other job-related activity required to achieve the goals and objectives of ERPA unit.

Deliverables

Key deliverables are:

- ✓ Preparing a (i) stocktaking policy document and (ii) a comprehensive global mapping of actors, processes, and arrangements of drought resilience activities.
- ✓ Preparing at least two interim background documents as input into the IWG Progress report for the 21st session of CRIC.
- ✓ Providing substantive and logistical support for the various in-person and virtual meetings of the IWG.

Contractual terms

This assignment requires high-level environmental policy expertise and facilitating intergovernmental process with significant work experience in environmental sustainability, drought and water scarcity issues, land degradation, ecological restoration, earth sciences, or related fields. The duration of the contract will be twelve months starting from the beginning of October 2022. The consultant will be working remotely. The consultant will prepare an overall work plan for the entire contract period at the beginning of the assignment which will be discussed and agreed with the supervisors. Consultancy fee will be agreed before signing the contract.

Requirements

- An advanced university degree in natural resources management, rural development, geography, meteorology, environmental policy, hydrology, development economics or any other related field relevant for the consultancy.
- Minimum of 10 years work experience on the above and related disciplines including in depth knowledge of integrated drought management, drought and water scarcity policy, programmes and practices.
- Extensive project and/or policy experience in developing and/or transition countries.



- Excellent understanding of policy and technical aspects of drought risk management including early warning and monitoring systems and vulnerability and impact assessments.
- Substantial record of research and publications, including non-scientific communications.
- Solid knowledge of the UNCCD, related UN and intergovernmental processes, and environment-related policy issues would be a great asset.
- For this consultancy excellent writing and oral skills and fluency in English is required; knowledge of French or Spanish would be considered as an advantage.

Special notice

Only individuals who can act as independent, individual economical operators are qualified to apply. Individuals who can provide their services only on account of an institution or enterprise not in their individual capacity are not eligible under this procedure.

Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Secretariat and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultant and individual contractor is responsible for determining tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

Submission of application

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to staffing@unccd.int with a UNCCD Personal History Form¹ and/or CV and cover letter, specifying in the subject line only the reference number: **CCD/22/ERPA/C/45**

The deadline for applications is **31 August 2022**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

Due to the volume of applications received, receipt of applications cannot be acknowledged individually. Please address your application as indicated above and please do not address or copy your application to an individual at the Secretariat or Global Mechanism. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 01 Aug 2022

¹ UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/work-with-us/guidelines>