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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Specialist on land and drought for contributing to the development of a Resource Needs Assessment

Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/36

#### Background

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Desertification, along with climate change and the loss of biodiversity were identified as the greatest challenges to sustainable development during the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. 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 Convention seeks to support countries to address Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD).

At the UNCCD COP13, countries agreed (decision 7/COP.13) on a new global roadmap to address land degradation. The new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework includes a set of 5 Strategic Objectives (SO) adopted to guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2018–2030. The Strategic Objective 5 (SO5), in particular, aims at mobilizing substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level.

As the operational arm of the Convention, the Global Mechanism supports countries in translating the Convention into action. We are mandated to assist countries in the mobilization of resources. We aim to be small but agile team catalyzing solutions that are relevant to country Parties and that deliver transformative and tangible benefits to their people and landscapes.

#### Objective of consultancy

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To contribute to the technical development of the methodology for the Needs Assessment as requested by Decision 13/COP 15. In addition, this consultancy is intended to support the piloting of the methodology in selected countries.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

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As part of the Global Mechanism's efforts to assist Parties in the mobilization of resources, Decision 13/COP.15 requests the Global Mechanism to develop a methodology and conduct a needs assessment to determine the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention, building on national reporting, voluntary targeting-setting exercise and other relevant processes

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and reporting to the assigned Programme officer, the consultant will perform the following tasks:

- Develop and draft methodologies for assessing country Parties development plans related to land, drought and other related thematic areas for the needs assessment.
- Elaborate typologies of policy measures and targets based on country Parties development plans such LDN Reports and National Drought Plans.
- Assess tools for evaluating the impacts associated to the proposed targets and measures in the country's development plans.
- Apply the developed methodologies in selected countries and draft technical report featuring the main results.



- Assess relevant databases related to DLDD to support the needs assessment, and support data management of the needs assessment;
- Review methodologies, tools and data used by environmental needs assessments in the area of sustainable development.
- Contribute to the estimates and analysis of the financial resource gap to achieve the objectives of the Convention, based on the assessed development plans;

### **Deliverables**

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The consultancy envision the following outputs:

A. Develop a technical report containing:

- i) Methodologies and tools for assessing country Parties development plans;
- ii) Typology of measures and targets related to country Party development plans;
- iii) Main results of the application of the methodology in selected countries;
- iv) Review of environmental needs assessments

B. Database containing the application of the methodology to selected countries.

### **Contractual terms**

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated for the period of 04 months and with possibility of extension. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by output. The consultancy is home based.

All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

### **Requirements**

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- ✓ Advanced university degree in environmental sciences, agricultural or natural resource economics, geography, or related disciplines.
- ✓ A minimum of 5 years working experience related to relevant areas of expertise such as environmental impact assessment, drought, sustainable land management, environmental economics, and other related areas of expertise.
- ✓ Expert knowledge using tools for impact assessment of policy measures related to land and drought issues.
- ✓ Strong analytical skills.
- ✓ Experience in handling databases.
- ✓ Excellent communication (writing, presentation).
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time.
- ✓ Knowledge of English is required. Knowledge of additional UN languages would be an asset.

### **Special notice**

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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**

The following documents should be sent to [staffing@unccd.int](mailto:staffing@unccd.int) as **one document**: UNCCD Personal History Form<sup>1</sup> /CV and cover letter, specifying the following in the email subject line: **CCD/23/C/36**.

The deadline for applications is **02 July 2023**. 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. Candidates who do not receive any feedback within three months of the deadline should consider their application as unsuccessful.

Date of issuance: 13 June 2023

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<sup>1</sup> UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/about-us/secretariat/vacancies/applying-unccd>