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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **Consultancy to support the technical development of a global programme on drought resilience and water security.**

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/59**

#### **Background**

Desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) are challenges of a global dimension. They contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration. They continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, particularly affected countries. Addressing DLDD involves long-term integrated strategies that simultaneously focus on the improved productivity of land and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources.

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, including goal 15, which aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”. As the main expected result, it defines under target 15.3 to “combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world” by 2030.

Along with this process, increasing attention has been paid towards enhancing drought preparedness as seen in global commitments such as a High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy in Geneva; an UN-water initiative of capacity building regional workshops to support the development of national drought policies, and the development and adoption of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

In this spirit, the UNCCD, during the 13th session of its Conference of Parties (COP 13), has called on countries, through the drought policy advocacy framework, to take a proactive approach to reduce the exposure and vulnerability of populations and ecosystems to drought hazards. Through its current Strategic Framework (2018–2030), the UNCCD is progressively sharpening its focus on drought risks and resilience. One of the five strategic objectives of the Framework is to “mitigate, adapt to and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems”, hence shifting the UNCCD focus on proactive drought risk management emphasizing ‘prevention’ and ‘preparedness.’ This, for example, promoted the adoption of the UNCCD Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy (DRAMP) framework.

At the 14th Conference of Parties of the UNCCD (COP 14), through the Decision 23/COP.14, Parties called for the establishment of an intergovernmental working group (IWG) on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD.

In recognition of the urgent need to provide a more coordinated, collaborative, and effective global action that builds drought resilience at the global, regional, national, and local levels, the governments of Spain and Senegal launched an International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) during a high-level event at the UNFCCC’s COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, in November 2022. IDRA brings together over 30 countries and more than 20 entities working together to change how the world tackles the growing drought risks.



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### **Objective of consultancy**

The ultimate result of the service is the successful completion of voluntary and country led LDN TSP 2.0 national processes in participating countries.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Under the overall supervision of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism and in close collaboration with various teams of the UNCCD secretariat, the consultant will be responsible for the technical development of a global programme on drought resilience and water security as part of IDRA's pillar four.

The consultant will be expected to collaborate in a team with an additional consultant recruited to advise on issues related to financial structuring and programme design.

The work of this consultant is to include a focus on the following key areas:

- Identifying and mapping critical technical stakeholders and partners in the drought and water security space (integrated land and water management, climate, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian, IDRA members, etc.)
- Facilitating a write shop with key technical and financial partners to refine the conceptual framework for drought resilience and water security as the basis for the development of a global programme.
- Designing and facilitation of a participatory process, including workshops and/or focus groups, for the elaboration of the global programme.
- Providing technical backstopping to the design of the global investment programme including the proposed implementation modalities.
- Ensuring engagement across the UN system and ensuring the input and guidance of technical partners is integrated into the structuring of the programme.

### **Deliverables**

Expected outputs will be discussed and agreed with the Management Director of the Global Mechanism and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNCCD.

Outputs are tentatively identified as:

1. Work plan with defined timeframe for deliverables
2. Map/contact list of critical technical stakeholders and partners in the drought and water security space (integrated land and water management, climate, agriculture, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian etc.)
3. Facilitation of a write shop to refine and agree the conceptual framework/menu of options for actions that support drought resilience and water security.
4. Regular outreach meetings across the UN system to gather input and ensure the guidance of technical partners is integrated into the structuring of the programme.
5. Report on the preparation, facilitation and results of the participatory process
6. Technical review of the global investment programme and proposed implementation modalities.



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### Contractual terms

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated for the period of 06 months, to be started as soon as possible. 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, Environmental Management, Natural Resource Management, Land and Water Management, Climate Change, or related disciplines.
- ✓ Excellent conceptual understanding of land degradation and drought and its interactions with climate change and biodiversity conservation.
- ✓ Solid record of writing scientific and technical publications on complex multidimensional issues.
- ✓ Solid knowledge of the UNCCD process and experience in working with UNCCD stakeholders is an asset.
- ✓ Familiarity with the CBD and UNFCCC processes and related policy development and implementation processes is an asset.
- ✓ Demonstrated experience in the effective facilitation of complex multi-stakeholder consultation.
- ✓ Demonstrated ability to work independently, handle multiple tasks, work under pressure and deliver assignments on time.
- ✓ Professional knowledge of English is required.
- ✓ Knowledge of additional UN languages, particularly French or Arabic, 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

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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/59**.

The deadline for applications is **28 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 July 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>