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## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Consultancy: Senior Policy Advisor for the International Drought Resilience Alliance**

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/73**

#### **Background**

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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, reverses, and minimizes effects of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) 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 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, spearheaded by the governments of Senegal and Spain, a group of like-minded countries in partnership with various stakeholders took the initiative to form an International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) to catalyze a political momentum to achieve a transformational change of actions and mindsets towards drought resilience - a transformation in the way the impacts of drought are managed which is essential to reduce this existential threat to many parts of the world. The initiative was launched on 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt at the margins of the UNFCCC COP 27 in a high-level event, jointly convened by Senegal and Spain.

IDRA is a collaborative platform that supports countries, cities, and communities to combat drought proactively. The alliance will promote effective and efficient preparedness and adaptation measures that go beyond disaster response to reduce vulnerability to drought, in support of the drought-related international cooperation that already exists under the umbrella of the UNCCD. The alliance seeks to act as a global facilitator for drought management focused on systemic risk. To reduce systemic risks and avoid new ones, there must be a shift from dealing with drought impacts reactively to getting ahead of the curve and addressing underlying risk drivers. Socioeconomic and environmental vulnerability of exposed systems should be reduced and impacts of land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change are mitigated as part of a transition from reactive to prospective and proactive drought risk management.

The UNCCD Secretariat will support IDRA in the operationalization of its work and ensuring coherence and consistency with the fulfilment of all relevant COP decisions related to drought.

#### **Objective of consultancy**

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Provision of high-level guidance as well as substantive and technical leadership for the creation of the Global Observatory on Drought (GODR) and the Communities of Learning and Practice (CLP) by developing pathways, operational modalities, communication strategies and identifying key strategic partnerships in support of the GODR and CLP.

#### **Duties and responsibilities**

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The UNCCD secretariat is looking for a high-level expert with a vast knowledge of the UNCCD and other sustainable development processes to advise on high-level policy and advocacy strategies as well



as knowledge sharing to promote the objectives of IDRA. As such, the incumbent will assist the chairs of IDRA and the UNCCD Secretariat to fulfill its core objectives and to create awareness and build coalitions, stimulate response and preparedness, work on drought diplomacy and boost innovation. In the development of a political outreach strategy, providing strategic advice for the execution of an outreach strategy of IDRA.

Under the direct supervision of the Deputy Executive Secretary, the incumbent supports the work programme and priority activities of IDRA including facilitating knowledge sharing and networking with other alliances and platforms to maximize synergistic impacts that improve drought resilience and consolidating regional initiatives at various levels that promote action, innovation, technology, knowledge transfer, and resource mobilization for drought resilience.

To achieve the above stated goals, the secretariat will support IDRA co-chairs - the governments of Senegal and Spain- to communicate relevant and persuasive policy messages to decision makers, promote the brand and overall reputation of the convention, help bridge the science-policy interface and to build partnerships that expand the UNCCD's reach as it relates to IDRA with key stakeholders such as civil society, the media, and the private sector.

Considering the above, the incumbent performs the following activities:

- Provides substantive technical and procedural leadership to the development of a Global Observatory on Drought Resilience (GODR) that seeks to bring together relevant data sources on Drought early-warning and monitoring, vulnerability and impacts as well as drought risk mitigation measures including key drought indicators such as maps and spatially explicit data.
- Identifies the entities that can be allies and partners of the GODR, some will have expertise on Drought analysis and others on resilience, it also includes identification of focal points inside each entity.
- Develops a concept note of the GODR, which will include an analysis of its added value, the variables that it will monitor, the main allies and partners, and the operational arrangements required for its implementation.
- Identifies the institutional arrangements required to catalyze action on the GODR and propose a governance structure.
- Supervises the work of communication expert in the development of a communication strategy and some initial products of the GODR.
- Establish contact with different relevant core entities and networks to conceptualize the steps, processes and working modalities for the development of a GODR.
- Facilitates partnerships, identify strategic allies, and enhances synergies and coordination with regional and international organizations, institutions, and networks to enhance their contribution to the work of the GODR.
- Organise various meetings and stakeholders' workshops to ensure the timely implementation of activities and deliverables.
- Ensure enhanced engagement of IDRA member countries and partners to the GODR through coordination of activities, stronger involvement of parties, development banks and financing mechanisms, UN entities, Inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Provides technical and strategic direction to the establishment of a Community of Learning and Practice (CLP) in the framework of the UNCCD Drought Toolbox.
- Participates in international drought and water meetings, multilateral fora and IFIs as needed representing the IDRA Co-Chairs, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and high-level ministers at these events.
- Advises on the core constitutive elements of an outreach strategy building on the various region's differentiated specificities as it relates to IDRA objectives and working modalities in the context of drought management strategy.
- Adds value to the overall work of the Secretariat on Drought management with knowledge and experience, as it relates to the IDRA functions and operations.



## Deliverables

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Report 1: Inception Report which will include the work plan of the consultancy, the methodology proposed and the meetings and workshops for the establishment of a GODR, which will be discussed and agreed with the supervisors.

Report 2: will include an initial Concept Note of the GODR, identify potential synergies, mapping of existing observatories and the report of the initial meetings and workshops.

Report 3: will include the Governance proposal and the institutional arrangements needed for the implementation of GODR.

Report 4: Final report will include the final proposal of the GODR, including the final concept note, governance and institutional arrangement, and the initial proposals for branding.

All reports should also include the description of the activities done to support the communities of Learning and Practice in the framework of the toolbox, and the activities implemented to engage IDRA members to the GODR.

## Contractual terms

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated to be for 12 months, part time, during the period from 01 September 2023 until 31 August 2024. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by days worked and submission of a timesheet. The consultancy is home based, however, if needed to travel on missions, travel will be paid for and organized separately.

## Requirements

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- Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in sustainable development, economics, environmental studies, public policy, natural resources management, law or related area. A first-level university degree in combination with qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.
- A minimum of fifteen years of progressively responsible experience in sustainable development, economics, environment, or related field. Demonstrated experience in establishing and maintaining professional networks is desirable.
- Extensive policy experience in sustainable development and/or environmental protection. In the context of multilateralism.
- Excellent understanding and Solid knowledge of policy and technical matters regarding the UNCCD process and other sustainable development processes, as well as related UN and intergovernmental processes.
- Excellent understanding of policy and technical aspects of sustainable development agenda in the context of multilateralism.
- Extensive experience working with multiple stakeholders, particularly Governments, in a multilateral setting.
- Excellent and demonstrated writing skills and fluency in English is required; knowledge of French and Spanish is desirable. Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.

## 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 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/73**.

The deadline for applications is **27 August 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 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 : 17 August 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>