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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Senior Consultant: Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG)

**Consultancy reference number: CCD/23/C/97**

#### **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 analyze all the reports which came out of the first IWG (2020-21) on Drought, as well as other relevant documents and COP 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.

#### **Objective of consultancy**

Deliverables are focused on ensuring the IWG 2022-24 carries out a rigorous process to enable it to deliver a high-quality report to be submitted to UNCCD COP 16.

#### **Duties and responsibilities**

Under the overall supervision of the Chief of Global Policy, Advocacy and Regional Cooperation (GPARC), and the direct supervision of the assigned officer, the senior consultant will support the work programme and priority activities of the IWG 2022-24.

Specifically, the consultant will perform the following activities:

- Produces substantive documents on legal, financial, technical, and other relevant materials in support of the ongoing IWG process by 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 should be provided in an iterative process in dialogue with IWG and sub-groups so that IWG can steer the process, can revise content, and keep ownership of the outcomes as the IWG members find it necessary.

### **Deliverables**

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The outputs/ deliverables are described in the duties / responsibilities section above.

### **Contractual terms**

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated for a duration of 12 months and to be commenced on 03 January 2024. Exact dates of the contract depend on the selection process. This contract is based on deliverables and payment is defined by outputs. This consultancy is both home based and in office in Bonn. However, if missions are organized, travel will be paid for and organized separately.

### **Requirements**

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- An advanced university degree in international law and international environmental law as related to 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 environmental laws, integrated drought management, drought and water scarcity policy, programmes, and practices.
- Extensive project and/or policy experience in developing and/or transition countries.
- Solid knowledge of the UNCCD, related UN and intergovernmental processes, and environment-related policy issues.
- A good understanding of policy and technical aspects of drought risk management at all levels including early warning and monitoring systems and vulnerability and impact assessments.
- Substantial record of research and publications, including non-scientific communications. Excellent writing skills and fluency in English is required. Fluency in other UN languages is an advantage. Knowledge of French and Spanish 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**

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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/97**.

The deadline for applications is **12 December 2023**. Only applications submitted by the deadline and with complete documentation will be taken into consideration.

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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>



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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 : 29 November 2023