

**Meeting of the Bureau of the COP
Bonn, Germany**

Report on the Second Inter-Sessional COP Bureau Meeting

1. The 2nd inter-sessional COP Bureau meeting was held in Bonn, Germany on 5-6 November 2012.
2. The President Dr. Yong Ha Kim, Director General, International Affairs Bureau, from the Korea Forest Service declared open the COP Bureau meeting and reminded that H.E. Dr. Don Koo Lee, Minister of the Korea Forest Service (KFS) and UNCCD COP 10 President has sent a letter to the Bureau members on 17th October conveying his regrets not being able to personally chair the COP Bureau meeting due to a heavy agenda at country level, which required his presence at KFS on the dates of the COP Bureau meeting.
3. The Executive Secretary pronounced welcome remarks and referred to major developments since the last COP bureau meeting (February 2012) including activities relating to the mid-term evaluation of the UNCCD Ten-year Strategy; the measures taken as a follow up on decision 6 /COP 10; the outcomes of the Rio+ 20 Conference and the work of the subsidiary bodies (CST and CRIC) in preparing for the 2013 sessions.

I. Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda with a proposal to update the COP Bureau, under other business, on the outcomes of the media workshops held in May 2012 in China and Algeria respectively.

II. Status of activities of the Committee for the Review of the implementation of the Convention

5. The CRIC chairperson reported on the outcomes of the CRIC Bureau meeting that was held in Bonn on 17- 18 September. Major issues addressed by the CRIC Bureau included the status of the reporting process; the consideration of the provisional agenda and programme of work of CRIC 11; and the coordination with CST on CRIC related issues.
6. As regards the reporting process, she informed that 76 reports were received by the Secretariat by the extended deadline, which was 15th October 2012. She also added that at the end of October 2012, some 90 reports were submitted.
7. CRIC chairperson made some general consideration on the value of the CRIC in supporting the work of Parties and its role in advancing the objectives of the Convention. She also referred

to the time necessary for the analysis of the reports. She mentioned the need to know why all affected countries have not submitted their reports. She further recommended that a communication could be sent to those Parties that have not yet submitted their reports so as to know why they did not fulfill such an obligation under the Convention. She proposed that responses received could be considered at the CRIC 11.

8. During the general exchanges, several Bureau members did share views on the overall status of the CRIC 11 reporting process. One Bureau member informed about the incompatibility for some countries to report on the basis of their existing data and at the same time follow the rational, which is proposed in the help guide for the reporting process. Another Bureau member mentioned the difficulty encountered by several affected countries, especially those eligible for GEF funding from the GEF, due to the slow processing of their proposals at GEF level. The same Bureau member proposed that reports received until the end of October could be part of the analysis and the review process, taking into account the late transfer of the financial support from the GEF. Many advised to keep the timing of CRIC 11 (April 2013) as already recommended by the CRIC bureau on the occasion of its meeting held in September 2012
9. With regard to regional meetings preparatory to CRIC 11, The Chairperson of the CRIC confirmed that these meetings will be facilitated in a back to back format. They will be convened two days prior to CRIC 11. She underlined the concern expressed by CRIC Bureau over the limited financial support provided so far to facilitate the participation of eligible countries' representatives at the session.
10. The Executive Secretary informed that if the final decision is to organize CRIC 11 in April, the Secretariat will certainly take the appropriate measures to convene the session from 15 -19 April. He advised however that due to time constraint, the documentation processing (editing, translation, duplication, etc.) will be delayed. Therefore, most of the documents for CRIC 11 will be made available three weeks prior to the session.
11. COP President concluded the exchanges as follows: the preliminary analysis of the submitted reports could take into account those reports submitted to the Secretariat until the end of October 2012; CRIC 11 will be held from 15 to19 April 2013; and not all official documents for CRIC11 will be available in all UN languages 6 weeks prior to the start of the Session.

III. Status of activities of the Committee on Science and technology, including preparation of the Second Scientific Conference

12. Consultation with relevant authorities in Brazil (host country): The Secretariat reported on contact established with the host country and the outcomes of the planning mission (September 2012) for the third special session of the CST and the 2nd Scientific Conference. Information provided by the Secretariat included the assessment of the conference facilities at Fortaleza Events Center; the security requirements and accreditation of delegates; the

- administrative measures and financial issues as well as the consultation towards the finalisation of the Host country Agreement.
13. The CST Chair reported on various on-going activities and referred also to the outcomes of the CST Bureau meeting held on 29-30 October 2012 in Bonn, Germany.
 14. **UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference:** The GRF Davos continues to perform tasks entrusted to it by the CST Bureau and it regularly report on progress made regarding the organization of the 2nd Scientific Conference. In this regard it was mentioned that as a response to the call for abstracts, a total of 391 contributions from all regions were submitted. The abstracts were reviewed by the review board, which is composed of the scientific advisory committee (SAC) and other members of the Working Groups. In the end 312 abstracts were accepted.
 15. **UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference:** The CST Bureau selected on the occasion of its October meeting, the “Scientific & Traditional Knowledge for sustainable development- STK 4SD- as the lead consortium to organize the 3rd Scientific Conference. Pending clarifications on some issues mentioned in the STK4SD proposal, consultation will be established towards the preparation of a MoU between the selected consortium and the secretariat. A first meeting of the steering committee for the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference will be convened in Fortaleza, Brazil, venue of CST S3 and the 2nd Scientific Conference.
 16. The CST Chair also reported on Progress made in refining the impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year Strategy. He also referred to the CST expected role to review and provide Parties at CRIC 11 with information on impact indicators as they relate to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3. In this regard, it was mentioned that with the postponement of the reporting deadline to CRIC 11 October and the tight agenda and programme of work of the 2nd Scientific Conference, the CST Bureau shall be mandated by the CST to undertake the review. The CST Bureau shall be expanded for such a task and be temporary supported by additional members with adequate expertise.
 17. Having listened to the report on the CST activities, the Bureau Members made several observations on the substantive work and logistic arrangements towards the organisation of the CST S3 and the 2nd Scientific Conference. Comments and suggestions made include the following: the expanded CST Bureau to prepare inputs for CRIC 11 should involve experts that are knowledgeable to the issues at stake; the ad hoc group to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advise is invited to also look at opportunities for synergies through the Intergovernmental Platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES). The Secretariat is invited to ensure in its consultation with Brazil that issuance of visa, local transportation from airport to hotels and shuttle bus from hotels to the Conference venue will be arranged and recommended hotels will provide negotiated rate to conference participants.
 18. On the work of the Ad-Hoc Working Group to further discuss the options for the provision of Scientific Advice (AGSA), the Executive Secretary reminded that the decision taken at COP 10 include the option for synergy with existing processes such as IPBES.

19. The president of the Bureau meeting concluded the exchanges on this item with the expression of thanks to the government of Brazil for the offer made to host CST-S3 including the 2nd scientific conference. He encouraged the Secretariat to further consult with the relevant authorities in Brazil so as to expedite the on-going preparatory work for the organisation of the CST-S3 and 2nd Scientific Conference, particularly the need to conclude ahead in time the host country agreement.

IV. Update on activities and on progress related to the “Changwon Initiative”

20. The Changwon Initiative aims at capitalizing on the potentials of the UNCCD implementation process. It identifies specific areas, which include enhancing the scientific process under the UNCCD; mobilizing additional resources and facilitating partnership arrangements; engaging further the business community and promoting best practices through the Land for Life Award.
21. The Secretariat reported on the latest developments under the Changwon initiative and referred to financial contributions made by the Republic of Korea to support activities, which include: the preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference; the Ad hoc advisory group of technical experts on refinement of the impact indicators; the Ad-Hoc Working Group to further discuss the options for the provision of Scientific Advice (AGSA) focusing on desertification/ land degradation and drought; the study on the Economics of Land Degradation (E-LD); the activities of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) to prepare recommendations on the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy; The action programme alignment process with the objectives of The Strategy; the study and research on Zero Net Land Degradation; the UNCCD related events at Rio +20 Conference; and the support to the Land for Life Award.
22. In addition to the 2012 contribution made by the Republic of Korea, the Secretariat has also acknowledged the generous contributions made by Germany, Finland, Qatar, Spain and Switzerland in support to some of the above-mentioned activities.
23. Based on the report presented by the Secretariat, Bureau members have expressed thanks to the Korea forest Service (KFS) for its commitment and significant support to the UNCCD activities through the Changwon Initiative. One Bureau member said that the contribution made by KFS has been critical and has helped soon after COP 10 to engage on some priority activities, which derive from The Strategy. Another Bureau member wanted to know whether the KFS will continue to support the Changwon Initiative even after the Presidency by the Republic of Korea. Reference was also made to the important role of the business community to further mobilize support in addressing some of the major challenges faced by countries in implementing the Convention.
24. The President informed that KFS has requested the Government of Korea to continue significantly supporting the UNCCD through the Changwon initiative after the COP10

Presidency. The President also invited other Parties and actors from the private sector that can do so to support the activities under the Changwon initiative.

V. List of UNCCD documents for COP 11 (including CRIC 12 and CST 11)

25. COP11 pre-session documentation: the secretariat has reported on number of pre-session documents (27) to be issued for the eleventh session of the COP. As a second step, the Secretariat plans to have the related documentation issued on time.
26. A representative from the Republic of Korea informed that his country intends to propose in due time an additional item to the COP 11 agenda.
27. The Secretariat also provided some clarifications, particularly on ICCD/ COP (11)/5, which will deal with the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.
28. As regards CRIC 12 pre-session documentation, the Secretariat advised that an indicative list of 8 documents has been prepared to support the CRIC 12 programme of work. Here also the Secretariat plans to have the related documentation issued by the corresponding deadlines.
29. With respect to CST 11 pre-session documentation, the Secretariat referred to the adopted programme of work and advised that an indicative list of 12 documents has been prepared. The Secretariat will proceed with the necessary steps so as to ensure the timely issuance of the related documentation.

VI. Update on activities and on progress made by the Inter sessional Working Group (IWG) to prepare recommendations on the mid-term evaluation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention

30. The IWG Chair reported on the second meeting of the IWG, which was held in Bonn, Germany, from 31 October to 3 November 2012. He reminded that the evaluation will focus on six components, and corresponding documentary outputs will be prepared, as follows:

- (a) Evaluation of The Strategy;
- (b) Evaluation of progress made in the implementation of The Strategy;
- (c) Evaluation of the performance and effectiveness of the CRIC;
- (d) Evaluation of the PRAIS;
- (e) Review of the Regional Coordination Mechanisms;
- (f) Evaluation of the performance and effectiveness of the CST in fulfilling operational objective 3 on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

31. The two consultants hired by the Group have been working since late May 2012, and in July they produced drafts for a methodology, Road map and a logical framework for the process. A preliminary 'mapping' of the status of implementing the Strategy by operational objective,

which will be completed as the work advances. This mapping will assist in keeping the consultants on the right track, and in perceiving the “real” relationship between various components of the evaluation. They also have started the drafting of two documents, one on the overall policy context and another one on the regional coordination mechanisms, and outlines for all other documents.

32. The IWG meeting reviewed the draft documentation and defined the next steps forward in preparing the mid-term evaluation. The deliberations of the group started with a consideration of the methodology of the evaluation, and continued with an overview of the documentation for each of the six evaluation components. The IWG members also considered the schedule for the next steps, including the organisation of a participatory consultative process for acquiring feedback from Parties and other stakeholders.
33. **Methodology and content orientation:** During the second IWG meeting, the IWG members provided the consultants with further guidance on the collection and organisation of information for conducting the evaluation, and on the structure and logic of the documentation that the consultants have started drafting.
34. In addition to the reports submitted through the PRAIS and the background documents that were defined in the terms of reference for the IWG, the Group decided that the consultants will conduct an online survey for collecting further information. This survey will be particularly important to complementing the information contained in the national reports received in 2012.
35. On the basis of the findings, the consultants will prepare their analysis and conclusions, taking into account the evaluation criteria and other related aspects contained in the terms of reference of the IWG. Their next set of documents for the IWG will present these analysis and conclusions in a concise form, which will be the focus of the future work of the IWG.
36. **Consultative process:** According to the terms of reference of the IWG, the conclusions and recommendations of the IWG should be formulated through a participatory approach, which would be done through online consultations and at the regional meetings preparatory to CRIC 11 and COP 11.
37. **Next steps and schedule:** The third meeting of the IWG would be held at the end of April taking advantage of the venue of CRIC 11. The last IWG meeting would be organized in June, in due time to complete and make available the IWG report by 30 June, taking into account the processing time required for official UN documents.
38. Having listened to the presentation made by the IWG Chair, members of the Bureau provided views and suggestions, which include the following: The IWG may wish to have more interactions with the national focal points; the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy should also include analysis of the activities of the Global Mechanism in support to the implementation of the Strategy at country level; the mid-term evaluation should build on new developments including the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference; the evaluation should also be forward looking and provide new direction as appropriate for the consideration of Parties at COP 11;

IWG to continue working in close collaboration with the ad hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts for the Refinement of Impact Indicator; IWG is invited to continue updating the COP Bureau on progress made in the preparation of its report.

VII. Financial Requirements for Facilitating the Participation of Eligible Country Representatives: National Focal Points, Science and Technology Correspondents and Representatives from the Civil Society Organizations at UNCCD 2013 core events (CST S-3, CRIC 11, regional meetings and COP 11)

39. The Secretariat reminded that despite the critical nature of participation in the core UNCCD events, funds to ensure an adequate participation of eligible representatives are not made available in the core budget of the Convention. Therefore at each biennium, funds need to be mobilized to facilitate the participation of officially designated delegates from developing country Parties.
40. At its tenth session, the Conference of the Parties invited governments, international and financial organizations to make contributions to the Special Fund established under paragraph 10 of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, in order to support the participation at CST S3; the 2nd Scientific Conference; CRIC 11 and COP 11 of eligible country representatives and civil society organizations (CSOs).
41. The Secretariat reported that despite the communications sent to potential donors in February and September 2012 respectively, and the various contacts established with several countries, the level of positive responses received is still very low. The Secretariat also informed that the regional meetings will be organized back to back with the CRIC 11 session. The Secretariat further expresses thanks to the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on science and technology for the contributions made or pledged to support the participation of the eligible countries and CSO representatives.
42. Members of the Bureau expressed concern on the total level of contributions received in the Trust Fund (Euros 179,830 as at the end of October). The Vice Chairperson from Peru has confirmed that her country offers to host the LAC Regional meeting preparatory to COP 11 and is prepared to meet some costs relating to accommodation and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the participants from that region. One Bureau Member proposed that delegates from countries with high income even considered as eligible should not be supported. Another Bureau member however recommended not to set penalties within the UNCCD processes as support to developing countries derives from a UN established policy.
43. The Executive Secretary said that the Secretariat will continue to contact all potential donors with the hope that more contributions will be received by the end of the year or in early 2013. He proposed nevertheless that on the occasion of the negotiation of the 2014-2015

programme budget, Parties could agree that some costs on participation in UNCCD core events could be included in the budget of the Convention.

44. The President recommended that Vice Chairs from the Bureau could encourage countries in their regions and interest groups to contribute to the Special Trust Fund for participation. The Secretariat is also encouraged to pursue resource mobilisation efforts including vis a vis the oil producer country Parties.

VIII. Convention Budget: Status of assessed contributions

45. The secretariat reported that at the beginning of November 72% of the assessed contribution for 2012 has been received. This shows a decline when compared to the same time in the biennium 2010-2011 (89 per cent). The Secretariat also informed on recent actions taken to remind Parties that delays in paying contributions that are due on 1 January in the year may hamper the implementation of the work programme of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM). The Secretariat further informed that it is especially critical under the terms of the amended Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, whereby the secretariat has advanced funding for the 2012 budget in order to ensure there is sufficient funding for the GM. The secretariat will continue to post every month information on the UNCCD website regarding the status of assessed contributions.
46. The Executive Secretary emphasized that for the Secretariat and the GM to continue delivering services of high quality to Parties, timely contributions in the core budget are a requirement. He also proposed to the Bureau Members in their capacities as vice chair and representatives of their region to call on countries in their respective regions and interest groups that have not yet paid their dues to do so as soon as possible.
47. During the exchanges among the Bureau members, it was suggested that the secretariat sends a letter to UNCCD national focal points (NFPs) asking where the notification letters for the contribution to the core budget should be sent. The Secretariat reminded that notification letters are sent to the Ministers in charge of the UNCCD and the Embassies plus copy to the NFPs.
48. The President recommended that Vice chairs from the COP Bureau could encourage Parties with outstanding contributions in their respective regions to make payment without further delay.

IX. Outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) pertinent to desertification, land degradation and drought

49. The Secretariat reported on the active role played by the executive Secretary to prepare for and participate in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). The secretariat contributed to the compilation document in the context of the conference themes, with a view to ensuring that due regard is paid to DLDD issues. The Secretariat also closely followed the negotiations processes leading to the UNCSD held in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June 2012.
50. The Rio+20 Conference constituted for the UNCCD, another historic opportunity to raise the profile of the Convention. States and other high-level representatives attending the Conference recognized the economic and social significance of good land management, including soil, and particularly its contribution to economic growth, biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and food security, eradicating poverty, women's empowerment, addressing climate change and improving water availability. They recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation. In view of this, world leaders said they will strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world in the context of sustainable development. They also reaffirmed their resolve under the UNCCD to take coordinated action nationally, regionally and internationally to monitor land degradation globally and undertook to restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.
51. The UNCSD resolved to support the implementation of the UNCCD and The Strategy, including through mobilizing adequate, predictable and timely financial resources. In this regard, the Conference encouraged and recognized the importance of partnerships and initiatives for the safeguarding of land resources.
52. On science and policy interface, the UNCSD took note of decision taken by COP10 to establish an ad hoc working group, taking into account regional balance, to discuss specific options for the provision of scientific advice to its Parties.
53. On the fringes of the UNCSD a number of activities were facilitated by the Secretariat with a view to strengthening advocacy, awareness raising and partnerships to further address DLDD. Those activities include the following: Meeting between the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions and their respective COP Presidents; Special commemorative event to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the three Rio Conventions; Global observance of the 2012 World Day to Combat Desertification and the Land for Life Award.
54. Having listened to the report of the Secretariat, members of the COP Bureau provided guidance as follows: The COP is invited at its eleventh session to take a decision building on the outcomes of the UNCSD as they relate to DLDD. One Bureau member praised the support provided by the COP Presidency through the Changwon Initiative in support to several UNCCD related activities preparatory to the Rio +20 Conference;
55. The Executive Secretary informed that the Secretariat will prepare and submit to COP 11 a comprehensive report on the outcomes of UNCSD as they relate to DLDD (COP 11/5) so that Parties could take the decision they deem the best for the Convention.

56. He also referred to the discussions, which have started on the post 2015 millennium development goals as well as the intergovernmental process to discuss on possible sustainable development goals. He suggested that Parties as UN member states may consider ensuring that DLDD issues are duly reflected including on the need to having a sustainable development goal devoted to land.

X: Progress report on implementation of decision 6/COP.10 on the Governance and Institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism

57. **Human and financial resources management:** The Secretariat reported on progress made and referred to the lengthy consultation process with the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) and to some extent, the Office of Legal Affairs, in order to find the smoothest, least disruptive process in transferring the GM staff contracts to UNCCD contracts. It was reminded that on 26 January 2012, the Executive Secretary requested OHRM to launch the recruitment process of the Managing Director of the GM and assist the Secretariat on the transfer process of the GM staff contracts. Despite frequent reminders to OHRM, two missions to UN New York, the UNCCD secretariat did not receive an official response until 2 August 2012.
58. Based on additional clarifications from the Secretariat, OHRM sent a second letter on 7 September responding to the secretariat's request for guidance on how to proceed with extending GM staff contracts, whereby it was stated that

(a) "The United Nations Secretariat... has no mandate to administer the staff and other resources of the Global Mechanism. In the absence of an express mandate from the General Assembly tasking the United Nations Secretariat with administering the staff and resources of the Global Mechanism, the United Nations Secretariat can only administer staff and resources which fall within the institutional linkage approved by the General Assembly, namely only UNCCD Secretariat staff and resources";

(b) "In order for that UNCCD COP request (decision 6/COP.10) to be given effect under the existing institutional linkage with the UNCCD Secretariat, the COP would have to decide on the new housing arrangements for the Global Mechanism, and its possible co-location with the UNCCD Secretariat. Moreover, the General Assembly would have to endorse that decision of the COP. However, the COP has yet to take a final decision on these issues.' Until such time that the COP decides to integrate the staff and resources of the Global Mechanism into the UNCCD Secretariat, the United Nations Secretariat has no authority to administer the Global

Mechanism staff and resources in accordance with the current institutional linkage”; and finally,

(c) OHRM suggested that “the UNCCD secretariat...seek guidance from the Bureau of the 10th session of the COP on the issue of interpretation of the powers given to the Executive Secretary of the COP and what measures should be put in place regarding the appointments of the staff of the Global Mechanism”

59. Contract of the GM Managing Director: Given the status of the contract of the Managing Director of the GM, the provision governing its extension or renewal and the relevant provision of decision 6/COP10 the Executive Secretary reminded that he has no mandate to extend the contract of the Managing Director. On 25 May 2012, the Executive Secretary, having received no further feedback from OHRM, informed Mr. Christian Mersmann, the serving Managing Director of the GM at that time, to make the necessary preparations to ensure a handover report was prepared and to apprise the Director of Programmes, Ms. Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist, of any important matters in order to ensure the continued operations of the GM. This memorandum was also sent to OHRM and to the President of IFAD. As no guidance was provided to the secretariat by OHRM in respect to the final contract of Mr. Mersmann, the Executive Secretary appointed Ms. Barsk-Rundquist as Officer-in-Charge of the GM, effective 1 June 2012. Accordingly, the delegation of authority on specific GM matters has been transferred to Ms. Barsk-Rundquist.
60. In view of the approaching deadline of 30 September 2012 and through the continued cooperation of the IFAD, the President of IFAD informed the COP 10 President that his institution would extend contracts for six months on behalf of the Executive Secretary for the last time.
61. In light of the view of OHRM that the GM is not part of the existing institutional linkage between the UN and the UNCCD secretariats, and IFAD’s indication on a final extension of contracts for GM that expire 31 March 2013, the secretariat informed on its intention to initiate the recruitment process for all GM fixed-term staff positions in accordance with the staff regulations and rules of the United Nations.
62. On the financial management of the GM funds, the secretariat reported that it is still pursuing the request to the Office of the Controller in New York to establish a trust fund to manage GM voluntary contributions.
63. Based on the report of the Secretariat, Bureau Members had an exchange on the situation of the Global Mechanism particularly the measures relating to the transfer of the GM staff contracts from IFAD to the UN administration. The Managing Director ad interim informed that some of the GM staff members have decided to launch complaints at the level of the ILO administrative tribunal and the matter is under consideration. She also informed that 4 staff have left the GM.

64. The Secretariat informed that job descriptions are currently submitted to UNOG so that vacancy announcement could be made available as soon as possible with duty station in Rome and all the recruitment processes finalized by March 2013. The Executive Secretary reminded the Bureau Members that in view of the situation now experienced by the Secretariat and the GM this would be the only option left to protect the interest of the Convention and ensure the GM will continue to function without any discontinuity.
65. The COP Bureau considered the progress report submitted by the Secretariat on the implementation of decision 6/COP10 and noted the position expressed by the UNOHRM in New York, which doesn't consider the GM as part of the existing institutional linkage between the UN and the UNCCD. The Bureau also noted in that respect that UNOHRM has advised that the GM staff would first need to be issued with UNCCD Secretariat letters of appointment.
66. Against this background and taking into consideration the position recently expressed by the President of IFAD informing that the extension of contracts for the GM staff (October 2012 – March 2013) will be the last action of this nature that it will take on behalf of the Executive Secretary, the Bureau takes note of and supports measures being taken by the Executive Secretary towards the recruitment of the GM staff and offer them letters of appointment in accordance with the UN Staff Rules and Regulations and conclude this process by March 2013 the latest, so as to avoid discontinuity in the functioning of the GM.
67. **Identification of a new housing arrangement for the Global Mechanism:** The Secretariat reminded that the document submitted to the Bureau has been prepared in response to paragraph 11 of decision 6/COP 10. It was also underlined that the document was first prepared and sent to the members of the COP 10 Bureau on 30 June 2012 with a request to receive comments by 21 September 2012. Further, the secretariat has informed that all comments received were considered and added as an annex to the document.
68. Having listened to the report submitted by the Secretariat, Bureau members had an exchange on the document. Many recognized that that the decision to bring the GM to Bonn would prove to be cost effective and for the Convention to bring more rationale to the institutional arrangements. One Bureau member said however that the document puts too much emphasis on the physical relocation and not enough information are provided on other aspects including on synergies. It was therefore recommended that the final report to COP could provide more information on the synergy section in the document. Another Bureau member recalled that the discussion on the document relating to the identification of the new housing arrangements for the GM should be comprehensive enough so that a final decision is taken at COP 11. It was also said that the consideration of the document should be limited to the spirit of paragraph 11 of decision 6/COP10. It was further said that the document as it stands provide clear criteria and those are the basis of the ranking made as regards the best place where the GM could be relocated. The Executive Secretary advised that it would be appreciated to receive more written comments from the COP Bureau so as to enable the Secretariat submitting at COP11 the report which will be as comprehensive as possible. One Bureau member proposed to be given two more weeks so that his group could review the document and submit views

for consideration of the Bureau. On the basis of the exchanges that have taken place, it was decided to proceed as follows:

1. All Bureau Members are invited, should they so wish, to send additional comments on the existing document until two weeks after the COP Bureau meeting (i.e. 20 November 2012).
2. Based on written comments received the Secretariat will update the report and post it on the website for the consideration of all Parties.
3. The document on the website will be translated in the UN working languages so that comments could be made within a period of 3 weeks.
4. At CRIC 11 (April 2013) the document will be also put on discussion as requested by decision 6 /COP10 so that Parties could further provide their views to the Secretariat.
5. The final document reflecting all views received will be submitted to COP 11 Bureau for final consideration and decision.

69. The representative of IFAD was invited to attend the meeting of the Bureau as an observer. He informed that IFAD's position is accurately reflected in the report. He added that as previously mentioned at COP 10 in Changwon, IFAD stands ready to consider whatever decision the COP would make. IFAD however has clearly indicated that its hosting arrangements of the GM should not be at any cost to IFAD and should be without liability to IFAD. He portrayed IFAD as a landlord that provides support to the GM on a cost recovery basis.

70. In the end one Bureau Member asked about the status of the former Managing Director of the GM. The Secretariat informed that one week prior to the COP Bureau meeting UNOG advised that the former Managing Director has filed a case with UNOG and the matter is under consideration at that level. The Secretariat further informed the Bureau that as soon as we know more about this situation the COP Bureau will be informed.

XI: Other business

71. The Secretariat reported on the regional media workshops that have been facilitated in May 2012 for environmental journalists from Asia and Africa respectively. This was part of the efforts to prepare the Rio+20 Conference. The aim was to build a network of a group of journalists in each region and have them fully familiarized with the UNCCD. These workshops held respectively in China and Algeria were successfully organised with the appreciated contribution from the host countries and the Republic of Korea through KFS. Journalist not only were briefed about the Convention prior to the opening of the Rio+20 conference but also on the occasion of those workshops they have had the opportunity to be on the field visiting some successful practices in addressing DLDD.

72. The Secretariat informed that is planned to also organise a third media workshop for the LAC countries in Fortaleza, Brazil at the eve of the 2nd scientific conference to be held in 2013.

73. Some Bureau Members have expressed support to this initiative and invited the Secretariat to further engage the media in the work of the Convention. It was said that this would be to the benefit of all people.

XII: Next meeting

74. A representative of KFS informed that the presidency would be pleased to host the next COP Bureau meeting. The Bureau members thanked the Republic of Korea for the proposal and considered the possible timing for the next COP Bureau meeting. Some proposed a back to back COP Bureau meeting with CRIC 11, others a stand-alone COP Bureau meeting in Korea that could be organized between the CRIC 11 and the COP 11. It was in the end agreed that the Secretariat in consultation with the Presidency will look at the various options and make a proposal on the date and timing of the third inter-sessional COP Bureau meeting.
75. One Bureau member also inquired about the venue for CRIC 11 and COP 11. The Executive Secretary informed that so far there is no firm official communications received by the Secretariat. He advised nevertheless that some countries have expressed interest to host those events and requested to receive information on responsibilities and obligations of a host country. Consultations are on-going with those countries. He added that Bureau members will be informed on any new development regarding the venue of the two events.
76. During the closing remarks the Executive Secretary highlighted the need for adequate support to the work of the Secretariat and the GM. He underlined in particular the need to receive voluntary contributions in the special trust fund for participation to the 2013 UNCCD core events. He further called on the COP Bureau Members to ensure that the countries will be responding to the survey that the IWG consultants will circulate to all the NFPs so as to collect more information and data in the context of the IWG work to evaluate the mid-term implementation of the UNCCD Strategy.
77. The President also thanked the Secretariat and the COP Bureau Members and expressed gratitude for support he received in the conduct of business during the two days meeting of the COP Bureau.

**List of participants to the COP Bureau Meeting
5-6 November 2012**

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