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English Only

Meeting of the Bureau of the CRIC

Bonn, Germany, 11-12 June 2015

Report on the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (Bonn, Germany, 11-12 June 2015)

I. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the CRIC Bureau meeting

1. The Chair of the CRIC, Mr. Philbert Brown, opened the meeting and expressed his most sincere thanks for the support extended to him during the CRIC 13 session.
2. The attendance to the CRIC Bureau meeting is recorded in annex I.
3. The provisional agenda was adopted as verbally amended (see annex II).

II. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of CRIC 14

Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework

4. The secretariat introduced the item and reminded the Bureau of the interlinkages between this item and other agenda items before CRIC14 and COP 12. The secretariat alerted the Bureau of some possible delay which may occur in concluding negotiations on the draft decision relating to action programmes pending the outcome of negotiations on issues relating to the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) and deliberations of the Committee on Science and Technology which will deal with the topic of how to refine progress indicator reporting. The linkages with the document on the reshaping of the reporting and review process (ICCD/CRIC(14)/10) was also highlighted.
5. The Bureau considered various options of how to coordinate consultation processes during COP 12 and made the following deliberations:
 - (a) Decided to bring this issue forward and draw the attention of the COP Bureau on this particular matter;

- (b) Recommended *inter alia* to convene joint meetings of CRIC and CST contact groups in order to streamline decision making on issues relating to reporting
- (c) Advised that the COP Bureau should seek to resolve outstanding issues with regard to the IWG report prior to COP 12 in order to avoid a deadlock in the negotiation process.

The UNCCD reporting and review process in view of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda:

- (i) *improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties*

6. As part of the introduction, the secretariat informed the Bureau that four official documents will be prepared in regard of this item i.e. a document on refinement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3; a document on strategic objective 4; a document on the iterative process, and lastly an update to the non-paper 2 on the reshaping of the reporting and review process.

7. While deliberating on the future reporting requirements, the Bureau highlighted the need for capacity building and technical support. The secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status quo of consultations with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on possible funding through enabling funds from the GEF.

8. The CRIC Bureau made the following deliberations:

- (a) Recommended that matters relating to the topics on strategic objectives, best practices and the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) would be dealt with by the proposed joint meetings of contact groups of the CRIC and the CST with the understanding that negotiations would only be able to commence once a decision on the reshaping of the reporting and review process would have been made by the CRIC.

- (b) Requested the secretariat and the GM to make available information on the methodologies used to provide data on progress indicators from already existing databases.

- (ii) *The procedure and institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in the review of implementation of the Convention*

9. As part of the documentation provided to the Bureau, the secretariat made available a preliminary draft of document ICCD/CRIC(14)/10 which contains the proposal by the secretariat on how to reshape the reporting and review process.

10. Bureau members recognized that coming to a consensus on this particular topic poses a challenge for CRIC 14 and emphasized that early consultations, through regional meetings, may assist to prevent a deadlock in the negotiation process. The Bureau members recognized the need to further investigate whether regular funding for meetings of the CRIC cannot be availed through the budget decision taken by COP 12.

11. The CRIC Bureau made the following deliberations:

- (a) Took note of draft document ICCD/CRIC(14)/10 and the feedback being provided by Parties on Non-Paper 2, and decided to postpone the deadline for submission of feedback from Parties to the 1st of July 2015;
- (b) Requested the secretariat to inform all country Parties of the new deadline and to post all the submissions received on the website, including informal translations for those submissions received in languages other than English.

Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices

12. After an introduction by the secretariat, the CRIC Bureau made the following deliberations:

- (a) Requested WOCAT to publish those best practices already submitted to the PRAIS portal in the format that they were submitted in on WOCAT's website. This was felt necessary so as not to discourage those Parties having invested in reporting on best practices, while awaiting the new template prepared by WOCAT on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation;
- (b) Requested the secretariat to ensure through regular reporting that information on submissions of best practices by country Parties is provided to the secretariat in order to populate the SKBP as the centralized gateway with information on where to find best practices relating to the UNCCD;
- (c) Decided that the issue relating to running cost of SKBP (maintaining and expanding the portal) is to be addressed and discussed as part of the budget negotiations during COP 12.

13. After having completed the review of the draft provisional agenda of CRIC 14, as contained in draft document (ICCD/CRIC(14)/1), the CRIC Bureau endorsed it and requested the secretariat to submit it for translation and circulation to Parties.

III. Preparation for the fourteenth session of the CRIC

Review of the report of the CRIC 13 and formulation of draft decisions to be submitted to CRIC 14

14. The secretariat introduced an abstract from the report of CRIC 13, and made proposals on the preparation of draft decisions for submission to the COP. According to this proposal, the recommendations contained in the CRIC report will feed the decision making process on: action programmes; assessment of implementation; financial flows; cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF); improving the communication of information to the COP. The recommendations on the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) shall be forwarded to the COW contact group; and the recommendations to the Convention's institutions to the Executive Secretary.

15. The secretariat proposed for consideration by the Bureau a list of draft decisions to be prepared by the CRIC (annex IV) and reported on possible scenarios for the decision making coordination, taking into consideration interlinkages of official documentation prepared for CRIC 14, CST 12 and COP 12.

16. The CRIC Bureau made the following deliberations:

(a) Decided to cluster as much as possible documentation before the subsidiary bodies into draft decisions in order to ensure coherence in the decision making by the COP, and agreed on the proposed list of draft decisions;

(b) Requested the secretariat to prepare preliminary text for CRIC draft decisions according to that list.

Recommendations to entities of the UNCCD on priorities to be included in their programme of work and budget for the following programming biennium

17. The secretariat and the GM reported to the Bureau on the recommendations from the CRIC 13 final report relating to the Convention's institutions and proposed the deletion from those provisions from the CRIC draft decisions for them to be considered as part of the budget discussions at COP 12. It was noted that this proposal emerged from COP 11, where a specific request was made that Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies should take into consideration the requests emerging from the review process in their preparation of work plans and programmes.

18. The Bureau made the following deliberations:

(a) Decided to forward an extract of the relevant CRIC 13 recommendations, to the Executive Secretary for consideration, in view of the preparation of the proposed programme of work and budget of the Convention for 2016-2017 (see annex ...);

(b) Also decided to forward the same extract CRIC 13 recommendations to the facilitator of the contact group on budget for information in view of the consultations to take place at COP 12.

Arrangements made for Parties at COP 12/CRIC14, including facilitation of meetings of the Regional Implementation Annexes

19. As part of the briefing on arrangements made for Parties for COP 12/ CRIC 14, the secretariat informed the CRIC Bureau that only one implementation Annex is convening a regional meeting prior to CRIC14, and that other regions have so far not expressed interest in convening such meetings.

20. The CRIC Bureau decided to inform the COP Bureau that regional consultations will not occur in all regions and that this may delay the negotiation process during COP 12. The COP Bureau may wish to consider the necessity for regions to consult prior to CRIC/COP on draft decisions and propose ways and means of how to ensure that consultations can be held between countries within regions.

IV. Identification of possible recommendations to the COP Bureau

21. The CRIC Bureau decided to forward to the COP Bureau, through its Chair, the list of recommendations contained in annex III

V. Any other matter

Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG)

20. The secretariat recalled the relevant IWG meetings and its report and the importance of including its final report as additional item under any other matters.

21. The Bureau made the following deliberations:

(a) Took note of the report of the IWG as requested by the relevant COP 11 decision and requested that this report should also be provided to the Bureau of the CST.

(b) Decided to propose to the COP Bureau that pending issues emerging from the IWG report should be resolved prior to COP 12 so as not to run the risk of delaying the negotiation process for those issues that are closely linked to the IWG report and its recommendations.

Date and venue of the next CRIC Bureau meeting

22. The Bureau decided that the next meeting of the CRIC Bureau will take place in Ankara, on 12 October 2015, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Further sessional meetings of the CRIC Bureau will be convened as required.

Annex I - List of participants

<p>1. Chairperson (Jamaica)</p>	<p>Mr. Philbert Brown Director Ministry of Local Government and Environment 16A Half Way Tree Road Kingston 10, Jamaica Tel: (1-876) 960 5632/3 Fax: (1-876) 920 7267 Email: pbrown@mlge.gov.jm</p>
<p>2. Vice-Chairperson (Kenya)</p>	<p>Mr. Richard Mwendadu Desk Officer Director, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources P.O. Box 30126 - 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (254- 20) 273-0808 Fax: (254-20) 273-4722 Email: directormeas@environment.go.ke / rj_mwendandu@yahoo.com</p>
<p>3. Vice-Chairperson (Thailand)</p>	<p>Mr. Worapong Waramit UNCCD Focal Point Office Land Development Department Phaholyotin Road, Jatujack Bangkok 10900, Thailand Tel: (662) 579 8530 Fax: (662) 579 8530 Email: wwaramit@hotmail.com</p>
<p>4. Vice-Chairperson cum rapporteur (Ukraine)</p>	<p>Mr. Yuriy Kolmaz Head of Land Resources Division Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine 35, Uritskogo Str. Kiev 03035, Ukraine Tel: (380-44) 206 3148 Fax: (380-44) 206 3148 Email: saveland@menr.gov.ua</p>
<p>5. Vice-Chairperson (European Union)</p>	<p>Mr. Patrick Wegerdt Policy Officer, Unit E.1 International Relations Directorate General on Environment European Commission Tel: (32-2) 295 6960 / 3249898-9912 Email: Patrick.WEGERDT@ec.europa.eu</p>

Annex II - Agenda of the CRIC Bureau meeting

- I. Adoption of the agenda of the CRIC Bureau meeting;
- II. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda of CRIC 14:
 - (a) Formulation, revision and implementation of action programmes in view of the post-2015 sustainable development framework;
 - (b) The UNCCD reporting and review process in view of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda:
 - i. Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties; and
 - ii. The procedure and institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in the review of implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices.
- III. Preparation for the fourteenth session of the CRIC:
 - a) Review of the report of CRIC 13 and formulation of draft decisions to be submitted to CRIC 14;
 - b) Recommendations to entities of the UNCCD on priorities to be included in their programme of work and budget for the following programming biennium;
 - c) Arrangements made for Parties at COP 12/CRIC 14, including facilitation of meetings of the Regional Implementation Annexes;
- IV. Identification of possible recommendations to the COP Bureau;
- V. Any other matter:
 - a) Deliberations on the report prepared by the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG);
 - b) Date and venue of the next CRIC Bureau meeting.

Annex III - Recommendations to the COP Bureau

1. The CRIC Bureau highlighted the need for coordination of consultation processes especially those related to the Land Degradation Neutrality (IWG/COW), the indicators framework for the next reporting exercise (SO 1, 2, 3/CST) and the NAP alignment and the review of implementation (CRIC). The bureau of the CRIC would like to draw the attention of the COP bureau that the outcome of the consultations on the LDN will have an impact on how quickly the CRIC can conclude its own work plan for the session in Ankara, Turkey.
2. In this regard, the CRIC Bureau agreed to propose to the CST to convene joint meetings of the respective contact groups in relation to the indicator framework and best practices and information sharing (SKBP).
3. At the same time, the CRIC Bureau would like to recommend that daily consultations take place during COP 12, among the three chairpersons (CRIC, CST and COW) and the facilitators of the respective contact groups, a practice that we initiated during COP 11 and that brought effective results, particularly when there is a need of a close consultations among the three decision-making process.
4. The CRIC bureau expressed concerns with regard to the fact that only one Regional Implementation Annex (Africa) will have the opportunity to meet before the COP in a form of stand-alone meeting. Taking into consideration that further consultations would be needed, especially on the revised reporting and review mechanisms proposed by the secretariat, the CRIC Bureau would like to invite the COP bureau to provide guidance on possible regional meetings for the remaining implementation annexes, to be convened as soon as practicable and eventually immediately prior to COP 12. The CRIC Bureau would also like to recommend that - in the future - the dates of the regional meetings (usually to be convened two months prior to the COP) are published in due time for country Parties to consider hosting them and contribute to their costs.
5. The CRIC bureau took note on the revised document on the additional procedures and institutional mechanisms (so-called Non-Paper 2, now to be issued as full-fledge CRIC 14 document) and requested the secretariat to inform all country Parties that the deadline for submission of additional feedback has been extended to the 1st of July 2015, in order to take into account that a number of inputs from Parties have been announced as delayed. The CRIC Bureau requested the secretariat to attach to the CRIC 14 documents and to post on the UNCCD website, all the submissions received from Parties and to arrange for informal translations of those submissions received in languages other than English.
6. The CRIC bureau also decided that all recommendations for actions that the Convention's institutions have been requested to take by Parties and compiled in the CRIC 13 report, will be drawn to the Executive Secretary attention, with a view of including them into the work plan and programme to COP 12. Furthermore the CRIC Bureau decided that those recommendations will be also forwarded to the Chair of the COW for information of the contact group of the programme and budget to the next biennium.
7. The CRIC Bureau would like to inform that the draft provisional agenda for CRIC 14 has been endorsed as submitted by the Executive Secretary.

Annex IV - List of draft decisions to be prepared by the CRIC

1. Multi-year workplan of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies;
2. Strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment and implementation of action programmes with The Strategy;
3. Assessment of the implementation of the Convention against performance indicators;
4. Assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention;
5. Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;
6. Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention;
7. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention;
8. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;
9. Programme of work for CRIC 15;
10. Date and venue of CRIC 15.