

REFERENCE: EOSG/SA/2018/3

Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to request the nomination of candidates for the position of Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the Under-Secretary-General level. The permanent secretariat of the Convention is located in Bonn, Germany.

Established in 1994, the UNCCD is the sole legally-binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention specifically addresses the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. As the dynamics of land, climate and biodiversity are intimately connected, the UNCCD collaborates closely with the other two Rio Conventions; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to meet these complex challenges with an integrated approach and the best possible use of natural resources.

The Executive Secretary is the Head of the permanent secretariat and is responsible for the functions as established under article 23 of the Convention. The overall aim of the secretariat is to service the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies in a manner that enables well-founded decision-making and successful action in advancing the implementation of the UNCCD. The Executive Secretary reports directly and is accountable to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the administration of the permanent secretariat and on the implementation of the COP decisions and United Nations General Assembly resolutions as they relate to Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), in particular the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework. The Executive Secretary also assists the Secretary-General in reporting to the General Assembly on the implementation of its annual resolutions on UNCCD. The Executive Secretary serves as the global voice on issues related to DLDD in advancing the commitments by world leaders as summarized in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further information on UNCCD is available on the following website:
<http://www.unccd.int/>

In accordance with Decision 4/COP.1, the Executive Secretary will be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations after consultation with the UNCCD Conference of the Parties through its Bureau.

In order to ensure a wide pool of candidates for this position, the Secretariat would welcome any nominations to supplement the Secretary-General's own search and consultations. The nomination of women candidates is strongly encouraged.

All nominations should include a cover note and curriculum vitae of the candidates with full contact information (e-mail and telephone) and must be sent to the Secretariat by 23 December 2018. Nominations may also be sent to cosg2018unccd@un.org

The Executive Secretary is expected to possess the following attributes and undertake the following roles:

- Provide deep, comprehensive knowledge of the Convention, the Paris Agreement and the various related decisions, and demonstrate a commitment to a global strategy to address desertification and its consequences;
- Provide leadership of the intergovernmental process by offering support and expert guidance to the President of the COP, the Bureau, other Convention and Protocol bodies, and participants in sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies;
- Demonstrate proven management skills and the capacity to provide leadership to an innovative, dynamic, diverse, and high-performing organization;
- Demonstrate vision, high professional standing and an intimate knowledge of the issues involved in the climate change and sustainable development spheres;
- Demonstrate commitment to working closely with the United Nations Secretary-General to mobilize the political support of Member States and to advance the integration of climate change into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Demonstrate experience working with senior leaders at the highest level of the United Nations system and other international entities, as well as with senior leaders in the private sector and civil society organizations;
- Demonstrate excellent communication and representation skills, proven ability to persuade, motivate and influence stakeholders to accelerate transformational approaches and implement commitments; and
- Demonstrate the ability to build coalitions and partnerships in support of the work of UNCCD.

Human rights screening

In accordance with the policy for the nomination of candidates, the Secretariat wishes to outline that it is the responsibility of the nominating Government to ensure that each candidate it nominates has not been convicted of or is not currently under investigation or being prosecuted for, any criminal offence, or any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law. In the case of nominees who have been investigated for, charged with or prosecuted for any criminal offence but were not convicted, the nominating Government is requested to provide information regarding the investigation(s) or prosecutions concerned. The nominating Government is also requested to certify that it is not aware of any allegations against its nominated candidates that they have been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any acts that amount to violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

Individuals who are either nominated by Member States or who seek to serve with the United Nations in any individual capacity will be required, if short-listed, to complete a self-attestation stating that they have not committed, been convicted of, nor prosecuted for, any criminal offence and have not been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

Conflicts of interest

Short-listed individuals will also be required to complete the pre-appointment declaration of interests for senior positions to identify possible conflicts of interest that may arise and to proactively prevent and manage, as much as possible and in a timely manner, situations in which personal interests may conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of the United Nations, should the individual be appointed to this position.

The Secretariat of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

23 November 2018