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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Consultancy: Junior Consultant IDRA

Consultancy reference number: CCD/25/C/29

#### 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 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, 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.

The **International Drought Resilience Alliance** (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 must 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 is supporting the Alliance in the operationalization of its work and ensuring coherence and consistency with the fulfilment of all relevant COP decisions related to drought.

After IDRA's successful participation in UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, the Alliance has been working on the roadmap to be followed for the 2025-2026 period. IDRA will ensure that drought remains at the top of the political agenda. The Alliance will be supporting the UNCCD COP16 Presidency in advancing a drought decision to be presented during COP17 in Mongolia and will contribute to the global framework of actions to enhance drought resilience at country levels.

The purpose of the Junior Consultancy is to provide support to UNCCD secretariat on IDRA and drought related activities to follow the implementation of IDRA's 2025-2026 roadmap.

This junior consultancy offers a unique opportunity for a young professional with the right skill set to be involved in all key day to day operational aspects of the UNCCD work and the work of the IDRA Secretariat. This is a tremendous opportunity for a young professional interested and willing to be involved in various activities. UNCCD seeks candidates who are interested in expanding their



knowledge and skill set in events management as well as land-drought sector initiatives within the context of the UN agency.

### **Objective of consultancy**

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Successful implementation of IDRA activities, both in term of governance and in substantive topics development.

### **Duties and responsibilities**

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Under the direct supervision of the responsible officer, the Junior Consultant will provide effective support to the GPARC and Executive Office in the development of IDRA's activities for the period 2025-2026. The consultant will undertake the following tasks:

- Support IDRA's 2025-2026 workplan implementation;
- Support the different teams working on IDRA related tools and outputs, including IDRA's senior policy advisor;
- Provide and contribute to various written documentation writing on substantive topics related to IDRA and other UNCCD drought related planned activities;
  - o Briefing notes;
  - o Speeches;
  - o Presentations;
  - o Methodological notes;
  - o Narrative and financial reports;
  - o Minutes of meetings;
  - o Concept notes;
  - o All requested additional documentation;
- Contribute to the preparation IDRA related events (Plenary meeting, Steering Committee meetings, UNGA, Finance for Development Conference, UNFCCC COP30 and CRIC 23, UNCCD COP17, etc.), including appropriate documentations (i.e. invitation letters, concept note, presentations, etc);
- Support in the preparation and organization of specific IDRA outputs such as the Drought Atlas promotion, International Drought Resilience Observatory phase 2 development, Communities of Learning and Practices.

### **Deliverables**

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Successful performance includes the completion of the duties and responsibilities as described.

### **Contractual terms**

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The service of the selected consultant is estimated for 18 months between April/May 2025 and December 2026. The consultant will be based and work in UNCCD office in Bonn, Germany and valid residency permit to work and live in Bonn is required. UNCCD does not provide health insurance to consultant and individual contractors. Incumbents selected for the consultancy are fully responsible for arranging, at their own expense, such life, health and other forms of insurance covering the period of their services as they consider appropriate. Proof of valid health insurance will be required before signing of the contract. All products resulting from this contractual arrangement are the exclusive property of the UNCCD.

### **Requirements**

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- A first-level university degree in: Law, Public Administration, Economics, International Relations, Public Affairs, Social Sciences, Sciences, or a related field. Master's degree in any of the mentioned areas is desirable.
- At least one year of experience in areas of international cooperation, including volunteering or internships in NGOs, academia, think tanks, governments and other international organizations.
- Solid writing, analytical, research and communications skills (qualitative and quantitative).



- Strong interest of the UN systems and understanding of the UNCCD, interest in land restoration and drought topics. Good programme and organizational skills and ability to work under pressure, to tight deadlines.
- Good interpersonal skills, teamwork spirit and ability to work in multicultural settings and to work remotely.
- Previous experience with UN is a plus.
- Fluency in English and Spanish languages (both oral and written) is required. Working knowledge of any of the UN Official languages in addition would be an asset.

### **Special notice**

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/25/C/29**.

The deadline for applications is **27 March 2025**. 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 : 20 March 2025

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<sup>1</sup>UNCCD P-11 form in electronic fill-in .pdf OR .docx format available: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/opportunities/vacancies/guidelines>