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Committee on Science and Technology

Maintenance of the roster of independent experts and creation, as necessary, of ad hoc panels of experts

**Maintenance of the roster of independent experts and creation, as necessary,
of ad hoc panels of experts**

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This document contains an explanatory note on the composition and use of the roster of independent experts. As requested by the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the updated roster, containing nominations received by 11 June 2007, is available in electronic form on the Convention website (<www.unccd.int>).

* The submission of this document was delayed due to the short time available between the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties.

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I. Background information

1. Article 24, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. The roster shall be based on nominations received in writing from Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation.
2. By its decisions 18/COP.1, 13/COP.2, 15/COP.3, 15/COP.4, 15/COP.5, 13/COP.6 and 13/COP.7, the COP decided to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts, in accordance with the procedures attached to decision 18/COP.1 which stated that the roster of experts should reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to provide advice on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention and the need to include experts from grassroots organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
3. The COP requested the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster was made available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information.
4. By its decision 13/COP.7, the COP encouraged Parties to revise and update the database on their national experts already on the roster and to propose new candidates in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines, of social scientists, of women, of NGOs, and of all individual with expertise in the field of desertification. It also requested the Parties to incorporate in their national report an annex with an updated list of their experts on the roster.
5. By the same decision, the COP invited the Parties to actively promote the use of the experts at the national level and to encourage their participation in the implementation of thematic programme networks, and encouraged all organizations, institutions and bodies that would organize events scheduled for the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) to use the knowledge and expertise of the experts on the roster.
6. The COP also invited the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at its eighth session to evaluate progress made on revising and using the roster.
7. Revisions and updates sent to the secretariat through diplomatic channels as at 11 June 2007 are reported in this document. Revisions and updates received by the secretariat after that date will be posted on the Convention website at <www.unccd.int>. These revisions, as well as any subsequent revisions and amendments, will be taken into account in future editions of the roster.

II. Maintenance and use of the roster

8. The secretariat has maintained an up-to-date roster and developed a new data entry system. As requested by decision 13/COP.6, the secretariat has revised the curriculum vitae form

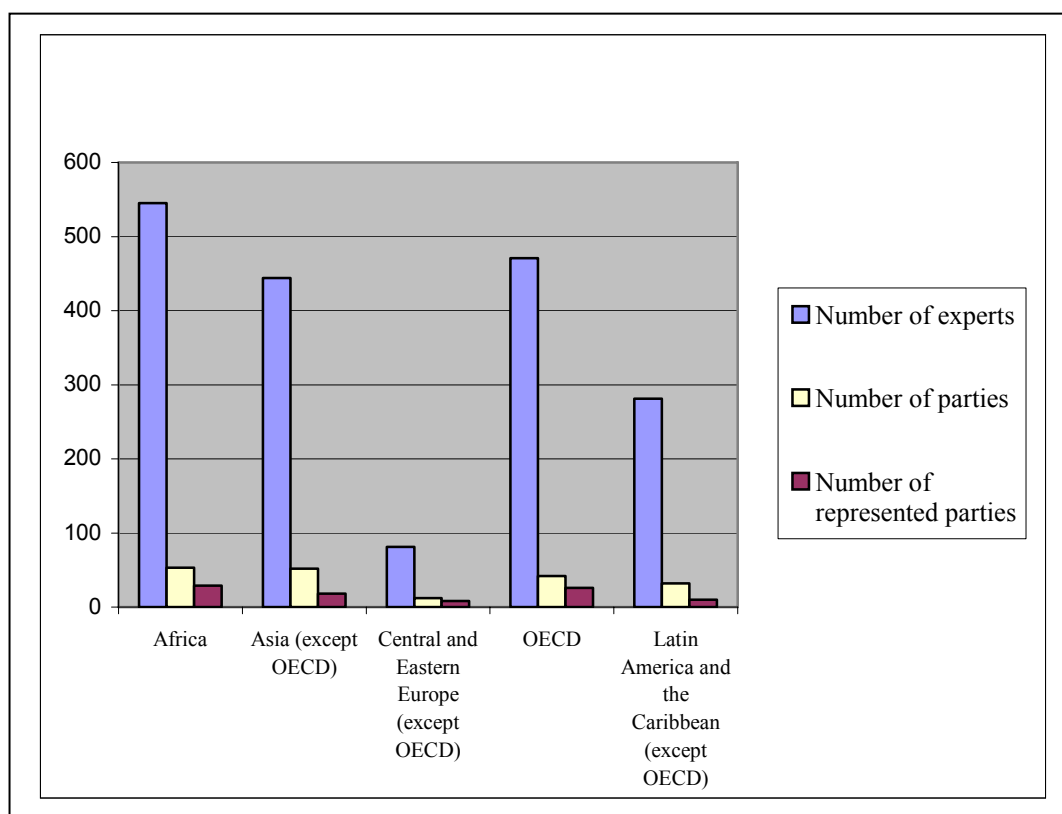
to include information on NGOs (annex I). The amended list of disciplines to prepare the list of nominations can be found in the annex to decision 15/COP.3.

9. The following general observations may be made about the roster:

(a) The total number of experts on the roster is 1,850.

(b) Nominations have been provided by 90 Parties to the Convention. A breakdown of nominations by region is given in figure 1, and by country in annex II.

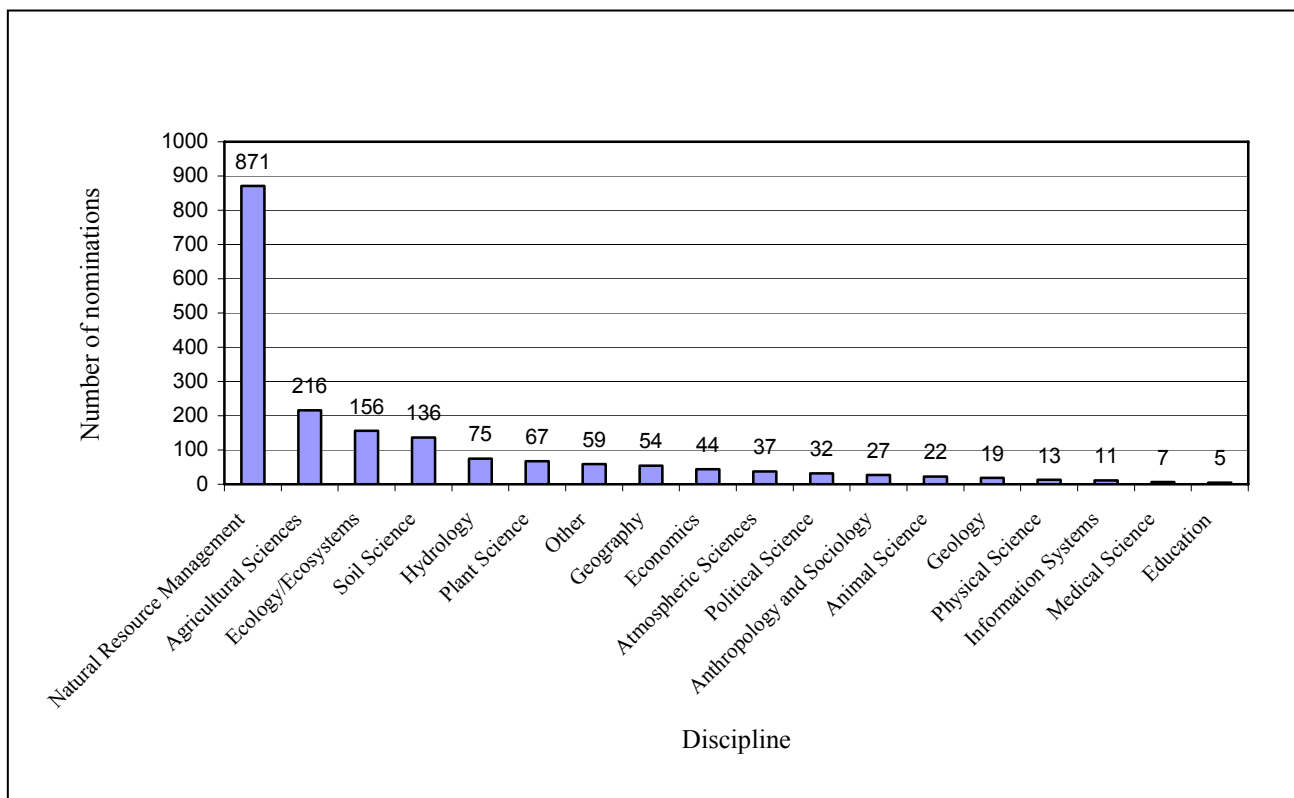
Figure 1. Geographical breakdown



(c) Of these 90 Parties, 31 have submitted more than 20 nominations each, totalling 74 per cent of the nominations. These 31 countries are: Algeria, Armenia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

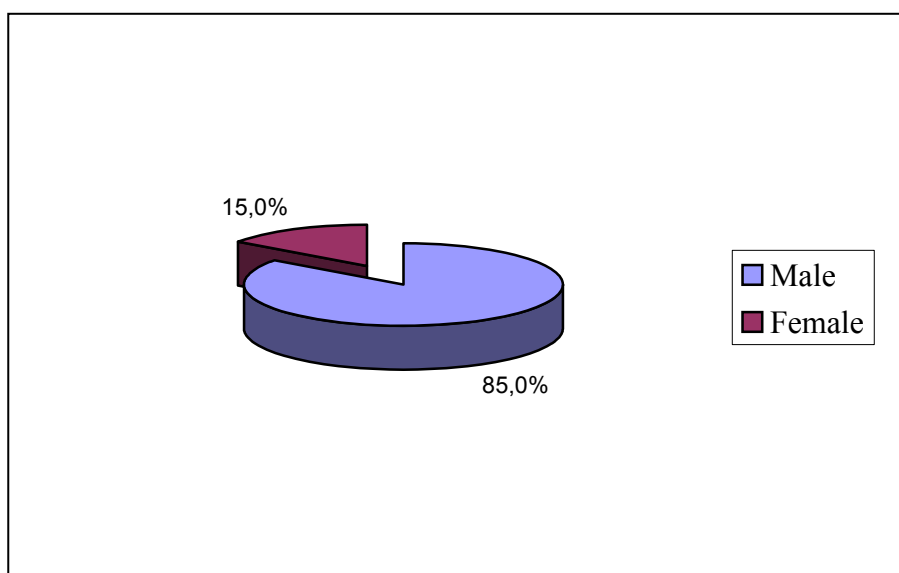
(d) The disciplines of physical science, information systems, medical sciences and education are not sufficiently represented – less than 1 per cent (see figure 2).

Figure 2. Discipline analysis



(e) Male candidates and female candidates represent 85 and 15 percent of the total number of experts, respectively

Figure 3. Gender distribution



10. The secretariat has posted an updated version of the roster on its website at www.unccd.int; a search engine tool is provided. The secretariat has also prepared a CD-ROM for Parties who cannot access the Internet or who experience difficulties in accessing the website.

11. Forty-six nominations were received and 53 CVs were updated between 22 June 2005 and 11 June 2007 following the invitation referred to in paragraph 4 above. However, no annex with an updated list of experts has been included in any national report.

12. Since the seventh session of the COP, the secretariat has responded to several requests and nominated candidates from the roster of experts to work in a variety of capacities. The roster has also served as a basis for mailing lists developed for the dissemination of UNCCD publications.

III. E-mail network for distribution among the experts

13. By its decision 13/COP.7, the COP requested the secretariat to establish an e-mail network to distribute to experts on the roster information on the activities of the CST and its Group of Experts (GoE), the IYDD and progress made in the implementation of the Convention.

14. Among the 1,850 independent experts on the roster, 1,143 have provided one or more e-mail addresses in their curriculum vitae; of these, 535 experts have invalid e-mail addresses listed in their curriculum vitae. It should be noted that even the valid addresses could be out of date. Currently, only 32.8 per cent of roster members can be reached by e-mail. About 10 per cent of the valid addresses are shared by at least two experts. The experts having valid e-mail addresses are well distributed among the regions/annexes of the convention.

15. Several e-mails were sent to experts on the roster concerning IYDD events or the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project. E-mail was also used to disseminate calls for papers and to encourage the participation of the experts in assessments.

IV. Recommendations

16. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Convention and the procedures to be followed in maintaining a roster of independent experts, the COP may wish to action on the revision and use of the roster, as requested by its decision 13/COP.7. The COP may also wish:

(a) To advise on measures to facilitate the updating of individual details by adequate means. This could include the use of the Internet, and review of the "Help Guide" that would have an annex containing the names on the roster from the country;

(b) To request Parties to send information to the secretariat in order to update the roster;

(c) To take adequate measures to ensure that there is a better balance in geographic, gender and discipline representation.

17. The COP may further wish to encourage using the e-mail network to disseminate and share information among the experts on the roster of independent experts, and to request the secretariat to continue disseminating information on the activities of the CST and its GoE, and on progress made in the implementation of the Convention.

Annex I

[ENGLISH ONLY]

**Format for curricula vitae of experts nominated to the UNCCD
roster of independent experts**

(To be typed or submitted in ink in block letters)

Family name/surname: _____

First/given name: _____

Nationality: _____

Title: _____

Year of birth: _____ Sex: Male Female

Country of nomination: _____

Place of current employment: _____

Position held: _____

Type of organization: Government

NGO

Other _____

Work address: _____

City/country: _____

Tel: _____ / _____ Fax: _____ / _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Rank your four main disciplines (in English) * :

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Geographic area(s) of field of experience (countries/regions): _____

Languages in which you are fluent (list mother tongue first): _____

University qualifications (degree, subject, university, year): _____

Selected publications

List FIVE of your most relevant publications: author, year, title, journal, volume, page, publisher, ** and city of publication. Please note that for technical reasons the roster can include only a limited number (five). Please respect the limit.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Total number of publications (including five above): _____

* Please use the list in the annex to decision 15/COP.3.

** For books only.

Summary of relevant work experience

Please summarize your project experience (advisory or participatory) in no more than 10 lines, including field and practical experience, as well as the application of any gender-sensitive approaches.

Other (maximum five) important relevant professional activities, membership in professional associations, etc.:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Three principal awards and honorary positions:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Annex II

[ENGLISH ONLY]

Number of nominations by Parties

Algeria	30	Kyrgyzstan	1
Argentina	18	Lebanon	19
Armenia	26	Lesotho	11
Austria	4	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	19
Belarus	12	Madagascar	1
Belgium	14	Malaysia	2
Benin	8	Mali	19
Brazil	27	Mexico	53
Bulgaria	1	Moldova	1
Burkina Faso	85	Mongolia	3
Canada	11	Morocco	31
Cape Verde	8	Namibia	2
Central African Republic	1	Netherlands	3
Chile	25	Niger	30
China	159	Nigeria	41
Colombia	5	Norway	1
Congo	17	Oman	2
Cuba	102	Pakistan	24
Czech Republic	4	Peru	20
Democratic Republic of the Congo	8	Philippines	18
Denmark	2	Poland	1
Dominican Republic	23	Portugal	6
Ecuador	6	Republic of Korea	19
Egypt	29	Romania	1
Eritrea	4	Saudi Arabia	42
Ethiopia	23	Senegal	32
European Community	2	Slovakia	1
Finland	11	South Africa	10
France	38	Spain	33
Georgia	10	Sudan	40
Germany	42	Sweden	2
Ghana	25	Switzerland	4
Greece	8	Syrian Arab Republic	20
Honduras	2	Thailand	1
Hungary	1	Togo	7
Iceland	4	Tunisia	15
India	31	Turkey	93
Indonesia	10	Turkmenistan	11
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	42	Ukraine	29
Israel	37	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	6
Italy	80	United Republic of Tanzania	9
Japan	38	United States of America	7
Jordan	33	Uzbekistan	18
Kazakhstan	8	Zambia	9
Kenya	16	Zimbabwe	43
		TOTAL	1850
