



Terms of Reference and Modus Operandi for the Joint Liaison Group between the Three Rio Conventions¹

Mandate²

The mandate of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) comprising the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is to:

- Enhance coordination between the three conventions, including the exchange of relevant information; and
- Explore options for further cooperation between the three conventions, including the possibility of a joint work plan.

Guiding Principles³

The work of the JLG will be defined by a set of guiding principles intended to ensure that the mandate and purpose of the JLG is reflected in its outputs.

Principle 1: As synergies and coordination can be best implemented at the national level, the JLG will primarily support Parties in the achievement of national level synergies and coordination among the Rio Conventions.

Principle 2: The activities undertaken by the JLG will be country-driven and needs-based.

Principle 3: The JLG recognizes the distinct and specific objectives of each convention and their different Parties, as well as the individual mandates and independent status of their treaty bodies and secretariats.

Principle 4: The JLG aims to add value to work already ongoing within each secretariat while minimizing duplication of activities and promoting cost-effectiveness.

Principle 5: The JLG can only undertake activities that can be completed with existing resources or have identified funding.

Areas of activity

Decisions and recommendations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have already outlined a number of tools and tasks for the JLG. These areas of

¹ The following document has been prepared by the Executive Secretary of the CBD for consideration by the JLG. It has been reviewed by technical staff of the UNFCCC and UNCCD secretariats

² Adopted by UNFCCC (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2 paragraph 42(d)) and reaffirmed by the CBD (decision VI/20, paragraph 13).

³ The guiding principles described herewith were initially discussed among the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions at the 11th meeting of the JLG held in Bonn on April 11, 2011.

activity can be considered to represent the priorities of Parties with regards to the work of the JLG and, as such, will continue to be pursued as appropriate using an issue-based approach in line with the distinct and specific objectives of each convention (biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification / land degradation). These areas include:

1. Sharing information and raising awareness
2. Providing information on interlinkages
3. Developing technical papers to clarify and elaborate on specific policy and technical issues
4. Contributing to relevant workshops mandated by pertinent bodies under each Convention
5. Encouraging and promoting better coordination among national focal points and stakeholder groups

Modus operandi

Membership and Participation

1. The membership of the JLG is comprised of the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions. The Executive Secretaries will be assisted by relevant senior staff of the three Secretariats.
2. The Chair, in consultation with the members, may invite representatives of other relevant instruments and bodies to attend the meetings.

Officers

The chairmanship of the JLG will rotate annually amongst the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions.

Place of Meetings

Meetings of the JLG will be organised at the seat of the chair of the JLG, unless otherwise agreed.

Date of Meetings

1. Ordinary meetings of the JLG will take place at least once a year.
2. Other meetings of the JLG will take place as mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Agenda and Documentation

1. The provisional agenda for a meeting of the JLG will be prepared by the chair, in consultation with the other members, and circulated six weeks before a meeting.
2. Relevant documentation will be prepared by the secretariat proposing an agenda item.
3. The sources of agenda items may include: (a) COP decisions; (b) subsidiary body recommendations and conclusions; and (c) items proposed by the Executive Secretaries, as mutually agreed by them.
4. Documentation prepared for a meeting will not be made publicly available unless mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Conduct of Business

Meetings of the JLG will normally not be open to the public unless mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Decision-making

Decisions will be taken by consensus.

Reports of meetings

1. Reports of meetings of the JLG will be prepared by the chair, in consultation with the other members of the JLG, and finalised within 30 days of the closure of the meeting.
2. Meeting reports will be available to the Parties of the Conventions as well as to the public at large.