CONCEPT NOTE
ROUNDTABLE UNFCCC – CBD – UNCCD

Introduction
Although negotiations under the three Rio Conventions are undertaken in separate processes, coherent implementation of these mandates at the global, regional and local levels can enhance outcomes and achievement of mandates collectively across all three agendas. Additionally, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) holistically aim to stimulate action in areas of critical importance, enabling sustainable development for people and the planet.

The benefits of fostering and exploiting synergies across these interlinked, multilateral spaces, is clear, on the basis that more integrated approaches would allow for more focussed, and coherent implementation of actions and initiatives, including at the national level, to advance the implementation of all agendas more efficiently, building on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities, and will minimize the additional burden on national administrations.

The fields of the three Conventions (climate change, biodiversity and desertification) are closely linked, and strengthened coordination and collaboration across communities of practitioners and experts, as well as civil society and the science community could enable more coherent implementation and enhance the outcomes and achievement of mandates collectively across all three agendas.

With this in mind, the COP25 Presidency has suggested to convene a roundtable with the participation of Parties and the Executive Secretaries of the three Conventions, to discuss how more coherent implementation of the Rio Conventions, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, can enhance policy making and results at the national level.

Date : Saturday 7 December 2019
Participants : Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions.
Representatives of Parties
Format: Introduction by Representative of COP25 Presidency (5’)  
Facilitated Panel with the three ES’ (30’)  
Interventions from the floor of two Party representatives with  
tangible examples of successful integration of policies. (10’)  
 Debate with Parties and Observers (30’)  
Closing remarks by Representative of COP25 Presidency (5’)

Possible guiding questions:

1. How can coherence in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development be enhanced?
2. What are the low hanging fruits, synergies and leverage points that can be easily exploited to achieve this?
3. How can the global community collaborate more to ensure national level support for more effective implementation and achievement of all three agendas?
4. What approaches can be jointly promoted by the three Conventions to advance action at the local level?
5. What can the Conventions do to avoid potential duplicity at the implementation level and promote synergies?
6. How can synergies between the Conventions be enhanced through the participation of non-state actors?