



Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Twenty-first session

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 13–17 November 2023

Item 1 (a) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Adoption of the agenda and schedule of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda and schedule of work;
 - (b) Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee.
2. Assessment of implementation: strategic objectives 1 to 4.
3. Financial flows: strategic objective 5.
4. Implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts.
5. Progress report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD.
6. Improving the procedures for communication as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties.
7. Policy frameworks and thematic topics: sand and dust storms, drought, land tenure and gender.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties.



II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Dates and venue of the session

1. By its decision 15/COP.15, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 21) should be held in 2023 in Uzbekistan.
2. After consultations with the Government of Uzbekistan, it was decided that the session will take place on 13–17 November 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, over five working days. The secretariat will ensure that information on the organization of the session will be communicated to Parties in due course.

Consultations with affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes

3. Consultations with affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes on matters before CRIC 21 will take place on 12 November 2023 prior to the opening of the twenty-first session of the Committee.

Provisional agenda

4. According to the terms of reference of the CRIC, as set out in the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the provisional agenda for the sessions of the CRIC is to be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the CRIC Bureau.
5. Accordingly, decision 14/COP.15 was considered when compiling the provisional agenda for this session, along with other relevant decisions of the COP, including decisions 13/COP.13, 7/COP.15, 11/COP.15, 12/COP.15, 23/COP.15 and 24/COP.15.

Documentation

6. Official pre-session documents will be made available in due course on the UNCCD website.¹

1. Organizational matters

7. CRIC 21 will be opened by the Chair of the CRIC, who was elected at COP 15.² In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the COP and paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the Chair of the CRIC shall be elected at the final meeting of the COP and shall assume office immediately.
8. The CRIC may wish to consider the following scenario: at the opening of the CRIC on 13 November 2023, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Chair of the CRIC will make introductory statements before CRIC 21. Following the introduction of each agenda item, representatives of regional and interest groups will be invited to make statements followed by statements from United Nations agencies and/or other stakeholders, including civil society. The aim is to facilitate a discussion among Parties and their development partners on experiences made at the national, subregional and/or regional level relating to topics discussed during the plenary meetings. On Wednesday, 15 November, the Government of Uzbekistan will organize a high-level event on sand and dust storms³ under the aegis of CRIC 21. Furthermore, and in line with decision 7/COP.15, annex, paragraph 15 (b), participatory consultations on the conclusions and recommendations of the independent assessment will be conducted to identify possible future action to further enhance the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. These consultations are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 16 November, starting at 3 p.m.

¹ <https://www.unccd.int/convention/official-documents/cric-21-samarkand-uzbekistan-2023>.

² Document ICCD/COP(15)/23, paragraph 17.

³ See document ICCD/CRIC(21)/CRP.1 at the above-mentioned link.

(a) Adoption of the agenda and schedule of work

9. The CRIC will have before it for consideration and adoption the provisional agenda contained in this document (ICCD/CRIC(21)/1). A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in the annex to this document and detailed in the sections below.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

Purpose of the session

10. In accordance with the terms of reference adopted at COP 13, the CRIC, during intersessional sessions, is to:

(a) Undertake an assessment of implementation against progress indicators every four years and against narrative sections within the reporting template every two years;

(b) Review financial flows for the implementation of the Convention.

11. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to adopt its agenda and schedule of work for the session.

(b) Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee

12. At the opening on 13 November 2023, the Chair of the CRIC will call for the election of the Rapporteur for CRIC 21 and CRIC 22. The Committee will then take up the agenda items according to the tentative schedule of work as detailed in the annex to this document.

2. Assessment of implementation: strategic objectives 1 to 4

13. *Background:* As part of the terms of reference of the CRIC, Parties review the assessment of implementation of the UNCCD along the strategic objectives of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and its implementation framework during intersessional sessions of the CRIC. In decision 15/COP.12 Annex I, Parties decided on a set of progress indicators and in the following years a methodological framework was established, enabling Parties to report on activities at national level using those indicators.

14. Four official documents were prepared containing an analysis of information provided by Parties on strategic objectives 1 to 4. During the plenary meetings, key elements of this analysis will be introduced by the secretariat that should serve as the basis for a discussion among Parties and their development partners on the implementation of the UNCCD.

15. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the reports prepared by the secretariat and engage in an information exchange on this topic. The conclusions will be reflected in the final report of CRIC 21.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/2 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(21)/3 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(21)/4 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems

ICCD/CRIC(21)/5 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD. Note by the secretariat

3. Financial flows: strategic objective 5

16. *Background:* By decision 11/COP.14 paragraph 16 (a), country Parties requested the Global Mechanism (GM) to develop a more integrated financial monitoring framework for tracking and better monitoring resources for the implementation of the Convention. It also suggested improving the reporting template by including additional quantitative data for reporting on SO 5.

17. Following up on decision 11/COP.14 mentioned above, the GM developed a new reporting template and introduced new indicators, including the one on technology transfer. At its fifteenth session, the COP provisionally adopted the optional indicators relating to SO 5 for international and domestic private resources; technology transfer; and future support for activities related to the implementation of the Convention. At the same session, Parties also requested the GM to develop a methodology and conduct a needs assessment to determine the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention, building on national reporting and on a voluntary target-setting exercise.

18. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the report prepared by the GM and engage in an information exchange on this topic. Feedback emanating from this discussion will be recorded in the final report of CRIC 21.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/6 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level. Report by the Global Mechanism

4. Implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts

19. *Background:* By decision 14/COP.15, paragraph 1 (c), Parties decided to include the implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and related implementation efforts as an item on the agenda of CRIC 21 for Parties to review and discuss.

20. Since 2016, one major focus of the GM has been to support country Parties in their voluntary LDN target-setting processes and deliver additional support for the development of transformative projects and programmes in direct collaboration with partner agencies, enabling Parties to move towards the implementation of their LDN targets and other relevant UNCCD implementation efforts. The target-setting process includes 130 Parties that have committed to setting voluntary LDN targets and related measures, of which more than 100 have already successfully completed this exercise.⁴ Support for the development of national and subregional gender-responsive transformative projects and programmes to translate LDN commitment and drought resilience, adaptation and management measures into concrete actions at scale is gathering pace, involving a total of 74 countries. Nine national⁵ and five regional⁶ projects have been approved for funding, of which five have final signed agreements and started implementation.⁷ Approximately 55 projects are referenced as being at different stages in the pipeline.

21. Document ICCD/CRIC(21)/8 provides an update on (i) specific activities supporting Parties in their voluntary LDN target-setting efforts and the recent launch of the second phase

⁴ <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/land-degradation-neutrality/projects-programmes/ldn-target-setting>.

⁵ Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Philippines, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

⁶ Land of Opportunity (3 countries), Project 2 of the Programme to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2-P2RS) (regional and 10 countries), Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Zambezi River Basin (PIDACC Zambezi) Zone I (regional and 2 countries), Zambezi Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) (5 countries) and AfDB gender project (3 countries).

⁷ Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Türkiye, Land of Opportunity, PIDACC Zambezi Zone I (regional).

of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP 2.0) to transform land-based agendas; and (ii) how they advance action towards implementation through the development of gender-responsive transformative projects and programmes with the support of the GM and relevant Partners, including the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund.

22. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the report prepared by the GM and engage in an information exchange on this topic. Feedback emanating from this discussion will also be recorded in the final report of CRIC 21.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/8 – Implementation of the voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts. Report by the Global Mechanism

5. Progress report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD

23. *Background:* By decision 23/COP.15, Parties decided to establish a new Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD during the triennium 2022–2024 that builds on the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought conducted over the biennium 2020–2021, with a view to presenting its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at COP 16. The same decision also requests the group to prepare and submit a progress report to the CRIC at its twenty-first session.

24. Decision 23/COP.15 specifies the terms of reference for the group, requesting it to (a) review and analyse all the reports which came out of the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD, as well as other relevant documents and COP decisions related to drought; (b) identify and evaluate all options, including, inter alia, global policy instruments and regional policy frameworks, and linking, where relevant, to national plans, as appropriate, to effectively manage drought under the Convention, including supporting a shift from reactive to proactive drought management; and (c) prepare justifications and outline possible elements, processes, institutional arrangements and mechanisms for establishment for each policy option.

25. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the progress report prepared by the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD and provide feedback to the group for it to finalize its submission to Parties at COP 16. Feedback emanating from this discussion will also be recorded in the final report of CRIC 21.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/10 – Progress report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD. Report by the Intergovernmental Working Group

6. Improving the procedures for communication as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

26. *Background:* Improving the procedures for communication is a standing agenda item of the CRIC aiming to help Parties provide guidance to Convention institutions on how information on the implementation of the Convention should be compiled and reported on.

27. Decision 11/COP.15 paragraphs 5 (b) to (d) requested Convention institutions to improve the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) and related reporting tools, including some indicators that were considered by Parties as needing adjustments and/or improvement. As a result of this decision, the Convention institutions prepared methodological notes on SO 1 (an update to the previous version) and SO 3 (on drought), developed a PRAIS portal that enables Parties to report, inter alia, geospatial information along with their reports and ensured that data will be stored in a database, thus enhancing the analysis and shareability of data submitted as part of the reporting process. In

addition, Convention institutions also prepared methodological work for new indicators that were provisionally adopted by Parties at COP 15.

28. An interactive dialogue with panellists is envisaged to ensure that feedback on the reporting process, its tools, and modalities for reporting can be successfully compiled, thus informing the future direction of UNCCD reporting.

29. *Action:* Parties are invited to actively share their experience with the panellists on the 2022 UNCCD reporting process with a view to identifying elements for improving reporting tools and modalities prepared by the Convention institutions and their partners. Any conclusions or feedback emanating from this discussion will also be recorded in the final report of CRIC 21.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/7 – Improving the procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

7. Policy frameworks and thematic topics: sand and dust storms, drought, land tenure and gender

30. *Background:* By decisions 23/COP.15, 24/COP.15, 26/COP.15, and 27/COP.15, Parties requested updated information on the implementation of these decisions.

31. For drought, land tenure and sand and dust storms (SDS), Parties requested a report on the implementation efforts relevant to these decisions at CRIC 21. For gender, Parties requested the secretariat to synthesize and analyse information on gender matters included in national reports submitted by Parties as part of the reporting process. Discussions on SDS will be conducted through an interactive dialogue, while for the remaining policy frameworks, the secretariat will introduce the agenda item and the floor will be opened for Parties to respond.

32. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the notes prepared by the secretariat. Feedback emanating from this discussion will be recorded in the final report of CRIC 21.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/9 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: sand and dust storms, drought, land tenure and gender. Note by the secretariat

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties

33. *Background:* In accordance with decision 13/COP.13, annex, paragraph 4, the CRIC is to regularly report to the COP on all aspects of its work, in particular through:

(a) A final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention;

(b) Draft decisions prepared at sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP, containing substantive elements to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention, demonstrating targets, assigned responsibilities and the expected financial implications of their implementation, as necessary.

34. *Action:* The draft report containing conclusions and recommendations shall be adopted by the CRIC at its twenty-first session and submitted to the COP for its consideration at its sixteenth session together with any decision the COP may wish to take on the implementation of the Convention.

Annex

Tentative schedule of work for the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Monday, 13 November 2023	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</i> (ICCD/CRIC(21)/1) - <i>Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee</i> • Assessment of implementation: strategic objectives 1 to 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic objective 1</i> (ICCD/CRIC(21)/2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of implementation: strategic objectives 1 to 4 (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic objective 1 (continued):</i> (ICCD/CRIC(21)/2) • Implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and related implementation efforts (ICCD/CRIC(21)/8)

Tuesday, 14 November 2023	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of implementation: strategic objectives 1 to 4 (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic objective 2:</i> (ICCD/CRIC(21)/3) - <i>Strategic objective 3:</i> (ICCD/CRIC(21)/4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD (ICCD/CRIC(21)/10) • Policy frameworks and thematic topics; sand and dust storms, drought, land tenure and gender <i>Drought</i> (ICCD/CRIC(21)/9)

Wednesday, 15 November 2023	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy frameworks and thematic topics: sand and dust storms, drought, land tenure and gender <i>(continued)</i> <p><i>Interactive Dialogue on Sand and Dust Storms</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/9)</i></p> <p><i>Sand and Dust Storms High-Level Event</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/CRP.1)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy frameworks and thematic topics: sand and dust storms, drought, land tenure and gender <i>Gender and Land Tenure</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/9)</i> Assessment of implementation: strategic objectives 1 to 4 <i>(continued)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic objective 4:</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/5)</i>

Thursday, 16 November 2023	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the procedures for communication as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties <p><i>Interactive Dialogue</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/7, ICCD/CRIC(21)/INF.2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial flows: strategic objective 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic objective 5:</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/6)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial flows: strategic objective 5 <i>(continued)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic objective 5:</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/6)</i> <p><i>Participatory consultations on the conclusions and recommendations of the independent assessment undertaken as part of the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework</i> <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/CRP.2)</i></p>

Friday, 17 November 2023	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparation of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its twenty-first session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties
