



**Convention to Combat  
Desertification**

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**Conference of the Parties**

**Sixteenth session**

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2–13 December 2024

Items 1 (b) and (f) of the provisional agenda

**Organizational matters**

**Adoption of the agenda**

**Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies**

**Provisional agenda and annotations**

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Provisional agenda**

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  - (a) Election of the President;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (c) Election of officers other than the President:
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    - (ii) Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology;
    - (iii) Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
  - (d) Credentials of delegations;
  - (e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers;
  - (f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
2. 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
  - (a) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

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\* Unofficial copy for information purposes only.

- (b) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan;
  - (c) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
  - (d) Report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
3. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies.
4. Policy frameworks and thematic issues, including new emerging issues: grassland and rangeland.
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  - (b) High-level interactive dialogues:
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    - (ii) The role of subnational governments to accelerate sustainable land management
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6. Programme and budget:
  - (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026;
  - (b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds;
  - (c) Report of the Evaluation Office.
7. Procedural matters:
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  - (b) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy;
  - (c) Programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
8. Report on the session.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### 1. Organizational matters

#### *Venue and opening of the session*

1. Pursuant to provisions contained in decision 33/COP.15 and subsequent consultations with the Government of Saudi Arabia, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) will be held in Riyadh from 2 to 13 December 2024. A document containing general information for participants has been prepared by the secretariat (ICCD/COP(16)/INF.1).

ICCD/COP(16)/INF.1 – Information for participants. Note by the secretariat

2. The sixteenth session of the COP (COP 16) will be formally opened by the President of COP 15 on 2 December.

#### (a) Election of the President

3. The President of COP 15 will propose the election of the President of COP 16.

#### (b) Adoption of the agenda

4. *Background:* In accordance with decision 33/COP.15 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional annotated agenda for COP 16 (ICCD/COP(16)/1), as well as other documents needed for its deliberations.

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

ICCD/COP(16)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

#### (c) Election of officers other than the President

##### (i) Election of Vice-Presidents

6. *Background:* Decisions 1/COP.1 and 20/COP.2 (rule 22 of the rules of procedure).

7. *Action:* The COP will be invited to elect nine Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. This election will take place at the opening meeting of the COP on 2 December.

##### (ii) Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

8. *Background:* Decision 25/COP.10, which amended paragraph 1 of rule 22 and rule 31 of the rules of procedure (contained in decision 1/COP.1, as amended by decision 20/COP.2).

9. *Action:* The COP will be invited to complete its consultations and elect the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at the final meeting of COP 16.

##### (iii) Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

10. *Background:* Rule 31 of the rules of procedure, as amended by decision 20/COP.2, provides for the election by the COP of Chairs of subsidiary bodies other than the CST, unless the COP decides otherwise. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) is elected at the final meeting of the session of the CRIC, held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and will assume office immediately.

11. *Action:* The COP will be invited to complete its consultations and elect the Chair of the CRIC at the final meeting of COP 16.

**(d) Credentials of delegations**

12. *Background:* In accordance with rules 19 and 20 of the rules of procedure, the COP Bureau will examine the credentials of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers and submit its report to the COP for decision. This report on credentials will be contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/23.<sup>1</sup>

13. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the report of its Bureau and adopt a decision on this matter.

ICCD/COP(16)/23 – Credentials of delegations. Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties

**(e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers**

14. *Background:* In accordance with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, of the Convention, of rules 6 and 7 of the rules of procedure, and of decision 26/COP.1, a list of intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs), including non-governmental organizations proposed for accreditation at COP 16, is contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/14. By its decision 5/COP.10, the COP adopted revised procedures for the accreditation of CSOs and representatives from the private sector to the COP and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

15. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider this matter and decide on the admission of observers as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/14 – Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers. Note by the secretariat

**(f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies**

*Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and allocation of its tasks*

16. *Background:* The practice followed at previous sessions of the COP has been to establish at the opening plenary meeting a sessional Committee of the Whole (COW) open to the participation of all Parties. The COP may wish to follow the same practice at COP 16. The COW will recommend draft decisions for adoption by the COP. Its Chair will have the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups. The COP may allocate the following items to the COW:

(a) 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

(i) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan;

(ii) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(b) Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(c) Policy frameworks and thematic issues, including new emerging issues: grassland and rangeland;

(d) Programme and budget:

(i) Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026;

<sup>1</sup> Document to be issued in-session.

- (ii) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds;
- (iii) Report of the Evaluation Office;
- (e) Procedural matters:
  - (i) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
  - (ii) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy;
  - (iii) Programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (iv) Any other matters deemed to be appropriate.

17. By its decision 33/COP.15, paragraph 5, the COP requested the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to COP 16 one document for each governing body with all respective draft decisions prepared for Parties' consideration at the COP. Accordingly, document ICCD/COP(16)/22 includes all substantive draft decisions proposed by the secretariat that will serve as a starting point for discussion and further negotiation in the COW contact groups.

18. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider following the practice described in paragraph 16 above.

#### *Committee on Science and Technology*

19. The CST is tentatively scheduled to meet during the first week from 3 to 6 December and during the second week from 11 to 12 December. In accordance with decision 21/COP.15 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the Committee's session (ICCD/COP(16)/CST/1), as well as other documents needed for its deliberations.

ICCD/COP(16)/CST/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

#### *Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention*

20. The CRIC is tentatively scheduled to meet on 3 and 4 December in the first week and from 9 to 11 December in the second week. In accordance with decision 13/COP.13 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the Committee's work (ICCD/CRIC(22)/1), as well as other documents for the session.

ICCD/CRIC(22)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

#### *Special segment*

21. In accordance with decision 33/COP.15, a special segment, comprising of ministerial dialogue sessions and high-level interactive dialogues will be conducted during COP 16.

#### *Initial segment*

22. During the initial segment, from 2 to 6 December, in addition to the CST and CRIC sessions, the COW would initiate its work.

#### *Open dialogue sessions*

23. In accordance with decision 33/COP.15 and further to the request of the COP in decision 5/COP.9 to ensure that the programme of work of the COP includes open dialogue sessions with the civil society in the first week of the COP, in order to ensure the effectiveness of its input in the deliberations of the COP, two half-day sessions have been planned for this purpose on 5 and 9 December in the morning.

*Concluding segment*

24. During the concluding segment, the COP will consider all decisions not previously adopted.

25. The COP will also decide the date and venue of the twenty-third session of the CRIC, taking into account decision 13/COP.13 on the terms of reference of the CRIC, its operations and its schedule of meetings, and any further decision on the matter taken during the current session.

26. The proposed schedule allows for the concluding plenary meeting on 13 December. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by 12 December.

*Times of meetings*

27. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours of the session (from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00). High-level interactive dialogues, ministerial dialogues and some special events are foreseen to take place throughout the COP session at lunch time (from 13:00 to 15:00).

**2. 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

**(a) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties**

28. *Background:* By its decision 13/COP.13, the COP decided to renew the mandate of the CRIC as a standing subsidiary body of the COP to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework). In the same decision, the COP adopted the terms of reference of the CRIC, which, inter alia, define the mandate and functions of the CRIC.

29. Pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d), of the Convention, the COP will review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them. In accordance with decision 13/COP.13, the CRIC shall report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work and in particular through draft decisions prepared at sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP.

30. *Action:* The COP will be invited at its plenary meeting on 12 December to consider the report of the twenty-second session of the CRIC and to adopt decisions as appropriate.

ICCD/CRIC(21)/11 – Report of the twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 13 to 17 November 2023

ICCD/CRIC(22)/8 and its Add.1 – Draft decisions for consideration at the twenty-second session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat

**(b) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan**

31. *Background:* By its decision 4/COP.15, paragraph 6, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to: (a) ensure consistent and coherent messaging with the other Rio conventions in order to underline the importance of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and its links with biodiversity loss and climate change in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) engage with key audiences for the purposes of (i) increasing awareness about the objectives of the Convention; (ii) highlighting the economic and social benefits and other positive impacts of its implementation; and (iii) increasing awareness about the negative impacts of land degradation and desertification, taking into account particular national and regional conditions; (c) enhance media

engagement and develop partnerships with media and other relevant organizations to expand outreach to non-English speaking audiences and achieve broader geographic reach and information dissemination; (d) raise the profile of UNCCD outreach programmes and products; and (e) maximize the traditional and social media outreach potential by developing new multimedia content.

32. The COP requested the secretariat to report, where appropriate, on progress made in the implementation of decision 4/COP.15 at COP 16. This report is contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/3.

33. *Action:* The COP is invited to consider the actions taken during the reporting period through the implementation of the UNCCD communication plan as contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/3 and the related draft decision for adoption, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/3 – Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

**(c) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

34. *Background:* By its decision 7/COP.15, the COP decided to start the midterm evaluation process of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework immediately after the COP established, and adopted the terms of reference for, the Intergovernmental Working Group to Oversee the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework Midterm Evaluation Process (IWG-MTE) at its fifteenth session.

35. By the same decision, the COP also requested the secretariat and, as feasible, the Global Mechanism (GM) to support the midterm evaluation process and the work of the IWG-MTE. Furthermore, in paragraph 6 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to regularly update the Bureau of the COP on the progress made in the midterm evaluation process.

36. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the COP further requested the IWG-MTE to present its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at COP 16.

37. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the findings and recommendations of the IWG-MTE as contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/2 and the related draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/2 –Midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Report by the Intergovernmental Working Group

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

**(d) Report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties**

38. *Background:* By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided that the review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d) of the Convention, of the report of the CST, including its recommendations to the COP and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it, would be a standing item on its agenda.

39. The CST will transmit to the COP draft decisions resulting from the deliberations coming from the items included in the agenda of its sixteenth session, in line with decision 21/COP.15.

40. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the report of the sixteenth session of the CST as included in document ICCD/COP(16)/CST/8 and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/CST/8 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

### 3. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

41. *Background:* By its decision 8/COP.15, paragraph 5, the COP requested the secretariat and appropriate Convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to: (a) continue to enhance existing and seek new partnerships that enhance the implementation of the Convention, address DLDD, and help achieve voluntary national land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets; (b) continue to strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners to provide practical tools, technical guidance and capacity-building related to the implementation of UNCCD objectives and policy frameworks, and thematic priorities as defined by the COP; and (c) develop, in partnership with relevant organizations and networks, stakeholder engagement plans, including awareness-raising strategies, for youth, CSOs, the media and the private sector.

42. The COP requested the secretariat to report at its sixteenth session on the implementation of decision 8/COP.15. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/4.

43. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant document and draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/4 – Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

### 4. Policy frameworks and thematic issues, including new emerging issues: grassland and rangeland

#### *Migration*

44. *Background:* By its decision 22/COP.15, paragraph 2 (b), the COP requested the GM to assess and make recommendations about the feasibility of facilitating resource mobilization to leverage diaspora or new private sources of investments for DLDD projects and programmes.

45. In addition, in paragraph 3 (a) of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assist Parties, upon request, to strengthen urban–rural linkages through territorial governance systems as a way to scale up land restoration activities to achieve voluntary LDN targets and enhance the implementation of the Convention; and in paragraph 3 (d), it requested the secretariat to share and support the scaling up of good practices identified at the local and subnational levels, which pursue sustainable land management and land restoration in the urban–rural interface.

46. The COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP at its sixteenth session on progress made in implementing decision 22/COP.15. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/18.

47. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant document and draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.



ICCD/COP(16)/18 – The positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

### *Drought*

48. By its decision 23/COP.15, paragraph 7, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with relevant partners and processes, to identify activities to foster high-level global awareness of, and commitment to, enhancing drought resilience.

49. In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the COP also requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to encourage, support and facilitate communities of learning and practice to pursue co-learning and collaboration for drought risk reduction and resilience capacity-building issues.

50. In paragraph 12 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM, subject to the availability of resources, and building on the report requested in paragraph 5 of decision 23/COP.14, to provide additional technical knowledge and support for the development of national capacities and to examine and identify at global level the financing needs and opportunities for drought risk reduction and resilience-building activities.

51. In paragraph 13 of the same decision, the COP decided to establish a new intergovernmental working group on drought during the triennium 2022–2024, subject to the availability of resources, tasked with identifying and evaluating 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.

52. In paragraph 22 of the same decision, the COP requested that the intergovernmental working group on drought to prepare a final report for consideration by the COP 16, including its findings.

53. Furthermore, the COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP on the implementation of decision 23/COP.15 at future sessions of the COP.

54. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant documents and draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/15 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/20 – Final report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

### *Gender*

55. By its decision 24/COP.15, paragraph 6, the COP requested the secretariat, in collaboration with constituted bodies under the Convention, to monitor the level of gender parity across the Convention and report its findings to sessions of the CRIC and the COP.

56. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to consult with women's organizations and organizations that provide funding for women's participation in global treaty processes with a view to extending these funds to also cover official UNCCD meetings.

57. The COP requested the secretariat to report on the progress made in implementing decision 24/COP.15 at its sixteenth session.

58. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant document and draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/17 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

*Sand and dust storms*

59. By its decision 26/COP.15, paragraph 5 (a), the COP requested the secretariat and the GM, within the scope and mandate of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with partners, to develop a voluntary policy guideline, in consultation with countries affected by sand and dust storms, to assist in the integration of sand and dust storms management into key policy areas. In paragraph 5 (c) of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM to compile an inventory of existing sand and dust storms-related tools and technologies beyond the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox and make this information available to Parties. In paragraph 5 (e) of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM to actively participate in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and enhance cooperation and collaboration with United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties to address sand and dust storms source mitigation.

60. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the COP requested the GM, within its scope and mandate, to support the development of transformative projects and programmes and financing options related to anthropogenic sand and dust storms source mitigation.

61. The COP requested the secretariat to present at COP 16 a report on policy issues relevant to decision 26/COP.15.

62. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant document and draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/16 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Sand and dust storms. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

*Land tenure*

63. *Background:* By its decision 27/COP.15, paragraph 10 (a), the COP requested the secretariat and the GM, subject to available resources, to further develop specific guidance and exchange lessons learned, through national consultations in selected countries across regions, to assist Parties on the ways and means to integrate land tenure into LDN. In paragraph 10 (b) of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM to identify financing opportunities to strengthen land governance and build a business case for responsible and sustainable public and private investments in land tenure within the context of activities to combat DLDD, in collaboration with relevant partners and financing institutions and communicate them to Parties. In paragraph 10 (c) of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM to implement awareness-raising actions on responsible land governance for combating DLDD and engage with Parties, CSOs, other United Nations organizations and other key partners to have the widest reach among all stakeholders from global to local level.

64. The COP requested the secretariat to prepare a report to COP 16 on policy issues relevant to decision 27/COP.15.

65. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant document and draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/19 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Land tenure.  
Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the  
Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

*New emerging issues: grassland and rangeland*

66. *Background:* On 28 February 2024, an official request was received from Botswana for the inclusion of grassland and rangeland issues in the COP 16 agenda.

67. On 7 May 2024, an official request was received from the United States of America for the inclusion of “Innovation and technology in ecologically sustainable agrifood systems” as an item on the COP 16 agenda and consider referring it to the CST for further consideration.

68. In accordance with rule 10, paragraph (e), of the rules of procedure, the provisional agenda of a COP session, should include, as appropriate, any item proposed by a Party and received by the secretariat before the provisional agenda is circulated.

69. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the official request made by Botswana as circulated herewith to all Parties in annex I to document ICCD/COP(16)/21-ICCD/COP(16)/CST/9. Also, the official request submitted by the United States of America (circulated in annex II to document ICCD/COP(16)/21-ICCD/COP(16)/CST/9) will be referred to the CST at its sixteenth session for further consideration. Both the COP and CST will be further invited to consider document ICCD/COP(16)/21-ICCD/COP(16)/CST/9 and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/21-ICCD/COP(16)/CST/9 – New emerging issues: grassland and rangeland and ecologically sustainable agrifood systems. Note by the secretariat

## 5. Special segment

### (a) High-level segment

### (b) High-level interactive dialogues

70. *Background:* By its decision 33/COP.15, paragraph 2, the COP decided to include interactive dialogue sessions with relevant stakeholders, including ministers, CSOs, the business community, the scientific community and members of parliament, on agenda items of relevance to them.

71. In line with the above, a high-level segment including the following ministerial dialogues: (i) from Geneva to Riyadh and beyond, enhancing global and national policy instruments for a proactive drought management approach, (ii) unlocking public and private finance for land restoration and drought resilience and (iii) impacts of land degradation and drought on forced migration, security and prosperity will be organized on 2 and 3 December. Also, high-level interactive dialogues focusing on the following topics: (i) sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems; (ii) the role of subnational governments to accelerate sustainable land management; and (iii) science, technology and innovation will be organized from 5 to 9 December..

72. Special events, including the Business for Land Forum (see decision 6/COP.15, para. 2 (c)), the Gender Caucus (see decision 24/COP.15, para. 8) and the Youth Forum and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Dialogue (see decision 5/COP.15) will also be organized on the sidelines of the COP 16. An information note on the special segment of the COP at its sixteenth session is contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/INF.2.

73. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the outcomes of the high-level segment and take any further action as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/INF.2 – Note on the high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session. Note by the secretariat

## 6. Programme and budget

74. Article 22, paragraph 2 (g), of the Convention calls on the COP to approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake the necessary arrangements for their financing.

### (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026

75. *Background:* The COP, in paragraph 23 of decision 10/COP.15, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2025–2026, in line with decision 1/COP.15, presenting two budget scenarios and a work programme based on the projected needs for the biennium in (a) a zero nominal growth scenario; and (b) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and the added costs or savings related to them.

76. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026 and corresponding draft decision and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/5 – Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/6-ICCD/CRIC(22)/2 – Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2025–2028) and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2025–2026). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

### (b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

77. *Background:* In accordance with the financial rules of the COP, an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period shall be provided to Parties. In decision 10/COP.15, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its sixteenth session on the status of income and expenditure and budget performance, using a results-based approach. Information on this matter is contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/7. The statement of accounts should be read in conjunction with document ICCD/CRIC(22)/3, which contains the report on the implementation of the costed 2022–2024 work programmes of the secretariat, the CRIC, the CST and the GM.

#### *Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds*

78. The audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds are contained in documents ICCD/COP(16)/8 and ICCD/COP(16)/9.

#### *Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the triennium 2022–2024*

79. The status of contributions to the trust funds for the triennium 2022–2024 is presented in document ICCD/COP(16)/10.

80. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant documents on the financial performance of the Convention and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/7 – Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(22)/3 – Report on the performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2022–2024). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/8 – Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the year ended 31 December 2022, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/9 – Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the year ended 31 December 2023, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/10 – Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the triennium 2022–2024. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

**(c) Report of the Evaluation Office**

81. *Background:* The United Nations regulations and rules governing programme planning, monitoring and evaluation<sup>2</sup> request a regular, periodic evaluation of all programmes, and the integration of the evaluation plans with the programme budget cycle. These regulations and rules further state that the evaluation findings shall be communicated to Member States through intergovernmental bodies in order to facilitate the reconsideration of existing mandates, policies, strategies and objectives, the substantive content of programmes and its utility to the users.

82. Accordingly, the findings and recommendations of the UNCCD evaluations in 2022–2024 and related action taken, as well as the 2025–2026 Evaluation Office workplan, will be presented to Parties at COP 16 as contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/11.

83. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the evaluation findings and recommendations and the 2025–2026 Evaluation Office workplan and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/11 – Report of the Evaluation Office. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

**7. Procedural matters**

**(a) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

84. *Background:* By its decision 5/COP.15, paragraph 3, the COP requested the secretariat to improve access to information on the accreditation process for CSOs.

85. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to develop a youth engagement strategy and the modalities for its implementation to ensure stronger, effective and meaningful participation of youth in the meetings and processes of the Convention.

86. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the COP requested the Civil Society Organization Panel, through the secretariat, to report at COP 16 on its activities.

87. Finally, the COP requested the secretariat to report at COP 16 on the implementation of decision 5/COP.15.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation (ST/SGB/2016/6).

88. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/12 and corresponding draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/12 – Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

**(b) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy**

89. *Background:* By its decision 6/COP.15, paragraph 2, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM, within their mandate and subject to the availability of resources, to: (a) engage with companies that are working in the food-feed-fibre sector that have potential to make positive contributions to addressing DLDD; and (b) continue promoting, together with other partners, decent land-based jobs for youth and land-based youth entrepreneurship. In paragraph 2 (d) of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM to continue engaging with the private sector on the introduction of sustainable land use and value chain development, including for the promotion of sustainable sourcing practices. In paragraph 2 (e) of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM to facilitate, in collaboration with partners, the development of the Business for Land initiative.

90. The COP requested the secretariat to report at COP 16 on the measures taken to facilitate and encourage the participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the UNCCD.

91. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(16)/13 and corresponding draft decision and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/13 – Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Report by the Global Mechanism

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

**(c) Programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties**

92. *Background:* In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, which listed items to be included as standing items on COP agendas, and following upon decision 33/COP.15 regarding the programme of work of the COP at its sixteenth session, the COP may wish to review its programme of work for the next session as appropriate.

93. *Action:* The COP will be invited to review its programme of work for its seventeenth session and the corresponding draft decision and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(16)/22 – Draft decisions for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

**8. Report on the session**

94. *Background:* A draft report of the session will be prepared for adoption at the concluding plenary meeting on 13 December, in accordance with established practice.

95. *Action:* The COP will be invited to adopt the report of its sixteenth session and authorize its Rapporteur to finalize the report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

**Annex I**

**Tentative schedule of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties**

Monday, 2 December 2024		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6p.m.
C O P	<p><i>Opening of the session by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organizational matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Election of the President</li> </ul> <p><i>Statement by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session</i></p> <p><i>Statement on behalf of the host country</i></p> <p><i>Statement by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification</i></p> <p><i>Statements by the representatives of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations</i></p> <p><i>Statements by the representatives of regional and interest groups</i></p> <p><i>Statement by a representative of non-governmental organizations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of the agenda (ICCD/COP(16)/1)</li> <li>- Election of officers other than the President: Election of Vice-Presidents</li> <li>- Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers (ICCD/COP(16)/14)</li> <li>- Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Special segment</p> <p><i>Ministerial dialogue on drought resilience: " From Geneva to Riyadh and beyond, enhancing global and national policy instruments for a proactive drought management approach "</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>

<b>Monday, 2 December 2024</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C O W	---	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026 (ICCD/COP(16)/5, ICCD/COP(16)/6-ICCD/CRIC(22)/2, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> <li>- Financial performance for the Convention trust funds (ICCD/COP(16)/7, ICCD/CRIC(22)/3)</li> <li>- Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds (ICCD/COP(16)/8, ICCD/COP(16)/9)</li> <li>- Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds (2022–2024) (ICCD/COP(16)/10)</li> <li>- Report of the Evaluation Office (ICCD/COP(16)/11, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Drought</i> (ICCD/COP(16)/15, ICCD/COP(16)/20, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul>

<b>Tuesday, 3 December 2024<sup>3</sup></b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C O P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special segment</li> </ul> <p><i>Ministerial dialogue on finance: “Unlocking public and private finance for land restoration and drought resilience”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special segment</li> </ul> <p><i>Ministerial dialogue on migration: “Impacts of land degradation and drought on forced migration, security and prosperity”</i></p>
C O P	-	<input type="checkbox"/> Special segment <p><i>Formal statements</i></p>

<b>Wednesday, 4 December 2024<sup>4</sup></b>
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<sup>3</sup> From Tuesday (3 December) to Friday (6 December) the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) will meet and carry out their work according to their respective agendas. The CST and CRIC will also meet during the second week of the COP.

<sup>4</sup> The Business for Land Forum is tentatively scheduled to take place on 4 December from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (see annex II).



	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6p.m.
C O W	---	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Migration</i> (ICCD/COP(16)/18, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> <li>- <i>Land tenure</i> (ICCD/COP(16)/19, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy (ICCD/COP(16)/13, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul>

Thursday, 5 December 2024		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	1 p.m. – 3p.m.
C O P	<input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open dialogue session</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Special segment  <i>High-level interactive dialogue on sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems</i>

Friday, 6 December 2024 <sup>5</sup>		
	1 p.m. – 3p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	---	<input type="checkbox"/> 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (ICCD/COP(16)/2, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Sand and dust storms</i> (ICCD/COP(16)/16, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> <li>- <i>Gender</i> (ICCD/COP(16)/17, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> <li>- <i>New emerging issues: grassland and rangeland</i> (ICCD/COP(16)/21-ICCD/COP(16)/CST/9)</li> </ul>
C O P	<input type="checkbox"/> Special segment  <i>High-level interactive dialogue on the role of subnational governments to accelerate sustainable land management</i>	---

<sup>5</sup> The ministerial dialogue and Gender Caucus high-level event will take place on 4 December and corresponding technical segments on 7 December. Special events for the Youth Forum and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities dialogues are tentatively scheduled to take place on 7 December (see annex II).

<b>Monday, 9 December 2024</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>1 p.m. – 3p.m.</b>
C O P	<input type="checkbox"/> Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties - Open dialogue session	<input type="checkbox"/> Special segment  <i>High-level interactive dialogue on science, technology and innovation</i>

<b>Monday, 9 December 2024 (cont.)</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C O W	---	<input type="checkbox"/> 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan (ICCD/COP(16)/3, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies (ICCD/COP(16)/4, ICCD/COP(16)/22) <input type="checkbox"/> Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (ICCD/COP(16)/12, ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul>

<b>Tuesday, 10 December 2024</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>1 p.m. – 3p.m.</b>
C O W	<input type="checkbox"/> Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(16)/22)</li> </ul>	---

<b>Thursday, 12 December 2024</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C O W	<i>Adoption of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i> (ICCD/COP(16)/22)	---

<sup>6</sup> The COP is to follow immediately after the adjournment of the CST.

<b>Thursday, 12 December 2024</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C O P	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational matters - Credentials of delegations <i>(ICCD/COP(16)/23)<sup>7</sup></i>  <input type="checkbox"/> 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - Report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties <i>(ICCD/COP(16)/CST/8)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties <i>(ICCD/CRIC(21)/11, ICCD/CRIC(22)/8 and its Add.1)</i>

<b>Friday, 13 December 2024</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C O P	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational matters - Election of officers other than the President: - Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology - Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention  <i>Consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i> <i>(ICCD/COP(16)/22)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Report on the session <i>Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties</i>

<sup>7</sup> Document to be issued in-session.

# Annex II

## Overview of the tentative schedule of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

Hours	Sat 30 Nov	Sun 1 Dec	Mon 2 Dec	Tue 3 Dec	Wed 4 Dec	Thu 5 Dec	Fri 6 Dec	Sat 7 Dec	Sun 8 Dec	Mon 9 Dec	Tue 10 Dec	Wed 11 Dec	Thu 12 Dec	Fri 13 Dec
8h-10h			Regional Groups	Regional Groups	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	side events	side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events
10h-13h	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	COP-Opening	CRIC	Joint CRIC&CST Plenaries	COP-ODS		Peoples Day Youth Forum	side events	COP-ODS	CRIC	CST	COW (adopt CoW decs)	COP (adopt CoW decs)
10h-13h				Ministerial Dialogue: Unlocking public and private finance for Land Restoration and Drought Resilience	Ministerial Dialogue and Gender Caucus High Level Event (HLE) HerLand: Women's Leadership for Sustainable Land Management (SLM)			side events	side events		COW (POW COP16)		CST (adopt CST decs)	
10h-13h													COP* (adopt CST decs)	
13h-15h	CST, CRIC Bureaus	COP Bureau			Land Day SLM Business for Land Forum	COP ID Food Systems Day: High Level Dialogue on sustainable, resilient and inclusive agri-food systems	COP ID Governance Day: High Level Dialogue on the role of subnational Governments to accelerate SLM	side events	side events	COP ID Science Day: High Level Dialogue on science-technology and innovation				
15h-18h	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	Ministerial Dialogue: From Geneva to Riyadh and beyond, enhancing global and national policy instruments for a proactive drought management approach	Ministerial dialogue: Impacts of Land Degradation and Drought on Forced Migration, Security and Prosperity	CRIC	CST	CST	Peoples Day IPLCs Dialogue	side events	CRIC	CRIC	CRIC	COP (adopt CRIC decs)	COP (adopt COP decs, Closure)
15h-18h			COW (POW COP16)	COP-Formal Statements	COW (POW COP16)		COW (POW COP16)			COW (POW COP16)				
15h-18h				CST				side events	side events					
18h-20h			Contact groups	Contact groups	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	side events	side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	

Index:

- COW Committee of the Whole
- CRIC Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- CST Committee on Science and Technology
- Reg.cons. Meetings of Regional Implementation Annexes I to V
- Joint CRIC/CST Plenaries
- COP Conference of the Parties
- COP\* Conference of the Parties to follow immediately after the adjournment of the CST
- COP-ODS-CSD Open Dialogue Session
- COP IDs COP Interactive dialogues
- Special events