



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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Seventeenth session

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 17–28 August 2026

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

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the President;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President:
 - (i) Election of Vice-Presidents;
 - (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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- (b) Enhancing the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (c) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
 - (d) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan.
- 3. Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention.
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 - (c) Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters

Venue and opening of the session

1. Pursuant to provisions contained in decision 34/COP.15 and subsequent consultations with the Government of Mongolia, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) will be held in Ulaanbaatar from 17 to 28 August 2026.

2. COP 17 will be formally opened by the President of COP 16 on 17 August.

(a) Election of the President

3. The President of COP 16 will propose the election of the President of COP 17.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

4. *Background:* In accordance with decision 36/COP.16 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional annotated agenda for COP 17 (ICCD/COP(17)/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(17)/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 17 August.

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

8. *Background:* Rule 22 and rule 31 of the rules of procedure (as amended by decision 25/COP.10).

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 17.

(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 25/COP.10) and decision 13/COP.13 (paragraph 7).

11. *Action:* The COP will be invited to complete its consultations and elect the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) at the final meeting of COP 17.

(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(17)/13.¹

¹ Document to be issued in-session.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/13 – 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(17)/INF.6. 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(17)/INF.6 – 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 17. 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) Enhancing the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
- (ii) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan;

(b) Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention;

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

(d) Policy frameworks and thematic issues;

(e) Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028;

(f) 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 eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
- (h) Any other matters deemed to be appropriate.

17. By its decision 36/COP.16, paragraph 5, the COP requested the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to COP 17 one document for each governing body with all respective draft decisions prepared for Parties' consideration at the COP. Accordingly, document ICCD/COP(17)/12 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 of the COP17 from 18 to 21 August. In accordance with decision 22/COP.16 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the Committee's session (ICCD/COP(17)/CST/1), as well as other documents needed for its deliberations.

ICCD/COP(17)/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 from 17 to 21 August during the first week of COP17 and on 27 August during its 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(24)/1), as well as other documents for the session.

ICCD/CRIC(24)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

High-level segment

21. In accordance with decision 36/COP.16, a high-level segment, comprising a Heads of States Summit and ministerial dialogues, will be conducted during COP 17 from 23 to 26 August.

Initial segment

22. During the initial segment, from 17 to 21 August, in addition to the CST and CRIC sessions, the COW would initiate its work.

Interactive dialogue sessions

23. In accordance 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 20 August in the morning and 24 August in the afternoon.

24. In accordance with decision 36/COP.16 and further to the request in decision 25/COP.16 paragraph 8, the convening of the Gender Caucus is facilitated on 25 August in the afternoon, as part of the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties.

Concluding segment

25. During the concluding segment from 27 to 28 August, the COP will consider all decisions not previously adopted.

26. The COP will also decide the date and venue of the twenty-fifth 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.

27. The proposed schedule allows for the concluding Plenary meeting on 28 August. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by 27 August.

Times of meetings

28. 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). 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

29. *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.

30. 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.

31. *Action:* The COP will be invited at its plenary meeting on 27 August to consider the report of the twenty-fourth session of the CRIC and to adopt decisions as appropriate.

ICCD/CRIC(23)/8 – Report of the twenty-third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Panama City, Panama, from 1 to 5 December 2025

ICCD/CRIC(24)/5– Draft decisions for consideration at the twenty-fourth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat

(b) Enhancing the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

32. *Background:* By its decision 7/COP.16, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to support the capacity of national focal points (NFPs) and science and technology correspondents (STCs) to enhance national information-sharing and coordination on UNCCD matters and to translate the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept and methodology into a concrete tool and support the development of transformative projects to address desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). The COP further requested the Executive Secretary to consult with Parties categorized as non-affected on how best to integrate their national circumstances within the UNCCD process and participate in the next UNCCD reporting cycles. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary was requested to initiate an

overall comprehensive discussion among Parties on how to best to reaffirm the global role and importance of the UNCCD in deepening political commitment and cooperation to address DLDD.

33. The same decision requested the secretariat to prepare recommendations for the NFPs and STCs to assist in national efforts to effectively coordinate and share information concerning the Convention at the national and local levels with a view to supporting its implementation.

34. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to collaborate with Parties, the private sector and partners on the development and improvement of best practices and guidelines that are relevant to addressing DLDD. Furthermore, in paragraph 22, the same were requested to further focus on large-scale, high-impact, multi-country flagship initiatives, projects and programmes and scale up the Global Mechanism’s capacity-building to countries and relevant stakeholders to help in accessing funding from a variety of sources. The COP finally requested the two entities to strengthen the transparency of the monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track the progress of resource mobilization efforts and the implementation of large-scale projects.

35. The COP requested the secretariat to report on the implementation of decision 7/COP.16 at COP 17. This report is contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/5.

36. *Action:* The COP is invited to consider the relevant document and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(17)/5 – Enhancing the implementation of the Convention and the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat.

(c) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties

37. *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.

38. The CST will transmit to the COP draft decisions resulting from the deliberations coming from the items included in the agenda of its seventeenth session, in line with decision 22/COP.16 and other relevant decisions.

39. By its decision 20/COP.16 on the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface, in paragraph 8, the Conference decided to include in the agenda of each intersessional meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention an item for the consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance. At its final Plenary meeting on 5 December 2025, CRIC23 decided, in line with rule 13 of the rules of procedures of the COP, to defer consideration of item 5 “Consideration of priorities for science – policy guidance” of the CRIC 23 provisional agenda and corresponding issued document (ICCD/CRIC(23)/7) to COP 17 for further consideration and action by Parties.

40. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider allocating the deferred CRIC23 agenda item 5 “Consideration of priorities for science – policy guidance” and corresponding CRIC23 document to CST 17. Also, the COP will be invited to consider the report of the seventeenth session of the CST and to adopt decisions as appropriate.

ICCD/CRIC(23)/7 -Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/CST/9 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

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

41. *Background:* At the meeting of the COP Bureau on 24 February 2026, Germany on behalf of the European Union and its member States requested in accordance with Rule 10 paragraph e) of the COP Rules of procedure the inclusion of the review of the progress in the implementation of the UNCCD communication plan as an item on the COP17 agenda.

42. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information on the status of implementation of the UNCCD communication plan as referred to in document ICCD/COP(17)/CRP.1 and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(17)/CRP.1 – Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan. Note by the secretariat

3. Final report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention

43. *Background:* By decision 4/COP16, the COP established an Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention (IWG-FSF) to identify key elements for a post-2030 strategic framework of the UNCCD and conduct a thorough analysis of current indicators for national reporting on the strategic objectives of the 2018–2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework with a view to making them more responsive for a post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention.

44. In the same decision in paragraph 14 a), the COP requested the IWG-FSF to present an interim report for consultation to Parties, intergovernmental organizations and regional groups at the twenty-third session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC23). At its final Plenary meeting, CRIC23 decided, in line with rule 13 of the rules of procedures of the COP, to defer consideration of item 4 “Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework” of the CRIC 23 provisional agenda and corresponding issued documentation (ICCD/CRIC(23)/4 and Add.1) to COP 17 for further consideration and action by Parties.

45. Furthermore, in the same decision in paragraph 14 b), the COP requested the IWG-FSF to present its final report at the COP17.

46. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider allocating the deferred CRIC23 agenda item 4 “Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework” and corresponding CRIC23 documentation to the COW. Also, the COP will be invited to consider the final IWG-FSF report as included in document ICCD/COP(17)/2, and the related draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(17)/2 – Final report by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework of the Convention

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

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

47. *Background:* By its decision 8/COP.16 paragraph 6, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to promote the sharing of data collected under each convention, initiate joint science–policy publications, improve countries’ access to case studies and lessons learned consider building interoperability of information management systems, and promote workshops and awareness-raising efforts for synergies.

48. Also, in the same decision, in paragraph 7, the COP requested the secretariat and appropriate Convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing

resources, to: (a) continue to strengthen existing and seek new partnerships that enhance the implementation of the Convention, address DLDD, and help achieve voluntary LDN targets; (b) continue to strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and other partners to provide best practices and practical tools, technical guidance and capacity-building related to the implementation of UNCCD policy frameworks; (c) develop and implement, in partnership with relevant organizations and networks, stakeholder engagement plans, including awareness-raising strategies, for policymakers in the public sector, as well as relevant stakeholders and d) continue to intensify efforts to strengthen the interlinking of the scientific bodies associated with the Rio conventions and with other relevant data-providing initiatives in order to create the scientific basis for joint target achievement across the conventions.

49. The COP requested the secretariat to report at its seventeenth session on the implementation of decision 8/COP.16. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/6.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/6 – Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

5. Policy frameworks and thematic issues

Migration

51. *Background:* In its decision 23/COP.16, paragraph 2, the COP requested the Global mechanism (GM) to: a) continue supporting resource mobilization for integrated initiatives that address the impacts of DLDD as one of the drivers of migration in order to provide economic opportunities for youth and livelihoods for people in vulnerable situations, and support the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and people with disabilities and b) continue assessing and supporting country Parties to implement recommendations and facilitate resource mobilization to leverage expatriate communities and new private sources of investment for desertification, land degradation, land restoration, and drought resilience projects and programmes.

52. In addition, in paragraph 3 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to: a) assist Parties, upon request, in strengthening urban-rural linkages to achieve voluntary LDN targets and enhance the implementation of the Convention; b) continue to support subregional, regional and international cooperation and initiatives that aim to promote sustainable land and water management and drought resilience as a means to help mitigate one of the drivers of forced migration and displacement; c) continue to strengthen cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and other stakeholders to support initiatives on the matter, and collaborate and share information to foster a better understanding of urban-rural linkages, with a special focus on achieving LDN and drought resilience; and d) support the scaling up and dissemination of good practices on sustainable land and water management and drought resilience, including through training and capacity-building, identified at the local and subnational levels.

53. The COP requested the secretariat and the GM to report to the COP at its seventeenth session on progress made in implementing decision 23/COP.16. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/8.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/8 – 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(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Drought

55. The COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP on the implementation of decision 23/COP.15 at future sessions of the COP.

56. In its decision 24/COP16, the COP took note of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought as included in document ICCD/COP(16)/20 and the options contained therein and decided to continue discussions on the basis of the progress made at the COP16 in Riyadh, as contained in the annex to that decision, with a view to adopting a decision in this regard at COP17.

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

ICCD/COP(16)/24/Add.1- Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixteenth session, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 13 December 2024. Part two: action taken

ICCD/COP(17)/11 – Policy advocacy on drought. Note by the secretariat.

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Gender

58. By its decision 25/COP.16, paragraph 4, the COP requested the secretariat and relevant bodies of the Convention, within their respective mandates, and in collaboration with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies, as appropriate, and subject to availability of funding, to develop effective and meaningful gender-specific indicators for (i) the future Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and (ii) the monitoring and reporting process associated with the next Strategic Framework;

59. In paragraph 5 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to identify and apply, according to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, means of further facilitating the capacity-building and effective participation of women delegates, as appropriate, including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities and civil society organizations, for participation of representatives of eligible parties in the UNCCD sessions;

60. The COP requested the secretariat to report on the progress made in implementing decision 25/COP.16 at its seventeenth session.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/9 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: gender, land tenure and sand and dust storms. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Sand and dust storms

62. By its decision 27/COP.16, paragraph 4, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, in matters pertaining to the Convention, and subject to the availability of resources, to continue: (a) actively participating in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and develop a global implementation initiative on sand

and dust storms as well as engage in advocacy, awareness-raising and other activities for the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (2025–2034); (b) promoting and refining the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox and other geographic information system platforms, data and tools and supporting the capacity of country Parties to use these resources; (c) developing a comprehensive inventory of existing sand and dust storm-related tools, technologies, and best practice guidelines; (d) supporting countries, regions and subregions to develop sand and dust storm strategies and action plans as well as implement and finance sand and dust storm-related projects and programmes;

63. The COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to present at COP 17 a report on policy issues relevant to decision 27/COP.16.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/9 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: gender, land tenure and sand and dust storms. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Land tenure

65. *Background:* By its decision 28/COP.16, paragraph 9, the COP reiterated the request to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, pursuant to decision 27/COP.15, and subject to the availability of resources, to continue their efforts to support Parties that wish to integrate land tenure considerations into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality initiatives.

66. In paragraph 10 of the same decision, the COP *requested* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to carry out awareness-raising actions on their existing accountability and grievance mechanisms related to land tenure to have the widest reach among all stakeholders concerned by their activities in order to combat desertification, land degradation and drought and achieve land degradation neutrality.

67. The COP requested the secretariat to prepare a report to COP 17 on policy issues relevant to decision 28/COP.16.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/9 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: gender, land tenure and sand and dust storms. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Rangelands and pastoralists

69. *Background:* By its decision 29/COP.16, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to: a) strengthen and contribute to public–private partnerships with a view to implementing transformative projects and programmes that engage with relevant stakeholders and ongoing initiatives that support rangeland health and pastoralist resilience; b) support Parties with awareness-raising, capacity-building and resource mobilization through inclusive, community-based and participatory approaches that meaningfully engage pastoralist and other rangeland communities, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and c) contribute to the development of initiatives for sustainable rangeland management, restoration and conservation through, inter alia, multi-stakeholder dialogues and national consultations;

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

ICCD/COP(17)/10 – Rangelands and pastoralists. Note by the secretariat
 ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

6. High-level segment

(a) Heads of States Summit

71. *Background:* In accordance with decision 36/COP.16, paragraph 2, a Heads of States Summit will be organized by the Government of Mongolia on 23 August.

(b) Ministerial dialogues

72. Ministerial dialogues focusing on the following topics: (a) innovative financial mechanisms for healthy land and drought resilience; (b) restoration of rangelands and pastoralists' communities; and (c) accelerating drought resilience will be organized from 24 to 26 August.

73. Special events, including the Business for Land Forum (see decision 6/COP.16, para. 3 (h)), Innovative financing instruments, the Youth Forum and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Dialogue (see decision 5/COP.16) will be organized in the sidelines of the COP 17. Other special events focusing on topics such as: innovative financing instruments, rangelands, sand and dust storms, food systems and soil health will also take place during the thematic days between 24 to 27 August.

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

7. Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028

75. *Background:* 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.

76. The COP, in paragraph 20 of decision 10/COP.16, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an integrated, results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2027–2028, presenting three budget scenarios and a work programme based on the projected needs for the biennium in (a) a zero nominal growth scenario; (b) a zero real growth scenario; and (c) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and the added costs, and also report on any unspent balances.

77. In paragraph 21 of the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to carry out a review of the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties and to present a draft revised set of financial rules of the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the COP 17.

78. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028, the draft revised financial rules and corresponding draft decision and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(17)/5 – Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028. Note by the secretariat
 ICCD/COP(17)/INF.1 – Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2027–2030) and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2027–2028). Note by the secretariat
 ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

79. *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.16 paragraph 19, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its seventeenth 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(17)/INF.3. The statement of accounts should be read in conjunction with document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.5, which contains the report on the implementation of the costed 2025–2026 work programmes of the secretariat, the CRIC, the CST and the GM.

Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds

80. In paragraph 23 of decision 10/COP.16, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation status of latest audit reports at sessions of the Conference of the Parties. In line with decision 10/COP.15 paragraphs 25 and 26, the audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds may be consulted on the UNCCD website².

Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2025–2026

81. The status of contributions to the trust funds for the biennium 2025–2026 is presented in document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.5.

82. *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(17)/INF.3 – Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/INF.4 – Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2025–2026. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/INF.5 – Report on the performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2025–2026). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Report of the Evaluation Office

83. *Background:* The COP in its decision 10/COP.16 paragraph 32 requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session on the outcomes of the evaluations conducted during the biennium 2025–2026 and on the action taken to meet the pending recommendations of earlier evaluations. Accordingly, the findings and recommendations of the UNCCD evaluations³ in 2025–2026 and related action taken, as well as the 2027–2028 Evaluation Office workplan, will be presented to Parties at COP 17 as contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/INF.2.

84. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the evaluation findings and recommendations and the 2027–2028 Evaluation Office workplan and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(17)/INF.2 – Report of the Evaluation Office. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

² Please check the following link: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/secretariat>

³ Evaluation reports prepared by the UNCCD Evaluation office may be consulted at the following link: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/evaluation-office>

8. Procedural matters

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

85. *Background:* By its decision 5/COP.16, paragraph 2, the secretariat was requested to enhance effective communication and outreach globally to different stakeholder groups that are active and influential in matters concerning DLDD, with a view to progressively involving these groups in the implementation of the Convention. Furthermore, in paragraph 3, the secretariat was requested to facilitate the involvement of accredited CSOs, in meetings and processes under the Convention and the provide them with targeted capacity-building.

86. In paragraph 9 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to facilitate consultations among Parties, UNCCD institutions and bodies, United Nations entities, and civil society, in particular Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities, prior to COP17, on strengthening participation of Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities in the UNCCD and to support, the development of relevant terms of reference for the creation of a Caucus for Indigenous Peoples and a Caucus for Local Communities.

87. In paragraph 14 of the same decision, the COP requested the Civil Society Organization Panel, through the secretariat, to report at COP 17 on its activities.

88. Finally, the COP requested the secretariat to report at COP 17 on the implementation of decision 5/COP.16.

89. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/3 and corresponding draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(17)/3 – 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(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth 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

90. *Background:* By its decision 6/COP.16, paragraph 1, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM, to collaborate with Parties, the private sector and partners on the development and improvement of best practices and guidelines that are relevant to addressing DLDD.

91. In paragraph 2 of the same decision, the COP requested the Global Mechanism to further develop the private sector engagement strategy for protecting, restoring and sustainably managing land and for building resilience to DLDD to encourage private sector support, finance flows and technology transfer.

92. Furthermore, in paragraph 3, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, within their respective mandates and subject to the availability of financial resources, and in collaboration with relevant financial and technical partners, to accelerate efforts to support private sector engagement and promote innovation.

93. The COP requested the secretariat to report to future COP sessions on the measures taken to facilitate and encourage the participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the UNCCD.

94. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(17)/4 and corresponding draft decision and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(17)/4 – 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(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

(c) Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

95. *Background:* In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, which listed items to be included as standing items on COP agendas, and following upon decision 36/COP.16 regarding the programme of work of the COP at its eighteenth session, the COP may wish to review its programme of work for the next session as appropriate.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/12 – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

9. Report on the session

97. *Background:* A draft report of the session will be prepared for consideration and adoption by the COP at the concluding plenary meeting on 28 August.

98. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider and adopt the draft report of its seventeenth session and authorize the Rapporteur to complete the report after the session, under the guidance of the President and with the assistance of the secretariat.

Annex I

Tentative schedule of work for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

Monday, 17 August 2026		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O P	<p><i>Opening of the session by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the President <p><i>Statement by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth 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"> - Adoption of the agenda (ICCD/COP(17)/1) - Election of officers other than the President: Election of Vice-Presidents - Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers (ICCD/COP(17)/INF.6) - Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies 	<p><i>Formal statements</i></p> <p>---</p>

Monday, 17 August 2026 ⁴		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028 (ICCD/COP(17)/7, ICCD/COP(17)/INF.1, ICCD/COP(17)/12) - Financial performance for the Convention trust funds (ICCD/COP(17)/INF.3) - Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds (2022–2024) (ICCD/COP(17)/INF.4) - Report of the Evaluation Office (ICCD/COP(17)/INF.2, ICCD/COP(17)/12) • Final IWG-FSF Report (ICCD/COP(17)/2, ICCD/COP(17)/12) • Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Drought</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/11, ICCD/COP(16)/24/Add.1, ICCD/COP(17)/12)

Wednesday, 19 August 2026		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6p.m.
C O W	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Migration</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/8, ICCD/COP(17)/12) - <i>Land tenure</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/9, ICCD/COP(16)/12) • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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(17)/4, ICCD/COP(17)/12)

⁴ From Monday (17 August) to Friday (21 August) 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 CRIC will also meet during the second week of the COP

Thursday, 20 August 2026		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties - Open dialogue session 	---
C O W	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (ICCD/COP(17)/5, ICCD/COP(17)/12) • Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sand and dust storms</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/9, ICCD/COP(17)/12) - <i>Gender</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/9, ICCD/COP(17)/12) - <i>Rangelands and pastoralists</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/10, ICCD/COP(17)/12)

Friday, 21 August 2026		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	_ p.m. – _ p.m. ⁵
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies (ICCD/COP(17)/6, ICCD/COP(17)/12) Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (ICCD/COP(17)/3, ICCD/COP(17)/12) 	---
*C O P	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credentials of delegations (ICCD/COP(17)/13)⁶ 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/COP(17)/CST/9) Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election of officers other than the President: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

Sunday, 23 August 2026		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level segment <p><i>Heads of States Summit</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level segment <p><i>Heads of States Summit</i></p>

⁵ *COP is to follow immediately after the adjournment of the CST.

⁶ Document to be issued in-session.

Monday, 24 August 2026 ⁷		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level segment <p><i>Ministerial dialogue on Innovative Financial Mechanisms for Healthy Land and Drought Resilience</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties - Open dialogue session

Tuesday, 25 August 2026 ⁸		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6p.m.
C O P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level segment <p><i>Ministerial dialogue on Accelerating Drought Resilience</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level segment Closure <p><i>Adoption of Ministerial Dialogues Outcomes</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---
C O W	<p>----</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification - Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/CRP.1</i>) Procedural matters - Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/12</i>)

Wednesday, 26 August 2026 ⁹		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6p.m.
C O P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level segment <p><i>Ministerial dialogue on Restoration of Rangelands and Pastoralists' Communities</i></p>	<p><i>Gender Caucus</i></p>

⁷ Special events on Business for Land (B4L) and Innovative financing instruments are scheduled to take place on 24 August from 1p.m. to 3 p.m.

⁸ A special event on Sand and Dust Storms will take place on 25 August from 1p.m. to 3p.m.

⁹ The Special event on Youth Forum is scheduled on 26 August from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the one on Rangelands from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. and the one on IPLCS Caucuses from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 27 August 2026 ¹⁰		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	<i>Adoption of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/12)	---
C O P	---	<p><i>Consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/CRIC(23)/8, ICCD/CRIC(24)/5) • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of officers other than the President: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Friday, 28 August 2026		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O P	<i>Consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i> (ICCD/COP(17)/12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the session <p><i>Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties</i></p>

¹⁰ A special event on Food Systems and Soil Health will take place on 27 August from 1p.m. to 3 p.m.

Annex II

Overview of the integrated tentative schedule of work for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

Hours	Sat 15 Aug	Sun 16 Aug	Mon 17 Aug	Tue 18 Aug	Wed 19 Aug	Thu 20 Aug	Fri 21 Aug	Sat 22 Aug	Sun 23 Aug	Mon 24 Aug Finance Day	Tue 25 Aug Water Day	Wed 26 Aug Land and Peoples Day	Thu 27 Aug Food Systems and Soil Health Day	Fri 28 Aug
8h-10h			Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	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 COP17 President Election Adoption of COP17 agenda	CRIC	CRIC	COP-ODS	COW (pre-climate only, CRIC)	side events	HoS Summit	Ministerial dialogue on Innovative Financial Mechanisms for Healthy Land and Drought Resilience	Ministerial dialogue on Accelerating Drought Resilience	Ministerial dialogue on Restoration of Rangelands and Pastoralists' Communities HLS Closure Adoption of Ministerial Dialogues Outcomes	COW (adopt CoW decs)	COP (adopt CoW decs)
10h-13h				CST	CST			side events	side events			Youth Forum	CRIC (adopt CRIC decs)	
13h-15h	CST, CRIC Bureaus	COP Bureau	side events	side events	side events	side events	side events	side events	side events	*Special event on (BAL) Innovative financing instruments	Special event on Sand and Dust Storms	Special event on Rangelands	Special event on Food Systems and Soil health	side events
15h-18h	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	COW (P&B, WCP, PSP, Dialogue)	CRIC	Joint CRIC&CST Plenaries	COW (Enhancing UNCCD Implement, SDS, Rangeland, Gender)	CST (adopt CST decs)	side events	HoS Summit	COP-ODS	COW (Common, PoW COP18)	COP_Gender Caucus	COP (adopt CoW and CRIC decs)	COP (adopt COP decs, Closure)
15h-18h			CRIC	CST	COW (whole sector, Land tenure, Migration)	CST	CRIC					Special event on IPLCS Caucuses		
18h-20h			COP- Formal Statements				COP* (adopt CST decs)							
18h-20h			Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	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	Meetings of Regional Implementation Annexes I to V

COP	Conference of the Parties
COP-ODS	CSO Open Dialogue session
Special events	Special events
COP*	Conference of the Parties to follow immediately after the adjournment of the CST
CoW	Committee of the Whole
CRIC&CST	joint CRIC&CST Plenaries