



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

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Conference of the Parties
Committee on Science and Technology
Seventeenth session
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 17–21 August 2026
Item 1 (a) of the provisional agenda
Organizational matters
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology.
2. Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2025–2026:
 - (a) Synthesis report of the activities of the Science-Policy Interface;
 - (b) Synthesis report on the third edition of the Global Land Outlook.
3. Interfacing science, policy, and sharing knowledge:
 - (a) Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation;
 - (b) Improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) Synthesis report on supplementary technical guidance to support aridity and drought planning and adaptation across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
4. Future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface.
5. Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands.
6. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface (2027–2030);

* Unofficial copy for information purposes only.

- (b) Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
- 7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Dates and venue of the session

1. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The seventeenth session of the CST (CST 17) will therefore be convened from 18 to 21 August 2026 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during the seventeenth session of the COP (COP 17).

Participants

2. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the CST shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that the meetings of CST 17 will be open to observers, subject to the rules of procedure.

Documentation

3. Documents relevant to the session will be made available on the website of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).¹

1. Organizational matters

Opening of the session

4. In accordance with decision 25/COP.10, paragraph 1, which amended rule 22 of the rules of procedure (contained in decision 1/COP.1), the Chair of the CST shall be elected at the final meeting of the COP and assume office immediately. Following the letter sent on 6 May 2025 by the United States of America, in line with rule 25 of the rules of procedure of the COP, Mr. Jeffery Herrick elected at COP 16 as Chair of CST 17 was replaced by Mr. Nicholas Webb. Accordingly, CST 17 will be opened by Mr. Nicholas Webb as Chair of CST 17 on 18 August 2026.

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. According to the terms of reference of the CST, as set out in the decision 15/COP.1, and along with other relevant decisions of the COP, including decisions 1/COP.1, 16/COP.1, 20/COP.16, 21/COP.16 and 22/COP.16, the secretariat has prepared, in consultation with the Chair of CST 17, a provisional agenda for the session of the CST. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in the annex to this document.

Purpose of the session

6. In accordance with article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the CST is tasked with providing the COP with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

7. Following the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) by decision 23/COP.11, the extension of its mandate by decisions 19/COP.12 and 19/COP.13, and in accordance with decisions 18/COP.15, 21/COP.15 and 20/COP.16, the session will be organized to facilitate thematic dialogue between Parties and the SPI on the policy

¹ www.unccd.int/official-documents.

implications of the scientific outputs ahead of the CST. On the basis of the documentation prepared for the session, Parties will consider the relevance of these outputs for the implementation of the Convention, and may formulate concise, policy-relevant recommendations, including, as appropriate, draft decisions for consideration and possible adoption by the COP.

Organization of work

8. The CST may wish to consider the following scenario: at the opening session on 18 August 2026, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Chair of CST 17 will make introductory statements.

9. Following the introduction of each agenda item, representatives of regional and interest groups will be invited to make statements, followed by statements from United Nations agencies and/or other stakeholders, including civil society.

10. By its decision 36/COP.16, the COP requested the secretariat to circulate, in all official languages, at least six weeks prior to the COP, a single document with all draft decisions prepared for Parties for consideration at the COP. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a CST contact group to start the CST discussions and further negotiate based on document ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8, which includes all substantive draft CST decisions proposed by the secretariat.

11. It should be noted that a plenary meeting will be held jointly with the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on “Improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties”, which is tentatively scheduled to take place on 19 August 2026. In line with past practice, the relevant draft decision with the same title as the agenda item will therefore also be negotiated jointly with the CRIC at a time to be announced in session.

12. During its concluding meeting on 21 August 2026, and following the completion of the substantive and procedural agenda items, the CST will adopt its report, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP. Finally, the Chair of CST 17 will call for the election of the Vice-Chairs of CST 18.

Times of meetings

13. The tentative schedule of work aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. Consistent with the working hours of the COP, and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of the session will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

ICCD/COP(17)/CST/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

(b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

15. *Background:* Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision 25/COP.10, which amended rule 31 of the rules of procedure (contained in decision 1/COP.1), the Vice-Chairs of the CST shall be elected at the final meeting of the session of the CST held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and shall assume their office immediately. The CST shall elect its own four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. The Chair and four Vice-Chairs of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions. They shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

16. *Action:* The Chair of CST 17 shall call for the election of officers at the final meeting of CST 17. The Vice-Chairs elected, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall assume their office immediately.

2. Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2025–2026

17. *Background:* At its sixteenth session, the COP adopted the SPI work programme for the biennium 2025–2026, as contained in decision 21/COP.16, which was updated following paragraph 1 of the decision by the Bureau of the CST.² The work programme was broken into three primary activities, including two objectives and six coordination activities.

18. By the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to present synthesis reports at CST 17. Such reports should cover the objectives of the SPI work programme for the biennium 2025–2026, including, as appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations for each objective, as well as a synthesis of key messages drawn from the assessment reports approved in the processes of other intergovernmental science bodies during the 2025–2026 biennium, arising from the coordination activities of the SPI during the biennium.

(a) Synthesis report of the activities of the Science-Policy Interface

19. *Background:* By decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16, as updated following paragraph 1 of the decision by the Bureau of the CST,³ the COP focused the work of the SPI on three primary activities:

- (a) Taking the scientific lead in the production of the Global Land Outlook (GLO) products, and similar high-profile, science-based flagship reports;
- (b) Providing feedback on the development of procedures for fast-track assessments and information products; and
- (c) Coordinating with other intergovernmental science-policy bodies.

20. During the 2025–2026 biennium, the SPI, under its first objective, took the scientific lead in the production of the third edition of the GLO (GLO 3), allocating among its members key tasks related to this mandate, including: (i) forming a steering committee of lead authors; (ii) contributing to the scoping of the report; (iii) leading its scientific authorship; (iv) assuming a primary role in the quality assurance process; (v) assisting in organizing its independent scientific review; and (vi) contributing to its communications and promotion.

21. Under this objective, the SPI has contributed to the development of GLO 3 in collaboration with the secretariat, commissioned experts and relevant partners. The GLO 3 preparation process and its key findings are summarized in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#), while document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.1](#) presents a more detailed synthesis of the report.

22. Also during the 2025–2026 biennium, the SPI piloted a formative process for the co-development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice, involving the Bureau of the CST, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM). The pilot entailed responding to a request received from the secretariat and the GM to produce fast-track information on: (i) how sand and dust storms (SDS) warning, advisory and assessment systems can be improved to help countries better mitigate the risk of and respond to SDS; (ii) where the gaps are; and (iii) how this may translate into targeted, action-oriented responses. The pilot assessment and its key messages are presented in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#).

23. By its decision 20/COP.16, the COP decided that the SPI would coordinate with other intergovernmental science-policy bodies, including, but not limited to, within their respective mandates, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and relevant scientific institutions and networks. In decision 21/COP.16, the COP defined a work programme of coordination activities with the IPCC, IPBES and four other such bodies.

24. As part of these coordination activities, the SPI has reviewed and analysed the key messages emerging from recent IPBES assessment processes, in particular the thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food and health (nexus

² www.unccd.int/resources/other/unccd-spi-work-programme-2025-2026.

³ www.unccd.int/resources/other/unccd-spi-work-programme-2025-2026

assessment),⁴ and the thematic assessment on the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change.⁵ Document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#) presents a summary of the coordination activities undertaken by the SPI and the key findings of relevance to the implementation of the Convention drawn from the IPBES assessments.

25. *Action:* The CST will be invited to review document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#) as well as the draft decision relating to this agenda item as contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#), and prepare a final draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#) – Synthesis report of the activities of the Science-Policy Interface. Report by the Executive Secretary

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.1](#) – Synthesis report on the third edition of the Global Land Outlook, under objective 1 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2025–2026. Note by the secretariat

(b) Synthesis report on the third edition of the Global Land Outlook

26. *Background:* By its decision 20/COP.16, the COP decided that the SPI would take the scientific lead in the production of GLO products and similar high-profile, science-based flagship reports, and requested the secretariat to continue to ensure that these products are supported by a comprehensive and innovative communication strategy.

27. In accordance with decision 21/COP.16, the SPI scientifically led the production of GLO 3, as detailed in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#). GLO 3 aims to raise awareness of the value of land stewardship in building resilience and contributing to human security. On the basis of this work, a synthesis report of the key findings and messages of the GLO 3, focusing on their relevance to the implementation of the Convention, has been prepared. The synthesis is contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.1](#).

28. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the synthesis report in GLO 3, discuss its policy implications for the implementation of the Convention, and review the draft decision relating to this agenda item, as contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#), with a view to forwarding a final draft decision to the COP for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#) – Synthesis report of the activities of the Science-Policy Interface. Report by the Executive Secretary

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.1](#) – Synthesis report on the third edition of the Global Land Outlook, under objective 1 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2025–2026. Note by the secretariat

3. Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge

(a) Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation

29. *Background:* By its decision 18/COP.16, paragraph 4, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM, subject to the availability of resources, to continue exploring options for knowledge and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms with relevant partners in the academic and private sectors, with a view to fostering innovation and facilitating access

⁴ www.ipbes.net/nexus-assessment.

⁵ www.ipbes.net/transformative-change-assessment.

to appropriate knowledge, technologies and best practices in support of the implementation of the Convention.

30. Document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/3](#) provides information on activities and partnerships related to science-policy interfacing, including tools and platforms for sharing data, knowledge and technologies and disseminating sustainable land management best practices and emerging work on land-based carbon sequestration and carbon farming, including measurement, reporting and verification approaches, relevant to the objectives of the Convention, land degradation neutrality and land restoration.

31. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the information contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/3](#) as well as the draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#), and prepare a final draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/3](#) – Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation. Note by the secretariat

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

(b) Improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

32. *Background:* By its decision 4/COP.16, Parties requested the secretariat and the GM, subject to available resources, to enhance the functionality of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) for the upcoming 2026 UNCCD reporting process. Furthermore, in decision 2/COP.16, Parties requested the secretariat, together with data providers, financial and technical partners and the Earth Observation community, to continue supporting country capacity development to monitor the implementation of the Convention.

33. As part of the agenda of CRIC 23, Parties have begun the review and assessment of the modalities and tools prepared by the Convention institutions to assist them in the 2026 UNCCD reporting process. The final report of CRIC 23 already contains several conclusions and recommendations identified by Parties to strengthen the UNCCD reporting process. Document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/4-ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/7](#) presents an update on progress made in the provision of technical support to countries for the preparation of their 2026 national reports, including through the delivery of regional capacity-building workshops under the Global Support Programme IV and collaboration with relevant regional institutions.

34. A joint CRIC/CST plenary meeting addressing this agenda item is tentatively scheduled for 19 August 2026. It is foreseen that, based on the proposals contained in the Report of CRIC 23, and in document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/4-ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/7](#), an interactive dialogue will assist Parties in fine-tuning and clarifying pending issues related to improving the UNCCD reporting process. In order to prepare a draft decision for this agenda item, the CRIC Chair will also propose to Parties that a joint CRIC/CST contact group be established in line with past practice.

35. *Action:* The joint CRIC/CST plenary will be invited to review the report prepared by the secretariat, engage in an information exchange on this topic, and review the draft decision, as included in document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/5](#), for adoption by the COP.

[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 from 1 to 5 December 2025

[ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/4-ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/7](#) – Improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

[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

(c) **Synthesis report on supplementary technical guidance to support aridity and drought planning and adaptation across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

36. *Background.* By its decision 16/COP.16, the COP addressed the need to strengthen science-policy guidance on aridity trends, projections and impacts, recognizing their implications for desertification, land degradation, drought and the resilience of affected populations. In the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to work with the secretariats of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Convention on Biological Diversity to integrate the assessing and addressing of both aridity and drought risks and their impacts into relevant collaborative frameworks and initiatives.

37. Also by this decision, the COP requested the Bureau of the CST, with the support of the secretariat, to engage, as appropriate, with these relevant constituted bodies to explore the way forward in order to develop a supplement to the National Adaptation Plan technical guidelines that supports aridity adaptation and drought planning, while suggesting an approach for integration into activities of the UNCCD at global and national levels, taking into account national circumstances, needs and priorities.

38. Pursuant to decision 16/COP.16, paragraph 8, the secretariat has prepared a report on the implementation of the decision, including the development of this supplement, as well as progress made in supporting the integration of aridity information into drought monitoring and early warning systems, developing science-based standards and guidance on aridity impacts, and efforts to enhance coordination and knowledge sharing among relevant technical and scientific partners. The report is contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/2](#).

39. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the information contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/2](#), provide guidance, as appropriate, on scientific and technical aspects related to aridity trends, projections and impacts, and review the draft decision relating to this agenda item, as contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#), with a view to forwarding a final draft decision to the COP for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/2](#) – Synthesis report on supplementary technical guidance to support aridity and drought planning and adaptation across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Note by the secretariat

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

4. Future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface

40. *Background.* By its decision 20/COP.16, the COP decided to establish a standing SPI of the UNCCD to ensure the delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice in an equitable and transparent manner to support the implementation of the Convention.

41. By the same decision, the COP provided that the SPI 2025–2026 work programme would serve as a transition programme towards the establishment of multi-year work programmes thereafter. Decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16 provided guidance on how the SPI could assist the Bureau of the CST and the secretariat during this transition biennium in preparations for the future functioning of the SPI, including by (i) contributing to the development of future GLO procedures; (ii) providing inputs to the feasibility study to identify ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the SPI; (iii) providing the inputs necessary for a costing analysis of all dimensions of future flagship report development; and (iv) helping explore the potential for the creation of a Global Science-Policy Alliance on Land.

42. By the same decisions, the Parties decided that the SPI would take the scientific lead in the production of the GLO products and similar high-profile, science-based flagship reports. In this context, the COP also requested the Bureau of the CST, with the support of the secretariat, and subject to available resources, to develop procedures for: (i) receiving and prioritizing requests addressed to the SPI; (ii) preparing flagship reports, including GLO products; and (iii) developing fast-track assessments and information products. Document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#) reports on the procedures developed.

43. By the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to prepare a feasibility study on options for ensuring adequate technical support for the SPI, including the possible use of one or more external technical support units provided by partners, comparable to the arrangements in place for other intergovernmental science-policy bodies. Document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#) reports on the key findings resulting from the study, while document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.2](#) presents the detailed feasibility study.

44. By its decision 20/COP.16, the COP also requested the Bureau of the CST, with the support of the secretariat and input from the SPI, to collaborate with the appropriate secretariats of other scientific bodies and panels, acting within their respective mandates, to explore the creation of a Global Science-Policy Alliance on Land, with a view to strengthening coherence and collaboration across relevant science-policy processes. Document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#) provides information on progress made in this exploration.

45. Pursuant to decision 20/COP.16, paragraph 21, the secretariat has prepared a report on the implementation of the decision, including progress made on preparations for the future functioning of the SPI. The report is contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#).

46. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the information contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#), provide guidance on the proposed procedures for the future functioning of the SPI, take note of the feasibility study contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.2](#) and review the draft decision relating to this agenda item, as contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#), with a view to forwarding a final draft decision to the COP for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#) – Preparations for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface. Note by the secretariat.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.2](#) – Ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the Science-Policy Interface. Note by the secretariat

5. Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands

47. *Background.* By its decision 19/COP.16, the COP addressed the need to avoid, reduce and reverse land and soil degradation of agricultural lands, recognizing the interlinkages among sustainable land management, food security, drought resilience and land degradation neutrality. In the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with relevant partners, to support Parties through guidance and coordination efforts, and to report on the implementation of the decision to the CST.

48. Pursuant to decision 19/COP.16, paragraph 6, the secretariat has prepared a brief report on the implementation of the decision, including activities undertaken to support Parties in promoting sustainable land use, responsible land governance and improved soil health in agricultural lands, as well as considerations relevant to the monitoring and assessment of changes in the health of agricultural lands and soils. The report is contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/4](#).

49. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the information contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/4](#), provide guidance, as appropriate, on scientific and technical aspects related to avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands,

and review the draft decision relating to this agenda item, as contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#), with a view to forwarding a final draft decision to the COP for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/4](#) – Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands. Note by the secretariat

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

6. Procedural matters

(a) Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface (2027–2030)

50. *Background:* By its decision 20/COP.16, the COP decided that, from COP 17, the work programmes of the SPI would be fixed for a duration of two intersessional periods. In this context, and following the implementation of the transition work programme for 2025–2026, the CST is invited to consider the proposed work programme of the SPI for the period 2027–2030.

51. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the proposed work programme of the SPI for the period 2027–2030 and provide guidance, as appropriate, for its submission to the COP for consideration and adoption.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

(b) Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

52. *Background:* In accordance with rule 33 of the rules of procedure, the CST is to submit to the COP a tentative programme of work for adoption at its seventeenth session.

53. *Action:* The CST will be invited to review the draft decision relating to this agenda item, contained in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#), and formulate a final draft decision for consideration by the COP.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology

54. Relevant information on the work of the CST during its seventeenth session will be included in the COP 17 report. In this respect, the CST 17 report, including draft decisions, where necessary, is expected to be submitted for consideration by the COP and, as appropriate, adoption at its plenary meeting on 21 August 2026, in accordance with established practice.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/8](#) – Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

Annex

Tentative schedule of work for the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

Tuesday 18 August 2026	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/CST/1</i>) • Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesis report on supplementary technical guidance to support aridity and drought planning and adaptation across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/CST/2, ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8</i>) <i>Interactive dialogue</i> - Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/CST/3, ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2025–2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesis report of the activities of the Science- Policy Interface (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/CST/6, ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8</i>) - Synthesis report on the third edition of the Global Land Outlook (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/CST/INF.1, ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8</i>) <i>Interactive dialogue</i>

Wednesday 19 August 2026	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/CST/5, ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8, ICCD/COP(17)/CST/INF.2</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties (<i>ICCD/CRIC(23)/8, ICCD/CRIC(24)/4-ICCD/COP(17)/CST/7 and ICCD/CRIC(24)/5</i>) <i>Interactive dialogue</i>

Thursday 20 August 2026	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands <i>(ICCD/COP(17)/CST/4, ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8)</i> • Procedural matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface (2027–2030) <i>(ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8)</i> - Programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology <i>(ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8)</i>

Friday 21 August 2026	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology <i>(ICCD/COP(17)/CST/8)</i> • Organizational matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology <p><i>Closure of the session</i></p>