



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
24 July 2026

Original: English

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention Twenty-fourth session

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 17–27 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 for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.
2. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels:
 - (a) Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its twenty-third session;
 - (b) Multi-year workplan for Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies;
 - (c) Performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies;
 - (d) Development and promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention.
3. 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.
4. Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms:
 - (a) Report by the Global Environment Facility on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought;
 - (b) Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, matters relating to Sustainable Development Goal 15.3, and the facilitation of involvement of the private sector.
5. Procedural matters: Programme of work for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

* Unofficial copy for information purposes only.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Dates and venue of the session

1. Pursuant to provisions contained in decision 36/COP.16 and further consultation with the host government of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17), the twenty-fourth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 24) will be held from 17–27 August 2026 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

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

2. Consultations between Parties belonging to the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes on matters before CRIC 24 will take place from 15 to 16 August 2026, prior to the opening of CRIC 24, scheduled for Monday, 17 August 2026.

Provisional agenda

3. According to the terms of reference (TOR) of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), as set out in the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the provisional agenda for the sessions of the CRIC is to be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the CRIC Bureau.
4. Accordingly, decision 13/COP.13 was considered when compiling the provisional agenda for this session, along with other relevant decisions of the COP, including decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.16, 3/COP.16, 4/COP.16, 6/COP.16, 9/COP.16, 12/COP.16, 13/COP.16 and 36/COP.16.

Documentation

5. Official pre-session documents will be made available in due course on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) website.¹

1. Organizational matters

Opening of the session

6. CRIC 24 will be opened by the Chair of the CRIC, who was elected at COP 16.² In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure (ROP) of the COP and paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the Chair of the CRIC will be elected at the final meeting of the COP and will assume their role immediately.

Organization of work

7. The CRIC may wish to consider the following scenario: at the opening of the CRIC on 17 August 2026, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the Chair of the CRIC will make introductory statements ahead of CRIC 24.
8. Following the introduction of each agenda item, representatives of regional and interest groups will be invited to make statements, followed by statements from United Nations agencies and/or other stakeholders, including civil society. The aim is to facilitate a discussion among Parties and their development partners on national, subregional and/or regional experiences relative to topics discussed during the plenary meetings.
9. It should be noted that the plenary session relating to the agenda item "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" will be held jointly with the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and is tentatively scheduled to take place on 19 August 2026.

¹ www.unccd.int/convention/official-documents.

² ICCD/COP(16)/24, paragraph 17.

In line with past practice, the draft decision with the same title as the agenda item will therefore also be negotiated jointly with the CST at a time to be announced in session.

Purpose of the session

10. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the TOR of the CRIC, as contained in the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the CRIC will address the items on its agenda at its twenty-fourth session with a view to formulating draft decisions, where necessary, for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

11. The CRIC will have before it for consideration and adoption the provisional agenda contained in this document (ICCD/CRIC(24)/1). A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in the annex to this document and detailed in the sections below.

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

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

(b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

13. *Background:* Pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the TOR of the CRIC, as contained in the annex to decision 13/COP.13, four Vice-Chairs will constitute the Bureau of the CRIC, together with the Chair, elected by the COP in accordance with rule 31 of the ROP of the COP. They will be elected with due regard for the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, without neglecting affected country Parties in other regions. They will not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

14. In accordance with the TOR of the CRIC, the Chair will call for the election of these officers at the final meeting of the CRIC. The Vice-Chairs elected, of whom one shall act as Rapporteur, shall assume their office immediately.

15. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to undertake consultations throughout the session and elect the four Vice-Chairs at its final plenary on 27 August 2026.

2. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels

(a) Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its twenty-third session

16. *Background:* As part of the TOR of the CRIC, the CRIC is invited, at sessions held during ordinary sessions of the COP, inter alia, to review the final report of sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP, which contains its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.

17. At its twenty-third session, the CRIC reviewed progress toward the 2026 UNCCD reporting process and considered developments related to the five strategic objectives, including financial flows supporting implementation. The CRIC 23 report contains the conclusions and recommendations of the CRIC on (a) implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and related implementation efforts; (b) policy frameworks and thematic topics: sand and dust storms, land tenure, and gender; (c) promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention; and (d) improving the procedures for communication as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the COP. For the first time, CRIC 23 featured a dedicated Gender Caucus, underscoring the growing priority of gender-responsive and gender-transformative approaches across all areas of the Convention.

18. At its ninth meeting, on 5 December 2025, the Committee, during its twenty-third session, decided, in line with rule 13 of the ROP of the COP, to defer item 4 “Interim report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Future Strategic Framework” and item 5 “Consideration of priorities for science–policy guidance” of the CRIC 23 agenda to COP 17 for further consideration and action by Parties.

19. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the report of its twenty-third session and formulate draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, 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, Panama, from 1–5 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) Multi-year workplan for Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies

20. *Background:* By its decision 1/COP.16, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) to prepare a multi-year workplan for the Convention (2027–2030), utilizing a results-based management approach. By its decision 10/COP.16, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare an integrated, results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2027–2028.

21. In paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the COP entrusted the review of the multi-year workplans of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies to the CRIC at sessions held in conjunction with the COP.

22. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the multi-year workplan for the Convention (2027–2030) as included for the first time in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/7](#) as well as the relevant draft decision which, following introduction at the CRIC, will be referred to and finalized by the budget contact group and, upon completion, forwarded for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

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

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/7](#) – Programme and budget for the biennium 2027–2028. Note by the secretariat

(c) Performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies

23. *Background:* By its decision 10/COP.16, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report on the budget performance, using a results-based approach.

24. In the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the COP entrusted the review of the performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies, using a results-based management approach, to the CRIC at sessions held in conjunction with the COP.

25. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to assist the COP in the review of the performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies to foster the implementation of the Convention and to make any recommendations it may wish to forward to the COP for action.

[ICCD/COP\(17\)/INF.4](#) – Report on the performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2025–2026). Note by the secretariat

(d) Development and promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention

26. *Background:* By its decision 2/COP.16, the COP requested the secretariat to continue enhancing, subject to the availability of resources and in accordance with its mandate,

measures to support the facilitation of capacity development for the effective implementation of the Convention.

27. During CRIC 23, Parties reaffirmed that capacity-building is a critical enabler of transformative change and a prerequisite for achieving LDN, drought resilience, sustainable land management and effective national reporting. The conclusions and recommendations of the final report of CRIC 23 contain elements on how to further strengthen capacity-building within the Convention, including through the development of a forward-looking capacity-building strategy that aligns with the forthcoming post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention.

28. Paragraph 9 of decision 20/COP.16 requests the secretariat to support the interaction of regional scientific networks/institutions with the Science-Policy Interface for the provision of scientific advice stemming from its work.

29. Considering these related mandates, the plenary meeting dealing with this agenda item will include an interactive dialogue that will engage additional elements on how regional technical institutions can support UNCCD scientific capacity-building by strengthening regional cooperation, reinforcing national scientific systems, and enabling the effective use of knowledge in policy and implementation. The outcomes of this plenary meeting will be incorporated into the draft decisions derived from, inter alia, assessments under the same agenda item at CRIC 23.

30. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the CRIC 23 report prepared by the secretariat, as well as a draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/3](#), and formulate a final draft decision for consideration 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, Panama, from 1–5 December 2025

[ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/3](#) – Promotion of capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention. 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

3. 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

31. *Background:* By its decision 4/COP.16, the COP 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, by its decision 2/COP.16, the COP requested the secretariat, together with data providers, financial and technical partners, and the Earth Observation community, including the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Flagship initiative, to, among other things, provide capacity development support to developing Parties, especially small island developing States and least developed countries, to undertake participatory mapping of degraded land, voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets and associated interventions, as well as quantitative assessments of drought hazard, exposure and vulnerability. As part of the CRIC 23 agenda, 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 CRIC 23 report 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 in the provision of technical support to countries in the preparation of their 2026 national reports, including through the delivery of regional capacity-building workshops under the UNCCD Global Support Programme IV and the establishment of collaboration with relevant regional institutions.

32. A joint CRIC/CST plenary meeting dealing with this agenda item is tentatively scheduled for 19 August 2026. It is foreseen that, based on the proposals contained in the CRIC 23 report 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.

33. *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, Panama, from 1–5 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

4. Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms

(a) Report by the Global Environment Facility on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought

34. *Background:* The Convention addresses the need to promote the mobilization of adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include, as a standing item on its agenda, a review of available information on the financing of the Convention by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the GEF concerning desertification, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention.

35. The memorandum of understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF, adopted under decision 11/COP.13, provides that the GEF will prepare a report to be submitted to each regular session of the COP, through the UNCCD secretariat, on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought.

36. By its decision 9/COP.16, the COP invited the GEF to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the COP at its seventeenth session.

37. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the report prepared by the GEF and formulate a final draft decision for consideration by the COP.

[ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/INF.1](#) – Financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought. Report by the Global Environment Facility

(b) Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, matters relating to Sustainable Development Goal 15.3, and the facilitation of involvement of the private sector

38. *Background:* By its decision 3/COP.16, the COP requested the GM to continue supporting the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention and continue strengthening partnerships with relevant institutions and the private sector, thereby facilitating the development of geographically balanced, gender-responsive and large-scale integrated landscape investment programmes, with a focus on high-impact and multi-country

flagship initiatives. Furthermore, the GM was also requested to support countries' efforts in setting and/or refining LDN targets and integrating them in land-use planning frameworks, as well as improving the enabling environment at national level and supporting countries' work related to synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change processes, drought, sand and dust storms, the engagement of the private sector and the promotion of innovative solutions.

39. By its decision 6/COP.16, the COP also requested the GM to include in its report on the mobilization of resources the measures taken to facilitate and encourage the participation and involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the Convention. Decision 12/COP.16 further requested the Managing Director of the GM to report on the progress made in the mobilization of resources and financial flows for the implementation of the Convention.

40. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the report prepared by the GM as well as a draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/5](#), engage in an interactive panel discussion session, and formulate a final draft decision for consideration by the COP.

[ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/2](#) – Progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, matters relating to Sustainable Development Goal 15.3, and the facilitation of involvement of the private sector. Report by the Global Mechanism

[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

5. Procedural matters: Programme of work for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

41. In accordance with rule 33 of the rules of procedures of the COP, the CRIC is to submit to the COP, for adoption, a tentative programme of work for the next inter-sessional session of the Committee.

42. The CRIC will be invited to review the draft decision relating to this agenda item contained in document [ICCD/CRIC\(24\)/5](#) and formulate a final draft decision for consideration by the COP.

[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

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

43. *Background:* Paragraph 4 of the annex to decision 13/COP.13 states that the CRIC will report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work, particularly through draft decisions prepared at the sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP. Such decisions will contain substantive elements aimed at facilitating the effective implementation of the Convention, including targets, as well as the assigned responsibilities and expected financial implications of their implementation, as necessary.

44. *Action:* The report of the CRIC on its twenty-fourth session, including draft decisions, where necessary, will be submitted to the COP for its consideration and, as appropriate, adoption.

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

Annex

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

Monday, 17 August 2026	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 p.m.–6 p.m.
	- Organizational matters - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/CRIC(24)/1</i>) - Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels - Multi-year workplan for Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/12</i> and <i>ICCD/COP(17)/7</i>) - Performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (<i>ICCD/COP(17)/INF.4</i>) - Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its twenty-third session (<i>ICCD/CRIC(23)/8</i> and <i>ICCD/CRIC(24)/5</i>)

Tuesday, 18 August 2026	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 p.m.–6 p.m.
- Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels - Development and promotion of activities for targeted capacity-building to further the implementation of the Convention <i>Interactive dialogue</i> (<i>ICCD/CRIC(24)/3</i> and <i>ICCD/CRIC(24)/5</i>)	- Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms - Report by the Global Environment Facility on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought (<i>ICCD/CRIC(24)/INF.1</i>) - Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, matters relating to Sustainable Development Goal 15.3, and the facilitation of involvement of the private sector <i>Interactive dialogue</i> (<i>ICCD/CRIC(24)/2</i> and <i>ICCD/CRIC(24)/5</i>)

Wednesday, 19 August 2026	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 p.m.–6 p.m.
• Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms (<i>continued</i>) - Report by the Global Mechanism on progress made in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, matters relating to Sustainable Development Goal 15.3, and the facilitation of involvement of the private sector <i>Interactive dialogue</i> (ICCD/CRIC(24)/2 and ICCD/CRIC(24)/5)	• 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>Interactive dialogue</i> (ICCD/CRIC(24)/4-ICCD/COP(17)/CST/7 and ICCD/CRIC(24)/5)

Friday, 21 August 2026	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 p.m.–6 p.m.
	• Procedural matters: Programme of work for the twenty-fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(24)/5) • <i>Formulation of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, including, where necessary, draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties</i>

Thursday, 27 August 2026	
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3 p.m.–6 p.m.
• Adoption of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(24)/5) • Organizational matters: - Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	