

**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 7 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology**Draft decisions for consideration at the seventeenth session of
the Committee on Science and Technology****Note by the secretariat*****Summary*

By its decision 36/COP.16, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to circulate in all official languages, at least six weeks prior to the sixteenth session of the COP, one document for each governing body (the COP, the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology) with all respective draft decisions prepared for Parties' consideration and further adoption and to ensure that the draft decisions are clearly written and properly formatted.

Accordingly, this document includes all substantive draft decisions proposed by the secretariat that will serve as a starting point for discussion and further negotiation in the Committee on Science and Technology contact group.

* Unofficial copy for information purposes only.

** This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Science-policy recommendations on synergistically supporting aridity and drought planning and adaptation across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	3
II. Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation	5
III. Avoiding, reducing and reversing land and soil degradation of agricultural lands	7
IV. Procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface.....	9
V. Science-policy recommendations resulting from the activities of the Science-Policy Interface	10
VI. Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027-2030 quadrennium	12
VII. Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology	15

I. Science-policy recommendations on synergistically supporting aridity and drought planning and adaptation across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 16/COP.16,

Also recalling articles 1, 2 and 10 of the Convention, which reference combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in affected areas and on their populations, as well as article 8 on the relationship with other conventions,

Mindful of Article 4, paragraph 1 (e) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Article 7, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Paris Agreement, Targets 2 and 8 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and paragraph 30(g) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,

Noting the guidance report developed by United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security in support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification publication titled “Planning for aridity and drought adaptation: A guide to promoting synergies across the Rio Conventions and the Sendai Framework”,

Acknowledging the ongoing work of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership, through the Integrated Drought Management Programme, in advancing work to integrate aridity information into drought monitoring and early warning activities at national, regional and global levels,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/2](#) and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties, in formulating and implementing national policies and strategies on land, climate, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction, to recognize aridity and drought as systemic and interlinked risks and to address their impacts on ecosystems, livelihoods and key sectors in a coherent and integrated manner, taking into account national circumstances, needs and priorities;
2. *Also encourages* Parties to integrate planning for aridity and drought adaptation into existing and future national planning instruments under the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, including land degradation neutrality target-setting, national drought plans, national adaptation plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, as appropriate and in line with national circumstances, needs and priorities;
3. *Further encourages* Parties to strengthen enabling conditions for adaptation to aridity and drought, including institutional coordination, scientific and technical capacities, stakeholder engagement, and access to finance, and *invites* Parties to develop and apply inclusive, multilevel and comprehensive aridity and drought risk assessments that inform aligned national targets and the selection and prioritization of adaptation and drought resilience options, such as sustainable land management, nature-based solutions, integrated land use planning, precision agriculture, drought resistant crops, sustainable integrated water management, and water efficiency measures;
4. *Requests* the secretariat, within its mandate and subject to the availability of resources, and *invites* the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction to collaborate in:
 - (a) Supporting Parties in identifying and using entry points in national planning instruments for integrating aridity and drought adaptation;

(b) Promoting more harmonized monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting related to aridity and drought, including through the identification of shared indicators and opportunities for data-sharing;

(c) Aligning technical guidance, capacity-building and support for access to finance to enhance synergies across the Rio conventions and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

5. *Invites* financial and technical partners, acting within their respective mandates, to support Parties in strengthening the core components of synergistic adaptation to aridity and drought, including comprehensive risk assessments, aligned national targets, and the design and implementation of integrated, multi-benefit adaptation and drought resilience measures, such as sustainable land management, nature-based solutions, integrated land use planning, precision agriculture, drought-resistant crops, sustainable integrated water management, and water efficiency, and to facilitate simplified and more accessible financing arrangements, particularly for countries with limited capacity;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

II. Knowledge sharing, technology transfer and innovation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision decisions 20/COP.12, 20/COP.13, 19/COP.14, 19/COP.15 and 18/COP.16 on knowledge sharing tools as well as decision 20/COP.15 on knowledge and technology transfer,

Also recalling article 18 of the Convention on the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology,

Noting the work done by the secretariat on developing tools for knowledge and technology transfer, inter alia, the knowledge hubs developed by the Global Mechanism for the Great Green Wall initiative and by the Group of 20 Global Land Initiative, the further development of the Drought Toolbox and the Sand and Dust Storms Toolbox, the Model Framework for Technology Transfer and the pilots conducted with DeserTech for the Great Green Wall initiative, as well as the Communities of Learning and Practice on Drought Management established in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership and the International Drought Resilience Alliance,

Acknowledging the continuing efforts by the secretariat and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of sustainable land management best practices, and in developing tools relevant to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders,

Welcoming the various projects implemented by the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies in collaboration with United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders globally,

Recognizing the potential of digitalization and artificial intelligence in facilitating knowledge sharing and technology transfer to accelerate sustainable land management, prevent and reverse land and soil degradation, combat desertification and increase drought resilience,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/3](#) and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties to continue to implement projects on knowledge and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, with the aim of fostering innovation and facilitating access to appropriate technology, including artificial intelligence, knowledge and know-how;
2. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Parties, as well as international bodies and the private sector, as mutually agreed and in accordance with their respective national legislations and/or policies, to continue to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology on voluntary and mutually agreed upon terms to developing country Parties, supporting the sustainable and efficient use, management and restoration of land, soil and water resources, thereby contributing to enhanced resilience;
3. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue the collaboration with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, thus facilitating an exchange of knowledge on sustainable land management between United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification stakeholders globally;
4. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other stakeholders to continue to submit cases of relevant best practices in order to increase the knowledge base on sustainable land management;
5. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Parties as well as other institutions to bring additional support for the implementation of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies strategy (WOCAT 2020+) through the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies Multi-Donor Basket Fund;
6. *Requests* the secretariat and Global Mechanism, subject to availability of funding, and initiatives such as Group of 20 Global Land Initiative and the International Drought

Resilience Alliance, considering their respective mandates, to support the increase of digitalization and the use of artificial intelligence within the institutions of the Convention, with the aim of supporting Parties in accessing data and information related to sustainable land management practices, land and soil restoration, and drought resilience;

7. *Also requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

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

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 19/COP.16,

Also recalling article 2 of the Convention stating that achieving the objective of the Convention will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus, inter alia, on the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level,

Further recalling article 18 of the Convention on the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technology,

Noting the guidance report developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, “Living soils, productive lands, resilient landscapes: Guidance on avoiding, reducing and reversing the degradation of agricultural lands and soils”,

Recognizing that agricultural lands and soils are central to achieving land degradation neutrality and food security and nutrition and that their degradation undermines the productive capacity of agrifood systems, the provision of ecosystem services and the resilience of rural livelihoods,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/4](#) and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties to apply the land degradation neutrality response hierarchy on agricultural lands and soils, prioritizing the avoidance of degradation, followed by the reduction of ongoing degradation and the reversal of past degradation through restoration and rehabilitation, and, where appropriate, to embed related assessment, planning and monitoring within existing integrated land use planning and other relevant national processes;
2. *Invites* Parties to design and implement national legal and policy frameworks that promote soil health and generate enabling conditions for the engagement of the private sector, farmers, herders, Indigenous peoples and local communities;
3. *Urges* Parties to pursue evidence-based approaches to avoiding, reducing and reversing degradation of agricultural lands and soils that strengthen the well-being and economic security of local communities, farmers and herders, such as agroecology, regenerative agriculture, organic agriculture, including, where appropriate, by supporting sustainable and diversified value chains, reducing food loss and waste, enabling the sustainable use of water resources and facilitating fair and inclusive access to markets, finance and knowledge for smallholders and other land users;
4. *Invites* Parties to strengthen the systemic enabling conditions for the sustainable management and restoration of agricultural lands and soils, including secure and equitable tenure, inclusive and responsible governance, policy coherence, institutional capacity development and adequate and accessible finance and investment, giving particular attention to the circumstances of small-scale producers, pastoralists, women, youth and other vulnerable groups;
5. *Encourages* Parties to engage the private sector as a contributor to the sustainable management and restoration of agricultural lands and soils, including by taking into account relevant private sector activities and business models when designing policies, monitoring, reporting and data frameworks and financial mechanisms;
6. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, under their respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources, and *invites* other relevant partners to assist interested Parties in identifying key enabling conditions for scaling private sector contributions to the sustainable management of agricultural lands and soils;

7. *Calls upon* Parties to inform their responses to the degradation of agricultural lands and soils with the forward-looking analysis of how climate, water availability and productivity, land suitability and agrifood systems may change over time, and, where appropriate, to use such analysis to anticipate future production needs and conditions, identify adaptation pathways and guide investments in land use, infrastructure and support services for agriculture;
8. *Encourages* Parties, in line with their national circumstances, needs and priorities, to use the guidance report, “Living soils, productive lands, resilient landscapes: Guidance on avoiding, reducing and reversing the degradation of agricultural lands and soils” and its companion compilation of activities accessible through the respective landing page of the artificial intelligence-enabled Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovations Outlook Knowledge Base when designing and implementing measures to avoid, reduce and reverse degradation of agricultural lands and soils, including through integrated land use planning, sustainable land use systems for land degradation neutrality, and integrated, diversified and resilient production systems across croplands, grazing lands and supporting ecosystems;
9. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, under their respective mandates, to continue supporting Parties to improve the health of agricultural lands and soils, considering: (i) biodiversity and climate change; (ii) integrated water management in agriculture to address drought and water stress; and (iii) the transition to sustainable food systems;
10. *Also requests* the secretariat, within its mandate and subject to the availability of resources, and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners, to disseminate and, as appropriate, update the guidance, its companion compilation of activities and the associated digital tools on the landing page, and to support Parties by facilitating, upon request, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, and collaborative approaches that help Parties identify, sequence and adapt activities, tools and practices to their national contexts;
11. *Also invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other technical partners to support Parties in strengthening national assessments, mapping agricultural lands and soils, and monitoring systems to effectively track changes in the health of agricultural lands and soils, identifying potential areas for restoration and investment, and also support Parties in mobilizing resources, including through the Global Environment Facility and other financial partners, to implement integrated land use planning, integrated land, soil and water management and the restoration of agricultural lands to achieve land degradation neutrality, soil health and productive and resilient agrifood systems;
12. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue to strengthen their collaboration with other United Nations entities and the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, within their respective mandates, and also continue exploring work through the Joint Liaison Group to promote the health of agricultural lands and soils, and the transition to sustainable food systems;
13. *Also requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties under policy frameworks.

IV. Procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16,

Acknowledging with appreciation the voluntary financial and in-kind contributions made by Parties and other stakeholders to support the work of the secretariat on the science agenda of the Convention, including the activities of the Science-Policy Interface,

Noting with appreciation the feasibility study on ways of ensuring adequate technical support for the Science-Policy Interface provided in document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/INF.2](#),

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#) and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

1. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, following the guidance and criteria established in decision 20/COP.16, and with the support of the secretariat, to renew the membership of the Science-Policy Interface for effective delivery of its 2027–2030 quadrennium work programme;
2. *Acknowledges* the procedures for receiving and prioritizing requests for the Science-Policy Interface work programme and the procedures for the preparation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification flagship reports and fast-track assessments, information products and advice developed by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, and *requests* the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to implement, and as needed, refine these procedures towards the delivery of future work programmes of the Science-Policy Interface, beginning with its 2027–2030 quadrennium work programme;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to develop and issue an open call, within six months of the closing of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, for Parties and relevant organizations to submit offers to host the technical support unit for the scientific assessment for and development of the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook over the 2027–2030 quadrennium, complementing the technical and administrative support provided by the secretariat and the scientific leadership provided by the Science-Policy Interface for the development of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification flagship reports;
4. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface to continue to foster partnerships with scientific bodies and institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders, and to invite the representatives of these entities to its meetings as external observers when feasible, as appropriate, with a view to strengthening and formalizing their collaboration;
5. *Requests* the secretariat to continue mobilizing voluntary contributions, partnership arrangements and in-kind contributions to support the work of the Science-Policy Interface, and to consider how this external resource mobilization could be further enhanced for the future four-year work programmes of the Science-Policy Interface;
6. *Encourages* Parties, international and financial organizations, private sector entities, scientific institutions and funds, and civil society organizations to consider contributing financially to enable the Science-Policy Interface to carry out its work in an optimal, effective manner;
7. *Requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

V. Science-policy recommendations resulting from the activities of the Science-Policy Interface

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16,

Also recalling the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, its vision for a future that minimizes and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels, and strives to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention and,

Further recalling article 2 of the Convention stating that achieving the objective of the Convention will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus, inter alia, on the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level,

Recalling the key message approved by the member states of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services that transformative change for a just and sustainable world is urgent and necessary to address the global interconnected crises related to biodiversity loss, nature's decline and the projected collapse of key ecosystem functions, and that delaying action to achieve global sustainability is costly compared to the benefits of taking action now,

Recognizing the need for information on the economic and business case for land and drought resilience to facilitate and guide policy and investment decisions in order to scale and co-finance sustainable land management and restoration, and set policy and incentive frameworks for achieving land degradation neutrality and food security,

Acknowledging the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its work programme for the 2025–2026 transition biennium, as well as support provided by the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/6](#) and the conclusions contained therein,

1. *Encourages* Parties to consider the land stewardship framework as a useful lens for strengthening the implementation of the Convention, recognizing that, without transformative change in how land and water resources are valued, governed and managed, the ambitions set by Parties to scale up sustainable land and water management practices, and drought resilience activities are likely to fall short;
2. *Also encourages* Parties to develop frameworks and road maps to conceptualize, implement and scale up nexus strategies and approaches that promote synergies among land restoration, biodiversity conservation, water security, food security, drought resilience, One Health, climate change and renewable energy in order to achieve enhanced outcomes for the global policy goals and targets related to each of these elements, and, in that context, to adopt nexus or integrated approaches to implementing sustainable land and water management and achieving land degradation neutrality at national and sub-national levels;
3. *Further encourages* Parties to adopt nexus governance approaches to transform current siloed modes of governance and policymaking into more integrative, inclusive, equitable, accountable, coordinated and adaptive approaches, supported by whole-of-society and whole-of-government engagement, including, as appropriate, strengthening policy coherence into a mix of policies, economic incentives, regulations and environmental standards aimed at promoting sustainable land and water management, drought resilience and synergies across nexus elements;
4. *Encourages* Parties to accelerate action on the ground to implement their restoration commitments, prioritizing high-risk ecosystems and activating policy and financing responses at the national level, and *invites* different partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the World Meteorological Organization, in

collaboration with the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, and subject to the availability of resources, to support Parties with early warning systems and climate information services that trigger anticipatory actions;

5. *Also encourages* Parties to request collaboration among the scientific bodies that are working to scientifically inform the Rio conventions, including the Science-Policy Interface, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in order to coordinate scientific activities and promote synergies in achieving the goals of the three conventions;

6. *Further encourages* Parties, in collaboration with relevant partners and institutions, to establish across all nexus elements including land a formally recognized national-level coalition or a similar intersectoral task force or working group composed of all relevant national stakeholders, including government, non-governmental partners, communities, academia and the private sector, committed to land transformation that would identify and prioritize synergistic nexus response options aimed at maximizing development and sustainability outcomes;

7. *Invites* the partner entities such as United Nations University, the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, in collaboration with the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Science-Policy Interface, and subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Develop a list of cost-effective nexus response options, together with criteria and guidance for their implementation, that promote integrated action and strengthen synergies in achieving the objectives of the Rio conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national and regional levels;

(b) Continue providing and facilitating the use of economic evidence for better land and drought resilience decisions and investments, developing standardized and cost-efficient tools, guidelines and datasets for cost-benefit analyses and investment targeting for land restoration, sustainable land management and drought resilience;

(c) Support the quantification of land degradation neutrality, drought resilience and broader nexus benefits, the assessment of investment needs and the cost-effectiveness of response options, and the development of tools and guidelines for a holistic assessment of nexus elements, including land, food, water, energy and promoting resilience to climate change risks, in order to encourage improved knowledge, cooperation and decision-making, including through the bundling and sequencing of response options;

(d) Compile environmental integrity standards for private investment, defining minimum ecological and social criteria for investments in land-based sectors and drought resilience; and

(e) Integrate these products into, among others and as appropriate, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies global sustainable land management database, the Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovations Outlook Knowledge Base and the International Drought Resilience Observatory;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this decision at the eighteenth session of the Committee for Science and Technology.

VI. Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027–2030 quadrennium

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 20/COP.16 and 21/COP.16,

Also recalling decision XX/COP.17 on procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in addressing its objectives and implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the 2027–2030 biennium,

Having considered document [ICCD/COP\(17\)/CST/5](#),

1. *Provisionally adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the 2027–2030 quadrennium, as contained in the annex to this decision, pending its update by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology with the assistance of the secretariat, according to decision XX/COP.17 on procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface, and following these priorities:

(a) The Science-Policy Interface scientifically leads the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, including the scoping;

(b) The Science-Policy Interface supports the development of fast-track assessments, information products and advice; and

(c) The Science-Policy Interface cooperates with other scientific bodies;

2. *Invites* Parties and technical and scientific institutions to provide, on a voluntary basis, data, expertise, knowledge and technical assistance to support the activities of the Science-Policy Interface for this quadrennium;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the agendas of the twenty-fifth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology an item for the consideration of priorities for science-policy guidance, with the aim of enabling Parties to provide feedback on the work of the Science-Policy Interface, with particular attention to contributing to the content of each flagship report;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Present a synthesis report on the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook at the nineteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(b) Also present a list and, where relevant and appropriate, links to fast-track assessments and information products, including, when appropriate, a concise set of policy-oriented recommendations, at both the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(c) Further present a synthesis report of the Science-Policy Interface coordination activities, including, when appropriate, a summary of key messages relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification drawn from the assessment reports approved in the processes of other intergovernmental science bodies during the 2027–2030 quadrennium, at the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the 2027–2030 quadrennium

Table 1
Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface 2027–2030 work programme

Objective/Deliverable	Activities
1. Contribute to the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 4) following the procedures in decision XX/COP.17.	With respect to GLO 4, the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will, inter alia: (a) Serve on its steering committee; (b) Contribute to its scoping; (c) Contribute to its authorship; (d) Ensure its quality assurance and scientific integrity; (e) Serve as its review editor; and (f) Contribute to its communications planning and promotion.
2. Produce fast-track assessments and information products following the procedures in decision XX/COP.17.	The SPI will respond to requests for fast-track assessments, information products and advice resulting from the work of the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties, Committee on Science and Technology and Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as well as the secretariat and the Global Mechanism.

Table 2
Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface over the 2027–2028 biennium

Activity	Sub-activities
1. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) within the framework of its rolling work programme up to 2030 and in accordance with the procedures established in the memorandum of cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).	The Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will follow up on developments relevant to the UNCCD regarding the IPBES rolling work programme up to 2030, including: (a) The methodological assessment of integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and ecological connectivity (spatial planning assessment); (b) The second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (second global biodiversity assessment). The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of these reports and will conduct an analysis of the key messages relevant to the UNCCD and present the results at the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology if these reports become available in time for the SPI to complete the analysis.
2. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its seventh assessment cycle (AR7).	The SPI will contribute to the scientific review of two AR7 contributions: (a) The contribution of Working Group II to the AR7 on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; and (b) The contribution of Working Group III to the AR7 on Mitigation of Climate Change.
3. Cooperate with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) within the framework of its work programme.	The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Sub-activities</i>
4. Cooperate with the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP IRP) within the framework of its mission.	The SPI will cooperate with the UNEP IRP on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the UNEP IRP, within the framework of its mission to provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance to the sustainable use of natural resources and, in particular, their environmental impacts over the full life cycle, and to contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
5. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which aims to achieve globally comparable monitoring of land governance by 2030.	The SPI will provide inputs to GLII and UNCCD efforts to ensure harmonization of land governance indicators and land degradation indicators, as relevant to both GLII and the UNCCD.
6. Cooperate with the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Water Partnership, on scientific issues related to drought.	The SPI will collaborate with the IDMP, on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the IDMP, on efforts to support governments and other stakeholders at all levels with the implementation of integrated drought management by providing technical and management guidance and by sharing scientific knowledge and best practices.

VII. Programme of work for the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 23 and 24 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 13/COP.8 and 21/COP.11 on reshaping the operations of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Further recalling decision 19/COP.12 on improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology, in particular paragraph 4 on the organization of its future sessions,

Recalling decision 20/COP.16 on the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface and decision XX/COP.17 on the procedures and technical support for the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface,

Bearing in mind the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular the implementation framework for the Committee on Science and Technology,

Taking note of the programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology, which focused on the operationalization of Science-Policy Interface processes and mechanisms and on facilitating thematic dialogue between Parties and the Science-Policy Interface,

1. *Decides* that the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should focus, *inter alia*, on the operationalization of the four-year work programme of the Science-Policy Interface adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session, including progress related to the fourth edition of the Global Land Outlook, fast-track assessments, information products and coordination activities with relevant intergovernmental scientific bodies, institutions and networks;
2. *Also decides* that the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should facilitate a focused thematic dialogue between Parties and the Science-Policy Interface on emerging scientific and technical issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention, taking into account inputs provided by Parties through intersessional meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention pursuant to decision 20/COP.16;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation, including progress reports, relevant scientific and technical outputs, a set of clear and concise recommendations and, where appropriate, draft decisions for consideration by Parties, in all six official languages of the United Nations, at least six weeks prior to the eighteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.