Decision 13/COP.17

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,

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

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,

Noting decision 20/COP.16 on the future functioning of the Science-Policy Interface and decision 11/COP.17,

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 considering participation of the science and technology correspondents 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 decisions 11/COP.17 and 12/COP.17;

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 arising from work as mandated by the Conference of the Parties 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.

14th plenary meeting
28 August 2026