



Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on the Science and Technology (CST)

Date: Saturday, 7 May 2022

Time: 13:00 – 15:00 (GMT)

Working language: English

Venue: CST Bureau Meeting Room: MET-05
Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

- Report -

1. The Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), Mr. Bongani Simon Masuku, welcomed all participants of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) meeting (see Annex I). The CST Chair noted that due to unforeseen circumstances, the individuals representing the Asia Group and the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Group during the intercessional period between CST14 and CST15 were unable to attend the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15). He noted that the CEE Group had formally met and confirmed they would not provide a substitute during CST15. He further noted that the Asia Group also met formally and determined they would be represented by Saudia Arabia for the 7 May 2022 meeting of the CST Bureau and that Bangladesh would serve on the Bureau for the rest of CST 15.
2. The CST Chair then introduced the UNCCD Deputy Executive Secretary (DES), Ms. Andrea Meza Murillo to give opening remarks. The DES welcomed all participants to the meeting. Being her first meeting in this capacity, she introduced herself. She expressed her gratitude for the efforts of the CST Bureau members, considering that over the course of the past biennium, they played two complementary and critical roles for the UNCCD. She noted that their service on the CST Bureau ensures their respective regions are provided timely information and advice on scientific and technological related matters. And through service on the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI), CST Bureau members contribute directly to the provision of evidence-based assessment of key issues identified by the COP, helping translate scientific results into policy proposals to facilitate the CST negotiations so that the Parties can make informed decisions. She expressed her appreciation for the considerable achievements of the SPI, notably (a) the policy recommendations resulting from scientific assessments on (i) integrated land use planning and landscape management for achieving land degradation neutrality, and (ii) approaches for monitoring and assessment on ecosystems and populations resilience to drought, (b) the conclusions and recommendations distilled from the SPI's comprehensive analysis of two IPCC reports, (c) quality assurance to the 2nd edition of the Global Land Outlook, (d) participation on the Intergovernmental Working Group on drought, and (e) scientific review of UNCCD methodologies for indicators on land, drought and gender.
3. The Chief of the Science, Technology and Innovation Unit (STI) of secretariat, Mr. Johns Muleso Kharika, highlighted the important role of the CST Bureau in bridging science



and policy, and in nurturing forward positive pathways in support of the process of negotiation. Recalling the availability of the secretariat in providing support to the work of the Bureau, the Chief of the STI wished the Bureau members a successful meeting.

I. Adoption of the agenda

4. Following introduction of the agenda items by the Chair of the CST, the provisional agenda was adopted without any amendments (see Annex II).

II. Update on COP/CST 15 and CRIC20 arrangements

5. The secretariat provided an updated overview of how the meetings of the COP/COW/CST/CRIC will be scheduled throughout the session, including information on the contact groups and special events relating to the schedule of work of CST.
6. The Bureau was informed that the fifteenth session of the CST (CST15) will be organized in such a way as to facilitate thematic dialogue between Parties and the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs and enable the formulation of concise policy-relevant recommendations.
7. The secretariat also presented an overview of the CST15, CRIC20 and COP15 arrangements (see annex III).

III. Update on arrangements of the plenary meetings of the CST

8. The secretariat presented the CST15 agenda¹ and daily meeting programme (see annex III), including the proposed name of speakers and time allocation made for i) the opening of the CST, ii) the thematic dialogue with SPI on item 2 (a) - (c): Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021 including its objective 1, objective 2 and coordination activities, and iii) plenary discussion on Item 3 (a)-(c) Interfacing science and policy and sharing knowledge, including science-policy interfacing, access to best practices, knowledge management hub, SPI work programme and information on modalities for reporting, as well as iv) the item 4 on procedural matters and the final meeting for adopting the report of the CST and election of the Vice-Chairs of the CST.
9. According to the CST15 schedule of work contained in the annex of the document ICCD/COP(10)/CST1¹, the CST Bureau was informed that the 5 envisioned plenary meetings are scheduled for 11 May in the afternoon, and 12 and 13 May in the morning and afternoon. For time and organizational reasons, the secretariat proposed an amendment to move the agenda Item 4 procedural matters from the 4th Plenary meeting scheduled for 13 May in the morning to the 3rd Plenary meeting in the afternoon of 12

¹ The fifteenth session of the CST (CST 15), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 11–13 May 2022. Item 1 (a) of the provisional agenda. https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2022-02/ICCD_COP%2815%29_CST_1-2201232E.pdf



May 2022. By this amendment, there will be no CST Plenary in the morning of 13 May, when the CST contact group can work on the draft decisions.

10. The secretariat has proposed a draft concept on daily plenary meeting arrangements. This concept includes identified speakers who will be provided with an indicative time allocation for their document introduction or presentation in a concise, focused, and efficient manner.
11. The discussion among CST Bureau members which followed focused on the contracted nature of the CST schedule of work when compared with past sessions of the CST. A number of proposals were put forward to respond to this challenge in order to optimize the time available without undermining the flow of the discussion that would follow secretariat and SPI introductions on each official document. It was noted that simultaneous translation during plenary sessions was important, and care should be taken to maximize this important service.

IV. Update on the proposed schedule of the contact group(s), and nomination of facilitators for the group(s)

12. An updated schedule for the CST contact group and the joint CST/CRIC contact group was presented. The challenge of limited time available for contact group sessions was discussed and options for making the best use of this time were tabled by CST Bureau members.
13. The CST Chair noted that an effective contact group facilitator could ensure effective use of the limited time available for contact group negotiations. He encouraged the Bureau members to consult their regions for candidates for the role of facilitator. It was decided that original deadline to identify suitable candidates during regional consultations would need to be extended to Monday, 9 May 2022 as many Science and Technology Correspondents (STCs) would be arriving late in Abidjan on Sunday evening.
14. The issue of STCs arriving at COP after the regional consultations were almost over was raised, the concern being that STCs would not benefit from presentations on CST documents prior to the commencement of CST 15, yet they are the ones who most needed empowerment on COP negotiations of a substantive issues.
15. The Bureau also discussed how to approach the facilitation of the joint CST/CRIC contact group and ultimately decided to go with a single facilitator, ideally the CRIC facilitator since the content of that document was directly related to national reporting.

V. Nominations for a new CST Bureau and consultations of the regions/interest groups on the nomination process



16. The CST Bureau was informed that regional implementation annexes and interest groups were notified of the need to nominate members to the Bureaux of the COP15 (the Chair of the CST will be a member of the COP Bureau) and the CST15. It was noted that the CST Bureau members may wish to consult with each other on nominations received and report back to their regions for further action, where needed. The Chief of the STI reviewed the historical rotation of the role of CST Chair, noting that if the rotation was maintained, Latin America would be invited to identify the next Chair. He explained that the election of the vice-Chairs would take place on the final day of CST15 Plenary, and the election of the Chair would occur on the final day of COP15 Plenary.
17. The CST Chair encouraged the CST Bureau members to consider gender balance among the representatives proposed when the nominations the next CST Bureau are made.

VI. Any other matters

18. The secretariat provided an update on the status of the UNCCD-SPI Science Day², scheduled to take place on Saturday, 14 May 2022, at the Rio Conventions Pavilion, the day immediately following the closing of the CST 15. It was expressed that the Science Day will focus on two overarching themes: (i) Land Restoration; and (ii) Drought.
19. The secretariat indicated that provisions had been made for the CST Bureau to hold meetings any day during CST15 in the 13:00 – 15:00, on an as-needed basis. The CST Chair noted that original plans called for a meeting of the Bureau on Friday, 13 May where, following past practice, incoming CST Bureau members would be invited to meet the outgoing CST Bureau members. Noting, however, the limited time available during CST15, consideration would be given to scheduling an informal virtual meeting between the CST15 and CST 16 Bureaux members sometime after COP15.

Closing of the meeting

20. The meeting ended with closing remarks by the CST Chair in which he thanked the Bureau members for their time and guidance.

² Science Day at COP15. <https://www.unccd.int/cop15/science-day-cop15#:~:text=The%20UNCCD%20SPI%20Science%20Day,on%20Saturday%2C%2014%20May%202022.>



Annex I. List of Participants

COUNTRY	REGION
Bongani Simon Masuku (CST Chair)	Africa Group
Amal Daej Aldaej (CST Vice-Chair)	Asia Group
Pablo Viegas (CST Vice-Chair)	Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
Anna Luise (CST Vice-Chair)	Western Europe and Other Groups

UNCCD Secretariat
Andrea Meza Murillo
Johns Muleso Kharika
Barron Joseph Orr
Maxime Thibon
Furkan Dosdogru
Lawrencia Eposi
Vittoria Semplici



Annex II. Provisional Agenda

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- Provisional Agenda -

- I.** Adoption of the Agenda
- II.** Update on COP/CST 15 and CRIC20 arrangements
- III.** Update on CST 15 plenary meetings arrangements
- IV.** Update on proposed schedule of the contact group(s), nomination of facilitators for the group(s)
- V.** Nominations for a new CST Bureau and consultations of the regions/interest groups on the nomination processes.
- VI.** Any other matters

