

REPORT OF THE CST10 BUREAU MEETING

20 FEBRUARY 2013 (TELECONFERENCE)

Date: Wednesday, 20 February 2013

Venue: Teleconference

Working hours: Germany/Sweden: 13:30 – 15:30
Brazil: 10:30 – 12:30
Democratic Republic of Congo: 13:30 – 15:30
Italy: 13:30 – 15:30
Pakistan: 17:30 – 19:30
Ukraine: 14:30 – 16:30

Working language: English

- REPORT -

1. The chair of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) opened the teleconference and welcomed all participants. All CST Bureau members as listed in Annex I to this report participated to the conference call. In addition, the chair of the AGTE, Dr. Gunilla Bjoerklund, as well as the chair of the AGSA, Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, joined the teleconference.

1) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. After the presentation of the provisional agenda by the CST chair, the agenda was adopted by the chair (Annex II).

2) Progress report of the ad hoc working group to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues (presentation from the Chair of the AGSA, Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster) - (15 min presentation + 35 min discussion)

3. The chair of the CST Bureau gave the floor to the chair of the AGSA who recalled the report on the progress made by the AGSA, presented to the CST Bureau at its last meeting held on 29-30 October 2012¹.

¹ Agenda item 6 of the report of the CST Bureau meeting held on 29-30 October 2012 in Bonn, Germany:
http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/CST/Report%20CST%20BM_29-30Oct2012.pdf

4. The chair of the AGSA outlined that during the period November 2012 - February 2013, the AGSA had its second meeting which took place on 10-11 December 2012 in Bonn, Germany², which displayed a great opportunity to further enhance the work of the group and the process in order “to set up an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) issues, taking into account the regional approach of the UNCCD”³. The objectives of the AGSA’s second meeting were to: (a) have the opportunity to discuss face to face the latest findings of the eleven component teams; (b) achieve as much consensus as possible on paragraphs for each of the eleven components; and (c) discuss and decide on a way forward and the next steps up to the CST S-3.

5. The AGSA chair presented to the members of the CST Bureau the initial agreements and conclusions on the 11 components⁴ of an integrated scenario for the provision of scientific advice on DLDD issues to the UNCCD. The chair of the AGSA outlined that within the coming months, the leaders of each component will work on finalizing their detailed analyses to integrate suggestions received from other AGSA members, giving full consideration to links and cross-references between the components, as well as they will take into account the comments brought forward by the members of the CST Bureau.

6. The chair of the AGSA explained that, based on the ToR of the AGSA, three products will be prepared by the AGSA before the eleventh session of the Conference of the Party (COP 11), which are:

- a) an official pre-session document for CST 11 which will contain conclusions and recommendations of the AGSA on how to best provide scientific advice to the UNCCD focusing on DLDD issues,
- b) an official pre-session information document (.INF) for CST 11 (in English only) which will include detailed information on the background, mandate, methodologies, the comprehensive analysis and proposal of the components of an integrated scenario for the provision on scientific advice, etc,
- c) an informal detailed analysis of each of the eleven components (approximately 15 pages per component), planned to be posted on the UNCCD website.

7. The two official documents for the CST 11 will be prepared within the requested timeframe for the COP documentation, whereas the informal detailed analysis of each of the eleven components will be finalized in due time before COP 11.

8. The chair of the AGSA outlined that since the last progress report the main challenge was to prepare one report which is based on 11 components that have been individually drafted

² Report of the 2nd meeting of the AGSA:

http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/science/Report_2nd%20AGSA%20meeting_10-11Dec2012.pdf

³ See ToR of AGSA: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/science/ToR_AGSA_final.pdf

⁴ See Annex 6 of the AGSA Report of first meeting on 30-31 July 2012 in Bonn, Germany:

<http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/science/Report%20on%20the%20first%20meeting%20of%20the%20AGSA.pdf>

by different AGSA members. The main concern is to reach agreement among all 12 AGSA members on the draft conclusions and recommendations under each of the 11 components.

9. In order to further discuss and reach consensus on paragraphs which still need the agreement of the whole group, it was requested by the chair of the AGSA to consider the possibility of having a third physical meeting of the AGSA, tentatively end of April 2013. The secretariat will consider and discuss the issue of a third physical meeting based on the availability of funds.

10. The chair of the AGSA additionally highlighted the importance of having editorial support for the finalization of draft conclusions and recommendations, as well as the group would welcome further support regarding information mining on targeted issues.

11. The members of the CST Bureau and the secretariat congratulated the AGSA on the excellent work that has been done so far and resulting outputs were perceived in a positive manner.

12. In addition the CST Bureau put forward several comments. Among others:

- a) They acknowledged the three elements proposed by the AGSA to provide scientific advice to the UNCCD on DLDD issues. In this respect, the members of the CST Bureau advised to highlight how the AGSA came up with the suggested elements based on the analysis of the 4 options discussed by the COP at its tenth session (COP 10).
- b) It was recommended to include the three suggested elements under each component and describe further how they would interact with each other.
- c) CST Bureau members recommended defining how the regional element will be linked to the other ones, and how Thematic Programme Networks (TPNs) will be integrated in this proposed framework.
- d) The issue was raised of whether these elements, shaping an integrated scenario, should already bear a name, or if it would be better to leave the choice to the COP.
- e) It was suggested to further work on clarifying some overlaps and redundancies between some of the components, and establishing links with similar existing organizations/networks.

3) Progress report of the ad hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts (AGTE) on Impact Indicator Refinement (presentation from the Chair of the AGTE, Dr. Gunilla Björklund) - (15 min presentation + 35 min discussion)

13. The chair of the CST Bureau gave the floor to the chair of the AGTE who recalled the report on progress made by the AGTE presented to the CST Bureau at its last meeting held on 29-30 October 2012⁵. During the period November 2012 – January 2013, the AGTE members

⁵ Agenda item 5 of the report of the CST Bureau meeting held on 29-30 October 2012 in Bonn, Germany:
http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/CST/Report%20CST%20BM_29-30Oct2012.pdf

have been further developing the four working papers⁶ on the four main areas of work under the guidance of four coordinating authors identified among the AGTE members at the first meeting.

14. The chair of the AGTE highlighted that a first draft of the four working papers was presented and discussed at the second AGTE meeting on 21-22 January 2013. The four working papers were still at different levels of development. The meeting therefore was aiming at: i) discussing how to further improve each working paper by focusing on the identification of conclusions, open questions and recommendations; ii) identifying redundancies, cross-references and synergies between working papers; iii) agreeing on preliminary conclusions and recommendations to be presented at the CST S-3.

15. The chair of the AGTE outlined that a zero draft of preliminary recommendations and their rationale prepared by the secretariat and its resource person is being circulated among AGTE members, for further discussion, inputs and amendments.

16. The chair of the AGTE outlined that there are two outputs by the group until CST 11.

a) The first output will be a peer-reviewed working paper on the aforementioned four main areas of work, which will constitute the scientific evidence base for the conclusions and recommendations. It will be subject to internal peer-review (within the AGTE) in April – May 2013 and to external peer-review (by identifying two or three external reviewers per chapter) in June – July 2013.

b) The second output will be a report containing precise and workable recommendations on the four topics for consideration by the CST 11, translated in all 6 UN languages. The chair of the AGTE also outlined that during the month of April, the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the AGTE - based on the scientific evidence of the peer-reviewed working paper - will be made available by email or official letter to all National Focal Points, Science and Technology correspondents and other stakeholders for comments. Parties will also have the possibility to discuss these preliminary recommendations at the occasion of the CST S-3 where the AGTE Chair will present a progress report.

17. The members of the CST Bureau and the secretariat congratulated the AGTE on the excellent work that has been done so far and that resulting outputs have been perceived in a positive manner.

18. In addition the members of the CST Bureau put forward the following recommendations:

a) As already clarified in previous steps of the scientific peer- review process for the refinement of impact indicators, the set of impact indicators, when taken together, should provide insights on the progress made towards the achievement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Care should be taken to avoid confusion and clarify interactions between impact of the implementation of the Convention and impacts of DLDD.

b) The external peer review of the first output (the peer-reviewed working paper) should preferably be conducted by following *proper peer review* procedures; the use of two or three

⁶ See report of the 2nd AGTE meeting: http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Science/Monitoring-Assessment/Documents/AGTE_2ndMeeting_Report.pdf

external reviewers per chapter could also be considered a valid option, but the identification of qualified peer reviewers would be key in the delivery of a high-quality outcome;

c) The conclusions and recommendations of the AGTE could be presented and discussed at the regional meetings preparatory to CST 11.

19. The AGTE should follow up the cooperation with the working group in charge of the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy (IWG)

4) Other matters

20. Following the recommendation of the secretariat, the CST Bureau agreed to also discuss the Input from the CST to the CRIC on the review and assessment of scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

21. The secretariat recalled that, at its meeting on 29 and 30 October 2012,⁷ the Bureau of the CST had discussed the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate the review by the CST of scientific information relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6..⁸ Since the above-mentioned document may not have been available in all six official languages of the United Nations in time for CST S-3 in February 2013, in Brazil, because of the delayed reporting deadline, and due to the limited time available for CST S-3 to review such information owing to its heavy agenda and programme of work, it had been proposed that on an exceptional basis the CST Bureau (expanded by induction of additional technical expertise specifically related to the actual reporting exercise on impact indicators) be mandated by the CST to undertake, after CST S-3, the task described in decision 12/COP.9, paragraph 2. This proposal had been agreed upon by the CST Bureau and endorsed by the COP Bureau at its meeting on 5–6 November 2012.

22. Due to the change of date and venue of the CST S-3 and considering that the CST S-3 will be held back to back with the CRIC 11 in April 2013, this option doesn't apply anymore. It was therefore proposed by the secretariat that, during the morning of the first day of the CST S-3 under agenda item 4,⁹ an open-ended contact group be convened to undertake this task. The contact group would meet in the sidelines of the CST S-3 to discuss the topic and produce a sound input to be presented to the CST S-3 during its last day of the session, for endorsement by the Parties. Following this procedure, a CST in-session document could be translated in all UN official languages and made available to the CRIC 11.

⁷ Agenda item 3 of the report of the CST Bureau meeting on 29-30 October 2012 in Bonn, Germany: http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/CST/Report%20CST%20BM_29-30Oct2012.pdf

⁸ Decision 12/COP.9 requests the CST to contribute to the work of the CRIC by reviewing and assessing scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

⁹ Agenda item 4 of the CST S-3: "Review and assessment of scientific information from Parties, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)"

23. The CST Bureau acknowledged that there is evidently no other option than to convene a contact group who will deliver the input from the CST S-3 to the CRIC 11 as outlined in the paragraphs above. The CST Bureau requested the secretariat to send possible operational modalities of work of the contact group to the CST Bureau for its comments and agreement.

24. Under the same agenda item “other matters”, the secretariat also provided feedback on the first meeting of the IPBES (IPBES-1) which was also attended by the WEOG CST Bureau vice-chair on behalf of the Bureau, as agreed in the Bureau meeting of October 29-30, 2012. It was highlighted that a UNCCD feedback on the IPBES-1 was due to be sent to the IPBES secretariat by the UNCCD secretariat on behalf of the CST Bureau by 28 February 2013.

5) Next Meeting

25. It was agreed that the next meeting of the CST Bureau will take place back-to-back with the CST S-3 and is tentatively planned on Monday 8 April 2013. The possibility of having daily CST Bureau meetings during the session of the CST S-3 could be discussed on an ad-hoc basis.

List of Annexes:

Annex I – List of participants

Annex II – Agenda

Annex I – List of Participants

List of Participants to the CST10 Bureau Meeting 20 February 2013 (Teleconference)

CST Bureau		
	Country (Region)	Address
Mr. Antonio Rocha Magalhães (Chair)	Brazil (Latin America and the Caribbean Group)	CGEE-Centre for Strategic Studies and Management Ministry of Science and Technology SCN Quadra 2, Bloco A, Ed. Corporate Financial Center 11° anda, Sala 1102 CEP 70712-900-Brasilia DF, Brazil Email: armagalhaes@gmail.com; antoniom@cgee.org.br
Dr. Jean Ndembo Longo (Vice-Chair)	Democratic Rep. of Congo (Africa Group)	Ministère de l'Environnement Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme 35 Avenue Pumbu Gombe Kinshasa, République Démocratique du Congo Cell: +243 815429922, Fax: +243 815553305 Email: jndelongo@yahoo.fr
Mr. Stefan Sommer (Vice-Chair & Rapporteur)	Italy (Western Europe and other Groups)	European Commission Joint Research Centre Institute for Environment and Sustainability Land Resource Management Unit via Enrico Fermi, 2749 21027ISPRA Varese, Italy Email: stefan.sommer@jrc.ec.europa.eu
Dr. Amjad Tahir Virk (Vice-Chair)	Pakistan (Asia & the Pacific Group)	National Project Coordinator Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP) Ministry of Disaster Management Government of Pakistan House 7, Street 62, G-6/4 Islamabad, Pakistan Email: amjadvirk@slmp.org.pk, virk@gmail.com
Dr. Yuriy Kolmaz (Vice-Chair)	Ukraine (Eastern European Group)	Head of Land Resources Division Ministry of Environmental Protection 35 Urytskogo Street 03035 Kyiv, Ukraine Email: saveland@menr.gov.ua, kolmaz@ukr.net

AGTE		
Dr. Gunilla Bjoerklund (Chair of the AGTE)	Ad hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts (AGTE) on Impact Indicator Refinement (AGTE)	GeWa Consulting Marmorv. 16A SE-75244 Uppsala, Sweden Tel: : +46-18-516522 Email: Gunilla.bjoerklund@telia.com

AGSA		
<p>Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster (Chair of the AGSA)</p>	<p>Ad hoc working group to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice (AGSA)</p>	<p>Secretariat DesertNet International c/o University of Hamburg Ohnhorststr. 18 22609 Hamburg, GERMANY Tel: +49 30 67055 7911 Email: mariam.akhtar-schuster@t-online.de, mariam.akhtar-schuster@dlr.de</p>

UNCCD		
<p>Elysabeth David (Secretary to the CST Bureau)</p>	<p>UNCCD Secretariat</p>	<p>Coordinator, Knowledge Management, Science and Technology Unit (KMST) UNCCD Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10 D-53113 Bonn, GERMANY Tel: +49 (228) 815 2834 Email: edavid@unccd.int</p>

ANNEX II – Agenda

Meeting of the CST10 Bureau (teleconference)

Date: Wednesday, 20 February 2013

Venue: Teleconference

Working hours: Germany/Sweden: 13:30 – 15:30
Brazil: 10:30 – 12:30
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Working language: English

- AGENDA -

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- 2) Progress report of the ad hoc Advisory Group of Technical Experts (AGTE) on Impact Indicator Refinement (presentation from the Chair of the AGTE, Dr. Gunilla Björklund) - (15 min presentation + 35 min discussion)
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- 4) Other matters
- 5) Next meeting