

REPORT OF THE CST BUREAU MEETING 4 – 6 FEBRUARY 2014 IN BONN, GERMANY

Date: Tuesday, 4 February 2014
Wednesday, 5 February 2014
Thursday, 6 February 2014

Venue: UN Campus - Langer Eugen
Meeting Room: LEU 2712
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany

Working language: English

Working hours: Tuesday: 10:00 –13:00, 14:30 –18:00
Wednesday: 14:30 –18:00
Thursday: 9:30 – 20:00

- REPORT -

I. Welcoming

1. The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat, Ms. Monique Barbut and the Chair of the CST, opened the meeting and welcomed the newly elected CST 11 Bureau members (see attached list). Then the CST Bureau members introduced themselves. The Vice-Chair for Asia Group was not able to attend the CST bureau meeting, however he provided via email his input and comments to the various documents that were discussed during the meeting.

II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. After the presentation of the provisional agenda by the Chair, the agenda was adopted as outlined in Annex II.

3. The CST Bureau jointly appointed Dr. Matthias Magunda, CST Vice-Chair for Africa Group as rapporteur.

III. Science in the UNCCD

4. The Executive Secretary had an exchange of views with the CST Bureau members on the topic of science in the UNCCD, as well as on other CST related matters. The Executive Secretary particularly addressed the issue of refreshing the scientific objectives proposed for the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference and discussing potential synergies between the three Rio Conventions in the context of adaption. Furthermore she emphasized the cooperative opportunities with scientific bodies like the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which has planned to undertake an assessment on land degradation and restoration and highlighted the importance of simplifying the way science is presented and dealt with in the Convention.

IV. Presentation of COP decisions involving the CST

5. The chair gave the floor to the secretariat to present a summary of decisions adopted at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP.11) concerning the work programme of the CST for the present biennium and highlighted other COP.11 decisions that have an impact on the work of the Committee.

V. Provision of Scientific Advise under the UNCCD

6. In order to start the discussions relevant for this agenda item, the chair invited the secretariat to present decision 23/COP.11 in which the COP decided to establish a Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought.

7. In addition the same decision mandates the SPI to interact with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and to support the CST Bureau in the contributions to the IPBES process.

a) Contribution to the IPBES

8. The UNCCD secretariat briefed the CST Bureau on the outcomes of IPBES-2 held in Antalya, Turkey from 9 - 14 December 2014, the objectives and deliverables of the 2014 – 2018 work programme of the IPBES including the assessment on “Land Degradation & Restoration”, as well as the way for UNCCD to contribute to the IPBES’ ongoing processes and requests.

9. The CST Bureau discussed the role of UNCCD to the IPBES and in particular the UNCCD contributions through the SPI to the IPBES’ assessment on “Land Degradation & Restoration” and to other relevant activities of the IPBES work programme. Discussions also took place related to the call for experts of the IPBES (to be launched in March 2013) on the aforementioned IPBES assessment. CST Bureau members also discussed the need to clarify the role of the MEAs in the IPBES process.

b) Organization of the Science and Policy Interface (SPI) and preparation for its 1st meeting

10. Based on paragraph 10 of decision 23/COP.11 which outlines that the CST Bureau is requested to develop and adopt the terms of reference of the SPI, the secretariat was invited to introduce the draft terms of reference of the SPI and other documents it had prepared (draft call for scientists, draft application form, draft modalities of selection, draft code of conduct and draft conflict of interest policy).

11. The CST Bureau reviewed and thoroughly discussed the respective documentation, making amendments as necessary. The CST Bureau endorsed the terms of reference as attached in Annex III to this report, the modalities of selection including the requirements and criteria for selection of scientists (Annex IV), as well as the code of conduct (Annex V) and the conflict of interest policy (Annex VI).

12. The CST Bureau requested the secretariat to post the call for scientists and the application form on 14 February 2014 for two months on the UNCCD website and proceed according to the agreed process as outlined in the modalities of selection.

13. The first meeting of the SPI will be held from 25th to 26th June 2014. The CST Bureau reviewed and discussed the content of the planned agenda as well as possible elements for its work programme for the period 2014-2015.

VI. Reporting process on progress indicators

14. Due to the time needed for the review of all documents of the SPI, the remaining time, during this meeting, was not enough to cover this agenda item.

VII. Roster of Experts

15. Based on the priorities defined by the Parties at COP.11 concerning the Roster of Independent Experts (RoE) (decision 26/COP.11), the secretariat highlighted the list of disciplines and thematic areas as agreed by Parties at COP.11 and drew the attention of the CST Bureau to the deadline (31 March 2014) of the ongoing validation process of experts in the roster. The CST Bureau was informed that 60 percent have been validated so far after sending letters to all country Parties requesting for updates regarding experts' names and credentials.

16. Pursuant to the presentation by the secretariat, the CST Bureau discussed the usage and benefits of the RoE and possible incentives for experts applying to become members on the RoE.

VIII. UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference

17. The secretariat briefed the CST Bureau on matters related to the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference and highlighted the withdrawal of the offer of a host country and elaborated on the current discussions concerning a new host country offer for the conference. In addition, the

financial challenges (despite the in-kind contributions by the consortium STK4SD) to organize the conference were addressed.

18. More discussions on the organization of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference will take place at the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference to be held back-to-back with the next CST Bureau meeting at the end of June 2014. The first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) will be held from 11-13 March 2014 in Montpellier, France.

IX. Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP)

19. The chair gave an opportunity to the representative of the secretariat who presented how the newly created Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal works as a “portal of portals” that connects existing DLDD repositories which are made accessible by partner organizations through a search engine to simplify access to DLDD scientific information and good practices, scientific knowledge and case studies.

20. According to decision 24/COP.11 on “Improvement of knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories”, the secretariat outlined the status of implementation of the pilot phase, the expected outputs, the goals for 2014 – 2015 and the next steps to be taken in this process.

21. The presentation of the secretariat was followed by an exchange of views among CST Bureau members.

X. Best practices

22. A representative of the secretariat introduced the topic of best practices on sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation. Decision 17/COP.11 was recalled in which the Parties requested the secretariat to, inter alia, a) identify the services that primary recommended institutions and databases should deliver, b) complete the selection of the primary recommended database for SLM best practices, and c) conclude the required administrative and legal arrangements in order to transfer data and information stored in PRAIS database, to the primary recommended database. The secretariat also updated the CST Bureau on the selection of the primary recommended database for best practices on SLM.

23. The CST Bureau members had a brief exchange of views on the subject matter at hand in order to prepare for the joint meeting of the CRIC- and CST Bureau (morning of 5 February 2014).

XI. Other matters

24. **Meeting with representatives of the CSO panel:** On Thursday morning, the CST Bureau briefly met with the Chair and representatives of the CSO panel in order to exchange views on CST related matters and in particular on the SPI. In this context, one representative shall be an observer to the SPI and the Chair of the CSO panel introduced how the CSOs intend to select their representative.

II. Next meeting

25. The next meeting of the CST 11 Bureau will tentatively take place on 24 June 2014 back-to-back with the first meeting of the SPI. The UNCCD secretariat will confirm the date and venue in due course.

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Annex I – List of participants

Annex II – Agenda

Annex III – Terms of reference of the Science-Policy Interface

Annex IV – Modalities of selection

Annex V – Code of conduct

Annex VI – Conflict of interest policy

ANNEX I

List of Participants to the CST Bureau Meeting 4 - 6 February 2014, Bonn, Germany

	Region	Address
CST Bureau		
Prof. Uriel Safriel (CST Chair)	Western Europe and Other Groups	Centre for Environmental Conventions Ben-Gurion University of the Negev The Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research 84990 Midreshet Ben-Gurion Israel Tel: +972 54 725 3646 Fax: +972 80 604 6986 E-mail: uriel36@gmail.com
Dr. Matthias Magunda (CST Vice-Chair and Rapporteur)	Africa Group	National Agricultural Research Institution P.O.Box 7065 Kampala Uganda Tel: +256 414-567696 Fax: +256 414-567226/567649 Email: landuse@infocom.co.ug; matmagunda@yahoo.com
Ms Sonia Gonzalez (CST Vice-Chair)	Latin America and Caribbean Group	Department of Environmental Research and Information Ministry of Environment Javier Prado 1440 San Isidro, Lima Peru Tel: +511 6116000 Ext 1330-1335 Fax: +511 6116000 Ext 1634 Email: sgonzales@minam.gob.pe; pcolibris@yahoo.com
Prof Dr. Hamid Čustović (CST Vice-Chair)	Central and Eastern European Group	Department Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science Institute of Soil Science University of Sarajevo Zmaja Od Bosne 8, 71000 Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina Tel: +387 33225727/61775211 Fax: +387 667429 Email: custovic.hamid@gmail.com
UNCCD		
Elysabeth David (Secretary to the CST)	UNCCD Secretariat	Knowledge Management, Science and Technology Unit (KMST) UNCCD Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn Germany Tel: +49 228 815 2834 Fax: +49 228 815 2898/99 Email: edavid@unccd.int
Excused		
Mr. Oleg Guchgeldiyev (CST Vice-Chair)	Asia Group	Biodiversity Strategy Development Project UNDP/GE, Ministry of nature protection 1994 St. 19-12 Ashgabat 744000 Turkmenistan Email: Oguich@yahoo.com; o.guchgeldiev@gmail.com

ANNEX II – Agenda

Bureau meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology

Date: Tuesday, 4 February 2014
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- AGENDA -

- I. Welcoming
- II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
- III. Science in the UNCCD
- IV. Presentation of COP decisions involving the CST
- V. Provision of Scientific Advice under the UNCCD:
 - a. Contribution to the IPBES
 - b. Organization of the Science and Policy Interface (SPI) and preparation of its 1st meeting
- VI. Reporting process on progress indicators
- VII. Roster of Experts
- VIII. UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference
- IX. Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP)
- X. Best practices
- XI. Other matters
- XII. Next meeting

ANNEX III

TERMS OF REFERENCE of the Science–Policy Interface (SPI)

Table of contents

- 1) Background
- 2) Mandate
- 3) Scope and activities
- 4) Composition
- 5) Modalities of work
- 6) Role of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- 7) Governance

1) BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with decision 23/COP.11, paragraph 1, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to establish a Science–Policy Interface (SPI) to facilitate a two-way science–policy dialogue and ensure the delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD).

2) MANDATE

2. In accordance with decision 23/COP.11, paragraph 23, the mandate of the SPI is to:
- i. Establish the approach to deliver each task assigned to it by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST);
 - ii. Analyse, synthesize and translate relevant scientific findings and recommendations from DLDD-related scientific conferences, including upcoming UNCCD scientific conferences, the roster of independent experts, as well as from relevant stakeholders and networks into proposals to be considered by the CST for the consideration of the COP;
 - iii. Interact with existing multiple scientific mechanisms, in particular the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils and other new and existing scientific networks and platforms; and

- iv. Assist the Bureau of the CST in organizing the UNCCD scientific conferences and assessing their results.
3. The SPI will operate up to the end of the thirteenth session of the COP, at which time it will be reviewed.

3) SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES

4. The SPI shall:
- a. Identify needs for the scientific and/or technological knowledge requirements for implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and/or making it a global authority on science and technology relating to DLDD issues;
 - b. Explore and select mechanisms to address the prioritized identified needs and/or needs brought to the attention of the SPI by the CST, such as existing and/or new assessment processes, research activities and other mechanisms operated by relevant existing and/or new institutions, organizations and other relevant entities at either global, regional or national level (such as an independent consortium of scientist networks and regional science and technology platforms, among other things);
 - c. Initiate, support and follow up on the implementation of the selected mechanisms for knowledge acquisition;
 - d. Analyse, synthesize and translate the results obtained (see paragraph 4.c.) into a language that is comprehensible to policymakers and decision-makers, thus enabling, promoting and facilitating the use of the scientific and technological findings for DLDD-relevant policy-/decision making; and
 - e. Provide requested support to the Bureau of the CST.

4) COMPOSITION

5. The SPI shall be composed of 20 members and 3 observers. Taking into account paragraph 3 above, the duration of membership to the SPI will end at the end of the thirteenth session of the COP.
6. In accordance with decision 23/COP.11, paragraph 4, the membership of the SPI shall comprise: (1) members of the Bureau of the CST; (2) five scientists, one nominated by each region; (3) ten scientists selected by the Bureau of the CST through an open call taking into account regional and disciplinary balance; and (4) three observers: one from a civil society organization, one from an international organization and one from a relevant United Nations organization.

7. The SPI shall be co-chaired by the Chair of the Bureau of the CST and a scientist elected by all the members of the SPI from among the 15 scientists mentioned in paragraph 6.
8. In case the scientist who is co-chairing the SPI resigns or is unable to perform or complete her/his assigned tasks and functions, the members of the SPI shall choose another member to replace her/him. Until a new chair is elected, the other Co-Chair serves as the only acting Chair.
9. If a scientist of the SPI resigns, s/he will be replaced by an alternate using the same procedure of appointment.
10. The Rapporteur of the SPI will be appointed at its first meeting.

5) MODALITIES OF WORK

11. The official working language of the SPI is English only.
12. The mode (i.e. physical meeting or teleconference), dates and duration of the SPI meetings will be defined by the Co-Chairs of the SPI in consultation with the UNCCD secretariat in line with the available budgetary resources. However, no more than two physical meetings should be held per year and shall take place in Bonn unless a Party/institution makes an offer to host the meeting and bear the associated costs. Physical meetings of the SPI shall also take advantage of the meetings of the Bureau of the CST or any other suitable occasion linked to the schedule of other UNCCD meetings or conferences.
13. Members of the SPI shall attend each meeting physically or electronically. If, due to circumstances beyond their control, a member is unable to attend a meeting fully or partially, s/he shall, through the secretariat, immediately inform the Co-Chairs of this fact. Input from the absent members shall be provided via electronic means.
14. Should any member fail to fulfill her/his assignments and/or to attend three consecutive meetings of the SPI, s/he will be replaced by an alternate.
15. Travel costs and the daily subsistence allowances (DSAs) will be covered for all members in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.
16. Institutional partners or individual experts might be invited to participate in the meetings/discussions of the SPI on an ad hoc basis and based on a proposal from the Co-Chairs.
17. The Co-Chairs are responsible for coordinating the work of the group during and between meetings and for facilitating a free exchange of views and information among members and between the secretariat and members.
18. Only the Co-Chairs of the SPI are permitted to sign and send letters and other official communications from the SPI to other entities.
19. The SPI will be responsible for developing the work programme for its first biennium of operation (2014–2015). For the biennium 2016–2017, the SPI will present its draft work programme to the CST for submission to the COP for its approval/endorsement.

20. The SPI will report to the COP at each session on progress made and the status of implementation of its tasks and obligations, including precise and workable recommendations, with a view to seeking guidance for its next steps and activities.
21. The SPI will communicate updates to the process through UNCCD mechanisms.
22. The UNCCD secretariat will be the sole owner and possess all rights, titles and interest in all proprietary intellectual property, including copyrights for methodologies and products developed and delivered by the SPI and its members. The secretariat will duly acknowledge and/or share, as appropriate, any copyright with SPI members that have contributed to a particular output. No special permission from the copyright holder is required for the reproduction, distribution and/or co-sharing of the said methodologies and products, provided that the source is acknowledged and that no alterations are made to the original work. Once the secretariat authorizes the reproduction, distribution and/or co-sharing of the methodologies and products, they will be in the public domain subject to proper acknowledgement of the source and any limitation stipulated by the secretariat as appropriate.

6) ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

23. The UNCCD secretariat will provide administrative and secretariat support to the work of the SPI, including to its meetings as needed. Tasks include:
 - Inviting the members and observers to the meetings of the SPI pursuant to the date and venue of a meeting of the SPI, arranging the travel arrangements of the members and funded invitees and providing a daily subsistence allowance as required;
 - Preparing the provisional agenda in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the SPI and handling the related substantive documentation prepared by the SPI;
 - Assisting the Rapporteur in the preparation of the reports (including the list of participants) of each meeting;
 - Maintaining, reviewing and continuously updating the SPI website/webpage;
 - Making arrangements for meetings of the SPI;
 - Providing legal support as required; and
 - Communicating with other entities through official channels as required.

7) GOVERNANCE

24. The SPI will operate in accordance with COP decisions pertaining to its activities.
25. Decisions of the SPI shall be made by consensus. The Co-Chairs will moderate discussions among the SPI members and help them achieve consensus. If no consensus is reached, decisions on procedural matters shall be taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting. Decisions on matters of substance shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If a question arises as to whether a matter is one of a procedural or substantive nature, the decision shall be taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting. Any other matter not foreseen in this paragraph will be decided in accordance with the standard practice of the United Nations.
26. The two Co-Chairs of the SPI have the same power and will jointly ensure the compliance of all SPI members with the terms of reference. The two Co-Chairs remain, through the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, under the authority of the COP.
27. All disputes arising out of or in connection with the work of SPI members will be settled in line with the code of conduct and the conflict of interest policy of the SPI. Compliance with the code of conduct and the conflict of interest policy and its implementation procedures is mandatory. An individual is not allowed to participate in the work of the SPI if s/he has not complied with the policy and procedures.
28. The Bureau of the CST will review the terms of reference of the SPI as needed.

ANNEX IV

MODALITIES OF SELECTION of scientists and observers of the SPI

Introduction

1. Out 20 members, the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) will comprise of five scientists one nominated by each region and ten scientists selected by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) through an open call. In addition, the SPI will comprise of 3 observers: one from a civil society organization, one from an international organization and one from a relevant United Nations Organization.

I. MODALITIES OF SELECTION OF SCIENTISTS

a) Requirements and criteria for selection

2. Scientists applying to become members of the SPI shall:
 - Have widely recognized academic knowledge in disciplines relevant to the UNCCD process (see table 1 of the application form);
 - Have applied and acknowledged expertise in thematic areas/topics dealt with under the UNCCD (see table 2 of the application form) as well as interdisciplinary work experience;
 - Have significant, peer-reviewed publications in international journals;
 - Have experience in providing scientific advice to policymakers, civil society organizations, land users and/or other UNCCD stakeholders at national and/or regional level in the disciplines/thematic areas of the UNCCD;
 - Be fluent in English (the working language of the SPI is English only); and
 - Have full access to email and web-based information and communication systems in order to ensure participation in SPI activities conducted electronically.
3. It would be an asset for scientists applying to become members of the SPI to have:
 - Knowledge in other relevant science-policy processes with a view to broaden the thematic debates of the SPI;
 - Knowledge of/familiarity with the UNCCD process; and

- Membership in editorial boards of leading international scientific journals or leading scientific organizations and/or participation in the decision-making processes of grant-awarding bodies.

4. The following criteria will be taken into account in [nominating and] selecting scientists of the SPI:

- Advanced university degree in one or two disciplines relevant to the UNCCD process;
- At least five years of scientific working experience and/or practical/project experience with DLDD issues, especially in combination with working experience related to interdisciplinary DLLD matters;
- Substantive evidence of peer-reviewed publications in international journals in the last ten years;
- Experience in providing scientific advice to different kinds of stakeholders and in communication of multidisciplinary and other knowledge;
- Experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating science into policy development processes and in synthesizing information for non-specialists; and
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

b) Process of nomination of 5 scientists from the regions

5. Five scientists of the SPI shall be nominated by each region following paragraph 4 of decision 23/COP.11. Alternates will be also nominated in order to be called upon: in case of non-availability of one selected scientist in the phase of establishment of the SPI, or in case of withdrawal of a scientist member of the SPI.

6. After the first CST 11 Bureau meeting, the UNCCD secretariat (with the assistance of the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs)) will send the ToR of the SPI with an application form to the Chair of each regional group for consultation with Parties of the respective region. Three weeks will be given for the consultations after which the Chair of each regional group will forward the data of one nominated scientist and one alternate including their CVs and the filled application forms to the secretariat.

7. The secretariat will prepare a compiled list of the nominated scientists and alternates which will then be forwarded to the members of the CST Bureau.

c) Process of selection of 10 scientists through a public call

8. Following paragraph 4 of decision 23/COP.11, 10 scientists of the SPI shall be selected by the CST Bureau based on applications received in response to a public call for scientists. Alternates will be also selected in order to be called upon: in case of non-availability of one selected scientist in the phase of establishment of the SPI, or in case of withdrawal of a scientist member of the SPI.

9. For this purpose, after the first CST 11 Bureau meeting, the UNCCD secretariat will post on the UNCCD website, for a maximum of two months a call for scientists to become members of the SPI. The call will be posted together with the ToR of the SPI and an application form. Applicants will be required to submit their CVs together with the filled application forms.

10. The secretariat will prepare a list of applications received within the deadline in response to the call, as well as a shortlist of applications meeting the requirements and criteria of selection (see paragraph 2 and 3 above) ranked according to the score reached (scoring system is developed in accordance with the CST Bureau). Both lists will be sent to the CST Bureau members. All CVs will be made online available only for consultations by the CST Bureau. Each CST Bureau member will then have two weeks to pre-select ten scientists out of the shortlist and inform the UNCCD secretariat on his/her selection.

11. At a CST Bureau meeting to be held by teleconference, the CST Bureau will collectively select 10 scientists out of those pre-selected to become members of the SPI. This process will be undertaken by taking into account the overall balance of the scientists in the SPI in terms of interdisciplinarity and gender, in particular bearing in mind the 5 nominated scientists from the regions. The CST Bureau will also collectively select 10 scientists who will serve as alternates.

d) Final composition of scientists of the SPI

12. The UNCCD secretariat will contact the 15 selected scientists (5 nominated by region and 10 selected by the CST Bureau through the public call) in order to receive confirmation of his/her availability and interest to become a member of the SPI with his/her agreement with the ToR of the SPI, the code of conduct of the SPI and the conflict of interest policy. Contacted scientists will have one week to communicate to the secretariat their acceptance.

13. If a selected member has a conflict of interest the secretariat may request additional information and seek advice, as appropriate, from the CST Bureau. In case a conflict of interest cannot be resolved, the individual shall not be eligible for the selection as member of the SPI anymore.

14. In case a selected scientist declines the invitation to become a member of the SPI, the secretariat will contact, on the basis of the two lists of alternates, one of the relevant alternates for him/her to confirm his/her availability and interest to become a member of the SPI and his/her agreement with the ToR of the SPI, the code of conduct and the conflict of interest policy.

15. The final list of all selected scientists of the SPI (5 nominated by region and 10 selected through an open call by the CST Bureau) will be sent by the UNCCD secretariat to the CST Bureau for its endorsement.

II. MODALITIES OF SELECTION OF OBSERVERS

16. Following paragraph 4 of decision 23/COP.11, the SPI should also comprise three observers: one from a civil society organization, one from an international organization and one from a relevant United Nations Organization.

17. An observer should be qualified in matters covered by the UNCCD Convention.

a) Civil society organizations

18. Based on the discussions between the chair of the panel of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the CST Bureau on 6 February 2014, the CSOs will forward by the end of May 2014 the name of the selected CSO and its representative who will act as an observer to the SPI.

a) International organization and United Nations organization

19. An open call for expression of interest will be posted on the UNCCD website for two months, including the following criteria of selection:

- On-going programme or other initiative on Land Degradation and Drought;
- Research based work programme;
- Formal contact with the UNCCD;
- Science-policy and international negotiation experience an asset.

20. The secretariat will select, based on the selection criteria, one international organization and one relevant UN organization to act as observers to the SPI.

III. FINAL COMPOSITION OF THE SPI

21. The final composition of members and observers of the SPI will be sent by the UNCCD secretariat to the CST Bureau and be posted on the UNCCD website.

ANNEX V

CODE OF CONDUCT of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

Members of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) are expected to comply with the present code of conduct to ensure a respectful and conducive working environment throughout their work, activities and meetings. Members should:

- Comply with the principles and values of the UN.
- Perform their work honorably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.
- Be treated with dignity, honoring their value. There will be no tolerance for abuse, use of derogatory remarks, personal insults, threats or any form of discrimination by race, religion, nationality, gender or for any other reason.
- Deal with each other in an open, honest and respectful manner.
- Respect the views of others.
- Have equal opportunity to speak and express their opinions and views.
- Respect the role of the co-chairs.
- Keep information, which is agreed on by consensus or still under discussion, confidential if marked to be kept confidential.
- Participate in discussions by all means available, including electronic means, and to spend sufficient time for the achievement of the goals of the SPI.
- Comply with the conflict of interest policy of the SPI and agree to the terms of reference of the SPI.

Should a member not comply with the present code of conduct, the co-chairs of the SPI will inform the UNCCD secretariat which will take appropriate measures, as relevant, in consultation with the CST Bureau.

I hereby declare having read the code of conduct and to agree and comply with it.

Date:

Signature:

ANNEX VI

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

1. The work of the SPI shall not be compromised by any conflict of interest for its members.
2. This policy applies to members of the SPI and to the development of all products of the SPI, for instance assessment-, methodology- and other special reports, and/or technical papers, and the like.
3. A “conflict of interest” refers to any current professional, financial or other interest which could significantly impair an individual’s objectivity in carrying out his/her duties and responsibilities as an SPI member during his/her mandate.
4. Significant and relevant interests may include, inter alia, membership of any kind of advisory committees or boards of non-profit or advocacy groups. Examples for financial interests could be, but are not limited to: financial investments, consulting relationships, employment relationships, intellectual property interests, commercial interests and sources of private-sector research support.
5. A SPI member aware of a conflict of interest that might hinder or impair the performance of his/her duties in an objective, impartial and effective manner, shall communicate it to the Secretariat. Members of the SPI shall inform the secretariat of any changes in the originally informed status regarding any conflict of interest.
6. When considering whether an individual has a conflict of interest, the secretariat may seek further information and together with the individual, explore options for resolving the conflict.
7. The Secretariat will advise, as appropriate, and determine, in consultation with the CST Bureau, whether a conflict of interest of the respective member exists and whether it is one that cannot be resolved and, if applicable, which further action is required.
8. Any information concerning the conflict of interest of a member of the SPI will be considered confidential and will not be exclusively used for the consideration of conflict of interest issues under these implementation procedures without the express consent of the individual providing the information. .

I hereby declare having read the conflict of interest policy and assure to the best of my knowledge that I don't have any conflict of interest. I undertake to inform the Secretariat or the co-chairs of the SPI of any change in my circumstances during the course of the work assigned to me.

Date:

Signature: