

REPORT OF THE CST BUREAU MEETING 21 SEPTEMBER 2016 IN BONN, GERMANY

Date: Wednesday 21 September 2016

Venue: UN Campus Bonn – Room 1511
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
Bonn – Germany

Working language: English

Working hours: Wednesday 09:30 – 13:00

– REPORT –

I. Adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair of the CST opened the meeting and welcomed the participants (annex I). The agenda (annex II) was adopted with no amendments.

II. Adoption of the report of the last CST Bureau meeting

2. The CST Bureau adopted the report of its meeting held on 4 April 2016.

III. Evaluation of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)

3. The secretariat recalled that, in accordance with decision 23/COP.11, the SPI is currently set to operate up to the end of the COP 13. In decision 23/COP.12, the COP decided that the work conducted by the SPI during the biennium 2016–2017 and its overall achievements since its establishment will be reviewed at the CST 13, in order to decide on the future functioning of the SPI.

4. As background information for that review, the secretariat, under the supervision of the CST Bureau, will commission an assessment that will look at the performance of the SPI in 2016–2017 and consider its overall achievements. This assessment will identify and document lessons learned and make recommendations for the future, with the aim to provide evidence-based information and elements that will assist Parties in their consideration of the future functioning of the SPI.

5. The assessment will be conducted by an independent expert who will be selected through a competitive process. The work will start at the beginning of 2017, and it will involve study of relevant documentation and interviews of key stakeholders, including the SPI members. The report is expected to be ready by mid-May 2017.

6. The CST Bureau requested the secretariat to: 1) circulate the Terms of Reference for the assessment of the SPI among the Bureau members for comments; and 2) provide more detailed information on the indicative timetable for the assessment and workflow, particularly regarding the involvement of the CST Bureau and of SPI members.

IV. Knowledge management including dissemination and accessibility to best practices on sustainable land management (SLM)

7. The secretariat informed the CST Bureau on the achievements with regards to Knowledge Management, including the development of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal into the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the inclusion of the UNCCD Roster of Experts, as per decision 20/COP.12. Further the secretariat provided the CST Bureau with information regarding document CRIC(15)/6: “Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and the Capacity Building Marketplace.”

8. In response to questions by the Bureau members, the secretariat inter alia clarified that, as per decision 17/COP.11, WOCAT has been selected as the primary recommended database for SLM Technologies, including adaptation, but that the secretariat will also work with other partners and stakeholders on the dissemination of best practices⁹. The Bureau members inquired whether reporting on this topic by the secretariat in the future will be done through CRIC, CST or COP. Since this topic is at the interface between reporting and science, the secretariat proposed to provide a double-symbol document for CST13 and CRIC16, and indicated that a joint CST-CRIC Bureau meeting might be needed on that topic.

V. Brief report by the secretariat on the upcoming fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 15)

10. The secretariat provided the CST Bureau with information on the agenda of the upcoming CRIC 15, which will be held on 18-20 October 2016 in Nairobi, and the preparatory regional meetings.

11. Concerning the initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on the future strategic framework of the Convention, it was clarified that the CST will not have an opportunity to discuss this document, but that all National Focal Points as well as Science and Technology Correspondents can provide their inputs through their regional representatives in the IWG. Furthermore, two members of the SPI are also members of the IWG.

VI. Other matters

12. The CST Bureau discussed its role in the development of the SPI work programme 2018-2019. As agreed at the SPI meeting held on 19-20 September, Parties and other UNCCD stakeholders will be invited to submit views on potential thematic issues to be addressed by the SPI in the next biennium. The role of the CST Bureau will be to review, in collaboration with the SPI and with the support of the secretariat, the received inputs, and identify a limited number of priorities for inclusion in the draft SPI work programme 2018-2019, based on a pre-agreed set of criteria. The draft work programme will be presented at the CST 13 for adoption.

13. Concerning the collaboration with the IPBES, the CST Chair informed the other Bureau members of a meeting he had with the Executive Secretary of the IPBES secretariat and of the willingness, on both sides, to collaborate in the preparation of the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment.

VII. Next meeting

14. The next CST Bureau meeting will discuss, among other issues the agenda of the thirteen session of the CST. It will be held on a date to be defined, either back to back with the next meeting of the SPI or back to back with meetings of the COP and CRIC Bureaux. The CST Bureau expressed a preference for having its next meeting back-to-back with the meeting of the SPI.

ANNEX I – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY/ REPRESENTATIVE	REGION	CONTACT DETAILS
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ANNEX II – AGENDA

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- DRAFT AGENDA -

- I. Adoption of the Agenda
- II. Adoption of the report of the last CST Bureau meeting
- III. Evaluation of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI)
- IV. Knowledge management including dissemination and accessibility to best practices on sustainable land management (SLM)
- V. Brief report by the secretariat on the upcoming fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 15)
- VI. Other matters
- VII. Next meeting