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**Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology  
5 September 2017, Ordos, China**

**Date:** 5 September 2017  
**Venue:** Ordos International Conference and Exhibition Center  
Ordos, China  
**Working languages:** English  
**Working hours:** 8:30 - 10:00

**- DRAFT REPORT -**

**I. Adoption of the agenda**

1. The Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) welcomed participants (see annex I) in Ordos. The agenda was adopted with no amendments (see annex II).

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

2. The report of the CST Bureau meeting held in April 2017 was adopted with no amendments.

**III. Organization of work at CST 13**

3. The secretariat introduced the provisional agenda for the session as contained in document ICCD/COP (13)/CST/1. The secretariat recalled that, as agreed at the CST Bureau meeting held in April 2017 and in line with decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12, the session will be organized in such a way as to facilitate a dialogue between the Parties and the Science-Policy Interface (SPI).

4. The CST Bureau agreed to organize panel sessions with invited speakers representing the SPI, the IPBES, the ITPS and Mr. Jeff Herrick from the United States on behalf of the IRP on agenda items 2 (a) "The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality", 2 (b) "Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation" and 2 (c) "Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands".



#### **IV. Main items for consideration at the COP13**

5. The CST Bureau noted that the CST will discuss the results achieved by the SPI in the biennium 2016–2017, most notably the potential adoption of the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality (document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2) and the endorsement of the scientific assessment of synergies and trade-offs brought about by sustainable land management in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation (document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3).

6. The CST Bureau also noted that, based on the findings and recommendations from the external assessment of the SPI, the CST will discuss and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the extension of the SPI mandate potentially up to COP 16 in 2023 (document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6 and ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6/Add.1). Furthermore, the CST will discuss the SPI work programme 2018–2019 and related priorities.

#### **V. Contact Group to establish at CST13**

7. The CST Bureau agreed to propose the establishment of one Contact Group on matters relating to the CST and Mr. Jean-Luc Chotte of France, Rapporteur of the Committee, as facilitator of this Contact Group.

8. The CST Bureau noted that the Contact Group will start its work on Wednesday, 6 September and may continue to work up until the final meeting of the CST scheduled for Saturday 9 September.

#### **VI. Recommendations on the composition of the SPI**

9. The CST Bureau noted that, based on the findings and recommendations from the external assessment of the SPI, the CST will be considering the following draft language contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6:

The COP:

“...decides that the SPI membership renewals will be conducted as a rotating system aiming to ensure the continuity of the work of the SPI, and request the CST Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to define the process for the staged renewal of the SPI membership and to revise the SPI terms of reference accordingly;

Further decide that for the biennium 2018–2019, the membership of no more than eight current SPI members be exceptionally extended by two years, so as to benefit from the advantages of a rotating membership renewal system;”



10. More specifically, the external assessment of the SPI recommended that, for this transitional period, the membership of 5 independent scientists and 3 observers be extended for two years, with the others proceeding normally (so the 5 scientists nominated by the Regional Groups are renewed as well as the 5 other independent scientists).

11. The CST Bureau also noted that the SPI co-Chair Mariam Akhtar-Schuster in her email dated 17 July 2017 had informed the CST Chair that, in the aftermath of the SPI meeting held on 27-28 April 2017, the following SPI members had expressed their interest and availability to continue working in the SPI during the biennium 2018-2019: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, Jean-Luc Chotte, Annette Cowie, German Kust and Graciela Metternicht.

12. Based on the above, the CST Bureau agreed that, in case the COP will decide to extend the mandate of the SPI, the membership of Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, Jean-Luc Chotte, Annette Cowie, German Kust, Graciela Metternicht and the three observers will be extended to ensure continuity of the work of the SPI.

13. The CST Bureau also agreed that the process of renewal of the remaining SPI members (5 independent scientists and 5 scientists nominated by the region) will be initiated shortly after COP 13 and will be handled by the incoming CST Bureau.

#### **VII. Recommendations on the composition of the CST 13 Bureau**

14. The secretariat recalled that, as for usual practice, the CST will appoint at the end of the session four new Vice-Chairs, while the CST Chair will be appointed by the COP at the end of its session.

15. The CST Bureau noted that no recommendations had been made on the regional representatives to be elected as members of the CST 13 Bureau yet.

16. The CST Bureau also noted that CST Bureau members, in their capacity as SPI members, have increased and broader responsibilities compared to the past.



## Annex I – List of participants

<b>List of participants to the CST Bureau meeting 5 September 2017, Bonn, Germany</b>		
<b>Bureau member</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
<b>Hamid Čustović</b> CST- Chair	Central and Eastern Europe Group	Professor 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
<b>Abeer Suwaid Alabri</b> CST Vice-Chair	Asia Group	Head of Environmental Inspection, Monitoring & Emergencies Department Environmental Monitoring Information System of Kuwait (eMISK) Environment Public Authority (EPA) PO Box-24395, Al Safat Kuwait-13104 Tel: +965-22208310 – Ext: 2400 Fax: +965-22208360 Email : abeer@emisk.org
<b>Jean-Luc Chotte</b> CST Vice-Chair	Western Europe and Other Groups	Directeur de Recherches Institut de Recherche pour le Développement – IRD UMR Eco&Sols - Functional Ecology & Biogeochemistry of Soils & Agro-ecosystems Bât. 12 – 2 Place Viala 34060 Montpellier Cedex 2, France Tel : + 33 04.99.61.21.17/ + 33 (0)4.99.61.21.01 Email : jean-luc.chotte@ird.fr
<b>Jorge Luis Garcia Rodriguez</b> CST Vice-Chair	Group of Latin America and the Caribbean	National Forestry commission (CONAFOR) Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Periférico Poniente No. 5360, Col. San Juan de Ocotán Zapopan, Jalisco 45019 Mexico Tel: +52 33 3777 7000 Ext. 1001 Fax: +52 33 3777 7012 Email: gardezl@gmail.com



## Annex II – Agenda

### Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology 5 September 2017, Ordos, China

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- I. Adoption of the Agenda
- II. Adoption of the report of the last meeting of the Bureau of the CST
- III. Organization of work at CST 13
- IV. Main items for consideration at the COP13
- V. Contact Group to establish at CST13
- VI. Recommendations on the composition of the SPI
- VII. Recommendations on the composition of the CST 13 Bureau
- VIII. Other business