



United Nations

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/1



## Convention to Combat Desertification

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### Conference of the Parties Committee on Science and Technology

#### Thirteenth session

Ordos, China, 6–9 September 2017

Item 1 (a) of the provisional agenda

#### Organizational matters

#### Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

## Provisional agenda and annotations

### Note by the secretariat

## I. Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
  - (b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology.
2. Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017:
  - (a) The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality;
  - (b) Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation;
  - (c) Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands.
3. Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge:
  - (a) Review of the Science-Policy Interface and its achievements;
  - (b) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019;

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- (c) Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub.
- 4. Procedural matters:
  - Programme of work for the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
- 5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

### *Dates and venue*

1. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The thirteenth session of the CST (CST 13) will therefore be convened in Ordos, China, during the thirteenth session of the COP (COP 13). The CST is scheduled to meet from 6 to 9 September 2017.

### *Participants*

2. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the CST shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that the meetings of CST 13 will be open to observers, subject to the rules of procedure.

### *Opening of the session*

3. In accordance with decision 25/COP.10, paragraph 1, which amended rule 22 of the rules of procedure (contained in decision 1/COP.1), the Chair of the CST shall be elected at the final meeting of the COP, and shall assume her or his office immediately.

### *Documentation*

4. A list of documents prepared for CST 13 is provided in annex I to this document.

## 1. Organizational matters

### (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The CST will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda contained in this document, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the CST based on the relevant decisions adopted by the COP at its twelfth session. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in annex II to this document.

### *Purpose of the session*

6. In accordance with article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the CST is to provide the COP with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

7. Following the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) by decision 23/COP.11 and in accordance with decision 19/COP.12, this session of the CST will be organized in such a way as to facilitate a dialogue between the Parties and the SPI regarding the policy implications of scientific outputs and to enable the formulation of policy-relevant recommendations. The organization of work for the session is designed to

facilitate the activities in this respect with a view to formulating draft decisions, where necessary, for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

*Organization of work*

8. The CST may wish to consider the following scenario: At the opening session on 6 September 2017, the Chair of the CST will call for the adoption of the agenda and organization of work. This will be followed by the consideration of items 2 to 4 on the agenda.

9. During its concluding meeting on 9 September 2017, following completion of the substantive and procedural agenda items, the CST will adopt its report, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP. Finally, the Chair of the CST will call for the election of officers other than the Chair of the CST.

*Times of meetings*

10. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. Consistent with the working hours of the COP and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of the session will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies with interpretation services to be held at any one time.

**(b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology**

11. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision 25/COP.10, which amended rule 31 of the rules of procedure (contained in decision 1/COP.1), the Vice-Chairs of the CST shall be elected at the final meeting of the session of the Committee held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and shall assume their office immediately. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. The Chair and four Vice-Chairs of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions. They shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

12. In accordance with this decision, the Chair will call for the election of the officers at the final meeting of the CST. The Vice-Chairs elected, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall assume their office immediately.

**2. Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017**

13. *Background:* At its twelfth session, the COP adopted the SPI work programme for the biennium 2016–2017 as contained in the annex to decision 21/COP.12. The work programme contained three major objectives and four coordination activities.

14. The COP requested the SPI to present a synthesis report at CST 13, including policy-oriented recommendations for each objective included in its work programme, and a report on the coordination activities conducted during the biennium 2016–2017.

15. *Action:* The CST will be invited to discuss, under the following agenda sub-items, the policy implications of the scientific outputs resulting from the SPI work programme and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

**(a) The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality**

16. *Background:* Objective 1 of the SPI work programme 2016–2017 was to provide scientific guidance for the operationalization of the voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) target.

17. The SPI developed a scientific conceptual framework for LDN. The conceptual framework is intended to provide a scientifically sound basis for understanding LDN, and consistency in approaches to achieving LDN. A synthesis report on the scientific conceptual framework for LDN is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2.

18. *Action:* The CST will be invited to discuss the policy implications of the scientific conceptual framework for LDN and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2 – The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality. Synthesis report by the Science-Policy Interface

**(b) Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation**

19. *Background:* Objective 2 of the SPI work programme 2016–2017 was to highlight the science-based synergistic potential of sustainable land management (SLM) practices to address desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), climate change mitigation and adaptation.

20. The SPI commissioned the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) to prepare a report on this topic in association with the Centre for Environmental Studies of the Mediterranean. A synthesis is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3.

21. The work conducted under objective 2 and resulting scientific papers is expected to contribute to “Climate change and land: a special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems” (SRCCL).

22. Furthermore, a Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon was held in March 2017 to review the role of soils and soil organic carbon in the context of climate change and sustainable development. The symposium was co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) of the Global Soil Partnership, the IPCC, the SPI and the World Meteorological Organization.

23. A report on cooperation among the SPI, the IPCC and the ITPS is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5.

24. *Action:* The CST will be invited to discuss the policy implications of the scientific outputs related to the role of SLM and soils in the context of climate change and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3 – Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Synthesis report by the Science-Policy Interface

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5 – Cooperation with other scientific panels. Report by the Science-Policy Interface

**(c) Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands**

25. *Background:* Objective 3 of the SPI work programme 2016–2017 was to encourage the development and implementation of specific rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands.

26. A synthesis of the work conducted by the SPI on this topic is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4.

27. Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is undertaking a thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration. A progress report by the IPBES on this assessment is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.1.

28. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is recognized as a key user of and key contributor to this IPBES assessment. In this context, the IPBES called for developing the collaboration with the UNCCD, especially its SPI and CST (IPBES-3/1 Annex VIII). In response to this call, and following the mandate given by Parties by decisions 23/COP.11 and 21/COP.12, the SPI and the UNCCD secretariat have been contributing to the IPBES assessment as one of the activities included in the SPI work programmes for 2014–2015 and 2016–2017. The objective is to ensure that the assessment is of high relevance to the UNCCD process and the needs of its Parties. Information on the contribution by the SPI to the IPBES land degradation and restoration assessment is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5.

29. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider relevant documents and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4 – Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands. Synthesis report by the Science-Policy Interface

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5 – Cooperation with other scientific panels. Report by the Science-Policy Interface

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.1 – Report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration

**3. Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge****(a) Review of the Science-Policy Interface and its achievements**

30. *Background:* By its decision 23/COP.11, the COP decided that the SPI shall function up to the end of COP 13, at which time it will be reviewed. Furthermore, by decision 23/COP.12, the COP decided that CST 13 should focus, inter alia, on the review of the work conducted by the SPI during the biennium 2016–2017 and on its overall achievements since its establishment in order to decide on the future functioning of the SPI.

31. A review of the work conducted by the SPI during the biennium 2016–2017 and its overall achievements is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6. The document is intended to assist Parties in their deliberations on the future functioning of the SPI.

32. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6 and take action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6 – Review of the Science-Policy Interface and its achievements. Note by the secretariat

**(b) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019**

33. *Background:* In order to ensure policy relevance and the uptake of the future work of the SPI, Parties were invited to submit proposals for topics to be considered for inclusion in the SPI work programme 2018–2019. A compilation of the received proposals is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.2. Based on the received proposals, the Bureau of the CST developed a draft work programme in collaboration with the SPI, which is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/7.

34. *Action:* The CST will be invited to make recommendations to the COP with regard to the proposed work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2018–2019.

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/7 – Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface (2018–2019). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.2 – Compilation of proposals for topics to be considered for inclusion in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019. Note by the secretariat

**(c) Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub**

35. *Background:* By its decision 20/COP.12, the COP requested the secretariat to continue developing and enhancing the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) in cooperation with partners in order to increase relevance for the various target groups and expand the collection of information accessible through the portal to national and subnational actors in particular. Furthermore, the COP encouraged Parties to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices through the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies in order to increase the knowledge base on SLM, and requested the secretariat to channel information on other relevant topics through the SKBP and/or the Capacity Building Marketplace.

36. At the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, Parties noted the work done by the secretariat in improving the UNCCD knowledge sharing services for Parties, inter alia, by integrating various knowledge tools including the SKBP and SLM best practices under one UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and encouraged the secretariat to continue to develop the Knowledge Hub.

37. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider progress made in the development of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and the dissemination of best practices, and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(13)/CST/8 – Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. Note by the secretariat

#### **4. Procedural matters**

##### **Programme of work for the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology**

38. The CST may wish to consider recommendations to submit to the COP with respect to its programme of work for its fourteenth session.

#### **5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology**

39. Relevant information on the work of the Committee during its thirteenth session will be included in the report of the COP on its thirteenth session. The Committee is expected to provide recommendations for consideration by the COP.

## Annex I

### Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its thirteenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2	The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality. Synthesis report by the Science-Policy Interface
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3	Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Synthesis report by the Science-Policy Interface
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4	Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands. Synthesis report by the Science-Policy Interface
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5	Cooperation with other scientific panels. Report by the Science-Policy Interface
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6	Review of the Science-Policy Interface and its achievements. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/7	Work programme for the Science-Policy Interface (2018–2019). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/8	Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.1	Report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration
ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.2	Compilation of proposals for topics to be considered for inclusion in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019. Note by the secretariat



## Annex II

### Tentative schedule of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

Wednesday, 6 September 2017	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
	<p><i>Opening of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) by the Chair of the CST</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational matters           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work <i>(ICCD/COP(13)/CST/1)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality <i>(ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Thursday, 7 September 2017	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation <i>(ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands <i>(ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4, ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5 and ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.1)</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Friday, 8 September 2017</b>	
<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge</li> <li>- Review of the Science-Policy Interface and its achievements <i>(ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6)</i></li> <li>- Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019 <i>(ICCD/COP(13)/CST/7 and ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.2)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge</li> <li>- Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub <i>(ICCD/COP(13)/CST/8)</i></li> </ul>

<b>Saturday, 9 September 2017</b>	
<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedural matters</li> <li>- Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology</li> <li>• Organizational matters</li> <li>- Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology</li> <li><i>Closure of the session</i></li> </ul>