



Conference of the Parties

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session, held in Ordos, China from 6 to 16 September 2017

Rapporteur: Mr. Trevor Benn (Guyana)

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Opening of the session		
A. Opening of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties		
B. Election of the President		
C. General statements		
II. Organizational matters		
A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies		
B. Election of officers other than the President		
C. Credentials of delegations		
D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers		
E. Committee on Science and Technology		
F. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention		
G. Committee of the Whole		
H. Attendance		
I. Documentation		



- III. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue sessions
- IV. Special segment.....
 - A. Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables
 - B. Gender and land rights (a dialogue with civil society)
 - C. How can local governments help address the challenges of land degradation? (a dialogue with elected and local government representatives).....
 - D. How can the private sector invest to help achieve land degradation neutrality? (a dialogue with the private sector).....
- V. Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties.....
 - A. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President of the Conference of the Parties
 - B. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau
 - C. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole
 - D. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
 - E. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology
 - F. Resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties
- VI. Conclusion of the session
- Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session ...

Annexes

- I. [REMAINING CHAPTERS, ANNEXES AND FINAL DECISIONS TO BE COMPLETED]

I. Opening of the session

A. Opening of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

1. On 6 September 2017, the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) was opened by His Excellency Cemal Nogay, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs on behalf of COP 12 President His Excellency Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs (Turkey) who, pursuant to article 22 of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), delivered a statement.

B. Election of the President

(Agenda item 1 (a))

2. At its 1st meeting, on 6 September 2017, the Conference of the Parties (COP) elected, by acclamation, His Excellency Zhang Jianlong, Minister of State Forestry Administration of China, as President of its thirteenth session.

3. The incoming President made a statement.

C. General statements

4. Also at the 1st meeting, on 6 September 2017, the Governor of the People's Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Ms. Bu Xiaolin, made a statement on behalf of the host city.

5. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat made a statement.

6. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Estonia (on behalf of the European Union and its Member States), Kenya (on behalf of the African Group), Bhutan (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group), Argentina (on behalf of Latin America and Caribbean Group), Italy (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for the Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV)) and Armenia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European Group).

7. Statements were also made by a representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

8. Furthermore, a statement was made by a representative of a non-governmental organization (China Green Foundation).

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies

(Agenda item 1 (b) and (f))

9. The Conference considered agenda item 1 b) and f) at its 1st meeting, on 6 September 2017.

10. Following a statement by the President of COP 13, the Conference adopted its agenda and the organization of work as contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/1, as follows:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the President;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President:
 - (i) Election of Vice-Presidents;
 - (ii) Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (iii) Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) Credentials of delegations;
 - (e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers;
 - (f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
2. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
 - (a) Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 which states: “to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”, into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (b) The future strategic framework of the Convention;
 - (c) Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).
3. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level:
 - (a) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention – Terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) Addressing particular regional and national conditions;
 - (d) Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;
 - (e) Securing of additional investments and the relations with financial mechanisms;

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility;
 - (ii) Report of the Global Mechanism.
- 4. Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making: review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
- 5. Special segment:
 - (a) Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables:
 - (i) Round table 1: Land degradation: a challenge to development, prosperity and peace;
 - (ii) Round table 2: Drought and sand and dust storms: early warning and beyond;
 - (iii) Round table 3: Land degradation neutrality: “From targets to action...what will it take?”;
 - (b) Gender and land rights (a dialogue with civil society);
 - (c) How can local governments help address the challenges of land degradation? (a dialogue with elected and local government representatives);
 - (d) How can the private sector invest to help achieve land degradation neutrality? (a dialogue with the private sector).
- 6. Programme and budget:
 - (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019;
 - (b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds;
 - (c) Report of the Evaluation Office.
- 7. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (b) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy;
 - (c) Programme of work for the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
- 8. Report on the session.

B. Election of officers other than the President

(Agenda item 1 (c))

11. The Conference considered this agenda item at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 6 and 9 September 2017, and elected the following officers for its thirteenth session:

Vice-Presidents:

- Mr. Richard Mwendandu (Kenya)
- Mr. Abdessamad Hajibi (Morocco)
- Ms. Karma Dema Dorji (Bhutan)
- Mr. Jorge Heider (Argentina)
- Mr. Trevor Benn (Guyana)
- Mr. Andrei Kuzmich (Belarus)
- Mr. Valeriu Cazac (Republic of Moldova)
- Mr. Damien Barchiche (France)
- Ms. Barbara De Rosa-Joynt (United States of America).

12. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 September 2017, the Conference appointed Mr. Trevor Benn (Guyana) as Rapporteur of the thirteenth session.

Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

13. At the 10th meeting, on 15 September 2017, the Conference elected ____ (_____) as Chair of the forthcoming fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

14. At the 10th meeting, on 15 September 2017, the Conference elected ____ (_____) as Chair of the forthcoming seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

C. Credentials of delegations

(Agenda item 1 (d))

15. At the 9th meeting, on 14 September 2017, the Conference considered the report on credentials of delegations, as contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/20, and the recommendation contained therein.

16. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted a draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/L.3 approving the report.

17. The COP, on the basis of the report of the Bureau of the COP and additional credentials provided by ____ Parties, accepted the credentials of Parties attending the session.

(to be completed)

D. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers

(Agenda item 1 (e))

18. At the 1st meeting, on 6 September 2017, following a statement by a representative of the UNCCD, the Conference decided to accredit as observers the organizations and private sector entities listed in document ICCD/COP(13)/17.

E. Committee on Science and Technology

19. The thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 13) was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Hamid Custovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The Committee held six meetings, from 6 to 9 September 2017.

20. At the 1st meeting, on 6 September 2017, the Committee adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/1, and approved the organization of work for the session as contained in annex II to that document.

21. At the same meeting, the Committee appointed the Vice-Chair of the CST, Mr. Jean-Luc Chotte (France), as Rapporteur of CST 13.

22. Also at the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Mr. Jean-Luc Chotte (France) as Facilitator of the contact group.

23. At its 5th meeting, on 9 September 2017, the Committee elected by acclamation the following as Vice-Chairs for its forthcoming fourteenth session: Mr. Carl Fiati (Ghana), Ms. María Angélica Fernández (Colombia), Mr. Ahmet Senyaz (Turkey) and Mr. German Kust (Russian Federation).

24. The Committee submitted six recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 9th meeting, on 14 September 2017.

F. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

25. The sixteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention was convened under the chairmanship of the Chair, Mr. Aliyu Bananda (Nigeria). The Committee held five meetings, from 7 to 13 September 2017.

26. At the 1st meeting, on 7 September 2017, the Committee adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(16)/1 and approved the organization of work for the session as contained in annex II to that document.

27. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair of the CRIC, Mr. Raymond Baptiste (Grenada), was appointed Rapporteur of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

28. Also at the same meeting, the Committee agreed to establish a contact group and appointed Mr. Trevor Benn (Guyana) as Facilitator of the contact group.

29. The Committee submitted six recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its 9th meeting, on 14 September 2017.

G. Committee of the Whole

30. At its 1st meeting, on 6 September 2017, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole and to allocate to the Committee the agenda items listed in paragraph 15 of document ICCD/COP(13)/1.

31. In addition, during the ___ meeting of the Committee, two draft proposals were tabled for consideration by the COW under the agenda item: Procedural matters-Any other matters deemed to be appropriate.

32. At its 1st meeting, on 6 September 2017, the Conference designated Ms. Nosipho Ngcaba (South Africa) as Chair of the Committee of the Whole. The Committee held _____ meetings, from 6 to ___ September 2017.

33. At the 1st meeting, the Committee established two contact groups: (a) a contact group on programme and budget matters, under the facilitation of Mr. Patrick Wegerdt (European Commission); and (b) a contact group on COW matters other than the programme and budget, under the facilitation of Mr. Luis Domingos Constantino (Angola).

34. The Committee submitted _____ recommendations to the COP. The Conference took action on these recommendations at its ___ and ___ meetings, on ___ and ___ September 2017.

(to be completed)

H. Attendance

35. The thirteenth session of the COP was attended by representatives of the following _____ Parties to the Convention:

36. The session was also attended by observers from the following States not Party to the Convention: _____

37. The following United Nations organs, organizations and programmes, offices and specialized agencies were represented: _____

(to be completed)

I. Documentation

38. The documents submitted for the consideration of the COP at its thirteenth session are listed in annex xx.

(To be completed)

III. Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue session

(Agenda item 1 (b) and (f))

39. The Conference held an open dialogue session under agenda item 1 (b) and (f) at its 2nd meeting, on 9 September 2017, on the theme “Land and Climate”.

40. The meeting was opened and moderated by Ms. Liu Fangfei, UNCCD Dryland Ambassador.

41. Following a statement by the keynote speaker, Mr. Barış Karapınar, Lead Author of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), presentations were made by the following panellists: Mr. Ahmed Sekou Diallo, Executive Director of the Association de Formation et d'Appui au Développement from Mali (on behalf of the African Group), Ms. Vu Thi Bich Hop, Executive Director of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development from Viet Nam (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group), Mr. Juan Riet, professor and technical advisor from Uruguay (on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group), Ms. Sophiko Akhobadze, Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus from Georgia (on behalf of the Eastern European Group), Mr. Robert Tansey, Advisor at the Nature Conservancy (on behalf of the Western Europe and Others Group), Mr. Andrew Lesa from New Zealand (on behalf of the Youth).

42. In the ensuing discussion, the panellists responded to comments made and questions posed by the representatives of the civil society of India, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Senegal, Chad, Iraq, Uruguay, China, Nepal, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), South Africa, Peru, Cuba, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Niger, Liberia and the State of Palestine and by a representative of UNDP.

(to be completed)

IV. Special segment

(Agenda item 5)

A. Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables

43. At its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 11 and 12 September 2017, the Conference held a special high-level segment with opening and closing meetings, three parallel ministerial/high-level round tables and three interactive dialogue sessions under the agenda item.

44. At the 3rd meeting, on 11 September 2017, the President of the Conference opened the special high-level segment and made a statement.

45. At the same meeting, His Excellency Wang Yang, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China read a message from His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and delivered a keynote speech.

46. At the same meeting, a video message from the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres was presented.

47. Also at the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD made a statement.

48. At the same meeting, statements on behalf of regional and interest groups were made by: Her Excellency María Victoria Chiriboga Nielsen, Undersecretary of State for Climate Change of the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China); Mr. Richard Mwendandu, Director of International Environmental Agreements of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya (on behalf of the African Group); Ms. Rawea Mizel Mahmood Al-Azawi, UNCCD National Focal Point and Director General of the Natural Resources Management and Land Degradation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Iraq (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group); Dr. Ion Perju, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Moldova on Agro-Industrial and Public Administration Issues (on behalf of the Eastern European Group); Her Excellency Lina Dolores Pohl Alfaro, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador

(on behalf of the Latin America and Caribbean Group); His Excellency Siim Kiisler, Minister of the Environment of Estonia (on behalf of the European Union).

49. Statements were also made by Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, from the Mbororo pastoralist community of Chad (on behalf of civil society organizations) and by Ms. Liu Yang from the Chinese Academy of Forestry (representing the Chinese youth delegates and the global youth representatives).

50. Statements were also made by special guests Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Archbishop Joseph Chennoth, Apostolic Nuncio to Japan (on behalf of His Holiness Pope Francis).

51. At the 4th meeting, on 11 September 2017, the Conference held three closed parallel ministerial/high-level round tables under agenda item 5 (a), as follows:

1. Round table 1: Land degradation: a challenge to development, prosperity and peace

52. Round table 1 was chaired by His Excellency Sydney Alexander Samuels Milson, Minister of Environment and Natural Resource of Guatemala.

2. Round table 2: Drought and sand and dust storms: early warning and beyond

53. Round table 2 was chaired by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Chairman of the Board–Director General of the General Authority for the Environment of Kuwait.

3. Round table 3: Land degradation neutrality: “From targets to action...what will it take?”

54. Round table 3 was chaired by Her Excellency Ndahimananjara Bénédicte Johanita, Minister of Environment, Ecology, and Forests, Madagascar.

55. From its 5th to 7th meetings, the Conference held three interactive dialogue sessions under agenda items 5 (b), (c), and (d), respectively, as follows:

B. Gender and land rights (a dialogue with civil society)

56. At the 5th meeting, on 12 September 2017, the Conference held the first interactive dialogue of the special high-level segment under agenda item 5 (b), which was moderated by Her Excellency Barbara Thomson, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs of South Africa.

C. How can local governments help address the challenges of land degradation? (a dialogue with elected and local government representatives)

57. At the 6th meeting, on 12 September 2017, the Conference held the second interactive dialogue of the special high-level segment under agenda item 5 (c), which was moderated by His Excellency Paweł Sałek, Secretary of State for Environment of Poland.

D. How can the private sector invest to help achieve land degradation neutrality? (a dialogue with the private sector)

58. At the 7th meeting, on 12 September 2017, the Conference held the third interactive dialogue of the special high-level segment under agenda item 5 (d), which was moderated by Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo, Director General for Environment at the European Commission.

59. At the 8th meeting, on 12 September 2017, the President of the Conference closed the special high-level segment. The meeting heard reports by the respective Chairs of the three closed parallel ministerial/high-level round tables held under agenda item 5 (a). The outcomes of the three interactive dialogues held under agenda item 5 (b), (c) and (d) were also presented.

(to be completed)

V. Decisions and resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties

60. At its _____, _____ and _____ meetings, on _____, _____ and _____ September 2017, the Conference adopted _____ decisions and _____ resolutions.

(To be completed)

A. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the President of the Conference of the Parties

61. At the recommendation of the President of its thirteenth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

(to be completed)

B. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Bureau

62. At the recommendation of the Bureau of the COP at its thirteenth session, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

(to be completed)

C. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

63. At the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

(to be completed)

D. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

64. At the recommendation of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

(to be completed)

E. Decisions taken at the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

65. At the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Conference adopted the following decisions:

(to be completed)

F. Resolution adopted by the Conference of the Parties

66. At its __ meeting, on __ September 2017, the Conference adopted the following resolution at the recommendation of__:

(to be completed)

VI. Conclusion of the session

Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session

(Agenda item 8)

67. At its ____ meeting, on ____ September 2017, the Conference adopted the draft report on its thirteenth session (ICCD/COP(13)/L.____) and authorized the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

(to be completed)

Annex xx

**Documents before the Conference of the Parties at its
thirteenth session**

(to be completed)