



United Nations

ICCD/CRIC(17)/1



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Seventeenth session

Georgetown, Guyana, 28–30 January 2019

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) Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee;
2. Assessment of Implementation:

Strategic objectives 1 to 5;
3. The reporting and review process of the UNCCD:

Procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;
4. Adoption of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations.

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Dates and venue of the session

1. By its decision 17/COP.13, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 17) should be held in the second half of 2018 at the most cost-effective venue of either Bonn, Germany – the site of the Convention secretariat – or any other venue with United Nations conference facilities in the event that no Party makes an offer to host the session and meet the additional financial cost.

2. Furthermore, decision 17/COP.13 invited the UNCCD secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to accommodate any offer from a Party to host the CRIC 17 and requested the secretariat to take the necessary measures to prepare for that session, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with a host country/government.

3. In accordance with the deliberations of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and after consultations between the Government of Guyana and the UNCCD secretariat, it was decided that CRIC 17 shall take place in Georgetown, Guyana, from 28–30 January 2019, over three working days, according to the offer made by the Government of Guyana on 28 November 2017.

Participants

4. According to decision 13/COP.13, annex, paragraph 5, the CRIC shall be composed of all Parties to the Convention.¹ Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental,² wishing to be represented as an observer at a session of the CRIC may be admitted unless one third of the Parties present at the session object.³

Consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes

5. Consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes on matters before CRIC 17 will take place on 27 January 2019 prior to the opening of the seventeenth session of the Committee.

1. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(b) Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee

6. The CRIC will be presented with the provisional agenda (ICCD/CRIC(17)/1)⁴ to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session, detailed in the subsections below, is contained in annex II to this document.

¹ Relevant information on the status of ratifications is available on the secretariat website at: www.unccd.int/convention/about-convention/status-ratification.

² The intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and business and industry entities accredited at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties are listed in annexes I, II and III to document ICCD/COP(13)/17.

³ The procedure for admission of observers is detailed in rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties as contained in decision 1/COP.1.

⁴ Please see annex I to this document for a list of CRIC 17 pre-session documents.

Purpose of the session

7. Under its new terms of reference, adopted at COP 13,⁵ during intersessional sessions, the CRIC is to:

(a) Undertake an assessment of implementation progress indicators every four years and against narrative sections within the reporting template every two years;

(b) Review financial flows for the implementation of the Convention.

8. Following the adoption of a new strategic framework for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), reporting procedures were adapted and Parties were provided with default data on land-based indicators. CRIC 17 will review information submitted on the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework for the first time with a view to providing targeted recommendations on strategic objectives. Also in accordance with requests made by Parties, the session will facilitate interactive exchanges among Parties and their development partners on topics selected by the Bureau of the CRIC. The provisions of decisions relating to the date and venue and the programme of work as adopted by Parties during COP 13 have been taken into account in the provisional agenda, which was prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau of the CRIC.

Organization of work

9. The CRIC may wish to consider the following scenario: The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD will present an overview of relevant matters to CRIC 17 in her introductory statement. The Chair of the CRIC will also give an introductory statement.

10. At the opening session on 28 January 2019, the Chair of the CRIC will call for the adoption of the agenda and organization of work as well as the election of the Rapporteur for CRIC 17 and CRIC 18. The Committee will then take up the agenda items according to the tentative schedule of work as detailed in annex II to this document. As per past practice, the agenda items will be addressed through statements from the representatives of regional and interest groups, followed by statements by Parties and observers, as required. Where possible, panel discussions will ensure interactivity in the session, allowing Parties to engage in an information exchange with a view to identifying targeted recommendations on issues relating to the agenda items.

11. The tentative schedule of work allows for the formulation of the comprehensive report of CRIC 17 on 30 January 2019. During the same concluding meeting, the draft report of the session will be submitted for adoption.

⁵ Decision 13/COP.13, annex.

2. Assessment of Implementation

Strategic objectives 1 to 5⁶

12. *Background:* Decision 16/COP.13 decided to include in the programme of work for CRIC 17 an agenda item enabling Parties to review and discuss implementation using the progress indicators contained in the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the UNCCD. Considering that it is the first time that Parties have reported on those progress indicators, discussions will most likely focus on the establishment of baselines for the three land-based indicators and the process for monitoring implementation in view of these baselines in the next four years before the second reporting session under the framework is due.

13. To achieve a focused debate on the findings of submitted data and/or information, it is foreseen that preliminary analyses for strategic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 will be introduced after which the floor will be opened for comments by Parties. Based on past practice, the floor will be initially opened for regional statements, after which individual Parties may request the floor, followed by United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations.

Interactive dialogues

14. Three interactive dialogues are planned under this agenda item in order to enrich the debate on the findings of reported data under the strategic objectives of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the UNCCD and to capture implementation experiences in an interactive manner. The interactive dialogues will each last approximately an hour and a half and include panel discussions that will provide sufficient time for Parties and their development partners to respond and contribute to the debates.

15. In accordance with decisions taken by Parties at COP 13,⁷ the topics were selected by the Bureau of the CRIC during their second meeting convened on 15 October 2018.

16. Decision 16/COP.13 decided to include an agenda item reviewing and discussing the implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets in the programme of work for CRIC 17. Based on decisions taken by Parties at COP 12,⁸ the Global Mechanism (GM) established the LDN Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat. The main objective of the programme was to enable country Parties to define national baselines, set voluntary LDN targets and identify measures to achieve them.

17. This interactive dialogue will allow Parties to exchange views on how UNCCD implementation guided by the progress indicators may be translated into action, with particular reference to the target setting exercise and the development of transformative projects and programmes supported by the GM.

18. The second interactive dialogue will discuss initial experiences in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan adopted by Parties at COP 13⁹ while the third

⁶ Strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality; strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations; strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD; strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level.

⁷ Decision 15/COP.13, paragraph 5.

⁸ Decisions 2/COP.12 and 3/COP.12.

⁹ Decision 30/COP.13.

dialogue will attempt to identify emerging innovative financing opportunities to combat land degradation.

19. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review documentation prepared for under this agenda item and consider input received from the interactive dialogues with a view to formulating a draft decision for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

ICCD/CRIC(17)/2 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(17)/3 – Progress made in setting voluntary national targets in support of land degradation neutrality implementation. Report by the Global Mechanism

ICCD/CRIC(17)/4 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(17)/5 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(17)/6 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(17)/7 – Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level. Report by the Global Mechanism

ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.3 – Global analysis of financial data. Report by the Global Mechanism

3. The reporting and review process of the UNCCD

Procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

20. *Background:* Reporting modalities have changed with the adoption of a new strategic framework for implementing the Convention. As requested by Parties, default data and reporting tools were made available to Parties in December 2017, initiating the first reporting process that would, *inter alia*, gather data on biophysical indicators.

21. The new reporting requirements necessitated a restructuring of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) and reporting templates, and a complete overhaul of the manual. The document supporting the discussion on this particular agenda item will highlight the rationale for changes introduced in the reporting process and touch on capacity-building activities implemented by the secretariat and the GM as part of the Global Support Programme implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme.

22. *Action:* The CRIC will be invited to review the report on this matter and to make any recommendations it may wish to forward to the COP for action.

ICCD/CRIC(17)/8 – Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.2 – Status report on the 2018–2019 reporting and review process. Note by the secretariat

4. Adoption of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations

23. In accordance with decision 13/COP.13, the CRIC is to regularly report to the COP on all aspects of its work, in particular through:

(a) A final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention;

(b) Draft decisions prepared at sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP, containing substantive elements to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention, demonstrating targets, assigned responsibilities and the expected financial implications of their implementation, as necessary.

24. The draft report shall be adopted by the Committee at its seventeenth session and submitted to the COP for its consideration at its fourteenth session and any decision the COP may wish to take on the implementation of the Convention.

Annex I

Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its seventeenth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(17)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat.
ICCD/CRIC(17)/2	Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(17)/3	Progress made in setting voluntary national targets in support of land degradation neutrality implementation. Report by the Global Mechanism
ICCD/CRIC(17)/4	Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(17)/5	Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(17)/6	Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(17)/7	Preliminary analysis – strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level. Report by the Global Mechanism
ICCD/CRIC(17)/8	Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat.
ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.1	Information for participants. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.2	Status report on the 2018–2019 reporting and review process. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.3	Global analysis of financial data. Report by the Global Mechanism

Annex II

Tentative schedule of work for the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

28 January 2019	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (ICCD/CRIC(17)/1)</i> - <i>Appointment of the Rapporteur</i> • Assessment of Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Strategic objectives 1 to 5 (ICCD/CRIC(17)/2, ICCD/CRIC(17)/4, ICCD/CRIC(17)/5, ICCD/CRIC(17)/6, ICCD/CRIC(17)/7)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of Implementation (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Progress made in setting land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and advancing towards LDN implementation (interactive dialogue session) (ICCD/CRIC(17)/3)</i> - <i>The Gender Action Plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as a tool to improve the living conditions of affected populations. First experiences and the way forward (interactive dialogue session).</i>

29 January 2019	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of implementation (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Identifying emerging innovative financing opportunities to combat land degradation (interactive dialogue session) (ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.3)</i> • The reporting and review process of the UNCCD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties (COP) (ICCD/CRIC(17)/8, ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.2)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reporting and review process of the UNCCD (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties (ICCD/CRIC(17)/8, ICCD/CRIC(17)/INF.2)</i>

30 January 2019	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Formulation of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to the COP, including conclusions and recommendations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Adoption of the comprehensive report of the CRIC to the COP, including conclusions and recommendations</i>• <i>Closure of the session</i>
