



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

Fourteenth session

New Delhi, India, 3–6 September 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) 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 2018–2019:
 - (a) Refined guidance for implementation of land degradation neutrality, under objective 1;
 - (b) Guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation, under objective 2;
 - (c) Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019.
3. Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge:
 - (a) The Science-Policy Interface, the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices;
 - (b) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021;
 - (c) Monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought.
4. Procedural matters: Programme of work for the fifteenth 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 fourteenth session of the CST (CST 14) will therefore be convened in New Delhi, India, during the fourteenth session of the COP (COP 14). The CST is scheduled to meet from 3 to 5 September in the morning, and on 6 September 2019 in the afternoon.

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 14 will be open to observers, subject to the rules of procedure.

Opening of the session

3. CST 14 will be opened by the Chair of the CST, who was elected at COP 13.¹ 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 CST 15 shall be elected at the final meeting of the COP and shall assume office immediately.

1. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. *Background:* In accordance with decision 23/COP.13 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared, in consultation with the Chair of the CST, a provisional agenda for the Committee's session. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in annex I to this document.

Purpose of the session

5. 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.

6. Following the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) by decision 23/COP.11, the extension of its mandate in decision 19/COP.12, and in accordance with decision 23/COP.13, this session of the CST will focus on, inter alia, the objectives and coordination activities identified in the work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2018–2019. The session will be organized in such a way as to facilitate thematic dialogue between Parties and the SPI regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs and enable the formulation of policy-oriented recommendations. The organization of work of 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

7. The CST may wish to consider the following scenario: At the opening session on 3 September 2019, 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.

8. During its concluding meeting on 6 September 2019, following the 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.

¹ ICCD/COP(13)/21, paragraph 13.

Times of meetings

9. 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.

10. *Action:* The CST will be invited to adopt its agenda and schedule of work for the session.

ICCD/COP(14)/CST/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

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

11. *Background:* Paragraph 2 of decision 25/COP.10 amended rule 31 of the rules of procedures (contained in decision 1/COP.1).

12. *Action:* The Chair of CST 14 will call for the election of officers at the final meeting of CST 14. 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 2018–2019

13. *Background:* At its thirteenth session, the COP adopted the SPI work programme for the biennium 2018–2019 as contained in the annex to decision 21/COP.13. The work programme contained two major objectives and six coordination activities.

14. In the same decision, the COP requested the SPI to present at CST 14 synthesis reports, including policy-oriented recommendations, for each objective included in its work programme, as well as a report on the coordination activities conducted during the biennium 2018–2019.

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) Refined guidance for implementation of land degradation neutrality, under objective 1

16. *Background:* Objective 1 of the SPI work programme for 2018–2019 was to provide refined guidance for the implementation of land degradation neutrality (LDN) through sub-objective 1.1: advice on the design and implementation of LDN-related policies and initiatives that bring about multiple environmental and development benefits and synergies with other Rio conventions, in particular for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions; and sub-objective 1.2: science-based evidence on the potential contribution of LDN to enhancing the well-being and livelihoods as well as the environmental conditions of people affected by desertification/land degradation and drought.

17. The SPI conducted two thematic assessments in collaboration with commissioned expert scientists working under the supervision of the SPI. Based on these assessments, the SPI prepared two technical reports: “Realising the Carbon Benefits of Sustainable Land Management Practices: Guidelines for Estimation of Soil Organic Carbon in the Context of Land Degradation Neutrality Planning and Monitoring” and “Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and its Potential Contribution to Enhancing Well-being, Livelihoods and the Environment”. A synthesis is contained in document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/2.

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

ICCD/COP(14)/CST/2 Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from guidance for the implementation of land degradation neutrality, under sub-objectives 1.1 and 1.2 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2018–2019. Synthesis report by the Executive Secretary

(b) Guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation, under objective 2

19. *Background:* Objective 2 of the SPI work programme for 2018–2019 was to provide guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation, based on a review of existing synthesis reports and, if necessary, referring to primary literature.

20. The SPI commissioned UNIQUE forestry and land use GmbH to review existing synthesis reports as well as the primary literature and develop a technical report on this topic. The report “The Land-Drought Nexus: Enhancing the Role of Land-based Interventions in Drought Mitigation and Risk Management” was reviewed and refined by the SPI. A synthesis is contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3.

21. *Action:* The CST will be invited to discuss the policy implications of the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(14)/CST/3 – Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from guidance for the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation, under objective 2 of the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2018–2019. Synthesis report by the Executive Secretary

(c) Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019

22. *Background:* By its decision 23/COP.11, the COP mandated the SPI to interact with existing multiple scientific mechanisms, and by its decision 19/COP.13, it requested the SPI to continue to contribute to and cooperate with other international scientific panels and bodies dealing with desertification/land degradation and drought issues. In the SPI work programme for 2018–2019, six coordination activities related to other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies were identified.

23. A report on the coordination activities carried out by the SPI is contained in document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/4.

24. *Action:* The CST will be invited to review the report and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(14)/CST/4 – Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies. Report by the Executive Secretary

3. Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge

(a) The Science-Policy Interface, the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices

25. *Background:* By decision 19/COP.13, Parties decided to continue the SPI and extend its mandate, as defined in decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12, up to the end of COP 16. Also, in paragraph 2 of the same decision Parties requested the Bureau of the CST, with the assistance of the secretariat, to define the process for the staged renewal of SPI membership and revise the SPI terms of reference and selection criteria accordingly.

26. Furthermore, by its decision 20/COP.13, the COP requested the secretariat to continue to facilitate the dissemination of relevant knowledge and best practices through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub.

27. Document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/5 provides a report on the renewal of SPI membership, the overall modalities of the SPI, the further development of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and the accessibility of best practices on sustainable land management.

28. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/5 and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(14)/CST/5 – The Science-Policy Interface, the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices. Note by the secretariat

(b) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021

29. *Background:* By its decision 19/COP.13, paragraph 5, the COP requested the SPI to submit, through the secretariat, a proposal for its work programme at each regular session of the CST, with a focus on one or two broad, globally relevant priority topics related to desertification/land degradation and drought.

30. The SPI discussed a range of proposals for topics to be considered for inclusion in the SPI work programme for 2020–2021. The Bureau of the CST then developed a draft work programme in collaboration with the SPI, which is contained in document ICCD/COP(14)/CST/6.

31. *Action:* The CST will be invited to make recommendations to the COP with respect to the proposed work programme of the SPI for the biennium 2020–2021.

ICCD/COP(14)/CST/6 – Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface (2020–2021). Note by the secretariat

(c) Monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought

32. *Background:* By its decision 15/COP.13, paragraph 8, the COP considers the need for a specific indicator for the strategic objective on drought, which is contained in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework adopted by Parties at COP 13.

33. Taking into consideration that the CST assisted in defining and identifying monitoring frameworks for the other strategic objectives, including indicators, the COP requested the CST to assist in the work relating to the establishment of such a monitoring framework.

34. Since this issue touches on UNCCD reporting and scientific considerations, it is of importance to both the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) and the CST. Therefore, the document will be discussed in both the CRIC and the CST plenary sessions.

35. *Action:* It is proposed that the CRIC and CST will jointly review the report on this matter and make any recommendations it may wish to forward to the COP for action.

ICCD/COP(14)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(18)/4 – Outcomes of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology on a monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought. Note by the secretariat
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4. Procedural matters

Programme of work for the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

36. In accordance with rule 33 of the rules of procedure, the CST is to submit to the COP for adoption a tentative programme of work for its fifteenth session.

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

37. Relevant information on the work of the Committee during its fourteenth session will be included in the report of the COP on its fourteenth session. In this respect, the report of the Committee on its fourteenth session, including draft decisions, where necessary, is expected to be submitted for consideration by the COP and, as appropriate, adoption.

Annex

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

Tuesday, 3 September 2019	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<p><i>Opening of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) by the Chair of the CST</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work <i>(ICCD/COP(14)/CST/1)</i> • Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refined guidance for implementation of land degradation neutrality, under objective 1 <i>(ICCD/COP(14)/CST/2)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019 <i>(continued)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019 <i>(ICCD/COP(14)/CST/4)</i>

Wednesday, 4 September 2019	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought <i>(ICCD/COP(14)/CST/7 - ICCD/CRIC(18)/4)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019 <i>(continued)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation, under objective 2 <i>(ICCD/COP(14)/CST/3)</i>

Thursday, 5 September 2019	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Science-Policy Interface, the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices <i>(ICCD/COP(14)/CST/5)</i> - Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2020–2021 <i>(ICCD/COP(14)/CST/6)</i> • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme of work for the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology 	

Friday, 6 September 2019	
	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of officers other than the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology <p><i>Closure of the session</i></p>

