

Decision 13/COP.8

Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24 of the Convention,

Noting the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The strategy) referred to in decision 3/COP.8 and, in particular, Part A of the implementation framework on the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Stressing the need for a focused effort to ensure that operational objective 3 under that plan on science, technology and knowledge is fully implemented,

Noting the potential of the CST to provide an opportunity for effective knowledge sharing at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, to support policymakers and stakeholders, including through the identification and sharing of best practice,

Welcoming the recent Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) decision to consider establishing a challenge programme on desertification and other such related initiatives and considering that such processes may significantly assist in achieving operational objective 3 of The Strategy,

Welcoming also the process and outcome of the World Meteorological Organization international workshop on climate and land degradation held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, in 2006, and noting that it provides a useful organizational model to enable the CST to achieve the goal of being a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge on combating desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought,

Recognizing that in order to achieve this goal the CST would benefit from the involvement of institutions, consortia (including non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) and individuals with the greatest expertise in these areas,

Taking note of the observations of the CST at its eighth session,

1. *Decides* that each future ordinary session of the CST shall:

(a) Be organized in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format by the CST Bureau in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, which is qualified in and has expertise in the relevant thematic topic selected by the Conference of the Parties (COP);

(b) Focus on one specific thematic topic relevant to the implementation of The Strategy, to be determined in advance by the COP;

(c) In relation to the priority theme, provide interaction with delegates and develop and make recommendations, with the lead institution/consortium submitting a report to the COP;

(d) Include presentations by other institutions, other environmental conventions, NGOs and individuals with experience of the thematic topic concerned, as decided upon by the Bureau of the CST in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, ensuring that there is a global call thereby giving every opportunity for contributions from all regions;

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in consultation with the CST Bureau, to consider mechanisms to secure additional funds to support attendance from the developing countries and eligible countries in all implementation annexes, ensuring support for the participation of experts, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders;

3. *Also requests* the CST Bureau to develop the terms of reference for the CST meeting referred to in paragraph 1 (a) above, in consultation with the lead institution/consortium;

4. *Encourages* the lead institution/consortium to assist in the mobilization of resources to hold the CST meeting referred to in paragraph 1 (a) above.

*3rd plenary meeting
7 September 2007*