

Decision 19/COP.10

Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy

The Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) adopted by decision 3/COP.8 and, in particular, the implementation framework of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Recalling the objectives of The Strategy and, in particular, strategic objective 1 on improving the living conditions of affected populations, strategic objective 2 on improving the condition of affected ecosystems, and strategic objective 3 on generating global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD,

Recalling decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 10, which requests the Committee on Science and Technology to provide advice to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3,

Recalling also decision 17/COP.9, which requests the Committee on Science and Technology to review the status of the iterative process for refining the provisionally accepted set of impact indicators during its sessions,

Noting documents ICCD/CST(S-2)/7, ICCD/CST(S-2)/8 and ICCD/CST(S-2)/INF.1, and the ensuing recommendations made at the second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/9,

Having reviewed document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 on the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/3 on the template and reporting guidelines on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 for affected country Parties, and document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/4-ICCD/CRIC(10)/14 on guidelines for the preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from Parties and other reporting entities as far as it concerns strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3,

Taking note of document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.1 on the scientific peer review for the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.2 on the pilot tracking exercises for the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, and document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.6 containing the proposed methodological guide on the use of impact indicators to measure progress against strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3,

Noting also document ICCD/COP(10)/INF.9 on the revised glossary for the performance review and assessment of implementation of the Convention as far as it concerns the terminology relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3,

Noting decision 14/COP.10 on the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and impact indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology and the secretariat on the process for refining the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3,

Refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3

1. *Decides* that the core principles identified in the participatory scientific peer review process and contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 set the stage for the development of proposals to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies based on national capacities and circumstances;
2. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to continue to provide assistance for pilot impact-indicator tracking exercises at the national level and to report on lessons learned to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session;
3. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc advisory group of technical experts, not exceeding 15 members, to be tasked with continuing the iterative participatory contribution from the scientific community, National Focal Points and Science and Technology Correspondents on impact-indicator refinement and the monitoring and assessment of impacts;
4. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to select the members of the ad hoc advisory group of technical experts in consultation with Parties through the regional and interested groups, and based on written submissions received in response to a public call for experts;
5. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to develop terms of reference for the ad hoc advisory group of technical experts, including membership and modalities of work;
6. *Decides* to task the ad hoc advisory group of technical experts with addressing the following four fundamental issues for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session:
 - (a) Identify the best scientific approach to operationally delineate affected areas, including an evaluation of how this delineation was undertaken during the pilot tracking exercise;
 - (b) Develop a mechanism or framework that encourages country Parties to identify nationally and locally relevant impact indicators and integrate these in their contribution to the global impact assessment effort;
 - (c) Further refine the set of the provisionally adopted impact indicators, based on national limitations, the findings of the scientific review and on lessons learned through applications by affected country Parties in the pilot tracking exercise and in the reporting process in 2012, to identify the most meaningful, globally applicable and cost-effective set of impact indicators;
 - (d) Develop a scientifically based approach for integrating, analysing and interpreting impact-indicator information, so that the overall set of impact indicators, when taken together, has the potential to generate at national level relevant information that can be harmonized and used to produce regional and global baseline assessments;
7. *Decides* that the ad hoc advisory group of technical experts should serve for a term of two years, with the group meeting once per year and consulting electronically with the

scientific community, National Focal Points and Science and Technology Correspondents in the intervening period;

8. *Decides* that the secretariat should report on the work done by the ad hoc advisory group of technical experts to the Committee on Science and Technology in order to provide recommendations for adoption at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Calls for* a strengthened collaboration between international and regional organizations involved in desertification monitoring in view of better supporting affected country Parties for reporting on indicators for desertification/land degradation and drought within the framework of the UNCCD;

10. *Invites* Parties, and interested organizations with the capacity to do so, to make voluntary contributions to support the pilot tracking exercises and the ad hoc advisory group of technical experts;

Reporting against impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3

11. *Decides* to provisionally adopt the draft reporting templates on the two mandatory impact indicators, contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/3, and to entrust the secretariat with fine-tuning them, based on the conclusions and recommendations of the pilot impact-indicator tracking exercise, after the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, for use by affected country Parties in the 2012–2013 reporting and review process;

12. *Requests* the secretariat to make available, in all six official languages of the United Nations, the methodological guide to reporting on the two mandatory impact indicators and their associated metrics, contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.6, as well as the glossary of terms and definitions contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/INF.9;

13. *Requests* also the secretariat to make available, in all six official languages of the United Nations, the existing generic template for the remaining impact indicators, provisionally accepted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session but considered optional for inclusion in reports by affected countries;

14. *Invites* affected country Parties to use, within their existing capacity and needs, the provisionally accepted set of impact indicators and the metrics/proxies proposed to measure them for the 2012–2013 reporting and review process, in order to help identify the most meaningful, globally applicable and cost-effective set of impact indicators and promote South-South and North-South collaboration on that aspect;

15. *Invites* affected country Parties to refer to the terminology and definitions included in document ICCD/COP(10)/INF.9 when reporting to the Conference of the Parties;

16. *Encourages* affected country Parties with the capacity to do so to use additional impact indicators as long as these fit into the underlying logic of measuring the impact of activities carried out within the ambit of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.

3rd plenary meeting

14 October 2011