

Decision 19/COP.13

Improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 23/COP.11 on the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface, particularly paragraph 2, which specifies that the Science-Policy Interface will function up to the end of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, at which point it will be reviewed,

Also recalling its decisions 19/COP.12 and 23/COP.12,

Noting with appreciation the good performance of the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its 2016–2017 work programme and the significant progress made by the Science-Policy Interface towards achieving the objectives that were set for it,

Taking into consideration the findings and recommendations from the external assessment of the Science-Policy Interface,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6,

1. *Decides* to continue the Science-Policy Interface and to extend its current mandate, as defined in decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12, up to the end of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (2023), at which time another review of the Science-Policy Interface will be presented;
2. *Also decides* to renew Science-Policy Interface membership using a rotating system to ensure the continuity of the work of the Science-Policy Interface and *requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the assistance of the secretariat, to define the process for the staged renewal of Science-Policy Interface membership and revise the Science-Policy Interface terms of reference and selection criteria accordingly;
3. *Further decides* that, for the biennium 2018–2019, the membership of no more than eight current Science-Policy Interface members shall be exceptionally extended by two years so as to benefit from the advantages of a rotating membership renewal system;
4. *Also decides* to add two more observer seats to the composition of the Science-Policy Interface;
5. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to submit through the secretariat a proposal for its work programme for consideration at each regular Committee on Science and Technology session, with a focus on one or two broad, globally relevant priority topics related to desertification/land degradation and drought;
6. *Also requests* the Science-Policy Interface, in close collaboration with the secretariat, to continue to contribute to and cooperate with other international scientific panels and bodies dealing with desertification/land degradation and drought issues, in particular the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, and the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme, and *further requests* the secretariat to clarify the potential benefits, costs, conditions and procedures for establishing more formal relationships between the Science-Policy Interface and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Technical Panel

on Soils and International Resource Panel in order to develop synergies and avoid duplication of efforts;

7. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface to continue fostering partnerships with scientific bodies and institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders and to invite the representatives of these entities to its meetings as external observers when feasible, with a view to strengthening substantive exchanges and collaboration;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Science and Technology and current and past Science-Policy Interface members to increase awareness of the work of the Science-Policy Interface;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate communication between the Science-Policy Interface and the science and technology correspondents of Parties;

10. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue to mobilize resources for the effective functioning of the Science-Policy Interface;

11. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Parties and others in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support for the activities of the Science-Policy Interface.

*9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017*