

Decision 26/COP.10

Date, venue and programme of work of the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 23 of the Convention,

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, in particular the implementation framework for the Committee on Science and Technology,

Recognizing that regional meetings play an important role in the review of progress made, and make a useful contribution to the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy,

Recalling decision 12/COP.8 on the functioning of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Recalling decision 16/COP.9 on reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with The Strategy,

Having reviewed the costed draft two-year work programmes for the Committee on Science and Technology and the secretariat contained in document ICCD/COP(10)/8,

Recalling decision 16/COP.9, whereby the Parties decided that the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be held in 2012 to address in a scientific and technical conference-style format the topic “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”,

1. *Decides* that the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be held for four days in Bonn, Germany, not later than March 2013, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host the session and meet the additional financial cost;
2. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (a) The UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference;
 - (b) Progress made in refining the impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), in accordance with decision 19/COP.10;
 - (c) Preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference on “Combating DLDD for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to review the provisions for regional meetings in preparation for the meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology, as contained in its biennial costed work programme, and to seek financial contributions to enable those regional meetings to take place;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to accommodate any offer from a Party to host the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with a host country/government;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the participation of the science and technology correspondents in the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
7. *Invites* developed country Parties, international, national and regional organizations and relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions for the organization of the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
8. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate, in all six official languages of the United Nations, at least six weeks prior to the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, a provisional annotated agenda and documentation for the session, reflecting the decision contained in paragraph 2 above.

3rd plenary meeting
14 October 2011