

Decision 28/COP.11

Date and venue of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 23 of the Convention,

Bearing in mind decision 3/COP.8 and decision 13/COP.8,

Recalling decision 18/COP.10 paragraph 12, outlining that the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference shall take place in 2014 at a special session of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Taking into account the decision on this topic taken by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties at its meeting held from 28 to 29 June 2013 in Seoul, Republic of Korea,

Bearing in mind decision 21/COP.11 on reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018),

1. *Decides* that the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be held at the latest by the end of April 2015, in Bonn, Germany, or in any of the other venues with United Nations conference facilities, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial cost. In the event that finance is not available for the third scientific conference the fourth special session of the CST will be postponed to a later date;
2. *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 fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology with its UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the fourth 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;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the participation of the eligible science and technology correspondents in the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
5. *Invites* developed country Parties, international, national and regional organizations and relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions for the organization of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to review the provisions for regional meetings in preparation for the fourth special session 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.

3rd plenary meeting
20 September 2013