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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of progress made in the organization of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice in the Convention process

Organization of international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process. Conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues

Note by the secretariat

Summary

By its decision 20/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its tenth session decided to set up an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

This document includes conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues (AGSA), which are accompanied by the background, mandate, activities and main outcomes of the work of the AGSA, a comprehensive analysis of 11 components of an integrated scenario. The final report of the AGSA, containing all detailed information as requested in the terms of reference of the AGSA, is contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.2. At its eleventh session, the Committee on Science and Technology may wish to review and recommend that the COP adopt the recommendations herein.

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Executive summary, including recommendations

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice, Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues (AGSA) was established in July 2012 to make proposals for improving scientific advice to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in accordance with decision 20/COP.10 of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

2. The COP took this decision because the Committee on Science and Technology at its tenth session (CST 10) could not reach a consensus on choosing one of four options for science-advisory bodies: either (a) using existing scientific networks; or (b) establishing a new scientific network focusing on specific topics; or (c) using existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms; or (d) establishing a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil.

3. The terms of reference of the AGSA, which were drawn up by the Bureau of the CST at its meeting on 17 and 18 February 2012, required it to propose "the most suitable components that would shape an integrated scenario for providing scientific advice to UNCCD focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the UNCCD." The Bureau of the CST listed 11 components of this integrated scenario for analysis: (a) role, objectives and mandate; (b) UNCCD core and non-core disciplines/thematic areas; (c) status; (d) membership; (e) expected outputs, activities and deliverables; (f) non-academic knowledge; (g) synergies with existing panels/networks, including those established under other United Nations Conventions; (h) financial, legal and other implications; (i) implementation mechanism; (j) functional modalities; and (k) governance modalities, science-policy interface and reporting process. Whereas the four options considered at CST 10 referred to different types of science-advisory bodies, these 11 components cover all characteristics of a science-advisory body and the processes by which it communicates scientific knowledge and policy-relevant scientific advice to the UNCCD, to the regions, and to all relevant stakeholders.

4. Having considered a number of alternative arrangements for each component and agreed on its preferences, the AGSA has decided that the integrated scenario comprising the optimum arrangements for all components can be divided for operational purposes into a modular mechanism comprising three core modules:

(a) A "Science-Policy Interface" (SPI), where representatives of the policy and science communities, and other stakeholders, would discuss, synthesize and communicate to the UNCCD scientific information and knowledge and policy-relevant advice on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), and identify the needs of the UNCCD for such inputs. The compact design proposed by the AGSA should ensure faster communication than occurs in the science-policy interfaces of other United Nations bodies;

(b) An "Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists" (IGS), whose representatives would meet with policymaker representatives in the SPI. Scientists would be members of the IGS based on their individual credentials and belong to all disciplines essential for providing comprehensive knowledge on DLDD. The IGS would prepare peer-reviewed reports, which would be presented to the SPI to be transmitted by the CST to the COP. The advice provided by the IGS would be inclusive of all studies on DLDD, and external peer-reviewing of the group's reports would ensure that this advice is independent and authoritative;

(c) "Regional Science and Technology Hubs" (RSTHs), which would bring together existing scientific networks in each UNCCD region to collate and synthesize

regional knowledge on DLDD, and communicate this to governments and other bodies in that region and to the SPI and IGS. Scientists participating in the hubs could also be IGS members in their individual capacities. The hubs would also catalyse the growth of DLDD research in their respective regions, improve coordination, and facilitate contributions, requests and participation through bottom-up mechanisms. The hubs would give the modular mechanism a broad base across the regions, and keep it grounded in real issues and the concerns of member countries through the constant feedback which they provide.

5. This modular mechanism incorporates aspects of each of the four options discussed at CST 10 but is likely to be more effective than any of them individually. It could also become operational within a period of 2–5 years (pending approval by the COP), and therefore support the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) by 2018.

6. The modules could be implemented in a stepwise manner as funding permits, for example, by (a) building on the UNCCD Scientific Conferences to form the SPI; (b) using the scientific networks established to advise these conferences to form the core of the IGS, which many other scientists from around the world could then join; (c) establishing the RSTHs at a pace selected to meet the needs of each region; and (d) building cooperative links to existing science-advisory bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which would also help to increase synergies between the UNCCD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. The AGSA invites the CST to bring to the COP the following principal recommendations for improving scientific advice to the UNCCD:

Recommendation 1

Scientific advice should be provided through an integrated scenario to collate, monitor, analyse and synthesize scientific information and knowledge on DLDD and seamlessly communicate this and policy-relevant advice to the UNCCD and to all stakeholders considered relevant for the implementation of the Convention.

Recommendation 2

The integrated scenario should have a modular mechanism comprising three core modules: a “Science-Policy Interface”; an “Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists”; and “Regional Science and Technology Hubs” (see figure in chapter III).

Recommendation 3

A “Science-Policy Interface” should be established to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on DLDD, taking into account the procedures of the UNCCD Scientific Conferences.

Recommendation 4

An “Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists” should be created, with the support of the COP working through the CST, and in cooperation with the wider scientific community, to be an authoritative source for analysing, synthesizing and communicating unbiased scientific information, knowledge and advice on DLDD.

Recommendation 5

The regions should be encouraged to develop “Regional Science and Technology Hubs”, designed as appropriate to individual regional circumstances, which can collate, analyse, synthesize and communicate regional information and knowledge on DLDD issues to governments in the region, regional stakeholders, and the “Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists” and the “Science-Policy Interface”, and participate in the “Science-Policy Interface”. This should ensure that regional scientific and technological expertise is more fully harnessed to increase its contribution to providing region-specific policy-relevant scientific advice, taking into account non-academic knowledge.

Recommendation 6

The three modules of the modular mechanism should be established in a stepwise manner, taking advantage of existing scientific networks, the UNCCD Scientific Conferences and other UNCCD mechanisms (such as Science and Technology Correspondents and the Roster of Experts) (see para. 39 below).

Recommendation 7

Appropriate technical and financial support should also be provided in a stepwise manner to realize the modular design of the integrated scenario, and also taking into account the various partnerships within and between the different modules.

I. Background and mandate

8. In 2007, by its decision 3/COP.8, the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighth session adopted a 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy). The third operational objective of this plan is for the Convention “to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought”.¹

9. The Committee on Science and Technology (CST) was given primary responsibility for fulfilling this objective and was requested by the COP, by decision 18/COP.9, “to conduct an assessment at its next two sessions of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice, taking into account the need to ensure transparency and geographical balance, and to consider options for determining agreed channels for consideration of the advice in the Convention process”, and to submit recommendations for consideration at the tenth session of the COP.²

10. The Bureau of the CST, with the support of the UNCCD secretariat, conducted an electronic assessment (e-survey) on how to organize international interdisciplinary scientific advice. The e-survey included four alternative options for organizing international interdisciplinary scientific advice:^{3,4}

- (a) Using existing scientific networks;
- (b) Establishing a new scientific network focusing on specific topics;
- (c) Using existing intergovernmental scientific advisory mechanisms;
- (d) Establishing a new intergovernmental scientific panel on land and soil.

11. The key findings of the e-survey were presented at CST 10. However, since the CST could not reach a consensus on which option to recommend to the COP, the COP, by its decision 20/COP.10, decided “to set up an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss the options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the UNCCD”.⁵ Pursuant to this decision, the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice, Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues (AGSA) was established by the Bureau of the CST in July 2012. (For the list of the 12 members of AGSA, see annex I below).

12. The terms of reference for the AGSA, agreed by the Bureau of the CST at its meeting on 17 and 18 February 2012,⁶ required it to propose “the most suitable components that would shape an integrated scenario for providing scientific advice to UNCCD focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the UNCCD”. These components, which the AGSA was asked to examine “among others and not in order of priority”, and while “taking into account” the four earlier options, were:

¹ See ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1, decision 3/COP.8.

² See ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1, decision 18/COP.9.

³ ICCD/COP(10)/CST/MISC.1.

⁴ ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.1.

⁵ ICCD/COP(10)/31/Add.1, decision 20/COP.10.

⁶ Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, 17–18 February 2012, Bonn. Available at <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/CST/BMR_17-18Feb2012.pdf>.

- (a) Role, objectives and mandate;
- (b) UNCCD core and non-core disciplines/thematic areas;
- (c) Status;
- (d) Membership;
- (e) Expected output, activities and deliverables;
- (f) Non-academic knowledge;
- (g) Synergy with existing panel/networks, including those established under other United Nations conventions;
- (h) Financial, legal and other implications;
- (i) Implementation mechanism;
- (j) Functional modalities;
- (k) Governance modalities, science-policy interface and reporting process.

13. Whereas the four e-survey options in paragraph 10 focus purely on a science-advisory body, the 11 components go further in specifying the key features of all bodies and processes in an integrated scenario for providing scientific advice.

II. Activities of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice, Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues

14. The AGSA held its first meeting on 30 and 31 July 2012 in Bonn, Germany. It elected a Coordination Team, comprising a Chair, a Co-Chair, a Rapporteur and a Documents Coordinator, and assigned small teams of members to analyse each of the 11 components (see annex I below).⁷ From its first meeting onwards, the work of the AGSA was financially supported by Switzerland and the Republic of Korea, under the Changwon Initiative.

15. The AGSA devoted its first six months to a detailed analysis of the 11 components. This involved referring to a large number of empirical studies on science-policy communication in UNCCD and on the work of existing science-advisory bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), as well as to recent scientific research on science-policy communication. All of this research is documented in the final report of the AGSA contained in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.2.⁸ In the remaining five months the AGSA focused on how to operationalize the entire integrated scenario through a modular mechanism. The present document summarizes the main findings of the AGSA and its recommendations for each component and for the modular mechanism.

16. The AGSA undertook most of its work remotely, communicating frequently by email. Two further physical meetings were held at the UNCCD secretariat in Bonn, on 10 and 11 December 2012 and on 29 and 30 April 2013. In accordance with the Group's terms

⁷ Report of the first meeting of the AGSA, 30–31 July 2012, Bonn. Available at: <[http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/science/Report on the first meeting of the AGSA.pdf](http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/science/Report%20on%20the%20first%20meeting%20of%20the%20AGSA.pdf)>.

⁸ See ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.2 for the final report of the AGSA, 2013.

of reference, progress reports were submitted by the Chair to the Bureau of the CST on 30 October 2012, 20 February 2013 and 11 April 2013, and to preparatory meetings of the UNCCD Regional Implementation Annexes (Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe) on 13 April 2013. The pre-final report of the AGSA was presented to the Bureau of the CST on 30 May 2013.

17. The findings of the Group are presented in three parts: (a) the present document, ICCD/COP(11)/CST/3, finalized in mid-June 2013 and summarizing the Group's conclusions and recommendations for the integrated scenario; (b) a final report, available as document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/INF.2 in English only, finalized in July 2013 and summarizing the detailed analysis of each component on which the Group based its proposals;⁹ and (c) 11 component studies, to be made available during August 2013 on the UNCCD website, and describing in detail the analysis of each component by the corresponding team. It is expected that the final recommendations of the AGSA will also be presented at the regional meetings prior to COP 11.

III. Main outcomes of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice, Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues

18. The AGSA found that the 11 components identified by the Bureau of the CST provided an adequate set of building blocks for designing an integrated scenario that could seamlessly communicate scientific information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) through the CST to the COP of the UNCCD. After evaluating the relative merits of alternative arrangements for each component, summarized in chapter IV below and described in full in its final report,¹⁰ the Group identified its preferred arrangement.

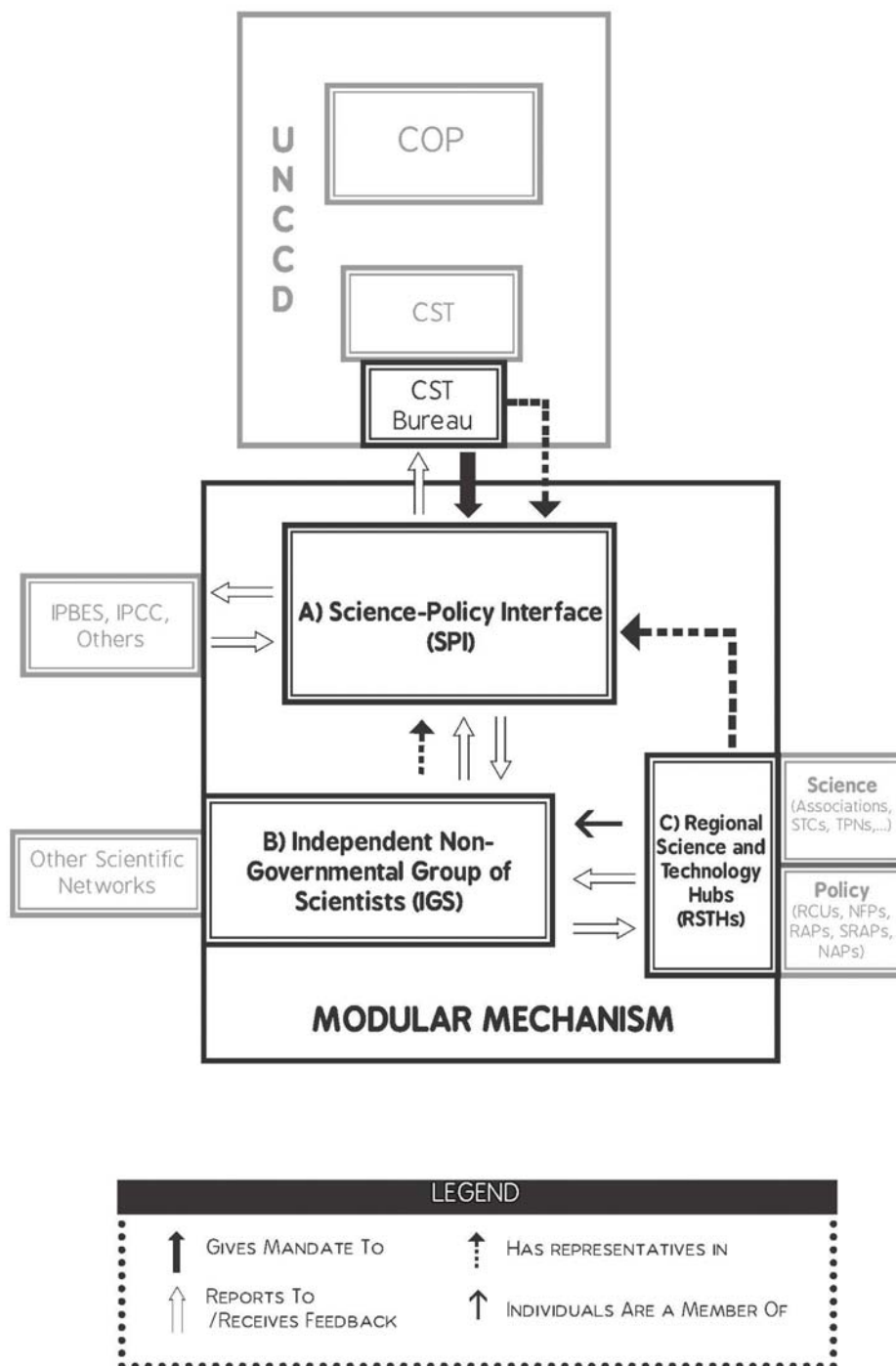
19. The AGSA then divided the resulting integrated scenario, comprising the combination of optimum arrangements for all components, into three core modules for operational/planning purposes (see figure below):

(a) A "Science-Policy Interface" (SPI), where representatives of the policy and science communities would discuss, synthesize and communicate to UNCCD scientific information and knowledge and policy-relevant advice on DLDD, and the needs of UNCCD for such inputs;

⁹ As footnote 8 above.

¹⁰ As footnote 8 above.

The role of the modular mechanism in the integrated scenario for providing scientific advice to the UNCCD



(b) An “Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists” (IGS), whose representatives would meet with policymakers in the SPI (see para. 25 (b)). IGS members would be selected on the basis of their individual credentials and belong to all disciplines essential for providing comprehensive knowledge on DLDD (see chapters IV.F and IV.G). The IGS would prepare and communicate reports containing unbiased and peer-reviewed

information, knowledge and policy-relevant (but not policy prescriptive) advice. Outputs could include regular assessment reports on DLDD with executive summaries for policymakers, special reports, customized assessments, methodological and technical reports, and practical manuals for general dissemination (see chapter IV.J);

(c) “Regional Science and Technology Hubs” (RSTHs), which would bring together existing scientific networks in each UNCCD region to collate and synthesize regional knowledge on DLDD, and communicate this to: (a) governments and other bodies in that region to support the design and implementation of policies and programmes; and (b) the SPI and the IGS. Scientists who are part of networks and bodies contributing to the hubs can also be IGS members in their individual capacities. Each hub would also catalyse the growth of DLDD research in its region and improve research coordination (see chapter IV.K).

20. Two-way flows of information and knowledge between these three interlinked modules (figure above) would: (a) alleviate current constraints on the flow of scientific knowledge and policy-relevant advice to the COP via the CST and to the regions; and (b) improve international dissemination of the latest research findings that have been identified by the IGS and the regions. The modular mechanism could be implemented in a stepwise fashion to make the most efficient use of financial and human resources.

IV. Comprehensive analysis of eleven components of an integrated scenario

A. Introduction

21. This section summarizes the results of the AGSA analysis of the 11 components of the integrated scenario identified by the Bureau of the CST. These components should fit together like a jigsaw in the following way to ensure effective communication between the scientific community and UNCCD. The integrated scenario will fill a needed role within a specific mandate, guided by a set of objectives. At the heart of the integrated scenario is the science-policy interface. Here a group of scientists meets with the UNCCD secretariat, the Bureau and members of the CST, within a set of governing modalities, to identify the needs of UNCCD for scientific information, knowledge and advice, and to review, assess and communicate outputs provided by the scientists in response to these needs. The group of scientists, whose membership covers all relevant disciplines and thematic areas, has a particular legal status and mandate. The outputs and deliverables of the group of scientists, which include syntheses of scientific information, knowledge and policy-relevant (but not policy-prescriptive) advice, and complemented by non-academic knowledge as appropriate, will be reported to the CST, the COP, UNCCD regional bodies and other stakeholders considered relevant for the implementation of the Convention. The UNCCD and other United Nations conventions will benefit from synergies between the science-policy interface and group of scientists, on the one hand, and existing science-advisory bodies and scientific panels, platforms and networks, on the other. An implementation mechanism is required to establish the integrated scenario and its various functional modalities, and this has financial, legal and other implications which UNCCD must consider.

22. The AGSA analysis of the governing modalities, status and mandates components was informed by recent research into the operation of science-policy interfaces, which shows that the effectiveness of communicating scientific knowledge to policymakers is strongly influenced by governing modalities. Communication is most effective when there is a two-way dialogue between policymakers and the wider scientific community, so that

each becomes fully aware of the other's needs and capabilities.¹¹ Research has also identified a recent shift, at global and national scales, to a new style of governing called governance, in which non-governmental groups play a far more prominent role than in the past.¹²

B. Role and objectives

23. The AGSA proposes that the overall role of the integrated scenario should be (a) to evaluate, synthesize, and serve as a repository for available scientific information and knowledge and identify information and knowledge gaps on all aspects of DLDD; and (b) to communicate this information, knowledge and policy-relevant (but not policy prescriptive) advice, to the CST and to all stakeholders considered relevant for implementation of the Convention. Filling this role will correct the lack of sufficient scientific inputs to the UNCCD that was recognized by the COP at its fifth session in 2001,¹³ and subsequently by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit¹⁴ and several scientific studies.^{15,16}

24. The AGSA proposes six objectives for this role: (a) to foster a science-policy dialogue so that the information needs of policymakers and other stakeholders considered relevant for the implementation of the Convention are clearly communicated to scientists; (b) to undertake comprehensive assessments of DLDD on the basis of existing information and knowledge, analyse policy-relevant future scenarios, and alert the Parties to new developments and issues; (c) to serve as a global think-tank and repository for scientific knowledge and information on DLDD (including scientifically verified non-academic knowledge); (d) to catalyse research initiatives and partnerships to generate and disseminate new knowledge at all scales; (e) to develop synergistic relationships with other international science-advisory bodies; and (f) to provide guidance on appropriate tools to assess and monitor DLDD at different scales.

C. Governing modalities

25. The AGSA makes the following proposals for the governing modalities of the three modules that it proposes should implement the integrated scenario (see chapter IV.K):

(a) The SPI should be co-governed by the CST and the IGS, and operate with the administrative support of the UNCCD secretariat (for details, see the final report of the AGSA¹⁷). Its mandate, functions, rules, composition, legal status and terms of reference would be decided by the COP, working through the CST. It could be co-chaired by one representative of the Parties and one representative of the IGS;

¹¹ D.W. Cash and others, "Knowledge systems for sustainable development", Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol.100 (2003), pp. 8086–8091.

¹² R.A.W. Rhodes, "The new governance: governing without government", Political Studies, vol. 44 (1996), pp. 652–667.

¹³ ICCD/COP(5)/3/Add.2.

¹⁴ United Nations, Joint Inspection Unit (prepared by Even F. Ortiz and Guanting Tang). Review of the Management, Administration and Activities of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). 2005. JIU/REP/2005/5.

¹⁵ S. Bauer and L.C. Stringer, "The role of science in the global governance of desertification", Journal of Environment and Development, vol. 18 (2009), pp. 248–267.

¹⁶ A. Grainger, "The role of science in implementing international environmental agreements: the case of desertification", Land Degradation and Development, vol. 20 (2009), pp. 410–430.

¹⁷ As footnote 8 above.

(b) The IGS should be self-governing, with a small permanent administrative support unit and an executive board. It should be accredited to UNCCD, but as a non-governmental organization it would have its own statutes that comply with the laws of the country in which its support unit is hosted. It could start out small, by drawing on members of existing scientific networks and networks assembled to advise previous UNCCD Scientific Conferences. It could then gradually evolve, depending on the size and scope of the work requested of it;

(c) The governing modalities of the RSTHs should be decided by the regions themselves. These hubs would coordinate interactions between regional scientific networks and the SPI, IGS and regional policy-oriented structures. This would enable the IGS to receive inputs from the regions, while providing them with synthetic global knowledge and advice.

D. Status

26. The AGSA makes the following proposals for the legal status of the three modules:

(a) The status of the SPI should take into account the format of the UNCCD Scientific Conferences;

(b) The IGS should have international non-governmental status. Although fully self-governing, it would have links to UNCCD through the SPI and CST. The AGSA considered various intergovernmental and non-governmental status arrangements. It concluded that UNCCD access to scientific knowledge is greatly constrained by the intergovernmental rules under which its expert scientific advisors currently operate and that relying on an international non-governmental group would minimize these constraints;

(c) The status of the RSTHs should be decided by the regions themselves according to specific regional needs.

E. Mandates

27. The AGSA makes the following proposals for the content and source of the mandate for each module:

(a) The SPI should receive its mandate from the UNCCD. Its mandate would be: (i) to receive and respond to requests for information, knowledge and advice from the intergovernmental process of the UNCCD (through the CST); (ii) communicate to the IGS the needs of the CST and COP for information, knowledge and advice so that the IGS can respond to these needs; (iii) analyse and harmonize scientific assessments from the IGS and communicate these and policy-relevant scientific advice to the CST; (iv) regularly analyse policy-relevant scenarios, scientific information, tools and methodologies for DLDD; (v) develop synergies in action with existing international scientific advisory bodies, such as the IPCC and IPBES, and between the three Rio conventions (the UNCCD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity) (see chapter IV.H); and (vi) ensure that different knowledge systems, including non-academic knowledge systems, are involved as appropriate;

(b) The IGS could: (i) receive and respond to requests for information and knowledge from the SPI, from the RSTHs and also other interested parties relevant for science on DLDD; (ii) serve as an authoritative source for analysing, synthesizing and communicating scientific information and knowledge; (iii) achieve and maintain a global and regional overview on DLDD science and technologies; (iv) identify and prioritize key scientific information and knowledge needed by policymakers and other stakeholders; (v)

identify policy-relevant information and knowledge gaps at global and regional scales, and identify the means to fill these gaps; (vi) evaluate, assess and synthesize scientific and technological information and knowledge to produce appropriate peer-reviewed assessments and regular monitoring of global and regional DLDD status (see chapter IV.J); (vii) take account of non-academic (e.g. traditional) knowledge (see chapter IV.D); (viii) transfer requests for information and knowledge from the global policy level to the RSTHs and, upon request, provide scientific knowledge to the regional levels; and (ix) regularly alert the international and regional communities, through various forums and media, to new developments and emerging issues related to DLDD;

(c) The mandates of the RSTHs should be defined by the regions themselves, but could include: (i) identifying and prioritizing key scientific information and knowledge needed by policymakers and other stakeholders from the region; (ii) identifying the means to generate new information and knowledge at the regional level; (iii) carrying out regular assessments to survey the needs and identify policy-related information and knowledge gaps at regional levels; (iv) working jointly with the IGS to address global demands by policymakers for information and knowledge; (v) actively participating in the SPI through their representatives (see paragraph 32 (a)); (vi) conducting comprehensive regular assessments and monitoring of regional DLDD status and trends (including socioeconomic and biophysical aspects); and (vii) regularly alerting regional stakeholders, through different forums and media, to new developments and emerging issues related to DLDD.

28. The AGSA makes these proposals after evaluating various options for the sources of mandates. Recent research shows that sources are just as important as content, since they are closely linked to lines of accountability (see paragraph 22).

F. UNCCD core and essential disciplines and thematic areas

29. The AGSA carefully tackled the issue of core and non-core disciplines as indicated in its terms of reference. It agrees that limiting the scope of scientific advice to a small number of core scientific disciplines and thematic areas (that is, specialist research areas within individual disciplines or overlapping a number of disciplines) could, in principle, lead to a cost-effective integrated scenario. However, since the AGSA was unable to find evidence that a small number of disciplines could provide comprehensive knowledge of DLDD, it proposes that the IGS and RTSHs should include a larger number of essential disciplines to ensure comprehensive coverage.

30. The AGSA provides in the table below an initial list of 23 essential disciplines, which are needed to give UNCCD the comprehensive scientific knowledge it requires on the complex phenomenon of DLDD (for more information see the final report of the AGSA¹⁸). The thematic areas also listed in the table can be a starting point to focus knowledge flows from these disciplines. All these disciplines are relevant to the mandate of the UNCCD and the integrated scenario, and by complementing disciplines prominent in the IPCC and IPBES they will enhance synergies with these bodies for implementing joint initiatives, especially in drylands.

31. The disciplines and thematic areas listed in the table are the result of studying two large samples of scientific papers on 'desertification' and 'land degradation' and identifying the disciplines of their authors and the specialist thematic areas involved. The specialities reported by 1,767 members of the UNCCD Roster of Experts place them in 16 of these disciplines, implying that each of these disciplines is already viewed as 'essential' by at least one Party to the UNCCD.

¹⁸ As footnote 8 above.

Initial list of essential scientific disciplines and thematic areas for desertification, land degradation and drought**Essential scientific disciplines**

Agronomy, anthropology, atmospheric science, biology, development studies, ecology, economics, environmental management, environmental science, forest science, geography, geology, hydrology, livestock science, medicine, plant science, political science, rangeland management, remote sensing science, sociology, soil science, water management and zoology.

Thematic areas

Adaptation, afforestation, agricultural development, agricultural intensification, agriculture, albedo, biodiversity, biomass, carbon sequestration, climate change, climate modelling, climate variability, deforestation, desertification, drought, dust, ecological resilience, economic development, ecosystem services, environmental change, environmental degradation, environmental impact assessment, environmental policy analysis, extreme events, fertilizers, flooding, food security, global governance, irrigation, land cover change, land degradation, land restoration/reclamation, land use change, land-climate system, landscape ecology, livelihood analysis, migration, plant nutrition, policy analysis, population growth, poverty, rangeland ecology, rangeland management, reforestation, rehabilitation, restoration, runoff, salinization, science-policy analysis, sedimentation, social resilience, soil conservation, soil degradation, soil erosion, sustainable development, vegetation change, vegetation degradation, vulnerability, water conservation, water management, water quality and water resources.

G. Membership

32. The AGSA makes the following proposals for the membership of the three modules:

(a) Membership of the SPI should be specified in its terms of reference but should include members of the Bureau of the CST; a selected number of representatives of the Parties as agreed by the COP and who are competent in a field of expertise on DLDD, taking into account the regional balance; members of IGS; and representatives of the RSTHs (for more information see the final report of the AGSA¹⁹). Each regional group could nominate the following to participate in the SPI: (a) a government representative competent in the field of expertise; and (b) one representative from regional scientific networks. United Nations organizations, other inter-governmental organizations, environmental conventions, science-advisory bodies, and non-governmental organizations would be eligible to attend SPI meetings as accredited observers. A global call announced by the SPI could give every opportunity for contributions from other stakeholders considered relevant to the implementation of the Convention, including the private sector;

(b) Members of the IGS should be scientists in their individual capacities and membership should be based on scientific credentials. The process of membership selection should be transparent, and allow for the involvement of scientists from all regions and from all relevant disciplines and thematic areas which are required to give essential knowledge to the UNCCD (such as those listed in the table above). A call could be launched to ensure that experts from all regions are aware of the possibility to join the IGS in their individual capacities. Membership criteria could include a mix of a strong track record of peer-reviewed publications in international journals; integrated and participatory research; on-the-ground experience; and membership of editorial boards of leading international scientific journals or of the boards of leading scientific organizations. The AGSA agreed to

¹⁹ As footnote 8 above.

use membership criteria prevailing in the scientific community after examining evidence from; (a) existing networks and science-advisory bodies, such as the IPCC and the IPBES, whose official members are governments; and (b) current UNCCD practice;

(c) Working groups of the IGS would be established with the necessary expertise to prepare reports for the UNCCD. Membership of these working groups would be selected on the basis of scientific credentials and acknowledged expertise in the relevant DLDD topic, and would be regionally representative. The normal expectation would be that each of the five UNCCD regions would be equally represented;

(d) Membership and membership criteria of the RSTHs should be decided by the hubs themselves but should consider active researchers with on the ground experience (for more information see the final report of the AGSA²⁰).

H. Exploiting synergies with existing panels, platforms and networks, including those established under other United Nations conventions

33. The AGSA proposes that the three modules would benefit from exploiting synergies with other scientific bodies:

(a) Once the SPI and the IGS have been established they should give priority to building synergistic links with other science-advisory bodies, such as the IPCC and IPBES. Should the CST, mandated by the COP, request peer-reviewed assessments on the relationships between DLDD and climate change, or between DLDD and biodiversity and ecosystem services, the resulting cooperative links would allow joint preparation of such assessments in a cost-effective way. Such links could also enhance collaboration between the three Rio conventions. The AGSA agreed on its proposal for the establishment of the SPI and IGS following a detailed study, summarized in its final report²¹, which showed that neither the IPCC nor the IPBES could provide the UNCCD with the comprehensive knowledge it needs on DLDD. On the other hand, the limited overlap between the scope of knowledge synthesized by each of the three science-advisory bodies gives an excellent justification for exploiting synergies between them;

(b) Building cooperation with other international networks interested in DLDD issues would also be mutually beneficial. The UNCCD e-survey²² listed 87 groups of this kind, including DesertNet International, the Global Network of Dryland Research Institutes, the Global Soil Partnership and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies;

(c) The RSTHs could draw on knowledge accumulated by existing scientific networks in each region to collate regional scientific knowledge. This would benefit the SPI and IGS, and regional policymakers.

I. Non-academic knowledge

34. The AGSA carefully considered non-academic knowledge, as indicated in its terms of reference (for more information see the final report of the AGSA²³). It proposes that incorporating the traditional knowledge element of non-academic knowledge into knowledge synthesized, evaluated and reported in the integration scenario should be

²⁰ As footnote 8 above.

²¹ As footnote 8 above.

²² As footnote 3 above.

²³ As footnote 8 above.

considered separately from documenting traditional knowledge and using it to enhance action on DLDD. Accordingly, the AGSA also proposes that:

(a) The Parties should continue to be responsible for actively searching for, and documenting, traditional knowledge in their countries, as agreed in article 18 of the Convention. Their national repositories would be excellent for providing traditional knowledge to support the implementation of projects within the countries concerned, and for facilitating the exchange of knowledge between the Parties. However, more effective mechanisms are needed for transferring traditional knowledge to the UNCCD process and sharing knowledge between countries;

(b) The IGS should promote the development of new methods to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge (and more generally non-academic knowledge with academic knowledge), for example, by establishing a working group for this purpose;

(c) The RSTHs would be ideally placed to provide scientific support for using non-academic knowledge in the regions.

J. Expected outputs and deliverables and the reporting process

35. The AGSA proposes that the outputs of the IGS should be produced with a rigorous external peer review process. The IGS would be divided into thematic working groups, with each group being responsible for undertaking authoritative syntheses of specific areas of scientific knowledge on DLDD. Outputs could include: (a) regular Land Degradation Assessment Reports, with executive summaries for policymakers produced autonomously by the IGS, at a frequency to be decided; (b) Special Reports; (c) methodological reports, practical manuals and technical papers; (d) customized versions of Assessment Reports and Special Reports for individual regions, with special Application Reports targeted at planners, environmental managers etc.; and (e) other reports to support preparedness by the Parties on short- to medium-term emerging issues. The scheduling of reports required by the UNCCD as deliverables would be decided through discussions at SPI meetings. However, the COP could mandate the CST or its Bureau to request reports that are needed more urgently and could be produced within their discretionary budgets.

36. The AGSA proposes that the reporting process should be as comprehensive and transparent as possible. Reports would be presented to SPI meetings to be transmitted by the CST to the COP. Reports would also be made available to other participants at SPI meetings; and to all stakeholders and the general public on the UNCCD website, in accordance with current practice. Effective communication pathways between the three modules should ensure the wide dissemination of reports to scientists and stakeholders in the regions, as well as the involvement of the RSTHs.

37. The AGSA agreed to these proposals after studying the work of the IPCC, the work programme being planned for the IPBES, and the history of reporting scientific knowledge to the UNCCD.

K. Implementation mechanisms and functional modalities

38. The AGSA proposes that the integrated scenario should be implemented by a modular mechanism that combines all of its proposals for the individual components into three core modules:

(a) An SPI that facilitates a two-way science-policy dialogue; ensures the delivery of policy-relevant knowledge, information and advice on DLDD; receives its

mandate from the UNCCD; and takes full advantage of synergies with the work of the IPCC, IPBES and other science-advisory bodies. A specimen terms of reference is provided, at the request of the Bureau of the CST, in annex II;

(b) An IGS, which is an authoritative source for analysing, synthesizing and communicating unbiased scientific information and knowledge and advice on DLDD; has non-governmental legal status; is self-governing; and is composed of individual scientists from all the essential disciplines needed to provide comprehensive knowledge on DLDD. Members would be selected using transparent membership criteria based on scientific credentials, and membership would be open to experts from all regions, including those participating in the RSTHs;

(c) RSTHs, designed as appropriate to individual regional circumstances, which can collate, analyse, synthesize and communicate regional knowledge on DLDD issues and participate in the SPI.

39. The AGSA also proposes six initial implementation steps to initiate the three modules once the COP has decided to establish them:

(a) The SPI would be established by a decision of the COP, taking into consideration the current scope and functions of the existing UNCCD Scientific Conferences;

(b) The IGS would be established, and accredited to the UNCCD, to evaluate, assess, and synthesize scientific and technological knowledge and produce peer-reviewed reports, in response to requests from the CST, which are transmitted through the SPI. The IGS could be initiated by the core of scientists in the scientific networks which produced reports for previous UNCCD Scientific Conferences, working in cooperation with other interested scientists and organizations who are actively researching DLDD;

(c) An organization would be selected to host the administrative support unit that would provide coordination for the IGS;

(d) The structure, status and constitution of the RSTHs, and other regional bodies, should be decided by the regions themselves given the varying status of existing arrangements. Some regions may favour a Regional Coordination Unit which could communicate with the RSTHs, for example, through their own science-policy interfaces. Other regions may wish to strengthen the institutional structure for coordinating thematic programme networks, regional action programmes and subregional action programmes. The AGSA does not believe that it is part of its mandate to make detailed proposals on these aspects other than to emphasize the huge potential for the modular mechanism to strengthen and/or revitalize contributions from the regions to the UNCCD. However, the AGSA believes that that further discussions could also include aspects detailed in the AGSA final report;²⁴

(e) Two-way exchanges of information would be initiated between: (i) the SPI and the IGS; (ii) the SPI and the RSTHs; and (iii) the IGS and the RSTHs. Such synergies are central to the modular mechanism, consistent with the regional approach of the UNCCD, and could enhance regional research activity in DLDD and the involvement of scientists from the regions in the work of UNCCD. These two-way exchanges would build on existing regional arrangements of the UNCCD, and allow RSTHs: (i) to channel regional scientific knowledge to the SPI, IGS and regional bodies of the UNCCD; and (ii) to utilize for regional implementation all relevant global knowledge synthesized for the SPI by the IGS;

²⁴ As footnote 8 above.

(f) The integrated scenario could be introduced in a stepwise fashion, with the SPI and IGS established in phase 1, and the RSTHs in phase 2. All three modules could build on existing groups and meetings. This would also enable appropriate technical and financial support to evolve over time.

40. The AGSA proposes six initial functional modalities for the SPI:

(a) The COP should decide on the frequency and duration of the meetings of the SPI. The Bureau of the CST, jointly with the IGS and with the support of the UNCCD secretariat, would have responsibility for organizing those meetings;

(b) The Bureau of the CST and the IGS, meeting in the SPI, would propose topics for future SPI meetings to the COP. The COP could also independently identify and send requests for scientific knowledge to the SPI;

(c) The SPI would prepare a draft work programme required to address a topic it proposes or which has been requested by the COP. The SPI would send the draft work programme through the CST to the COP (or the Bureau of the COP) for approval;

(d) Once a work programme has been approved the SPI (or the Bureau of the CST) would send a request to the IGS, the RSTHs and other relevant bodies to implement the work programme;

(e) The SPI and IGS should consider any scientific and technical support required by the RSTHs to implement the work programme, and also the potential to exploit synergies with other science-advisory bodies;

(f) The SPI would be an appropriate arena to develop practical synergies with the IPCC and IPBES, and with other scientific activities of the other two Rio Conventions, e.g. for joint long-term peer-reviewed assessments.

41. The AGSA proposes five initial functional modalities for the IGS:

(a) It could be divided into several science and technology working groups, each covering a major area of DLDD research;

(b) Membership of these groups should be limited in scope and period of office. The groups would be established in response to requests from the COP via the CST, and from other international and regional science-advisory bodies;

(c) Working groups would invite interdisciplinary and disciplinary specialists to become members (including scientists who work for bodies that are members of the RSTHs) and communicate with existing scientific networks. The criteria by which members of the IGS would be selected are described in chapter IV.G above;

(d) The timing and frequency of working group meetings would be determined by the demands made on the SPI and by available funding;

(e) The IGS would support the COP and SPI in creating synergies in action with the IPCC and IPBES and other scientific bodies by responding to requests for information from them.

L. Legal and financial implications

42. The AGSA has concluded that the proposed SPI and IGS would be functionally consistent with the text of the UNCCD and subsequent decisions of the COP. This means it would be legally viable (for example, decision 15/COP 1, para. 10). The SPI would be established by the COP as a standing body within the legal framework of the UNCCD, for

which provision exists under article 22, paragraph 2 (c) and article 24, paragraph .3, of the Convention and also facilitated by the procedures laid out in decision 17/COP.1.

43. The legal and financial arrangements for the RSTHs may differ, as regions may wish to organize and maintain their own science-advisory bodies and science-policy interfaces in different ways and according to specific regional topics and needs. However, the RSTHs could facilitate, through existing regional elements and synergies with the other modules, the development of financial mechanisms for ensuring the sustained flow of resources.

44. The AGSA proposes, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the COP (decision 1/COP.1), that if the COP agrees to establish the integrated scenario proposed in this document, it should then request the secretariat to report to the CST on the administrative and budgetary (mandatory and voluntary) issues related to the functioning of the integrated scenario.

45. The AGSA has identified the main budgetary components necessary for the proper functioning of the integrated scenario, and has discussed possible budget scenarios, on the basis of existing data obtained from UNCCD and other bodies. Both are included in the final report of the AGSA.²⁵ However, the AGSA believes that definitive guidance should await approval of the integrated scenario and its initial programme of work, as well as the decision of the COP to phase in the SPI, IGS and RSTHs.

46. Therefore, the AGSA also proposes, in accordance with decision 15/COP.1, paragraphs 7 and 10, on the mandate of the CST, that the CST should submit to the COP for approval the initial programme of work for the proposed integrated scenario, which will include estimates regarding the financial implications of the three modules.

47. The AGSA further proposes that, to achieve the proper operation of the integrated scenario, the COP should extend an invitation to the Parties, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, as well as other donors, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund created by UNCCD.

V. Conclusions

48. The AGSA's analysis of the 11 components identified in its terms of reference has resulted in a proposal for a new integrated scenario for scientific advice. This can be implemented by a modular mechanism comprising three core modules: a "Science-Policy Interface" (SPI), an "Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists" (IGS), and "Regional Science and Technology Hubs" (RSTHs).

49. The modular mechanism incorporates aspects of each of the four options discussed at CST 10, but is likely to be more effective than any one of them individually. For whereas these options referred to different types of science-advisory bodies, the AGSA's proposal covers all characteristics of a science-advisory body and of the processes by which it communicates scientific knowledge and policy-relevant advice to UNCCD, the regions and all relevant stakeholders.

50. The modular mechanism has six advantages. First, it can be implemented in a stepwise manner, by initiating the SPI and IGS, and then allowing each region to design and establish its RSTH to its own specifications and at its own pace. Second, it is evolutionary in terms of structure, since it can build on the UNCCD Scientific Conferences and existing scientific networks which have already been established to advise them. This will also allow financing to evolve, which is particularly important

²⁵ As footnote 8 above.

given the global economic outlook and the reticence of donors to establish large new organizations. Third, by incorporating an independent IGS with external peer-review procedures it will ensure that the UNCCD receives credible and unbiased scientific knowledge of the highest quality. Fourth, it emphasizes the needs of the regions and fully involves them, in a way that should also enhance scientific activity and science-policy communication within each region and facilitate tapping other forms of knowledge. Fifth, it facilitates the establishment of synergistic links with existing science-advisory bodies, such as the IPCC and IPBES, thereby making science-policy communication across all three Rio conventions more effective, and increasing synergies between the conventions themselves. Sixth, it is the only form of integrated scenario which could become operational within a 2–5 year time frame (pending approval by the COP) and therefore enhance the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention by 2018.

51. The results of the analysis reported here, together with the conclusions and proposals derived from this analysis, are the consensus view of the AGSA, even though its members come from different regions and backgrounds. Although all AGSA members are scientists they also have a wide range of practical experience of the interface between science and policy in the UNCCD, for example, through serving in working groups for the UNCCD Scientific Conferences, together with academic expertise in international policy analysis and science-policy communication. The objective analysis of alternative arrangements for the 11 components of an integrated scenario for science-policy communication is unprecedented and the huge amount of work involved had to be carried out in a very short period. AGSA members undertook this work voluntarily, without payment, and in addition to their regular work, because they are all totally dedicated to improving UNCCD's access to scientific information, knowledge and advice. They relied heavily on email communication, though internet services were not always reliable. Owing to the restricted time allowed for the AGSA's work it has not been able to present more detailed specifications of the three modules here. However, the AGSA is confident that the basic principles presented here are robust, and the Group will be happy to respond to any queries or requests for clarification that arise during discussions at CST 11.

52. The AGSA invites the CST to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the AGSA and to make recommendations to the COP. The AGSA believes that its conclusions and recommendations could ensure that UNCCD obtains the scientific knowledge that it needs to enhance its effectiveness and scientific reputation.

Annex I

[English only]

List of members of the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice, Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues and their responsibilities with regard to the components and functions

Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster University of Hamburg, Germany	Chair Lead author, Implementation mechanisms
Dr. Farshad Amiraslani University of Tehran, Iran	Lead author, UNCCD core and non-core disciplines/thematic areas
Dr. Cristobal Felix Diaz Morejon Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente, Cuba	Lead author, Expected outputs, activities and deliverables
Dr. Richard Escadafal Centre d'Etudes Spatiales de la Biosphere, Toulouse, France	Documents Facilitator
Dr. Emil Fulajtar Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia	Lead author, Non-academic knowledge
Dr. Alan Grainger University of Leeds, United Kingdom	Rapporteur Lead author, Governance modalities, science-policy interface and reporting process
Prof. Klaus Kellner North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa	Co-Chair Lead author, Synergy with existing panels/networks
Dr. Sahibzada Irfanullah Khan Planning & Development Department, Peshawar, Pakistan	Lead author, Membership
Dr. Octavio Perez Pardo National Secretariat of Environment and implications, Sustainable Development, Buenos Aires, Argentina	Lead author, Financial, legal and other implications
Dr. Uladzimir Sauchanka Belgorhimprom, Minsk, Belarus	Lead author, Status
Dr. Fasil Reda Tena Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Lead author, Role, objectives and mandate
Dr. Richard James Thomas United Nations University, Hamilton, Canada	Lead author, Functional modalities

Annex II

Draft terms of reference of the “Science-Policy Interface”

1. The terms of reference of the “Science-Policy Interface” (SPI) are for the Conference of the Parties (COP) to specify. However, the Ad Hoc Working Group to Further Discuss the Options for the Provision of Scientific Advice Focusing on Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought Issues (AGSA) was asked by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to provide a draft as a basis for discussion. This draft is based on the proposals made by the AGSA in its pre-session document.
2. The SPI would take into consideration the scope and functions of the existing UNCCD Scientific Conferences and aspirations to improve their effectiveness by (a) analysing and proposing topics for forthcoming conferences to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) through the CST, (b) providing guidance for the organization of such forthcoming conferences, and (c) providing guidance for unfolding policy-oriented recommendations. The SPI would be the central part of a modular mechanism that also comprises an “Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists” (IGS) and “regional science and technology hubs” (RSTHs).
3. The SPI would be a standing body of the UNCCD under the supervision of the COP (through the CST) and within the legal framework of the UNCCD.
4. The SPI would receive its mandate from the COP. This mandate would be: (a) to communicate to the IGS the needs of the CST and COP for information and knowledge so the IGS can respond to these needs; (b) to analyse and harmonize scientific assessments and policy recommendations prior to submission to the CST; (c) to analyse policy-relevant scenarios, scientific information, tools and methodologies relating to desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD); (d) to develop practical synergies with other existing international scientific advisory bodies, for example, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and between the UNCCD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and (e) to ensure that different knowledge systems, including non-academic knowledge systems, are involved as appropriate.
5. Membership of the SPI would include: members of the Bureau of the CST; a selected number of representatives of Parties competent in the field of expertise in DLDD issues, taking into account the regional balance; members of the IGS; and representatives of the RSTHs. Each regional group could nominate the following to participate in the SPI: (a) a government representative competent in the field of expertise; and (b) one representative of regional scientific networks. United Nations organizations, other inter-governmental organizations, environmental conventions, science-advisory bodies, and non-governmental organizations would be eligible to attend meetings of the SPI as accredited observers. A global call announced by the SPI could give every opportunity for contributions from other stakeholders considered relevant to the implementation of the Convention, including the private sector.
6. The SPI would be co-governed by the CST and the IGS, under the responsibility of the CST, and function with the administrative support of the UNCCD secretariat. The SPI could be co-chaired by one representative of the Parties and one representative of the IGS.

7. Two-way exchanges of information and knowledge would be initiated between the SPI and the IGS, between the SPI and the RSTHs, and between the IGS and the RSTHs. The SPI would provide the platform to develop synergies with the IPCC and IPBES, and with other scientific activities of the UNFCCC and CBD, for example, for joint long-term peer-reviewed assessments.

8. The COP should decide on the frequency and duration of the meetings of the SPI. The Bureau of the CST, jointly with the IGS and with the support of the secretariat, would have responsibility for organizing those meetings. The CST and the IGS, meeting in the SPI, would propose topics for future meetings of the SPI to the COP.

9. The SPI would prepare a draft work programme required to address a topic it proposes or which has been requested by the COP. The SPI will send the draft work programme through the CST to the COP (or its Bureau) for approval. Once a work programme has been approved, the SPI – or the Bureau of the CST – would send a request to the IGS, the RSTHs and other relevant bodies to implement the work programme. The SPI should consider any scientific and technical support required by the RSTHs to implement the work programme. IGS reports would be presented to meetings of the SPI and then be transmitted by the CST to the COP.

10. The Bureau of the CST could also independently identify and send requests for scientific knowledge to the SPI. The COP could also mandate the CST or its Bureau to request reports that are needed more urgently and could be produced within their discretionary budgets.