



United Nations

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/1/Rev.1



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
5 August 2015

Original: English

Conference of the Parties Committee on Science and Technology

Twelfth session

Ankara, Turkey, 13–16 October 2015

Item 1 (a) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work;
 - (b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology.
2. Outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference.
3. Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology for the next biennium:
 - (a) Follow up on the post-2015 development agenda;
 - (i) Monitoring progress towards a sustainable development goal on land degradation and associated target;
 - (ii) Monitoring the contribution of sustainable land use and management to climate change adaptation/mitigation and to the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
 - (b) Options for improving the Committee on Science and Technology inputs to decision-making, including through synergies with other relevant scientific conferences;
4. Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making:

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- (a) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017;
 - (b) Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices.
5. Procedural matters:
- (a) Roster of independent experts;
 - (b) Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Dates and venue

1. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The twelfth session of the CST (CST 12) will therefore be convened in Ankara, Turkey, during the twelfth session of the COP (COP 12). The CST is scheduled to meet from 13 to 16 October 2015.

Participants

2. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the CST shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that the meetings of CST 12 will be open to observers, subject to the rules of procedure.

Opening of the session

3. In accordance with decision 25/COP.10, paragraph 1, which amended rule 22 of the rules of procedures (contained in decision 1/COP.1), the Chair of the CST shall be elected at the final meeting of the COP, and shall assume her or his office immediately.

Documentation

4. A list of documents prepared for CST 12 and other relevant documents is provided in annex I to this document. In addition to the normal distribution, official documents will also be made available on the UNCCD website: <www.unccd.int>.

1. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The CST will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda contained in this document, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the CST on the basis of the relevant decisions adopted by the COP at its eleventh session. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in annex II to this document.

Purpose of the session

6. In accordance with article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the CST is to provide the COP with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. The organization of work of the session is designed to facilitate the activities in this respect with a view to formulating draft decisions, where necessary, for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP.

Organization of work

7. The CST may wish to consider the following scenario. At the opening session on 13 October 2015, the Chair of the CST will call for the adoption of the agenda and organization of work. This will be followed by the consideration of items 2 to 5 on the agenda.

8. During its concluding meeting on 16 October 2015, following the completion of the substantive and procedural agenda items, the CST will adopt its report, including, where necessary, the draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the COP. Finally, the Chair of the CST will call for the election of officers other than the Chair of the CST.

Times of meetings

9. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provisions have been made for evening or weekend sessions. Consistent with the working hours of the COP, and to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of the session will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. No provision has been made for more than two meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies with interpretation services to be held at any one time.

(b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

10. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision 25/COP.10, which amended rule 31 of the rules of procedures (contained in decision 1/COP.1), the Vice-Chairs of the CST shall be elected at the final meeting of the session of the Committee held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and shall assume their office immediately. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. The Chair and four Vice-Chairs of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

11. In accordance with this decision, the Chair will call for the election of the officers at the final meeting of the CST. The Vice-Chairs elected, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur, shall assume their office immediately.

2. Outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference

12. *Background:* The UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference was held during the fourth special session of the CST (CST-S 4) in Cancun, Mexico, from 9 to 12 March 2015.

13. The COP, by its decision 21/COP.11, paragraph 15, requested the Bureau of the CST to present a report at CST 12 on the organization and outcomes, including policy-oriented recommendations, of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference.

14. Further, paragraph 16 of the same decision requested the Bureau of the CST, in conjunction with the Science-Policy Interface (SPI), to consult with Parties and regional groups to review the outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference prior to CST 12.

15. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the report of the CST S-4 as well as the report on the organization and outcomes, including policy-oriented recommendations, of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, and make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/CST(S-4)/3 – Report of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2 – Outcomes and policy-oriented recommendations of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference. Report by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology

3. Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology for the next biennium

16. *Background:* In decision 3/COP.8, the COP requested the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies to develop their respective results-based management multi-year (four-year) workplans in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy). Also, by decision 10/COP.11, paragraph 22, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programmes for the biennium 2016–2017, in line with decision 1/COP.11 on work plans, presenting budget scenarios and work programmes based on the projected needs for the biennium.

17. The above-mentioned requests from the COP are addressed in document ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2 and in document ICCD/COP(12)/5.

18. *Action:* The CST will be invited to discuss, under the following agenda sub-items, the substantive elements around which the work programme of the CST for the biennium 2016–2017 will be structured.

(a) Follow-up on the post-2015 development agenda

(i) *Monitoring progress towards a sustainable development goal on land degradation and associated target*

19. *Background:* The COP, by its decision 22/COP.11, established a monitoring and evaluation approach consisting of: (i) indicators; (ii) a conceptual framework that allows the integration of indicators; and (iii) indicators sourcing and management mechanisms at the national/local level.

20. In paragraph 17 of decision 22/COP.11, the COP requested the secretariat to assess the feasibility of the monitoring and evaluation approach through testing and to report on the outcomes of the testing exercises to the CST at its twelfth session.

21. Taking into consideration this decision and the latest developments regarding the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals and targets relevant to the UNCCD, the secretariat tested the monitoring and evaluation approach in the framework of the Land Degradation Neutrality Project (LDN Project) and assessed its feasibility to report on progress in the implementation of the Convention, including its applicability to land degradation neutrality targets.

22. *Action:* The CST and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), according to their respective mandates, will be invited to review the report of the secretariat on this matter, taking into consideration the report of the intergovernmental working group referred to in decision 8/COP.11,¹ and to make the recommendations they may wish to forward to the COP for action.

(ii) *Monitoring the contribution of sustainable land use and management to climate change adaptation/mitigation and to the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystem services*

23. *Background:* As part of its work programme 2014–2015, the SPI, which was established by decision 23/COP.11, explored the potential of sustainable land management for achieving the goals of the UNCCD while simultaneously addressing the objectives of the other Rio conventions. Supporting land-based adaptation and building agro-ecosystem resilience have been identified as critical cross-cutting initiatives. Therefore, the SPI elaborated proposals and developed tools for monitoring and reporting on land-based adaptation practices and policies.

24. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the proposals made by the SPI on this topic and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7 – Refinement of the UNCCD monitoring and evaluation framework in view of the post-2015 development agenda: strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.1 – Monitoring the contribution of sustainable land use and management to climate change adaptation/mitigation and to the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Note by the secretariat

(b) **Options for improving the Committee on Science and Technology inputs to decision-making, including through synergies with other relevant scientific conferences**

25. *Background:* The COP, by its decision 21/COP.11, outlined the organization of future sessions of the CST. Paragraph 25 of this decision requested the SPI to make an assessment of the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st, 2nd and 3rd Scientific Conferences in supporting the UNCCD decision-making process and to report to the COP at its thirteenth session. The SPI took up this task as part of its 2014–2015 work programme and developed proposals for improving the efficiency of the CST. Furthermore, the secretariat was requested to report on the implementation of decision 21/COP.11.

26. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the proposals made by the SPI on this topic and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/4 – Improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology, including impacts from the previous conferences and recommendations for future institutional arrangements. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.2 – Assessment of the impacts of the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st and 2nd Scientific Conferences in supporting the UNCCD decision making process. Note by the secretariat

¹ See document ICCD/COP(12)/4.

4. Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making

(a) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017

27. *Background:* The COP, by its decision 23/COP.11, established the SPI and requested the secretariat to report to the CST at its twelfth session on the implementation of this decision.

28. Following the development of the terms of reference for the SPI² by the Bureau of the CST and the selection of SPI members in accordance with decision 23/COP.11, the SPI held its first meeting in June 2014 and adopted a work programme for the biennium 2014–2015. The work programme is composed of four objectives. The work done by the SPI with regard to objective 1 is reported under item 3 (a) (ii) of this provisional agenda, while the work conducted with regard to objective 2 is reported under items 2 and 3 (b). Progress made on objectives 3 and 4, which relate to cooperation with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, respectively, are reported here.

29. Furthermore, paragraph 19 of the terms of reference of the SPI requested the SPI to present its draft work programme for the biennium 2016–2017 to the CST for submission to the COP for its approval/endorsement.

30. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider the progress made by the SPI during the first biennium 2014–2015 and to make recommendations to the COP with regard to the proposed work programme for the next biennium 2016–2017.

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/6 – Science-Policy Interface: progress report and work programme 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.3 – Information on the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration conducted by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.4 – Information on the collaboration between the Science-Policy Interface and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. Note by the secretariat

(b) Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices

31. *Background:* The COP, by its decision 24/COP.11, requested the secretariat to continue its activities to improve knowledge management, including the dissemination of best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal.

32. Further, the COP, by its decision 17/COP.11, requested Parties and the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies to take a number of actions, including on: (a) the compilation and dissemination of best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation and compilation and dissemination of best practices, including those relating to other thematic topics as referred to in annex V to decision 13/COP.9; (b) data accessibility; (c) validation and ensuring the effective use of best practices; and (d) cooperation between the CRIC and the CST.

33. *Action:* According to their respective mandates, the CST and the CRIC will be invited to consider progress made in the development of the Scientific Knowledge

² <http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Science/International-Scientific-Advice/Documents/ToR_SPI_fin.pdf>.

Brokering Portal and the dissemination of best practices, and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(14)/6 – Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.5 – Progress report on the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal. Note by the secretariat

5. Procedural matters

(a) Roster of independent experts

34. *Background:* Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the COP shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields.

35. By its decision 26/COP.11, the COP requested the secretariat to perform a validation process of all experts in the roster and to set up web-based facilities for its maintenance. The COP also requested the secretariat and invited Parties to involve the experts on the roster in activities related to the implementation of the Convention.

36. *Action:* The CST will be invited to consider progress made and to make recommendations to the COP, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/13 – Report on the maintenance of the roster of independent experts. Note by the secretariat

(b) Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

37. The CST may wish to consider recommendations to submit to the COP with respect to its programme of work for its thirteenth session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology

38. Relevant information on the work of the Committee during its twelfth session will be included in the report of the COP on its twelfth session. The Committee is expected to provide recommendations for consideration by the COP.

Annex I

Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its twelfth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2	Outcomes and policy-oriented recommendations from the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference. Report by the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3- ICCD/CRIC(14)/7	Refinement of the UNCCD monitoring and evaluation framework in view of the post-2015 development agenda: strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/4	Improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology, including impacts from the previous conferences and recommendations for future institutional arrangements. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/5 ³	Implementation of the UNCCD fellowship programme and the evolution of the multi-stakeholder partnership governance model. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/6	Science-Policy Interface: progress report and work programme 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7- ICCD/CRIC(14)/6	Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.1	Monitoring the contribution of sustainable land use and management to climate change adaptation/mitigation and to the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.2	Assessment of the impacts of the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st and 2nd Scientific Conferences in supporting the UNCCD decision-making process. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.3	Information on the thematic assessment of land degradation and restoration conducted by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.4	Information on the collaboration between the Science-Policy Interface and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.5	Progress report on the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal. Note by the secretariat

³ This document has been cancelled.

Other documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its twelfth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CST(S-4)/3	Report of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/5	Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/6- ICCD/CRIC(14)/2	Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2016–2017). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(12)/13	Report on the maintenance of the roster of independent experts. Note by the secretariat

Annex II

Tentative schedule of work for the twelfth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

Tuesday, 13 October 2015	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
	<p><i>Opening of the twelfth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) by the Chair of the CST</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/CST/1)</i> • Outcomes of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference <i>(ICCD/CST(S-4)/3 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/2)</i>

Wednesday, 14 October 2015	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology for the next biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Follow-up on the post-2015 development agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Monitoring progress towards a sustainable development goal on land degradation and associated target (ii) Monitoring the contribution of sustainable land use and management to climate change adaptation/mitigation and to the safeguarding of biodiversity and ecosystem services <p><i>(ICCD/COP(12)/CST/3-ICCD/CRIC(14)/7 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.1)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology for the next biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Options for improving the Committee on Science and Technology inputs to decision-making, including through synergies with other relevant scientific conferences <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/CST/4 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.2)</i>

Thursday, 15 October 2015	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017 <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/CST/6, ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.3 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.4)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and promoting the analysis and dissemination of best practices <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/CST/7-ICCD/CRIC(14)/6 and ICCD/COP(12)/CST/INF.5)</i>

Friday, 16 October 2015	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Roster of independent experts <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/13)</i> (b) Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology <p><i>Closure of the session</i></p>