



**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

First Session
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CST Agenda item 4

REPORT ON WORK OF OTHER BODIES PERFORMING WORK SIMILAR TO
THAT ENVISAGED FOR THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Note by the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the tenth INCD session, the Secretariat presented a report (A/AC.241/67) identifying bodies of other relevant organizations and conventions performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). In its decision 10/8, taken at its tenth session, the INCD requested the secretariat to update its report, and in that connection to:

- (a) establish an informal open-ended consultative process to assist in this work;
- (b) identify as well, in addition to the categories already identified, regional and subregional organizations with bodies performing work similar to that envisaged to be undertaken by the CST; and
- (c) take account of comments on this subject, including those relating to transfer of technology, in Working Group II during the tenth session of the INCD, as well as written submissions from interested members of the INCD and competent organizations.

2. In response to the INCD request, the Secretariat corresponded with INCD members and relevant regional and subregional bodies and organizations. It received fifteen new replies. Part II of this report reflects the additional, updated information.

3. One organization noted that the "Directory of Arid Land Research Institutions-1995" published by the office of Arid Land Studies at Arizona University, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), should provide a useful source of information for bodies doing work similar to that envisaged for the CST.

4. One INCD member also noted that document A/AC.241/67 usefully explored potential cooperation between the CST and other bodies, but that the mechanisms and modalities of the cooperation in question needed to be considered by the COP in relation to the Convention.

II. NEW AND UPDATED INFORMATION

5. The following bodies or organizations provided new, and in one case updated, information on substantive fields of possible cooperation:

International Organizations

- (a) *Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (C.A.B. International)*: use of relevant database with regard to soils and crops that adapt to arid conditions; disease and health in arid areas, particularly in new crop management systems.
- (b) *International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)*: patterns of genetic diversity in wild forage species; *in situ* conservation in the Sahel region to monitor vegetation change over years; strategies for *in situ* conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources in desert-prone areas of Africa; *in situ* conservation of agricultural biodiversity.
- (c) *Sahara/Sahel Observatory* (update): water and soil conservation, land tenure systems, and shared water resources.

Regional organizations

- (d) *Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)*: technologies for increased productivity of rainfed agriculture in Arab countries; assessment of forestry resources; green belts to combat desertification and desert encroachment in the Arab region; range resources in the Arab region; land and water resource management, land reclamation and water harvesting techniques; natural resource inventories through standardized geo-referenced data bases.
- (e) *Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)*: surveys of quality and quantity of freshwater resources; low-cost technology for water conservation; basin-wide joint management of transboundary water resources; feasible technology transfers for soil conservation.
- (f) *Regional Centre for Services in Surveying Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS)*: research, training and provision of information on natural resource and environmental data through the use of techniques such as surveying, mapping, remote sensing and geographic information systems.

Subregional organizations

- (g) *Arab Center for the Study of Arid Zones and Drylands (ACSAD)*: databases of water resources, soils, plants, animals and climatology; development of high yielding, drought tolerant and disease resistant wheat and barley varieties; development of gene pools of drought-tolerant fruit trees; establishment of genebanks for the collection of important sheep and goat strains.
- (h) *Agro-Hydro-Meteorological Regional Center of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)*: collection and analysis of biophysical and socio-economic data for the purposes of food security and natural resource management; transfer of meteorological knowledge and know-how to the national level and centres of production.
- (i) *Institute of the Sahel (INSAH) of CILSS*: options for developing food security and natural resource management in the Sahel; scientific and technical research in the CILSS subregion; inventorying and evaluating research institutions and organizations in CILSS countries; follow-up indicators for implementation of the Convention; promotion of regional and subregional cooperation in research and development.

- (j) *Southern African Community (SADC)/Southern African Center for Cooperation In Agricultural Research and Training (SACCAR)*: sorghum, millet and grain legume improvement; land and water management research; agroforestry research; development of national plant genetic resources management.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

- (k) *Environnement et Développement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA)*: traditional know-how and practices in rural agroforestry, land administration, and combating land degradation; transfer and promotion of appropriate energy technologies.
- (l) *International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)*: control of evaporation from soil and open water surfaces in water harvesting structures; impact of drought on irrigated agriculture; food security and sustainable development in Africa.
- (m) *Institute for Development Anthropology (IDA)*: economic activities of women in pastoral and agropastoral societies in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia; conventional dam management of floodplain rivers in the dry tropics; forestry in grazing systems.