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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Committee on Science and Technology
Sixth session
Havana, 26-28 August 2003
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:
 1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of Vice-Chairs.
 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 4. Roster of independent experts.
 5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.
 6. Enhancing the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (a) *Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology;*
 - (b) *Report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts;*
 - (c) *Interim report of the Group of Experts.*
 7. Traditional knowledge.
 8. Benchmarks and indicators.
 9. Early warning systems:
 - (a) *Pilot studies on early warning systems;*
 - (b) *Published information on early warning systems.*
 10. Dryland Degradation Assessment (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA).
 11. Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology:

Priority issue: Synthesis of reports submitted by the country Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach.
 12. Future work programme of the Committee.
 13. Establishment, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.
 14. Other matters.
 15. Report on the session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its first session (29 September-10 October 1997) in decision 15/COP.1, the Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties.

Venue

3. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification provides that the Committee on Science and Technology shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties. The sixth session of the Committee will therefore meet in Havana, Cuba, during the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties. Tentatively, the Committee has been scheduled to meet from 26 to 28 August, with a possible extension to 29 August 2003.

Participants

4. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the Committee shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that sessions of the Committee will also be open to observers in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Documentation

5. Lists of the documents prepared for the Committee's fifth and sixth sessions are contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's web site: <http://www.unccd.int>.

1. Opening of the session

6. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (decision 1/COP.1 of 10 October 1997, as amended by decision 20/COP.2 of 11 December 1998), the Chair of the Committee shall be elected by the Conference from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session, in such a manner that every geographical region is fairly represented. This will occur at the opening meeting of the Conference on 25 August 2003. The sixth session of the Committee will then be opened on 26 August 2003 by the Chair of the Committee.

2. Election of Vice-Chairs

7. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the terms of reference of the Committee, contained in decision 15/COP.1, the Committee shall elect its own Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. Paragraph 6 provides that the Chair and the Vice-Chairs 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, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The Committee will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda contained in paragraph 1 above, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of decision 16/COP.5 of 12 October 2001. A tentative schedule of work is to be found in annex II.

New recommendations

9. Provision has been made in the Committee's schedule of work for the drafting of a report on the work of the Committee during the morning of 28 August 2003, and for approving it in the afternoon of the same day. Any new recommendations could also be dealt with at the plenary meeting of the Conference on 29 August 2003.

4. Roster of independent experts

10. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Conference is to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. In accordance with decision 15/COP.5 of 12 October 2001, the secretariat has kept the roster up to date and its latest version may be found in documents ICCD/COP(6)/8 and Add.1 (in English only). The Committee may wish to review the roster, and make recommendations to the Conference regarding its composition and any guidance the Conference may wish to give to the secretariat as to its appropriate format.

5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

11. In its decision 13/COP.4 of 22 December 2000, the Conference of the Parties noted that it had reviewed the final report on phase 1 of the survey and evaluation submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on behalf of the consortium of agencies undertaking that phase.

12. The Conference also noted that it had reviewed the relevant documents prepared for the Committee on Science and Technology at its fourth session, including the terms of reference for phase 2 of the survey and evaluation, to be carried out in the southern African subregion, and the proposal submitted by UNEP on behalf of its consortium members.

13. Bearing in mind the recommendations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology on this subject, the Conference accepted the proposal put forward by UNEP on behalf of its consortium members. The proposal, set out in document ICCD/COP(4)/CST/3/Add.1, was scaled down in the interim report (ICCD/COP(5)/CST/3) which UNEP submitted for consideration at the fifth session of the Conference.

14. In decision 13/COP.5, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to enter into the necessary contractual arrangements with UNEP for the implementation of phase 2 of the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies. To date, despite

the appeals by the Bureaux of the Committee and the Conference, the secretariat has, as explained in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/8, been unable to find the funds needed for the implementation of phase 2. The UNEP proposal in document ICCD/COP(5)/CST/3 is once again being submitted for consideration to the sixth session of the Conference. The Committee will have the report before it, and is invited to consider it and adopt any recommendation to the Conference of the Parties that it deems appropriate.

6. Enhancing the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology

- (a) *Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology;*
- (b) *Report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts;*
- (c) *Interim report of the Group of Experts.*

15. In its decision 17/COP.5 and its annex, of 12 October 2001, the Conference of the Parties took note of the submissions made by the Parties on ways of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee, and also of the synthesis of the submissions prepared by the secretariat, as contained in document ICCD/COP(5)/3/Add.2. The Conference also took into consideration the results of the extensive consultations between the regional groups, as set out in annex 1 to the aforementioned document. It decided to adopt ways and means to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee, including the establishing of a group of experts, as defined in the annex to its decision. In accordance with that decision and its annex, the 25 members of the Group of Experts were selected by the Bureau of the Committee. The report of the Bureau is contained in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.1. The Group of Experts met in Hamburg, Germany from 7 to 10 November 2002, in order to consider its work programme, identify its activities, develop a four-year schedule of work and decide on the kind of organization and functioning it wished to adopt. The report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts is contained in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.2, and its interim report in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/3.

7. Traditional knowledge

16. By decision 12/COP.5 of 12 October 2001, the Conference of the Parties noted that the Italian Government was in the process of establishing an international research centre on traditional knowledge in Matera, Italy, and also of setting up, as a pilot project, a network of institutions dealing with traditional knowledge. It invited the Italian authorities to revise their proposal for the realization of the pilot project, taking into account the comments and observations made by the Committee on Science and Technology on the issue at its fifth session. The proposal by the Italian Government may be found in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/4.

17. The Committee is invited to consider this revised report, which it will have before it, and to adopt any recommendation to the Conference of the Parties that it deems appropriate.

8. Benchmarks and indicators

18. By decision 11/COP.5 of 12 October 2001, the Conference of the Parties took note of the important progress achieved on benchmarks and indicators by the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) in Africa and by Parties in the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and in other regions, and encouraged them to continue their work in the field.

19. The Conference also encouraged the Parties to develop and test appropriate benchmarks and indicators, especially those having to do with local action and the participation of civil society, and to report on the results to the Committee on Science and Technology at its sixth session. Those reports are to be found in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/5.

9. Early warning systems

- (a) *Pilot studies on early warning systems;*
- (b) *Published information on early warning systems.*

20. By decision 14/COP.5 of 12 October 2001, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to publish and distribute in a suitable form, as widely as possible, the report together with the background papers submitted to the ad hoc panel on early warning systems. They were issued in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.3, which was distributed to the Parties. By the same decision, the Conference invited the Parties to carry out, according to their financial and technical capacities, pilot studies on early warning systems utilizing the recommendations of the ad hoc panel, and to report on progress to the Committee on Science and Technology at an appropriate session. The pilot studies are to be found in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/6.

10. Dryland Degradation Assessment (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA)

21. By decision 19/COP.5 of 12 October 2001, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to continue to follow closely the activities of the Dryland Degradation Assessment and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and to facilitate the involvement of the Parties, in order that their concerns might be taken into account in the assessments, and to report on the progress of those two initiatives at the sixth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

22. Information on LADA and MEA can be found in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/7.

11. Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology

Priority issue: Synthesis of reports submitted by the country Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach

23. By decision 16/COP.5 of 12 October 2001, the Conference of the Parties decided that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the Committee at its sixth session would be: "Land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach". The Conference invited

Parties to submit, in writing, case studies illustrating best practices and innovative research relating to that theme. The case studies, which were not to exceed 10 pages in length, were to be transmitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification no later than four months before the next session of the Conference.

24. A synthesis of these studies has been prepared by the secretariat and can be found in document ICCD/COP(6)/CST/2.

12. Future work programme of the Committee

25. The Committee may wish to consider what recommendation to give to the Conference with respect to the future work programme of the Committee. It may also wish to make recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee in carrying out its responsibilities as outlined in its terms of reference during the intersessional period.

13. Establishment, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels

26. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in relevant fields of science and technology. The Committee may wish to consider recommending to the Conference the establishment of any ad hoc panels that may be required.

14. Other matters

27. The Committee may wish to consider recommending to the Conference whether and how any other intersessional work in the domain of science and technology should be undertaken.

15. Report on the session

28. A draft report on the session will be prepared for adoption at the final meeting on the understanding that it will be completed after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chair.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Documents prepared for the sixth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description of contents</u>
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work - Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/2	Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology - Synthesis of reports submitted by the country Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/3	Enhancing the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Interim report of the Group of Experts
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/4	Traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/5	Benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/6	Early warning systems - Pilot studies on early warning systems
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/7	Dryland Degradation Assessment (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA)
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/8	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.1	Enhancing the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.2	Enhancing the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology - Report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts
ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.3	Early warning systems - Published information on early warning systems
ICCD/COP(6)/8 and Add.1	Roster of independent experts

**Documents prepared for the fifth session of the Committee
on Science and Technology**

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title or description of contents</u>
ICCD/COP(5)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work - Provisional agenda and annotations
ICCD/COP(5)/CST/2	Traditional knowledge - Proposal of the Government of Italy for the realization of a pilot project for a network of institutions, bodies and experts on traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(5)/CST/3	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(5)/CST/4	Early warning systems - Report by the ad hoc panel
ICCD/COP(5)/CST/5	Proposals on how to revise the National Reports Help Guide, with the aim of providing guidance to Parties to better reflect the activities of the scientific communities and institutions in their national reports
ICCD/COP(5)/CST/6	Strategies for the communication of information and its use to generate best practices for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought
ICCD/COP(5)/CST/7	Benchmarks and indicators - Report of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) on their initiative on the development of benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(5)/INF.6	Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(5)/INF.7	Assessment of the status of land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas (LADA and MEA)
ICCD/COP(5)/3/Add.2	Implementation of the Convention - Synthesis of the report on ways of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(5)/5 and Add.1	Roster of independent experts

Annex II

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK

Tuesday, 26 August 2003

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 p.m.-6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Opening of the session – Election of Vice-Chairs – Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/1) – Roster of independent experts (ICCD/COP(6)/8 and Add.1) – Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/8) – Enhancing the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology <p><i>Report of the Bureau of the Committee (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.1)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enhancing the usefulness and effectiveness of the Committee (<u>continued</u>) <p><i>Report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.2)</i></p> <p><i>Interim report of the Group of Experts (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/3)</i></p>

Wednesday, 27 August 2003

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 p.m.-6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/4) – Benchmarks and indicators (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/5) – Early warning systems <i>Pilot studies on early warning systems (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/6)</i> <i>Published information on early warning systems (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/INF.3)</i> – Dryland Degradation Assessment (LADA) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology <p><i>Priority issue: Synthesis of reports submitted by the country Parties on case studies illustrating best practices and research relating to land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation: an integrated approach (ICCD/COP(6)/CST/2)</i></p>

Thursday, 28 August 2003

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 p.m.-6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establishment, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels- Future work programme of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Other matters- Report on the session

Friday, 29 August 2003

10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3 p.m.-6 p.m.
To be determined	-
