



**UNITED
NATIONS**



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(8)/CST/1
20 June 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Committee on Science and Technology
Eighth session
Madrid, 4-6 September 2007

Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Roster of independent experts
3. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (a) Final report of the Group of Experts
 - (b) Analysis by the Group of Experts of the reports submitted by Parties to the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
4. Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (a) Summary of activities of the Bureau during the intersessional period
 - (b) UNCCD fellowship programme
 - (c) Review of the functions and the work of the Group of Experts, and procedures for the renewal of the membership of the Group of Experts

5. Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project
6. Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (a) Priority theme: The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement
 - (b) Report on the international workshop on climate and land degradation
7. Future programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology
8. Creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary
9. Other matters
 - (a) Other intersessional work on science and technology
 - (b) Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies
 - (c) Traditional knowledge
10. Election of Vice-Chairs
11. Report on the session

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), adopted by the Conference of the Parties (COP) by its 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 COP.

Venue

2. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the CST shall meet in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the COP. The eighth session of the Committee will therefore be convened in Madrid, Spain, during the eighth session of the COP. The Committee has been scheduled to meet from 4 to 6 September 2007, with a possible extension.

Participants

3. 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, subject to the rules of procedure.

Documentation

4. A list of documents prepared for this session of the Committee is contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the Convention website <www.unccd.int>.

Conduct of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

5. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure contained in decision 1/COP.1, as amended by decision 20/COP.2, the Chair of the Committee shall be elected by the COP from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. This election will take place at the opening meeting of the COP on 3 September 2007. The Bureau of the COP has received a recommendation from the Bureau of the CST through the Chair of the CST to have the current Bureau of the CST conduct the work of the CST up to the end of its eighth session, and to have the new Bureau start its work with the new programme of work of the CST for the next biennium. This recommendation will be considered by the COP at its opening meeting on 3 September 2007.

Opening of the session

6. The eighth session of the CST will be opened on 4 September 2007 by the Chair.

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

7. The Committee will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda contained in this document, prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the relevant decisions adopted by the COP at its seventh session. A tentative schedule of work is contained in annex II.

8. Provision has been made in the Committee's schedule of work for drafting and approving a report on the work of the Committee on 6 September 2007. Any outstanding items could also be dealt with at the plenary of the COP when the Chair of the CST presents the report of the Committee.

2. Roster of independent experts

9. 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. In accordance with decision 13/COP.7, the secretariat has kept the roster up to date and established an e-mail network for distribution among the experts on the roster, at appropriate times, of information on the activities of the CST and the Group of Experts (GoE), on the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) and on progress made in the implementation of the Convention. The information on the use and maintenance of the roster of experts is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/9.

10. The CST may wish to review the roster and its use, and make appropriate recommendations to the COP.

3. Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology

(a) Final report of the Group of Experts

11. By its decision 15/COP.7, the COP extended the mandate of the GoE up to the eighth session of the CST. The COP requested the GoE to continue its priority activities, as contained in its work programme, including the development of a communication and information strategy (THEMANET), of a land degradation and poverty strategy, and of benchmarks and indicators. The Chair will present to the CST the final report of GoE; this report is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2. He will be followed by the leaders of the task forces of the GoE, who will make brief presentations to the Committee on the outcomes of their tasks as reflected in their work programme and pursuant to decisions 1/COP.7, 14/COP.7, 17/COP.7 and 18/COP.7. The final reports of the various GoE task forces, on the following subjects, are contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.1-9:

- (a) Benchmarks and indicators for monitoring and assessment of desertification
- (b) Communication strategy: development of a mechanism for an interactive and thematic data/metadata network (THEMANET)
- (c) Integrative assessment methodology for poverty and land degradation
- (d) Development of synergy with other related conventions
- (e) Case studies on conservation and rehabilitation for users in implementing the Convention
- (f) Methodologies for assessment of desertification at global, regional and local levels
- (g) Identification of perceived gaps between biophysical, socio-economic and cultural knowledge and activities to combat desertification, their causes and ways of eliminating them
- (h) Guidelines for early warning systems
- (i) Guidelines for updating the *World Atlas of Desertification*

12. In addition, a report by the GoE on case studies, received from India, Argentina, Spain and Belarus, on conservation and rehabilitation for users in implementing the Convention, is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.3.

13. The CST may wish to make appropriate recommendations to the COP based on the conclusions and recommendations made by the GoE regarding the various thematic issues on its work programme.

(b) Analysis by the Group of Experts of the reports submitted by Parties to the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

14. By its decision 15/COP.6, the COP requested the GoE to focus on issues emerging from the review of the national, subregional and regional programmes, as well as to advise the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), through the CST, of the efficacy and adequacy of those programmes for implementing the Convention. The Chair of the GoE will make a brief introduction to the CST on the outcome of the analysis conducted by the GoE of the reports from Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Northern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe, and other affected country Parties, that were submitted to the CRIC at its fifth session. This analysis is contained in documents ICCD/COP(8)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.2.

15. The CST may wish to transmit its observations and recommendations on the analysis of the reports to the CRIC, pursuant to decision 15/COP.6.

4. Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology

(a) Summary of activities of the Bureau during the intersessional period

16. The Bureau of the CST held an intersessional meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 23 to 24 April 2007, in order to review decisions taken by the COP and other related matters regarding the work of the CST, including reviewing the work of the GoE and planning the work of the next session of the CST. The Chair of the CST will report on the activities of the Bureau during the intersessional period since COP 7. Also included in the report of the Bureau is a reflection of some CST issues that were discussed by the CRIC at its fifth session. This report is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/4.

17. The CST may wish to pay particular attention to the observations made in the section of the report on "CST Bureau operations", bearing in mind the presentation made to the Committee by its Chair on this subject and the recommendation of the CST Bureau, and to recommend an appropriate course of action.

(b) UNCCD fellowship programme

18. By its decision 15/COP.7, the COP invited the Bureau of the CST to establish a need for a specific UNCCD fellowship programme taking into account national capacity self-assessment (NCSA) reports and existing fellowship programmes. The Chair of the CST will present the results of the work of the Bureau on this subject, for consideration by the Committee. The report is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5.

19. Bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the Bureau, the Committee may wish to make a recommendation to the COP taking into account the description of a specific fellowship programme as contained in the annex to document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5.

- (c) Review of the functions and the work of the Group of Experts, and procedures for the renewal of the membership of the Group of Experts

20. By its decision 15/COP.7, the COP requested the Bureau of the CST to review the functions and work of the GoE and to prepare revised procedures for renewal of the membership of the GoE, taking into account the recommendations arising from the review by the CST of the functions and work of the GoE. The Chair of the CST will present the result of the work of the Bureau on this item. The report is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/6. The Committee may wish to consider the recommendations of the CST Bureau.

21. Also by its decision 15/COP.7, the COP requested that members of the GoE who have not responded to letters of enquiry regarding their commitment to participate in the GoE be replaced. The Chair of the GoE will inform the Committee on the outcome of this matter.

5. Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project

22. By its decision 19/COP.7, the COP requested the secretariat to continue to follow closely the activities of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) project, and invited the project participants to involve, and take account of the needs of, the UNCCD focal points in their future work. The secretariat has participated in the LADA Steering Committee meetings and in workshops convened under the auspices of the LADA project. A representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will make a brief statement to the Committee on the LADA project. Information on progress achieved by this project is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/9.

6. Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

- (a) Priority theme: the effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement

23. By its decision 20/COP.7, the COP decided that the priority issue to be addressed by the CST at its eighth session should be “The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement” and encouraged Parties and all accredited organizations to prepare concise reports on this theme and submit them to the secretariat. The COP requested the Bureau of the CST to select three representative submissions for presentation to and discussion by Parties at the eighth session of the CST. A report on the submissions received is contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/7, and the submissions selected by the Bureau are contained in document ICCD/COP(8)/CST/MISC.1.

24. In its discussions on this agenda item, the Committee may wish to take into account the recommendations made during the Arusha workshop on climate and land degradation (see paragraph 25 below), and consider how further collaboration could be developed on this subject taking into account the need to develop and strengthen synergy.

(b) Report of the international workshop on climate and land degradation

25. By its decision 20/COP.7, the COP welcomed the offer by the World Meteorological Organization to organize an international workshop on climate and land degradation. The workshop was held from 11 to 15 December 2006 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania; reports of the workshop are contained in documents ICCD/COP(8)/CST/8 and ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.1.

7. Future programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

26. The Committee may wish to consider recommendations to submit to the COP with respect to its future programme of work. The Committee may wish to consider recommending concrete ways and means of improving its efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out its responsibilities during the intersessional period pursuant to its terms of reference. The Committee may wish to take into account the recommendations made by the Bureau of the CST in this regard, including the facilitation of at least one intersessional Bureau meeting. This meeting would give the CST Bureau an opportunity to review the work of the CST during the intersessional period pursuant to the decisions adopted by the COP and other related matters regarding the work of the Committee, especially the planning and organization of its next session.

27. Pursuant to decision 16/COP.1 on the work programme of the CST, the Committee may wish to select another priority theme to be addressed in depth before its next session, and to make recommendations for consideration by the COP.

8. Creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary

28. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the COP may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the CST, 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 COP the establishment of any ad hoc panels that may be required to assist in the work programme of the CST. Terms of reference for any such panels would be developed by the CST also for approval by the COP.

9. Other matters

(a) Other intersessional work on science and technology

29. The Committee may wish to consider making recommendations to the COP on whether and how any other intersessional work in the domain of science and technology should be undertaken, with a view to assisting the Committee to fulfil its obligations to the COP.

(b) Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

30. The Committee may wish to express its views on how to further consider the implementation of the article 25 of the Convention on this subject.

(c) Traditional knowledge

31. The Committee may wish to express its views on how to implement decision 16/COP.7 and the other decisions of the COP on this matter.

10. Election of Vice-Chairs

32. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the terms of reference of the Committee, the Committee shall elect its own Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. That 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.

11. Report of the session

33. Relevant information on the work of the Committee during its eighth session will be included in the report of the COP on its eighth 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 eighth session**

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.1	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Benchmarks and indicators for monitoring and assessment of desertification
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.2	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Communication strategy: development of a mechanism for an interactive and thematic data/metadata network (THEMANET)
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.3	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Integrative assessment methodology for poverty and land degradation
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.4	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Development of synergy with other related conventions
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.5	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Case studies on conservation and rehabilitation for users in implementing the Convention
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.6	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Methodologies for assessment of desertification at global, regional and local levels
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.7	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Identification of perceived gaps between biophysical, socio-economic and cultural knowledge and activities to combat desertification, their causes and ways of eliminating them

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.8	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Guidelines for early warning systems
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.9	Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Guidelines for updating the <i>World Atlas of Desertification</i>
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/3	Synthesis of the analysis by the Group of Experts of the reports submitted by Parties to the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/4	Summary of activities of the Bureau during the intersessional period. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5	Report on a UNCCD fellowship programme. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/6	Review of the functions and the work of the Group of Experts, and procedures for the renewal of the membership of the Group of Experts. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/7	Reports submitted by Parties on the effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/8	Abridged report of the international workshop on climate and land degradation. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/9	Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.1	Report of the international workshop on climate and land degradation
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.2	Analysis by the Group of Experts of the reports submitted by Parties to the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.3	Case studies on conservation and rehabilitation for users in implementing the Convention
ICCD/COP(8)/CST/MISC.1	The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement. Submissions from Parties

Annex II

Tentative schedule of work

Tuesday, 4 September 2007	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the session • Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/1</i>) • Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology: Final report of the Group of Experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the fifth meeting of the Group of Experts of the Committee on Science and Technology (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2</i>) - Benchmarks and indicators for monitoring and assessment of desertification (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.1</i>) - Communication strategy: development of a mechanism for an interactive and thematic data/metadata network (THEMANET) (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.2</i>) - Integrative assessment methodology for poverty and land degradation (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.3</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology: Final report of the Group of Experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of synergy with other related conventions (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.4</i>) - Case studies on conservation and rehabilitation for users in implementing the Convention (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.5</i>) - Methodologies for assessment of desertification at global, regional and local levels (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.6</i>) - Identification of perceived gaps between biophysical, socio-economic and cultural knowledge, and activities to combat desertification, their causes and ways of eliminating them (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.7</i>) - Guidelines for early warning systems (<i>ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.8</i>)

Wednesday, 5 September 2007	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee on Science and Technology: Final report of the Group of Experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines on updating the <i>World Atlas of Desertification</i> (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/2/Add.9) - Analysis by the Group of Experts of the reports submitted by Parties to the fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/3) and (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.2) • Report of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of activities of the Bureau during the intersessional period (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/4) - UNCCD fellowship programme (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/5) - Review of the functions and the work of the Group of Experts and procedures for renewal of the membership of the Group of Experts (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority theme: The effects of climatic variations and human activities on land degradation: assessment, field experience gained, and integration of mitigation and adaptation practices for livelihood improvement (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/7 and ICCD/COP(8)/CST/MISC.1) - Report of the international workshop on climate and land degradation (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/8 and (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/INF.1) • Roster of independent experts (ICCD/COP(8)/9) • Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands Project (ICCD/COP(8)/CST/9)

Thursday, 6 September 2007	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology • Creation of ad hoc panels of experts, as necessary • Other matters • Election of Vice-Chairs • Report on the session <p><i>Adoption of the report of the Committee, including, where necessary, draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties</i></p>	<p><i>Adoption of the report of the Committee, including, where necessary, draft decisions for consideration and, as appropriate, adoption by the Conference of the Parties</i></p>
