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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Committee on Science and Technology  
Ninth session  
Buenos Aires, 22–25 September 2009**

**Item 2 of the provisional agenda  
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

**Provisional agenda and annotation**

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018):
  - (a) Documentation on reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018);
  - (b) UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference;
  - (c) Report of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference;
  - (d) Report on the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference.
4. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) – Committee on Science and Technology:

- (a) Draft multi-year (four-year) workplan for the Committee on Science and Technology;
  - (b) Costed draft two-year work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology;
  - (c) Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).
5. Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands.
  6. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme.
  7. Roster of independent experts.
  8. Programme of work for the tenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.
  9. Formulation of the draft report of the Committee on Science and Technology.
  10. Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### *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 ninth session of the CST (CST 9) will therefore be convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during the ninth session of the COP (COP 9). The CST is scheduled to meet from 22 to 25 September 2009. The UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference will meet for two and a half days from 22 to 24 September.

### *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 sessions of CST 9 will be open to observers, subject to the rules of procedure.

### *Documentation*

3. A list of documents prepared for CST 9 is attached at annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) website, <[www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)>.

*Conduct of work of the Committee on Science and Technology*

4. 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. 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 Committee up to the end of its ninth session, and to have the new Bureau start its work with the new programme of work for the next biennium. This recommendation will be considered by the COP at its opening meeting on 21 September 2009.

**1. Opening of the session**

5. The ninth session of the CST will be opened on 22 September 2009 by the Chair of the CST.

**2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

6. 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 eighth session. A tentative schedule of work is attached at annex II.

7. Provision has been made in the schedule of work for drafting and approving a report on the work of the Committee on 25 September 2009. 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.

**3. Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)**

(a) Documentation on reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

8. The Committee will have before it document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2, which outlines how the operation of the CST is being reshaped in line with decision 13/COP.8.

9. The Chair of the CST will adjourn the ordinary session of CST 9 in its intergovernmental format.

(b) UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference

10. In decision 13/COP.8, the COP decided that each future ordinary session of the CST shall be organized in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format by the Bureau of the CST in consultation with the lead institution/consortium.

11. In the same decision, the COP decided that each future ordinary session of the CST shall focus on one specific thematic topic relevant to the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy), to be determined in advance by the COP.

12. In decision 18/COP.8, the COP decided that the priority theme to be addressed by the CST in line with decision 13/COP.8 shall be: “Biophysical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management”.

13. The UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference will be open to registered participants, and to accredited participants of the COP in their individual capacity.

14. The UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference will include the activities of three working groups (WG) focused on different thematic areas: WG I, integrated methods for monitoring and assessment of land degradation processes and drivers (land quality assessment); WG II, monitoring and assessing land rehabilitation and sustainable land management (sustainable land management assessment); and WG III, monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation: economic and social drivers and knowledge management (socio-economic and knowledge assessment).

15. Relevant information on the work of the CST during the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference and related recommendations will be included in a report (in-session document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.1), which will be submitted to the COP.

(c) Report of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference

16. The Chair of the CST will resume the CST 9 ordinary session at agenda item 3.

17. The report of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, contained in the in-session document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.1, will be presented to the CST for consideration.

18. The Committee may wish to recommend concrete ways of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization of the UNCCD Scientific Conference, including its time frame.

19. The Committee may also wish to recommend a specific thematic topic for the next UNCCD Scientific Conference.

(d) Report on the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference

20. The Committee will have before it document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.2, which describes the process undertaken to organize the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference. This document will also contain proposals for the specific thematic topic of the next UNCCD Scientific Conference.

#### **4. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) – Committee on Science and Technology**

(a) Draft multi-year (four-year) workplan for the Committee on Science and Technology

21. In decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 3, the COP requested that the various Convention bodies develop their respective results-based management (RBM) multi-year (four-year) workplans in line with The Strategy and report on progress with implementation to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). The COP will take relevant decisions based on recommendations from the CRIC. All draft four-year workplans shall be presented to the COP for adoption.

22. The CST will have before it the draft multi-year (four-year) workplan of the CST (2010–2013) contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/3. This draft workplan is submitted to the CST for preliminary consideration and any recommendations it may wish to make to the eighth session of the CRIC (CRIC 8).

(b) Costed draft two-year work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology

23. In decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 7, the Executive Secretary was requested, in consultation with the Bureaux of the COP and the CST, to prepare for the CST, in line with The Strategy, a costed draft two-year work programme that takes an RBM approach and to present it to COP 9 for consideration and adoption.

24. In decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 8, the CST was requested to include in the agenda of its ninth session an item on the consideration of its costed draft two-year work programme, following an RBM approach consistent with The Strategy.

25. In accordance with decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 38, a costed draft two-year work programme for the CST based on RBM principles is to be considered under the first budget cycle at COP 9.

26. The CST will have before it document ICCD/COP(9)/5/Add.3, the costed draft two-year work programme for the CST (2010–2011), which is submitted for preliminary consideration and any recommendations it may wish to make to COP 9.

(c) Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

27. In decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 10, the COP requested the CST to provide advice to the CRIC discussion on reporting at COP 9 on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy, inter alia, based on the deliberations and outcomes of CST 9.

28. Pursuant to this decision, a framework document (ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.3) was presented to the CST during its first special session (CST S-1) in Istanbul on 5 November 2008.

This document offered an approach and some advice on the methodology and procedures to be put in place for an optimum measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.

29. During CST S-1, the CST prepared an in-session document (ICCD/CST(S-1)/5/Add.1), which proposed guidelines and the concrete steps to be undertaken for providing advice on this issue.

30. The CST will have before it document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/4, which describes the outcomes of the process developed since CST S-1 by the UNCCD secretariat under the guidance of the CST Bureau on measuring progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.

31. The CST may also refer to information document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.1, which summarizes the outcomes of the discussion on this issue at the scientific segment of the regional meeting in preparation for COP 9 and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies (CST 9 and CRIC 8).

32. The Committee may wish to make appropriate recommendations to the CRIC and the COP based on the conclusions and recommendations contained in the above-mentioned documents.

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

33. In decision 15/COP.8, the COP requested the UNCCD 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 Convention national focal points and stakeholders in its further work. The secretariat has participated in the LADA Steering Committee meetings. A representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will make a brief statement to the CST on the LADA project. Information on the progress achieved by this project is contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/5.

#### **6. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme**

34. In its decision 16/COP.8, the COP requested the secretariat to establish a UNCCD fellowship programme, bearing in mind The Strategy, and in particular operational objective 3 on science, technology and knowledge, and outcome 3.3, which states that knowledge of biophysical and socio-economic factors and of their interactions in affected areas should be improved to enable better decision-making.

35. The CST will have before it document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/6, which contains a report on the status of the programme and a proposal for a way forward.

36. Bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/CST/6, the CST may wish to make recommendations to the COP on this proposal.

## **7. Roster of independent experts**

37. 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. The secretariat is updating the roster in accordance with decision 11/COP.8.

38. The status of the updated system for information on the CST roster of experts is contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/8.

39. The CST may wish to consider the updated system of information for the roster of experts and make appropriate recommendations to the COP.

## **8. Programme of work for the tenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology**

40. The CST 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.

41. 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 detail before its next session, and to make recommendations for consideration by the COP.

## **9. Formulation of the draft report of the Committee on Science and Technology**

42. The CST will transmit to the COP draft decisions resulting from the deliberations at its ninth session, as well as recommendations on its costed draft two-year work programme, which, in line with paragraph 8 of decision 3/COP.8, is included in the agenda of its ninth session. 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. The draft report of the CST will also include the priority theme to be addressed by the CST in line with decision 13/COP.8. The report of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference will also be transmitted to the COP. The COP may wish to discuss the draft report of the CST and the report of the conference and provide any necessary guidance to the CST.

## **10. Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee**

43. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the terms of reference of the CST, 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.

Annex I

**Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology  
at its ninth session**

ICCD/COP(9)/CST/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2	Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.1	Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018). Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Report of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference <sup>a</sup>
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.2	Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018). Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Report on the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/3	Draft multi-year (four-year) workplan for the Committee on Science and Technology (2010–2013). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(9)/5/Add.3	Programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Consideration of the costed draft two-year work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology (2010–2011)
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/4	Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. Note by the secretariat

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<sup>a</sup> This document will be issued during the session.



ICCD/COP(9)/CST/5	Report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/6	Report on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(9)/8	Report on progress on the maintenance of the roster of independent experts. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/7	In-session report of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat <sup>b</sup>
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.1	Compilation of recommendations made in the scientific regional meetings on advice as to how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy
ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.2	Directory of science and technology correspondents

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<sup>b</sup> This document will be issued during the session.

Annex II**Tentative schedule of work**

<b>Tuesday, 22 September 2009</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
<b>C S T</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of the CST 9 session</li> <li>• Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/1)</li> <li>• The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Consideration of the draft multi-year (four-year) workplan for the CST (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/3)</i></li> <li>-<i>Consideration of the costed draft two-year work programme for the CST (2010–2011) (ICCD/COP(9)/5/Add.3)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reshaping the operation of the CST in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Documentation on reshaping the operation of the CST in line with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2)</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Adjournment of the CST 9 session</li> <li>• Opening of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference Scientific Conference (cont.)</li> </ul>

<b>Wednesday, 23 September 2009</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C S T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference (cont.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference (cont.)</li> </ul>

<b>Thursday, 24 September 2009</b>		
	<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
C S T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference (cont.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference (cont.)</li> <li>Closure of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference</li> </ul>

Friday, 25 September 2009		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C S T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resumption of the CST 9 ordinary session</li> <li>• Report on the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference <i>(ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.1)</i></li> <li>• Consideration of the report on the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference <i>(ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.2)</i></li> <li>• The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) – Committee on Science and Technology <i>-Consideration of advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/4) (ICCD/COP(9)/CST/INF.1)</i></li> <li>• Consideration of the report on progress of the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands <i>(ICCD/COP(9)/CST/5)</i></li> <li>• United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification fellowship programme <i>(ICCD/COP(9)/CST/6)</i></li> <li>• Roster of independent experts <i>(ICCD/COP(9)/8)</i></li> <li>• Programme of work for the tenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology</li> <li>• Formulation of the draft report of the Committee on Science and Technology <i>(ICCD/COP(9)/CST/7)</i></li> <li>• Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee</li> <li>• Closure of the session</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">---</p>

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