



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Fifteenth session

Nairobi, 18–20 October 2016

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) Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee.
2. Implementation experiences:
 - (a) Experience in the optional reporting exercise;
 - (b) Land degradation neutrality (LDN) target-setting exercise.
3. Future implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group;
 - (b) Overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties;
 - (c) Financing the implementation of the convention: opportunities for increased financing and options for tracking.
4. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention:

Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and the Capacity Building Marketplace (CBM).



II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Dates and venue of the session

1. By its decision 16/COP.12, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 15) would be a special intersessional session. Decision 17/COP.12 decided that CRIC 15 should be held for three to five working days as early as possible after July 2016 but no later than March 2017.

2. Upon consultations with the Bureau of the CRIC and the COP, as relevant, it was decided that CRIC 15 shall take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18–20 October 2016, over three working days.

Participants

3. According to decision 11/COP.9, annex, paragraph 6, the CRIC shall be composed of all Parties to the Convention.¹ Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental,² wishing to be represented at a session of the CRIC as an observer may be admitted unless one third of the Parties present at the session object.³

Consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes

4. Consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes on matters before CRIC 15 will take place from 16–17 October 2016 prior to the opening of the fifteenth session of the Committee.

1. Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(b) Appointment of the Rapporteur of the Committee

5. The CRIC will have before it the provisional agenda (ICCD/CRIC(15)/1) to consider for adoption. A tentative schedule of work for the session, detailed in the subsections below, is contained in the annex to this document.

Purpose of the session

6. By its decision 16/COP.12, the COP decided that CRIC 15 should, in the form of a special intersessional session, discuss items relating to a possible future strategic framework for the Convention and its corresponding monitoring and reporting framework.

7. Provisions of this decision have been taken into account in the provisional agenda, which was prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau of the CRIC.

¹ Relevant information on the status of ratifications is available on the secretariat website at <www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/convention/Ratification%20list%20May2014.pdf>.

² The intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and business and industry entities accredited at COP 11 are listed in annexes I, II and III to document ICCD/COP(11)/20/Rev.1.

³ The procedure for admission of observers is detailed in rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the COP as contained in decision 1/COP.1.

Organization of work

8. The CRIC may wish to consider the following scenario: the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will present in her introductory statement an overview of relevant matters before CRIC 15. The Chair of the CRIC will also give an introductory statement.

9. At the opening session on 18 October 2016, the Chair of the CRIC will call for the adoption of the agenda and organization of work as well as the election of the Rapporteur for CRIC 15 and 16. The Committee will then take up the agenda items according to the tentative schedule of work as detailed in the annex to this document. As per past practice, the agenda items will be addressed through statements from the representatives of regional and interest groups, followed by statements by Parties and observers, as required. Where possible, panel discussions will ensure interactivity in the session, allowing Parties to engage in an information exchange with a view to identifying targeted recommendations on issues relating to the agenda items. In its meeting, the CRIC Bureau also decided to engage the civil society organisations as much as possible during the intersessional session.

10. The tentative schedule of work allows for the formulation of the comprehensive report of CRIC 15 on 20 October 2016. During the same concluding meeting, the draft report of the session will be submitted for adoption.

2. Implementation experiences

(a) Experience in the optional reporting exercise

11. Parties at COP 12 decided to make reporting in 2016 optional⁴ in light of the need to finalise the methodological aspects of reporting in parallel to the work undertaken by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention (IWG-FSF). As a consequence, the intersessional session of the Committee was transformed into a special intersessional session that will – instead of reviewing findings from submitted reports – concentrate on methodological issues relating to reporting and assisting the IWG in its work in order to propose to COP 13 an approach for adoption by the Convention for its future strategic direction.

12. In order to allow Parties having engaged in optional reporting to present their findings and demonstrate their efforts, it was agreed that an interactive session should be facilitated. This session will connect the 2016 optional reporting process with the issues discussed at CRIC 15 by providing feedback and proposals to improve reporting in light of necessary changes in reporting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

ICCD/CRIC(15)/INF.2 Compilation of 2016 reports

(b) Land degradation neutrality (LDN) target-setting exercise

13. Decisions 2 and 3/COP.12 integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular target 15.3 on LDN, into the implementation process of the UNCCD and invite Parties to formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN. Furthermore, the same decisions

⁴ Decision 15/COP.12.

request the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD bodies to develop guidance for formulating national LDN targets and initiatives.

14. In response to these decisions, the Global Mechanism (GM), in collaboration with the UNCCD secretariat, established the “LDN Target Setting Programme” (LDN TSP). The main objective of the programme is to enable country Parties to define national baselines, set voluntary LDN targets and identify measures to achieve them. Parties were invited to express their interest in participating in the LDN TSP and several regional inception workshops with interested Parties were conducted between May and July 2016. A draft technical guide on how to approach the target-setting process was shared with the participating countries and their feedback has been taken into consideration in the finalised version of the document.

15. The GM will provide a report that (a) explains the objectives of the LDN TSP, (b) describes the activities undertaken so far, (c) outlines further activities planned before COP 13 and (d) proposes guiding questions and recommendations for consideration by CRIC (15). In an interactive dialogue session, Parties and other stakeholders participating in the LDN TSP will share their experiences while experts will offer further guidance on LDN target-setting.

ICCD/CRIC(15)/3 Report on the voluntary, national land degradation neutrality target setting exercise

3. Future implementation of the Convention

(a) Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group

16. Parties at COP 12 established an IWG-FSF, within the scope and mandate of the Convention. Decision 7/COP.12 mandated the IWG-FSF to do the following:

(a) Assess the current 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), including the effectiveness of its implementation and the relevance of progress indicators for the future period;

(b) Consider options for the possible future strategic approach for the Convention, including whether the current Strategy should be extended or revised, or whether a new strategy should be adopted;

(c) Propose an approach for adoption by the Convention for its future strategic direction and elements that should be included therein;

17. The IWG was requested to present its initial findings for comments at the fifteenth session of the CRIC whereas decision 16/COP.12 specifies that the fifteenth special intersessional session of the CRIC should aim to assist the IWG in its work.

ICCD/CRIC(15)/2 Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention

(b) Overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties

18. Decision 16/COP.12 requests the secretariat to provide CRIC 15 with a report containing proposals of guidelines and reporting tools for progress and performance indicators as well as an overview of the overall reporting procedures and modalities for future reporting. Considering that those proposals are directly linked to the progress made by the IWG, the proposals presented to CRIC 15 should be seen as preliminary and recommendations by the CRIC to the IWG should aim to assist the latter's work in devising a corresponding monitoring framework for any new or amended Strategy to be considered by COP 13.

ICCD/CRIC(15)/4 Report on the overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting.

(c) Financing the implementation of the convention: opportunities for increased financing and options for tracking

19. Decision 15/COP.12 requests the GM and the secretariat to develop a template for data collection on the financial indicators adopted by COP 12 for strategic objective (SO) 4, as well as a methodology for data analysis as outlined in document ICCD/CRIC(14)/8 in order to compare and monitor trends in the land cover/productivity indicators and the financial indicator.

20. As part of the iterative process, the GM will provide a report outlining opportunities for increased financing for the implementation of the convention and options to track finance in future UNCCD reporting.

ICCD/CRIC(15)/5 Report on opportunities for increased financing for the implementation of the convention and options to track finance in the context of future UNCCD reporting.

4. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention

Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal (SKBP) and the Capacity Building Marketplace (CBM)

21. By its decision 16/COP.12, the COP agreed that accessibility of information on best practices through the SKBP and the CBM shall be a topic of the agenda of CRIC 15.

22. The Secretariat plans to provide CRIC 15 with a report for its consideration on all actions taken on the stipulations outlined in the decisions from COP 12 on the further use of

Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), for best practices on the “sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation” theme. Furthermore, the COP requested the secretariat to continue developing and enhancing the SKBP in cooperation with partners in order to increase relevance for the different target groups and to expand the collection of information accessible through the portal to national and subnational actors in particular.

24. Consequently, the report provided to CRIC 15 relating to best practices will also contain a section dealing with the further development of the SKBP, the communication of information on best practices through the SKBP, the CBM and the WOCAT platform, and further use of the CBM.

ICCD/CRIC(15)/6 Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and the Capacity Building Marketplace.

Annex

**Tentative schedule of work for the fifteenth session of the
Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the
Convention**

Tuesday 18 October 2016	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (ICCD/CRIC(15)/1)</i> - <i>Appointment of the Rapporteur</i> • Implementation experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Experience in the optional reporting exercise (Open Dialogue) (ICCD/CRIC(15)/INF.2)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Land degradation neutrality target setting exercise (Interactive session) (ICCD/CRIC(15)/3)</i>
Wednesday 19 October 2016	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future implementation of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group (ICCD/CRIC(15)/2)</i> - <i>Overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties (ICCD/CRIC(15)/4)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future implementation of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Overall reporting procedures and modalities for reporting by Parties (ICCD/CRIC(15)/4)(continued)</i> - <i>Financing the implementation of the convention: opportunities for increased financing and options for tracking (ICCD/CRIC(15)/5)</i>

Thursday 20 October 2016	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Accessibility of information on best practices through the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal and the Capacity Building Marketplace (ICCD/CRIC(15)/6)</i> • <i>Formulation of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Formulation of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations</i> • <i>Adoption of the comprehensive report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to the Conference of the Parties, including conclusions and recommendations</i> • <i>Closure of the session</i>
