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ICCD/CRIC(9)/2



Convention to Combat Desertification

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Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Ninth session

Geneva, 21–25 February 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the secretariat

I. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. By its decision 1/COP.5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) decided to establish the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) as a standing subsidiary body of the COP to assist the COP in regularly reviewing implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. By its decision 11/COP.9, the COP adopted the terms of reference of the CRIC, as contained in the annex to that decision, and declared decision 1/COP.5 no longer in force.

2. By its decision 15/COP.9, the COP also decided that the ninth session of the CRIC (CRIC 9) shall be held in Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat, in November 2010, in the event that no Party made an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial cost.

3. At its meeting in Buenos Aires from 10–12 February 2010, the COP Bureau decided that CRIC 9 and the second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-2) shall take place between the second and third week of February 2011 at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), unless a Party makes an offer to host these sessions and meet the additional financial cost. The COP Bureau also decided that the meetings of the regional implementation annexes in preparation for CRIC 9 should be convened back-to-back to the same CRIC session.

4. At its meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 23–24 June, the COP Bureau decided that CRIC 9 shall take place at UNOG from 21–25 February 2011.

Logistical arrangements

5. Six weeks before the opening of the session, the secretariat will distribute an information note detailing registration and security procedures as well as other logistical arrangements.

Participants

6. In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2, of the Convention, for each State or regional economic integration organization which ratifies, accepts or approves the Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention enters into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of the relevant instrument. Consequently, the Parties as at the opening of CRIC 9 on 21 February 2011 will be the States and regional economic integration organizations to have deposited their instruments by 23 November 2010. Those which have deposited their instruments after 23 November but by 27 November 2010 will become Parties during the session. Those doing so after 27 November 2010 will not become Parties until after the closure of the session, but can participate in the session as observers. The intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited at COP 9 are listed in document ICCD/COP(9)/16 and Add.1. Relevant information on the status of ratifications has been made available on the secretariat website (<http://www.unccd.int>).

7. According to decision 11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph II), the CRIC shall be composed of all Parties to the Convention. Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which wishes 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. 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 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

Bureau

8. In accordance with the provisions contained in decision 1/COP.5, the Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee were elected during COP 9 (ICCD/COP(9)/18). One of the Vice-Chairpersons shall act as Rapporteur.

Agenda

9. The Convention provides, in article 22, paragraph 2(a), that the COP shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements. By its decision 14/COP.9, the COP decided that CRIC 9 shall review the communication of information according to provisions outlined in decision 11/COP.9 on additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention.

10. By the same decision 14/COP.9, the COP also decided to include the following items in the agenda of CRIC 9:

- (a) Assessment of implementation against performance indicators contained in:
 - (i) Reports from affected and developed country Parties;
 - (ii) Reports from subregional and regional entities;
 - (iii) Reports from United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations;
 - (iv) Review of the report of the Global Mechanism;
 - (v) Review of the report of the Global Environment Facility;
 - (vi) Review of information from civil society organizations including the private sector;
- (b) Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention against information provided on performance and impact indicators;
- (c) Consideration of best practices;
- (d) Review of input from regional meetings in preparation for CRIC 9;
- (e) Review of the input from the Committee on Science and Technology on how best to measure progress made in strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3;
- (f) Review of draft modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy including, inter alia, the following items:
 - (i) Review of the performance review and assessment system;
 - (ii) Assessment and monitoring of the performance of the CRIC and of its effectiveness.

11. These, in addition to issues arising from other decisions of the COP, as they relate to CRIC 9, have been taken into account in the provisional agenda which was prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau of the CRIC.

12. At the beginning of the session, the Committee shall adopt its agenda and organization of work for the session.

Documentation

13. A list of documents for the session and other relevant documents is contained in chapter II below. In addition to general distribution, official documents for the session have been made available on the secretariat website (<http://www.unccd.int>).

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

14. The CRIC will have before it the provisional agenda (ICCD/CRIC(9)/1) to consider for adoption. A tentative organization of work for the session, detailed in the subsections below, is contained in chapter II to document ICCD/CRIC(9)/1.

Purpose of the session

15. By its decision 11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph 14), the COP decided that at sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP, the CRIC shall focus its work on the review of the implementation of the Convention by Parties through, inter alia:

- (a) Undertaking an assessment of implementation against performance indicators every two years and against impact indicators every four years;
- (b) Disseminating best practices in the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) Reviewing financial flows for the implementation of the Convention;

with a view to submitting to the COP a final report containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.

Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes

16. Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes on matters before CRIC 9 would take place from 16–18 February 2011 parallel to the second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Organization of work

17. It is proposed that the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD will present in his introductory statement an overview of the matters before CRIC 9.

18. The President of COP 9 and the Chairperson of the CRIC will also give introductory statements.

19. Statements from the representatives of regional and interest groups will conclude the opening meeting.

20. With regard to the structure of its first meeting, on 21 February 2011, the Chairperson of the CRIC will call for adoption of the agenda and the organization of work, followed by the appointment of the Rapporteur for the CRIC.

21. The Committee will then take up the agenda items according to the organization of work as detailed in section II of document ICCD/CRIC(9)/1.

22. The tentative organization of work allows for the formulation of the comprehensive report of CRIC 9, including conclusions and recommendations, as stipulated in decision

11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph 5), on 25 February 2011. During the same concluding meeting, the report of the session would be submitted for adoption.

Thematic interactive session on the outcome of the reporting process

23. In line with the deliberations of the CRIC Bureau at its meeting on 21–22 June 2010 (Bonn, Germany), three thematic interactive sessions will be convened during CRIC 9 in order to facilitate interactivity and exchanges of views among Parties and Observers. The thematic interactive sessions will address specific topics under the following broad categories:

- (a) Operational objectives of The Strategy;
- (b) Financial flows for the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) Best practices on sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation.

24. Parties are invited to identify one topic under each of the aforementioned categories during their regional meetings, and communicate them to the Chairperson of the CRIC prior to the commencement of the session. The Chairperson of the CRIC, in consultation with the representatives of the Regional Implementation Annexes, will identify three topics for discussion out of these themes. The interactive sessions will be convened in Plenary, with each topic being allocated one hour consecutively, and facilitated through moderators.

Preliminary exchanges on criteria and modalities for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

25. Following the deliberations of the CRIC Bureau at its meeting on 21–22 June 2010, Parties will also have an opportunity to undertake preliminary exchanges on the criteria and modalities for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy. It is proposed that discussions focus on the scope of the mid-term evaluation, the possible sources of information to be used, the consultative process needed for Parties to undertake the evaluation prior to or at the eleventh session of the COP, draft terms of reference for assistance needed, and a preliminary cost estimate for the entire exercise, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.10¹.

26. The exchanges on the subject are aimed at providing an opportunity to Parties to clearly delineate the orientation of the mid-term evaluation and the necessary support, including timeframes for its implementation in order for the CRIC Bureau to prepare the necessary documentation for the tenth session of the CRIC.

Times of meetings

27. The official working hours of CRIC 9 will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The tentative schedule aims to make the best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provision has been made for evening or weekend sessions. No provision has been made for more than one meeting with official interpretation services to be held at any one time.

¹ Entitled: Information on the review of draft modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

2. Appointment of a Rapporteur for the Committee

28. Pursuant to decision 11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph 8), the Chairperson will call for the selection of a Rapporteur from among the four Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee.

3. Assessment of implementation of the Convention against performance indicators

- (a) **Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 1 of The Strategy**
- (b) **Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 2 of The Strategy**
- (c) **Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 3 of The Strategy**
- (d) **Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 4 of The Strategy**

29. Decision 11/COP.9, annex, paragraph 2(a) states that the CRIC shall undertake an assessment of implementation of the Convention and The Strategy through the review of information provided by Parties and other reporting entities.

30. The Bureau of the CRIC, at its meeting on 1–2 March 2010, agreed that the review of information contained in the reports from country Parties and other reporting entities would be conducted at CRIC 9 according to the operational objectives of the Strategy.

31. Accordingly, documents ICCD/CRIC(9)/3 to 6 contain the preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, and the Global Environment Facility on operational objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 of The Strategy for consideration and review by the Committee.

32. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/12 contains information on the status of implementation, potential role and need for alignment with The Strategy of subregional and regional action programmes (SRAPs and RAPs) to combat desertification; this information will be compiled by the secretariat in consultation with relevant subregional and regional organizations as applicable.

33. Decision 13/COP.9, paragraph 8, takes note of the terminology and definitions proposed in document ICCD/CRIC(8)/5/Add.3 (Glossary of performance indicators for the review of the implementation of The Strategy and best practices), and invites Parties and other reporting entities to refer to the terminology and definitions included therein when reporting to the COP.

34. The same decision, 13/COP.9 paragraph 9, requests the secretariat to publish the glossary on the UNCCD website and to keep it regularly updated as the need for revision arises.

35. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/13 contains the updated glossary of performance indicators for the review of implementation of The Strategy and best practices. This document is published on the UNCCD website at <http://www.unccd.int/prais/#glossary>.

4. Review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention

- (a) **Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 5 of The Strategy**
- (b) **Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention**

36. Decision 11/COP.9, annex, paragraph 14(c), provides that the CRIC, in sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP, shall focus its work on the review of the implementation of the Convention by Parties through, inter alia, reviewing financial flows for the implementation of the Convention.

37. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/7 contains a preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 5 of The Strategy.

38. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/8 contains a preliminary analysis of information on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, based on the standard financial annexes (SFAs) and the programme and project sheets (PPSs) as contained in the reports of the same reporting entities.

5. Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention - Review and compilation of best practices in sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation

39. Decision 11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph 2(c)) states that the CRIC shall also review and compile best practices in the implementation of the Convention and shall forward this information for consideration by the COP with a view to disseminating it.

40. Pursuant to the same decision 11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph 12), accredited civil society organizations (CSOs) are also invited to organize themselves to prepare collaborative reports on their work for the implementation of the Convention, especially through the provision of best practices, for transmission to the sessions of the CRIC held between ordinary sessions of the COP and the focal points of the countries.

41. Decision 13/COP.9 (annex V) provides that UNCCD best practices should be collected according to seven thematic topics.²

42. At its meeting on 1–2 March 2010, the CRIC Bureau decided that the theme to be addressed by CRIC 9 for the review of best practices will be: “Sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation”.

43. At the same meeting, the CRIC Bureau also decided to invite accredited CSOs to report to CRIC 9 on best practices, using the same template and guidelines as those being devised for the other reporting entities.

44. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/9 contains information on best practices on sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation, submitted through reports to CRIC 9 from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, the Global Environment Facility and CSOs accredited to the COP.

45. Submissions from Parties and Observers will be posted in their entirety on the PRAIS portal at <http://www.unccd-prais.com>.

6. Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention: open dialogue session

46. In accordance with CRIC Bureau recommendations, and in line with decision 11/COP.9 (annex IV, paragraph 16) a half-day session has been planned for 24 February 2011 for open dialogue organized by the CSOs.

7. Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

(a) The iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures

47. Decision 13/COP.9 (paragraph 2) requests the secretariat together with the GM to use an iterative process to develop proposals for consideration by future sessions of the COP, commencing with the tenth and eleventh sessions, in order to refine the set of performance and impact indicators and associated methodologies.

48. The same decision 13/COP.9 (paragraph 3) requests the CRIC to review the status of this iterative process during its sessions and to recommend a minimum set of performance indicators for consideration at the eleventh session of the COP.

² The seven thematic topics are as follows:

- (a) Sustainable land management (SLM) technologies, including adaptation
- (b) Capacity-building and awareness-raising
- (c) Desertification, land degradation and drought, and SLM monitoring and assessment/research
- (d) Knowledge management and decision support
- (e) The policy, legislative and institutional framework
- (f) Funding and resource mobilization
- (g) Participation, collaboration and networking

49. Decision 13/COP.9 (attachment, paragraph 24) also states that given the provisional nature of the performance and impact indicators as well as that of the reporting elements and methodologies (...), all Parties and other reporting entities should use their best endeavours to report against these indicators and are invited to recommend improvements, which will be discussed as part of the iterative process described in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the above decision.

50. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/10 provides a compilation and analysis of information on the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures, contained in the reports from Parties and other reporting entities to CRIC 9.

(b) Draft template and reporting guidelines for civil society organizations (2012–2013)

51. Decision 11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph 12) invites accredited CSOs to organize themselves to prepare collaborative reports on their work for the implementation of the Convention, especially through the provision of best practices, for transmission to the sessions of the CRIC held between ordinary sessions of the COP and the focal points of the countries.

52. At its meeting on 1–2 March 2010, the CRIC Bureau requested the secretariat, in consultation with the accredited CSOs, to prepare draft reporting guidelines for CSOs coherent to and consistent with the guidelines being devised for the other reporting entities, for consideration at CRIC 9 and recommendations to COP 10.

53. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/11 contains draft template and reporting guidelines for CSOs for consideration at CRIC 9 and possible application to the second part of the fourth reporting and review process (2012–2013) upon endorsement by COP 10.

(c) Status of implementation, potential role and need for alignment with The Strategy of subregional and regional action programmes to combat desertification

54. Decision 11/COP.9 (annex, paragraph 10(a)(v)) states that information provided by the entities reporting on the implementation of SRAPs and RAPs will be reviewed as part of the work programme of the CRIC on the assessment of implementation.

55. Building on relevant provisions of decision 3/COP.8 on alignment of action programmes with the operational objectives of The Strategy and decision 11/COP.9, whereby subregional and regional entities shall report on the implementation of SRAPs and RAPs, there is a need for further guidance on content and orientation as well as for reporting entities entrusted with the reporting on UNCCD implementation at those levels. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/12 provides an overview of the potential roles in reporting, for consideration at CRIC 9 and recommendations to COP 10.

8. Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention - Update on progress made in the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of decision 6/COP.9

56. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/14 contains an update on progress made in the implementation of paragraphs 1–3 and 5–8 of decision 6/COP.9, and is tabled at CRIC 9 for any recommendations Parties would like to make.

9. Review of input from the Committee on Science and Technology - Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy

57. Document ICCD/CRIC(9)/15 will be an in-session document presenting to Parties at CRIC 9 the outcome of deliberations of the second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. The document will be tabled at CRIC 9 for any recommendations Parties would like to make.

10. 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

58. According to decision 11/COP.9 (paragraph 5), the CRIC shall report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work, and also through a final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.

59. The report adopted by the Committee shall be submitted to the COP for its consideration leading to any decision the COP may wish to take on the implementation of the Convention.

II. Documents before the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention at its ninth session

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(9)/1	Provisional agenda. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/2	Annotations to the provisional agenda
ICCD/CRIC(9)/3	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 1 of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)/4	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 2 of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)/5	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 3 of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)/6	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 4 of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)/7	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on operational objective 5 of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)/8	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected and developed country Parties, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations and the Global Environment Facility on financial flows for the implementation of the Convention
ICCD/CRIC(9)/9	Review and compilation of best practices in sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation
ICCD/CRIC(9)/10	Consideration of the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures
ICCD/CRIC(9)/11	Draft template and reporting guidelines for the civil society organizations (2012–2013)
ICCD/CRIC(9)/12	Status of implementation, potential role and need for alignment with The Strategy of subregional and regional action programmes to combat desertification
ICCD/CRIC(9)/13	Glossary of performance indicators for the review of implementation of The Strategy and best practices
ICCD/CRIC(9)/14	Update on the progress made in the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 3 and 5 to 8 of decision 6/COP.9

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(9)/15	Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.1	Information for participants to the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention and the second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.2	Template and reporting guidelines for affected country Parties
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.3	Template and reporting guidelines for developed country Parties
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.4	Template and reporting guidelines for United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.5	Template and reporting guidelines for the Global Environment Facility
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.6	Template and reporting guidelines for the UNCCD Secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.7	Template and reporting guidelines for the Global Mechanism
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.8	Template and reporting guidelines for the civil society organizations on best practices in sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.9	Information on synergies in monitoring environmental conventions
ICCD/CRIC(9)/INF.10	Information on the review of draft modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy
ICCD/CRIC(9)INF.11	Quick reference guide

Other documents available at the session:

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CRIC(7)/5	Report of the seventh session of the CRIC
ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1	Report of the COP on its ninth session held in Buenos Aires from 21 September to 2 October 2009
