



**UNITED
NATIONS**



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/CST(S-1)/5
22 January 2009

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on its
first special session, held in Istanbul from 3 to 6 November 2008**

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I. Opening of the session

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 3 November 2008, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey, Mr. Hasan Z. Sarikaya, opened the joint meeting of the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 7) and the first special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-1) and delivered a statement on behalf of the President of Turkey, Mr. Abdullah Gül, and the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.
2. The Minister of Environment and Forestry, Mr. Veysel Eroğlu, also addressed the meeting.
3. Statements were also made by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism.
4. At the same meeting, a statement was made by Mr. Jose Luis Herranz, Director-General of the Ministry of the Rural, Marine and Natural Environment of Spain, on behalf of Ms. Elena Espinosa, President of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD.
5. Statements were also made by the Chairperson of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), Mr. Israel Torres (Panama), and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST), Mr. William D. Dar (Philippines).

B. Continuation of the session

6. The first special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) was held in Istanbul Turkey, on 5 and 6 November 2008.
7. The Chairperson of the CST, Mr. William D. Dar (Philippines) opened the session and welcomed all Parties and observers.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. At its first meeting, on 5 November 2008, the CST considered a note by the UNCCD secretariat containing the provisional agenda and annotations (ICCD/CST(S-1)/1 and ICCD/CST(S-1)/1/Corr.1).
9. At the same meeting, the agenda, as corrected, was adopted as follows:
 1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 2. Functioning of the Committee on Science and Technology: Work of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology during the 2008 intersessional period.

3. Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018): Progress on the preparation of the ninth session of the Committee on Science and Technology in a scientific and technical conference-style format.
4. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology:
 - (a) Consideration of the document on the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (b) Consideration of the draft multi-year (four-year) work plan for the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (c) Consideration of the costed draft two-year work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (d) Elements for provision 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.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work as annexed to the provisional agenda (see annex I to this report).

B. Attendance

11. The representatives of the following 145 Parties to the UNCCD attended the first special session of the CST:

Afghanistan	Brazil	Cook Islands
Algeria	Bulgaria	Costa Rica
Angola	Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire
Antigua and Barbuda	Burundi	Croatia
Argentina	Cambodia	Cuba
Armenia	Canada	Czech Republic
Austria	Cape Verde	Democratic People's
Azerbaijan	Central African Republic	Republic of Korea
Bangladesh	Chad	Democratic Republic of
Belarus	Chile	the Congo
Belgium	China	Dominica
Benin	Colombia	Dominican Republic
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Comoros	Ecuador
Botswana	Congo	Egypt

El Salvador	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Serbia
Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar	Seychelles
Eritrea	Malawi	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	Mali	Slovakia
European Community	Marshall Islands	Slovenia
Fiji	Mauritania	Solomon Islands
Finland	Mauritius	South Africa
France	Mexico	Spain
Gabon	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Sri Lanka
Gambia	Mongolia	Sudan
Georgia	Montenegro	Suriname
Germany	Morocco	Swaziland
Ghana	Mozambique	Sweden
Greece	Myanmar	Switzerland
Grenada	Namibia	Syrian Arab Republic
Guatemala	Nauru	Tajikistan
Guinea	Nepal	Thailand
Guinea-Bissau	Netherlands	Timor-Leste
Haiti	Niger	Togo
Honduras	Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
Hungary	Norway	Tunisia
India	Pakistan	Turkey
Indonesia	Panama	Tuvalu
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Peru	Uganda
Israel	Philippines	Ukraine
Italy	Poland	United Republic of Tanzania
Jamaica	Portugal	United States of America
Japan	Qatar	Uruguay
Jordan	Republic of Korea	Uzbekistan
Kenya	Saint Lucia	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Kiribati	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Viet Nam
Kyrgyzstan	Samoa	Yemen
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sao Tome and Principe	Zambia
Lebanon	Saudi Arabia	Zimbabwe
Lesotho	Senegal	
Liberia		

12. The session was also attended by observers from one other country and one organization.

13. The following United Nations organizations, offices and specialized agencies were represented:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations University (UNU)
World Bank
World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

14. Fourteen intergovernmental and 49 civil society organizations were also represented (see ICCD/CRIC(7)/INF.2-ICCD/CST(S-1)/INF.1).

C. Documentation

15. The documents submitted for the consideration of the CRIC are listed in annex II.

III. Reports on agenda items 2 to 5

16. The conclusions and recommendations listed in this report are a summary compilation of ideas, suggestions and proposals offered by various delegations during CST S-1.

A. Work of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology during the 2008 intersessional period

17. The increase in the work of the CST Bureau was acknowledged, as well as the need to give to the Bureau the facilities necessary for it to undertake its work.

B. Progress on preparation of the ninth session of the Committee on Science and Technology in a scientific and technical conference-style format

18. The ninth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 9) scientific conference should be built on a solid scientific basis in terms of content and participation. For this purpose, the conference should be open to the whole scientific community. The issue of the participation of civil society and of the relevant private sectors was also raised. The importance was underlined of using website and other relevant technology to disseminate the information relevant to the Conference and its output.

19. Transparency and geographical balance in the selection of expertise and participants is needed, in particular for the working groups of the Drylands Science for Development (DSD) consortium selected to assist the CST Bureau in organizing CST 9 in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format.

20. The Scientific Policy Dialogue (SPD) targeting the international community should be postponed in order to be organized back to back with CST 9.

21. The date and venue of CST 9 are crucial to ensure early preparation and high attendance on the part of the scientific community.

C. Consideration of the draft multi-year (four-year) work plan and of the costed draft two-year work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology

22. The recommendations and conclusions of CST S-1 on the four-year work plan and the two-year work programme of the CST were agreed upon in-session through an oral report which was further transmitted by the CST chairperson to CRIC 7 for harmonization and to ensure coherence with the CRIC and secretariat work programmes.

23. The CST work plan and programme are coherent and translate the orientations of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy) into concrete outcomes and activities.

24. Regarding the current two-year work plan and related activities planned in 2009, the following priorities were identified: the selection of a minimum set of impact indicators for measuring progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3, the organization of CST 9 scientific conference, the involvement of the science and technology correspondents in the activities of the CST bureau, and the organization of the SPD back to back with CST 9.

25. The role of the science and technology correspondents, and their involvement in the preparatory activities for CST 9, need to be clarified.

26. With reference to the next four-year plan 2010–2013, it is recommended that the priorities among the expected accomplishments should be clearly identified by the CST through its Bureau for consideration by CST 9. The related activities could be merged into work packages and a detailed budget should be provided. According to the priorities established by the CST in its four-year work plan, the number of performance indicators should be decreased taking into account the matter of quality.

27. The 2010–2011 work programmes of the secretariat and of the CST should be carefully reviewed, taking into account the need to avoid overlap and ensure coherence.

28. The provision of adequate resources for the Bureau is crucial in order to ensure efficient functioning in the implementation of the CST work plan and programme.

D. 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

29. The conclusions and recommendations on this subject from CST S-1 are contained in the document ICCD/CST(S-1)/5/Add.1 which was adopted in session. This document was presented to CRIC 7 by the CST chairperson.

IV. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology

30. At its fourth meeting, on 7 November 2008, the CST considered the draft report of its first special session (ICCD/CST(S-1)/L.1). Also at the same meeting, at the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee authorized the Rapporteur to complete the report of the session, with the assistance of the secretariat.

Annex I

Organization of work

Monday, 3 November 2008	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<p><i>Joint opening of the first special session of the Committee on Science and Technology and of the seventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes</i>

Tuesday, 4 November 2008	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes (continued)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes (continued)</i>

Wednesday, 5 November 2008	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continuation of the first special session of the Committee on Science and Technology</i> • <i>Introductory Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology</i> • <i>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (ICCD/CST(S-1)/1)</i> • <i>Functioning of the Committee on Science and Technology:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Consideration of the report on the work of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology (ICCD/CST(S-1)/2)</i> • <i>Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Consideration of the report on progress in preparation of the ninth session of the Committee on Science and Technology in a scientific and technical conference-style format (ICCD/CST(S-1)/3)</i> 	

- The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology
 - Consideration of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology. (ICCD/CST(S-1)/4)
 - Consideration of the draft multi-year (four-year) work plan for the Committee on Science and Technology (ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.1)

Wednesday, 5 November 2008

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

- The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology (*continued*)
 - Consideration of the costed draft two-year work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology (ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.2)

Thursday, 6 November 2008

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology (*continued*)
 - Elements for provision of advice on how best to measure progress on Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy (ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.3)

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

- The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology (*continued*)
 - Elements for provision of advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy (ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.3) (*continued*)
- *Adoption of the report of the Committee*
- *Closure of the session*

Annex II

Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology
at its first special session

<u>Document symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
ICCD/CST(S-1)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-1)/1/Corr.1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat. Corrigendum
ICCD/CST(S-1)/2	Report on the work of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-1)/3	Report on progress with the preparation of the ninth session of the Committee on Science and Technology in a scientific and technical conference-style format. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-1)/4	The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.1	The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Consideration of the draft multi-year work plan for the Committee on Science and Technology (2008–2011)
ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.2	The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Consideration of the costed draft two-year work programme for the Committee on Science and Technology (2008–2009)
ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.3	The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the strategic plan
ICCD/CST(S-1)/4/Add.3/ Corr.1 [English and French only]	The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention – Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat. Addendum. Advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the strategic plan. Corrigendum
