



**UNITED  
NATIONS**



**Convention to Combat  
Desertification**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ICCD/CST(S-1)/5/Add.1  
7 November 2008

Original: ENGLISH

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**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**First special session**

**Istanbul, 3–6 November 2008**

**Agenda item 6 of the provisional agenda**

**Adoption of the report of the 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**

**Addendum**

**Advice from the Committee on Science and Technology to the Committee for  
the Review of the Implementation of the Convention 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**

1. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) by decision 3/COP.8 requested the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) to provide advice to the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) discussion on reporting at the ninth session of the COP (COP 9) 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 (The Strategy), inter alia, based on the deliberations and outcomes of the ninth session of the CST (CST 9). Pursuant to this decision, the CST during its first special session in Istanbul, Turkey considered this item on 5 November 2008 and identified the following elements to be included in the advice to be provided to the CRIC. These elements represent work in progress and shall form the basis for the document to be prepared by the CST for consideration at CST 9.

2. In fulfilling this task the CST advises the following:

- (a) Selection of a minimum set of indicators taking into account:
  - (i) the core seven indicators already identified in The Strategy;

- (ii) the relevant indicators already in use under the Convention at the national, subregional, regional and global levels; existing indicators from the sister Rio Conventions, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and the Global Environment Facility;
- (iii) their measurability, reliability, simplicity and applicability and cost-effectiveness at various levels;
- (iv) the relevant previous decisions of the COP and the related reports of CST;
- (v) the special circumstances and needs of developing countries.

(b) Benchmarks and baselines be established for use in conjunction with the selected minimum set of indicators while taking into account:

- (i) the possibility of using default data and relying on extrapolation at various levels;
- (ii) the capacities of countries to collect, monitor and analyse the relevant data required.

(c) Scientific and technical support capacities be provided and sustained through partnerships, including both North-South and South-South cooperation as appropriate.

(d) Methods for collecting, monitoring and analysing the relevant data needed for use with the minimum set of indicators be harmonized, and any existing gaps in information be identified and rectified as appropriate.

(e) Networking between and among relevant institutions and organizations needs to be strengthened in order to ensure the use of available data and information.

3. The CST has requested the CST Bureau to work during the intersessional period and elaborate these elements in more detail, with a view to providing the necessary concrete advice to the CRIC during COP 9.

4. The CST is therefore proposing the following further concrete steps to be undertaken to provide further advice to the CRIC discussion on reporting at the COP 9 on how best to measure progress on Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy:

(a) immediate steps: selection of a minimum set of indicators following the above guidelines carried out by a group of scientific experts commissioned by the CST Bureau with inputs from the Dryland Science for Development (DSD) consortium, selected for the CST 9 scientific conference, and appropriate regional processes;

- (b) medium-term steps:
  - (i) undertaking capacity-building activities;
  - (ii) continuous refinement and harmonization of the process of measuring progress on the strategic objectives.

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