



## Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General  
6 July 2010

Original: English

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**Committee on Science and Technology**  
**Second special session**  
Geneva, 16–18 February 2011  
Item 1 of the provisional agenda  
**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

### **Provisional agenda and annotations**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

#### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
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):
  - (a) Assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference;
  - (b) Preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference: “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”.
3. Outcome of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference.
4. Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.
5. Science and technology correspondents.
6. Progress made on the implementation of the knowledge-management system, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories on desertification, land degradation and drought issues.

7. Issues associated with the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy:
  - (a) Consideration of the status of work on methodologies and baselines for an effective use of the subset of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3;
  - (b) Progress made on the refinement of the set of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3;
  - (c) How to further streamline the cooperation with the Global Environment Facility in a longer-term framework to support progress in measuring the implementation of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.
8. Information on regional scientific initiatives.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

## II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. By decision 25/COP.9, paragraph 1, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the second special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-2) shall be held in 2010 to address issues associated with the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy and to ensure the review of the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference.

### *Venue*

2. By decision 25/COP.9, paragraph 2, the COP also decided that CST S-2 shall be held in Bonn, Germany, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial costs.

3. At its meeting in Buenos Aires from 10–12 February 2010, the COP Bureau decided that CST S-2 and the ninth session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 9) shall take place between the second and third week of February 2011 (14–25 February) at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), unless a Party offers to host and contribute to the costs of those sessions, with the understanding that CST S-2 will be of three-days duration and CRIC 9 will last five days. The COP Bureau also decided that the meetings of the regional implementation annexes in preparation to CRIC 9 shall be convened back-to-back to the same CRIC session.

4. At its meeting in Bonn, from 23–24 June, the COP Bureau decided that CST S-2 shall take place at UNOG from 16–18 February 2011.

### *Participants*

5. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) provides that the CST shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, of the Convention, it is anticipated that sessions of the CST will also be open to observers in accordance with the rules of procedure.

*Documentation*

6. A list of documents prepared for this session of the CST is contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the UNCCD website at <<http://www.unccd.int>>.

## **1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

7. The CST will have before it for adoption the annotated provisional agenda and organization of work contained in this document, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the CST on the basis of the relevant decisions adopted by the COP at its ninth session (COP 9). A tentative organization of work for the session is set out in annex II.

## **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)**

8. 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.

### **(a) Assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference**

9. The UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, held at COP 9 in Buenos Aires from 22 to 25 September 2009, addressed the theme: “Bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management”.

10. Paragraph 5 of decision 16/COP.9 requests the secretariat to organize an in-depth assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference in consultation with regional groups.

11. Document ICCD/CST(S-2)/2 summarizes the results of the assessment of the organization and the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference. It is submitted to the CST for consideration and any recommendations it may wish to make to COP.

### **(b) Preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference: “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”**

12. Paragraph 2 of decision 16/COP.9 decides that the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference shall take place in 2012 at a special session of the CST, in accordance with the provisions of decision 13/COP.8 paragraphs 1 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

13. Paragraph 4 of decision 16/COP.9 decides that the specific theme to be considered by the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference will be “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”;

14. Paragraph 6 of decision 16/COP.9 requests the CST Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, on the basis of the outcomes of the assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, to establish terms of reference and procedures for selection, taking into account regional balance, of a lead institution/consortium which is

qualified in and has expertise in the relevant thematic topic selected by the COP to organize the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference under the guidance of the CST Bureau.

15. Paragraph 7 of decision 16/COP.9 further requests the CST Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to select a lead institution/consortium at least two years prior to each future UNCCD scientific conference.

16. Paragraph 8 of decision 16/COP.9 directs the Bureau of the CST to ensure that the selection of the institution/consortium is done in a transparent manner, and in strict accordance with the established criteria, if any, and to avoid any conflict of interest between the institution/consortium selected and any Bureau member.

17. Relevant information on this matter and on the current status of the preparations for the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/3 which is submitted to the CST for consideration and any recommendations it may wish to make to the COP on the organization of the conference.

### **3. Outcome of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference**

18. Paragraph 2 of decision 23/COP.9 requests the Bureau of the CST to consult with Parties and the regional groups to review the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference.

19. Document ICCD/CST(S-2)/2, which summarizes the results of the assessment of the organization and the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference, is submitted to the CST for consideration.

20. The Committee may wish to make recommendations to the COP on which among the 11 recommendations of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference are the most important and require urgent implementation.

### **4. Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought**

21. Paragraph 1 of decision 18/COP.9 requests the CST to conduct an assessment at its next two sessions of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice, taking into account the need to ensure transparency and geographical balance, and to consider options for determining agreed channels for consideration of the advice in the Convention process.

22. Paragraph 2 of decision 18/COP.9 invites the Parties, the scientific community and relevant stakeholders to provide input into the assessment process referred to in paragraph 1.

23. Paragraph 3 of decision 18/COP.9 requests the secretariat to prepare a progress report for consideration at CST S-2 and a final report for consideration at the tenth session of the CST (CST 10) on the outcomes of the assessment process referred to in paragraph 1.

24. Paragraph 4 of decision 18/COP.9 requests the CST to submit recommendations for consideration at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10).

25. A progress report on this matter is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/4, which is submitted to the CST for consideration and any recommendations it may wish to make to the COP.

## **5. Science and technology correspondents**

26. Paragraph 1 of decision 22/COP.9 requests the Bureau of the CST to consult with Parties and the regional groups to develop recommendations on the role and responsibilities of the science and technology correspondents for consideration at CST S-2 and CST 10. Relevant information on this matter is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/5, which is submitted to the CST for consideration and any recommendations it may wish to make to the COP.

## **6. Progress made on the implementation of the knowledge-management system, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories on desertification, land degradation and drought issues**

27. Paragraph 9 of decision 4/COP.9 requests the secretariat to continue building up efficient knowledge-management and knowledge-brokering systems to serve as tools for successful implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy, as appropriate and in the context of the 2010–2011 programme of work as adopted by the Parties at COP 9.

28. Paragraph 6 of decision 25/COP.9 decides to include, inter alia, the following item on the agenda of CST S-2: Progress made on the implementation of the knowledge-management system, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories on desertification, land degradation and drought issues. A description of the progress made with this matter is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/6.

29. The Committee may wish to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the development and implementation of the knowledge-management system, particularly on the scientific knowledge that it should contain. The CST may also wish to discuss the best ways to identify and assess traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories on desertification, land degradation and drought issues.

## **7. Issues associated with the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

### **(a) Consideration of the status of work on methodologies and baselines for an effective use of the subset of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3**

30. Paragraph 1 of decision 17/COP.9 decides to provisionally accept the set of impact indicators attached to the same decision to assist measurement, at the national and global levels, of progress made under national action programmes in implementing strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy. The following subset of impact indicators is the minimum required for reporting by affected countries beginning in 2012: (i) proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line; and (ii) land cover status.

31. Paragraph 2 of decision 17/COP.9 requests the CST, with the support of the secretariat, to continue its work on methodologies for collecting data and baselines and on the effective use of the agreed set of impact indicators, and to prepare a glossary in order to clarify the terminology and definitions used in the formulation of the set of impact indicators for consideration at COP 10.

32. A progress report summarizing the work done on methodologies for collecting data and baselines for the effective use of the agreed subset of impact indicators is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/7.

33. The Committee may wish to make recommendations to the CRIC and the COP on the most suitable methodologies for reporting against the agreed subset of impact indicators.

**(b) Progress made on the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3**

34. Paragraph 1 of decision 17/COP.9 further decides that the remaining impact indicators in the list attached to the same decision, while recommended, are optional for inclusion in reports by affected countries.

35. Paragraph 3 of decision 17/COP.9 also requests the CST with the support of the secretariat to further assist the countries by providing an implementation plan for completion of the work and to provide assistance for pilot impact indicator tracking exercises at the national level, in particular to those countries that choose to report on the entire set of impact indicators in 2012.

36. Paragraph 4 of decision 17/COP.9 further requests the secretariat, under the guidance of the CST Bureau and using an iterative process, to develop proposals for consideration by future sessions of the COP commencing with its eleventh session (COP 11) to refine the set of impact indicators and associated methodologies, taking account of: (a) application and review of the impact indicators by affected countries; (b) scientific peer review of the relevance, accuracy and cost-effectiveness of the impact indicators; (c) possible synergies with relevant programmes, projects and institutions, including those associated with the other Rio conventions; and (d) relevant contributions from UNCCD scientific conferences.

37. Paragraph 5 of decision 17/COP.9 requests the CST to review the status of this iterative process during its sessions and to recommend a minimum set of impact indicators for consideration at COP 11.

38. Paragraph 6 of decision 17/COP.9 requests the CST to provide information on available sources of data and information required to implement the set of impact indicators and to facilitate access to and use of these by Parties.

39. A progress report on this matter is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/8. Document ICCD/CST(S-2)/INF.1 includes the outcomes of the scientific review of the UNCCD provisionally accepted set of impact indicators to measure the implementation of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.

40. The Committee may wish to review the status of the iterative process and make recommendations to the COP on its further implementation.

**c) How to further streamline the cooperation with the Global Environment Facility in a longer-term framework to support progress in measuring the implementation of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy**

41. Paragraph 9 of decision 17/COP.9 requests the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, as part of their joint work programme and in cooperation with relevant international and/or multilateral organizations, to include the impact indicators in their comprehensive capacity-building initiative assisting affected country Parties and communicate information pursuant to the present decision, and to seek assistance from bilateral donors, relevant international organizations and financial institutions, with particular regard to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

42. Paragraph 10 of the same decision requests the CST to include on the agenda of CST S-2 an item on how to further streamline the cooperation with the GEF in a longer-term

framework to support progress in measuring the implementation of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

43. A progress report on this matter is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-2)/8, which is submitted to the CST for consideration and any recommendations it may wish to make to the COP.

## **8. Information on regional scientific initiatives**

44. The Bureau of the CST at its meeting in March 2010 requested the secretariat to include on the agenda of CST S-2 an additional item to share information about ongoing initiatives in the regions.

45. The Committee may wish to invite regional groups to provide information on ongoing initiatives in their respective regions.

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

46. A draft report of the session will be prepared for adoption at the final meeting in the understanding that it will be completed by the Rapporteur after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chair.

**Annex I****Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology  
at its second intersessional meeting**

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<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CST(S-2)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/2	Assessment of the organization and the outcomes of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/3	Progress report on the preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/4	Progress report on how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/5	Progress report on the development of recommendations on the role and responsibilities of the Science and Technology correspondents. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/6	Progress report on the implementation of the knowledge-management system. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/7	Progress report on the status of the work on methodologies and baselines for the effective use of the subset of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/8	Progress report on the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-2)/INF.1	Scientific review of the UNCCD provisionally accepted set of impact indicators to measure the implementation of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3

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## Annex II

## Tentative organization of work

<b>Wednesday, 16 February 2011</b>	
<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of the second special session of the CST</li> <li>• Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/1</i>)</li> <li>• 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):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/2</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference on “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas” (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/3</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Outcome of the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/2</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, 17 February 2011</b>	
<b>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</b>	<b>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures to enable the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/4</i>)</li> <li>• Science and Technology Correspondents (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/5</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress made on the implementation of the knowledge-management system, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories on desertification, land degradation and drought issues (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/6</i>)</li> </ul>

Friday, 18 February 2011	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues associated with the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consideration of the status of work on methodologies and baselines for an effective use of the subset of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/7</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues associated with the development and implementation of impact indicators related to the measurement of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress made on the refinement of the set of impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/8</i>)</li> <li>- How to further streamline the cooperation with the Global Environment Facility in a longer-term framework to support progress in measuring the implementation of strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy (<i>ICCD/CST(S-2)/8</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Information on regional scientific initiatives</li> <li>• Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology</li> <li>• Closure of the session</li> </ul>