



United Nations

ICCD/CST(S-2)/4



## Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General  
18 October 2010

Original: English

---

### Committee on Science and Technology

#### Second special session

Bonn, 16–18 February 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**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**

### **Progress report on how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process**

**Note by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

By its decision 18/COP.9 the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the Committee on Science and Technology (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. By the same decision, the COP invited Parties, the scientific community and relevant stakeholders to provide input into the assessment process. The COP also requested the CST to submit recommendations for consideration by the COP at its tenth session.

The document presents the activities to be undertaken in connection with a planned white paper and subsequent e-dialogue to assess how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process.

## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Background .....	1-2	3
II. Progress made on the assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice.....	3-6	3
III. Recommendation.....	7	4

## I. Background

1. The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) stipulates that the Convention is “to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought.”<sup>1</sup> It foresees that “science and technology networks and institutions relevant to desertification, land degradation and drought are engaged to support UNCCD implementation.”<sup>2</sup>

2. Towards this end, the Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 18/COP.9, requested the Committee on Science and Technology (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.<sup>3</sup>

## II. Progress made on the assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice

3. During its meetings in March and June 2010 in Bonn, Germany, the Bureau of CST 9 agreed that a consultant shall prepare a white paper on this matter with inputs from regional experts. The white paper shall state clear options for consideration by Parties, including channels for consideration of the advice. The Bureau also agreed that Parties, scientists and other relevant stakeholders will review the white paper in an e-dialogue, and that this review should include the possibility to put forward solutions not addressed in the options presented in the white paper.

4. In September 2010 the secretariat, with the agreement of the CST Bureau, issued a call for a consultant to prepare the white paper described in paragraph 3 above.

5. At the meeting of the CST Bureau to be held from 18 to 19 November 2010, it is expected that the draft white paper will be presented and discussed. It is planned that feedback by Bureau members will subsequently be incorporated.

6. The e-dialogue by which Parties, the scientific community and relevant stakeholders may review the white paper and provide input into the assessment process is to be launched at the end of December 2010. Information on the e-dialogue will be presented at CST S-2. A final report on the assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process, including the findings of the e-dialogue, will be prepared for consideration at CST 10, so that the CST can, as requested by decision 18/COP.9, submit recommendations for consideration by the COP at its tenth session.

---

<sup>1</sup> Decision 3/COP.8, annex, paragraph 11, operational objective 3.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 3/COP.8, annex, paragraph 11, outcome 3.6.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 18/COP.9, paragraph 1.

### **III. Recommendation**

**7. The CST at its second special session may wish to take note of the progress made on this matter and provide guidance and further recommendations on the ongoing assessment.**

---