



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
18 March 2013

Original: English

Committee on Science and Technology

Third special session

Bonn, 9–12 April 2013

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) Preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference;
 - (b) Preliminary outcome of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”;
 - (c) Preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, “Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”.
3. Progress made in refining the impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).
4. Review and assessment of scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018).
5. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 26/COP.10, decided that the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-3) shall address issues associated with the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, the development in refining the impact indicators for strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) and the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, “Combating desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”.

Venue

2. The COP, by its decision 26/COP.10, paragraph 1, decided that CST S-3 shall be held for four days in Bonn, Germany, in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial cost.

3. Further to both the official communication dated 13 July 2012 from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the earlier communication received by the UNCCD secretariat on 14 June 2012 from the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Brazil expressing the interest of Brazil to host the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, the Federative Government of Brazil informed the UNCCD secretariat that, with the support of the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of National Integration, the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference will take place from 4 to 7 February 2013 in the city of Fortaleza, state of Ceara, Brazil.

4. An official communication dated 21 December 2012 from the Embassy of Brazil in Berlin to the secretariat stated that it would not be possible to organize the event in February 2013 as originally planned.

5. Following consultations between the Executive Secretary and the Bureau of COP 10 concerning the date and venue of the CST S-3 with its UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference and of the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 11), it was decided that at this late stage of the process the only option was to hold these events back-to-back during the month of April 2013.

6. A communication received from the Embassy of Brazil in Germany on 31 January 2013 informed the secretariat that it would not be possible for the Government of Brazil to reschedule the above-mentioned events before the end of April 2013, and that therefore the Government of Brazil had no option other than to withdraw its offer to hold the above mentioned meetings.

7. In view of the severe time constraints faced, and because no offer had been received from a Party to host the events at the proposed dates and cover the related costs, the COP Bureau authorized the CST S-3 with its UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference to be rescheduled to take place in Bonn, Germany, from 9 to 12 April 2013, back-to-back with CRIC 11 (15 to 19 April 2013).

Participants

8. Article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that the CST shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. Pursuant to 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

9. A list of documents prepared for the third special session of the CST is contained in annex I. In addition to the usual hard copy distribution, official documents will also be made available on the UNCCD website at <<http://www.unccd.int>>. A verbal update will be given for each official document by the CST Chair during the session.

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

10. The CST will have before it for adoption the annotated provisional agenda and organization of work as contained in the present document, which has been prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the CST on the basis of decision 26/COP.10. A tentative schedule of work for the current session is set out in annex II.

Organization of work

11. The CST at its third special session may wish to consider the following scenario. At the opening session on 9 April 2013, with the participation of Parties and observers, the Chair of the CST would call for the adoption of the agenda and the organization of work. This would be followed by consideration of agenda items 4 and 2 (a). In the afternoon of the same day, the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference would begin, with the participation of the invited scientists, and it would continue until the afternoon of 12 April 2013. The CST would resume its work in the afternoon of 12 April 2013 in order to consider agenda items 2 (b) and (c), and agenda items 3 and 5.

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)

12. The COP, by its decision 13/COP.8, paragraph 1 (a), 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, which is qualified in and has expertise in the relevant thematic topic selected by the COP.

13. In accordance with the provisions of decision 16/COP.9, paragraph 7, the Bureau of the CST, with the support of the secretariat, is requested to select the lead institution/consortium at least two years before each future UNCCD scientific conference.

14. Paragraph 8 of the afore-mentioned decision 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.

(a) Preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference

15. The COP, by its decision 16/COP.9, paragraph 4, decided that the specific theme to be considered by the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference would be “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas”.

16. A progress report on the preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference was presented to COP 10 in document ICCD/COP(10)/CST/5. This report outlined both the selection process and the selection itself of a lead institution/consortium to organize the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference under the guidance of the CST Bureau. Annexes I and

II to the report set out the agreed terms of reference of the steering committee and the scientific advisory committee, respectively.

17. Accordingly, document ICCD/CST(S-3)/2 presents activities undertaken during the preparation phase of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference (including working groups, the preparation of white papers, a background document, a fundraising strategy, communication and publication strategies, setting up a website, a call for abstracts) and the steps taken during the organization process of the conference itself (setting up committees, deciding on the structure of the conference and other logistical arrangements). Further progress made after the release of document ICCD/CST(S-3)/2 will be presented by the Chair of the CST to CST S-3.

18. Document ICCD/CST(S-3)/3 contains an overview and findings of substantive papers, White Paper I entitled “Economic and social impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought” and White Paper II entitled, “Costs and benefits of policies and practices addressing desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD)”.

19. At its third special session, the CST will discuss preparations for the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference and make recommendations for the organization and preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference. An assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference will be presented at CST 11.

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

20. The UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference will be held for three days during CST S-3 with the participation of Parties, observers and invited scientists from various regions.

21. It is expected that the Chair of the CST will present a preliminary report on the outcome of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference to CST S-3 for consideration by Parties.

22. The final report on the outcome of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference will be presented at CST 11.

(c) Preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, “Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”

23. The COP, by its decision 18/COP.10, paragraph 12, decided that the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference would take place in 2014 at a special session of the CST, in accordance with the provisions of decision 13/COP.8, paragraph 1.

24. Paragraph 13 of the afore-mentioned decision states that the specific thematic topic to be considered by the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference shall be “Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”.

25. Document ICCD/CST(S-3)/4 summarizes the progress made on the preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, and includes information on the progress made on the selection process of the lead institution/consortium to organize the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference. Further progress made after the release of document ICCD/CST(S-3)/4 will be presented by the Chair of the CST to CST S-3 for any further recommendations they may wish to bring to the process.

3. Progress made in refining the impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018):

26. The COP, by its decision 3/COP.8, paragraph 10, requested the CST to provide advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of The Strategy.

27. By its decision 17/COP.9, paragraph 4, the COP requested 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.

28. Paragraph 5 of the afore-mentioned decision requests the CST to review the status of this iterative process during its sessions.

29. By its decision 19/COP.10, paragraph 3, the COP decided to establish an ad hoc advisory group of technical experts to be tasked with continuing the iterative participatory contribution from the scientific community, national focal points and science and technology correspondents on impact-indicator refinement and the monitoring and assessment of impacts.

30. Progress made in the establishment of the ad hoc advisory group of technical experts (AGTE) and in the refinement of the set of impact indicators, from COP 10 up to mid-October 2012, is contained in document ICCD/CST(S-3)/5.

31. A verbal update on progress made will be presented by the Chair of the AGTE to CST S-3 for any recommendations the CST may wish to make on the process of impact indicator refinement in preparation for COP 11.

4. Review and assessment of scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)

32. At its ninth session, the COP, by its decision 12/COP.9, paragraph 1, established the performance review and assessment of the implementation system (PRAIS) and, in accordance with the adopted terms of reference of the CRIC, decided that the CRIC shall assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention (see decision 11/COP.9). By its decision 12/COP.9, paragraph 2, the COP also decided that the CST shall contribute to the work of the CRIC by reviewing and assessing scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy.

33. At its eleventh session, the CRIC will conduct the first assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted impact indicators. Consequently, the CST at its third special session is expected to review and assess information relating to strategic

objectives 1, 2 and 3 and to draft preliminary recommendations on how to enhance the implementation of the Convention in relation to these objectives. The CST is then expected to submit its conclusions and recommendations¹ in time for the eleventh session of the CRIC to consider and finalize them.

34. A preliminary analysis of information from affected country Parties on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy is contained in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6.

35. Due to the limited time available during CST S-3 to review such information owing to its heavy agenda and programme of work, the CST might wish to consider convening a contact group to address this matter.

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

36. The draft report on the third special session of the CST will be prepared and submitted to CST S-3 on 12 April 2013, for its consideration and, as appropriate, adoption, on 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 of the CST.

¹ The conclusions and recommendations of the CST will be included in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/9, entitled “Input from the Committee on Science and Technology on the review and assessment of scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy”.

Annex I

Documents before the Committee on Science and Technology at its third intersessional meeting

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
ICCD/CST(S-3)/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-3)/2	Report on the 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”. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-3)/3	Overview of working papers prepared for the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-3)/4	Progress report on the preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, “Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”. Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-3)/5	Progress report on the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CRIC(11)/8- ICCD/CST(S-3)/6	Preliminary analysis of information contained in reports from affected country Parties on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy). Note by the secretariat
ICCD/CST(S-3)/INF.1	Information for participants

Annex II

Tentative organization of work

Tuesday, 9 April 2013	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of the third special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-3) • Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (ICCD/CST(S-3)/1) • Review and assessment of scientific information from Parties, in particular on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6) • 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"> - Preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference (ICCD/CST(S-3)/2 and ICCD/CST(S-3)/3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference

Wednesday, 10 April 2013	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference (<i>continued</i>) 	

Thursday, 11 April 2013	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference (<i>continued</i>) 	

Friday, 12 April 2013	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference (<i>continuation and closure</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> - Preliminary outcome of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, “Economic assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas” - Preparation of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference, “Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices” (<i>ICCD/CST(S-3)/4</i>) • Progress made in refining the impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (<i>ICCD/CST(S-3)/5</i>) • Adoption of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology • Closure of the session