



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
4 December 2012

English only

Committee on Science and Technology

Third special session

Fortaleza, Brazil, 4–7 February 2013

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

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)

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) (The Strategy)

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its ninth session, the Conference of the Parties, while establishing the performance review and assessment of the implementation system, decided (decision 12/COP.9, para. 2) that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) should contribute to the work of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention 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.

The present document includes the deliberations of the Bureau of the CST at its meeting on 29 and 30 October 2012 on the above-mentioned subject. In particular, the Bureau discussed the establishment of a mechanism to facilitate the review of scientific information relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3.

I. Introduction

1. At its ninth session, the Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 12/COP.9, established the performance review and assessment of the implementation system (PRAIS) and, in line with the adopted terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), decided, by its decision 11/COP.9, that the CRIC should assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention. The COP also decided, by its decision 12/COP.9, paragraph 2, that the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) should 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.

2. At its eleventh session, the CRIC will conduct the first assessment of implementation against the provisionally adopted impact indicators in the framework of the 2012–2013 reporting and review cycle. Consequently, the CST at its third special session (CST S-3) 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 CRIC 11 to consider and finalize them.

3. A preliminary analysis of information from affected country Parties on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy is being prepared by the secretariat for inclusion in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6. Owing to the decision by the Bureau of the CRIC² to postpone the deadline for the submission of reports, the time available to the secretariat for the analysis of information received and for the preparation of related documentation was severely curtailed. Document ICCD/CRIC(11)/8-ICCD/CST(S-3)/6 is therefore expected to be made available at CST S-3 in English only.

4. The present document includes the deliberations of the Bureau of the CST at its meeting on 29 and 30 October 2012 on this subject.

II. Deliberations of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology

5. Bearing in mind the above-mentioned time constraints in issuing the preliminary analysis document in all six official languages of the United Nations in time for CST S-3 and that the CST at its third special session will have limited time for the review of such information because of its unusually tight agenda and programme of work, including the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, the Bureau of the CST, at its above-mentioned meeting, agreed that:

(a) In the light of the afore-mentioned difficulties and time constraints, on an exceptional basis the Bureau of the CST shall be mandated by the CST to review and assess scientific information from Parties and other reporting entities, in particular information on impact indicators relating to strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of The Strategy;

(b) The Bureau of the CST, in order to effectively discharge this additional task will require additional technical support. To mobilize this support, the Bureau of the CST

¹ The conclusions and recommendations of the CST will be included in document ICCD/CRIC(11)/9.

² The CRIC Bureau, at its meeting on 17 and 18 September 2012, decided to postpone the deadline for reporting from 21 September to 15 October 2012.

shall be temporarily expanded by the induction of additional technical expertise specifically related to the current reporting exercise on impact indicators. In this regard, one representative from each regional group; one representative of the civil society organizations and one representative of the United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations shall be inducted. This expanded Bureau (hereinafter, the “extended Bureau of the CST”) shall deliver the task described in decision 12/COP.9, paragraph 2, including through an in-person two-day meeting to be tentatively held in Bonn, soon after CST S-3;

(c) Representatives of regional groups and of the extended Bureau of the CST shall be identified through regional consultations prior to CST S-3 and, where needed, at the regional consultations on the margins of CST S-3;

(d) The extended Bureau of the CST shall conclude its work as described in paragraph 5 (b) above with the preparation and submission of the official document to the CRIC (ICCD/CRIC(11)/9) which shall be submitted in good time before CRIC 11;

(e) This proposal shall be brought to the attention of the Bureau of the COP for consideration and possible endorsement. It should then be shared with Parties prior to CST S-3 in order to identify, through regional consultations, the additional members of the extended Bureau of the CST. Finally, this proposal shall be put forward for endorsement by the CST at its third special session.
