

Decision 16/COP.9

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)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24 of the Convention,

Noting the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) referred to in decision 3/COP.8 and, in particular, the implementation framework of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

Bearing in mind decision 13/COP.8 that stresses the need for a focused effort to ensure that operational objective 3 of The Strategy on science, technology and knowledge is fully implemented,

Noting also, following the same decision, the potential of the CST for providing an opportunity for effective knowledge sharing at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, to support policymakers and stakeholders, including through the identification and sharing of best practice,

Recognizing that in order to achieve this goal the CST would benefit from the involvement of institutions, consortia (including non-governmental organizations (NGOs)) and individuals with the greatest scientific expertise in these areas,

Recalling the provisions of decision 13/COP.8 that each future ordinary session of the CST shall be organized in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format by the CST Bureau in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, which is qualified in and has expertise in the relevant thematic topic selected by the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 14/COP.8 on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2 and ICCD/COP(9)/CST/2/Add.2,

Timeframe and thematic topic

1. *Decides* that the text of decision 13/COP.8 paragraph 1 “...each future ordinary session of the CST” shall not apply to the tenth session of the CST;
2. *Also decides* that the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference shall take place in 2012 at a special session of the CST, in accordance with provisions of decision 13/COP.8 paragraphs 1 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

3. *Further decides* that, after the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, the CST Bureau, in consultation with regional groups, will conduct an assessment of whether to hold the CST scientific conference during intersessional or ordinary sessions of the CST and report to the next CST session;

4. *Decides* that the specific thematic topic 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”;

Organization of CST sessions in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format

5. *Requests* the secretariat to organize an in-depth assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 1st scientific conference in consultation with regional groups;

6. *Also requests* the CST Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, on the basis of the outcomes of the assessment, 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 Conference of the Parties (COP) to organize the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference under the guidance of the CST Bureau. Particular attention should be given in the terms of reference to the division of work between the secretariat and the selected lead institution/consortium;

7. *Further requests* the CST Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, to select the lead institution/consortium at least two years prior to each future UNCCD scientific conference;

8. *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. In this regard, Bureau members should declare any actual or perceived conflict of interest;

9. *Requests* the CST Bureau, in collaboration with the selected lead institution/consortium and with the support of the secretariat, to involve relevant networks, institutions, agencies, bodies and scientific organizations at the regional and subregional levels, non-governmental organizations and other civil society stakeholders in addressing the thematic topic of each future UNCCD scientific conference;

10. *Also requests* the CST to include in the agenda of each of its sessions a presentation on the state of the preparation of the next scientific conference;

Funding

11. *Requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the CST Bureau, to secure adequate funding for the conference and for the attendance of scientists from developing countries and eligible countries in all implementation annexes at each future UNCCD scientific conference and for its substantive preparation;

12. *Invites* developed country Parties, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to provide financial support for the organization of future UNCCD scientific conferences.

*9th plenary meeting
2 October 2009*