

Decision 18/COP.10*

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,

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

Recalling the provisions of decision 13/COP.8 that each future ordinary session of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be organized in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format by the Bureau of the Committee 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 in the context of UNCCD scientific conferences,

Recalling further the provisions of decision 16/COP.9, which requested the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, 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,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(10)/CST/5 and ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.3,

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

1. *Decides* that the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, which had been scheduled under decision 16/COP.9, paragraph 2, to take place in 2012, shall take place not later than March 2013;
2. *Welcomes* the setting-up of a conference steering committee and a scientific advisory committee to guide the organization process and the scientific activities towards the conference, respectively;

* Advance updated copy for information purposes only.

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3. *Calls upon* the Global Risk Forum Davos, as the selected lead institution, to mobilize partnerships with other organizations and institutions in preparing the conference and in updating the Parties through an adequate mechanism for reporting progress;
 4. *Calls also upon* the scientific community to contribute to the substantial work on the conference topic in preparing for the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference;
 5. *Invites* scientists to publish their results on the conference topic;
 6. *Requests* the Global Risk Forum Davos, as the selected lead institution, to make available on the conference website all relevant information on the outcomes of the conference at least four months before the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties;
 7. *Requests further* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to present a report at the eleventh session of the Committee on Science and Technology on the organization and the outcomes of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference;
 8. *Requests furthermore* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology to consult with Parties and regional groups to review the outcomes of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference;
 9. *Invites* Parties to review the outcomes of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference before the eleventh session of the Committee on Science and Technology in order to make recommendations, as they deem appropriate, to the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties;
 10. *Invites* the Global Risk Forum Davos, as the selected lead institution, and the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology to present a proposal at the eleventh session of the Committee on Science and Technology on how to maintain the momentum achieved through the conference in a sustainable manner;

Time frame and thematic topic of the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference

11. *Decides* that the text of decision 13/COP.8 paragraph 1 “...each future ordinary session of the CST” shall not apply to the eleventh session of the Committee on Science and Technology;
12. *Decides also* that the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference shall take place in 2014 at a special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, in accordance with provisions of decision 13/COP.8 paragraph 1;
13. *Decides* that the specific thematic topic to be considered by the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference shall be “Combating DLDD for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices”;
14. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, 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, to organize the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference under the guidance of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology;
15. *Further requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the support of the secretariat, to select the lead institution/consortium at least two years before each future UNCCD scientific conference, in line with the provisions of decision 16/COP.9, paragraph 8;

16. *Requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to include in the agenda of each of its sessions a presentation on UNCCD scientific conferences;

Organization of sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format

17. *Requests* the secretariat to organize an in-depth assessment of the organization of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, including of the approaches to scientific partnership-building employed, in consultation with regional groups;

18. *Invites* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, bearing in mind decision 16/COP.9, in consultation with regional groups, to conduct, after the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, an assessment of whether to hold the UNCCD scientific conferences during intersessional or ordinary sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology, and to report at the eleventh session of the Committee;

Funding

19. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Risk Forum Davos, as the selected lead institution, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, to continue to secure adequate funding for the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference, for the attendance of scientists from developing countries and eligible countries in all implementation annexes at the conference, and for the substantive preparation of the conference;

20. *Invites* developed country Parties, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions for the organization of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference and the UNCCD 3rd Scientific Conference.

*3rd plenary meeting
14 October 2011*