

# United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification COP11

Summary for policymakers



Conference of the Parties - Eleventh Session (COP11)  
Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention  
- Twelfth Session (CRIC-12)  
and Committee on Science and Technology - Eleventh Session (CST-11)

16 to 27 September 2013  
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## **A FEW WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE IFDD**

The Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (COP/UNCCD) accordingly forms part of the follow-up to the Declaration of Rio+20 which, in the section devoted to desertification, land degradation and drought (paras. 205-209), highlights the economic and social importance, for sustainable development, of good land and soil management in fighting poverty.

The agenda items for this COP cover the search for appropriate ways and means not only to ensure constant control of the impacts and negative effects of desertification and land and soil degradation faced by the planet, but also to consider how to prevent these phenomena caused by poor farming practices used by people.

A few years ago, the Parties to the Convention adopted the 10-year strategic plan and framework 2008-2018. This set out broad guidelines for better management of the combat against desertification and land and soil degradation. To this end, suitable tools and mechanisms must be identified and made available to different categories of development players to stamp out this global challenge that hampers the efforts to improve the living conditions of affected populations.

Proven scientific, technical, technological, institutional and financial capacities and skills in managing desertification are required at all intervention and policy-making levels to contain the phenomenon. Hence the interest of a participatory, integrated and multi-discipline approach to discussions within the Convention's subsidiary bodies to agree on a sustainable development initiative that should be adopted by the public and private administrations, international institutions, regional, national and local commissions, civil society organisations, NGOs and other associations involved in the management of desertification and land and soil degradation. Thus, the availability of relevant scientific knowledge and data, indicators and targets for use in assessing results achieved together with harmonised reporting on the implementation of the Convention are major issues to be agreed by the negotiators in Windhoek. The 10-year strategic plan and framework of the Convention, the applicable provisions for the Global Mechanism and collaboration with the GEF will also be at the heart of discussions.

OIF, through its subsidiary IFDD, is contributing with this guide now in your possession and hopes you will find it useful in your discussions and debates. The English version has been made possible through the support of UNEP, for which the Francophonie is most grateful.

I wish you pleasant reading and enjoy the conference!

Fatimata DIA





# INTRODUCTION

This summary for policymakers gives an overview of the main themes and issues of the following meetings that will be held concurrently in Windhoek, Namibia on 16-27 September 2013:

- Eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Twelfth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 12)
- Eleventh session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 11).

The main issues for these sessions will be addressed in the following sections:

1. **Place of the UNCCD in the international institutional framework:** The parties will address the follow-up to Rio+20; strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and competent international bodies, including the GEF; and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020);
2. **Independent mid-term evaluation of the Strategy:** The report of the Intersessional Working Group on the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy will be discussed by the Parties. The report contains recommendations to enhance the implementation of The Strategy. The recommendations are split into four groups: a) planning, improving implementation and monitoring; b) CST; c) CRIC and d) regional coordination mechanisms.
3. **Convention workplan and programme and budget:** The parties will be discussing the reports on the execution of activities from the previous biennium and the updating of financial statuses. They will also adopt the programme and budget for the Convention and its subsidiary bodies.
4. **Governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism:** The parties will focus on the location of the GM headquarters.
5. **Scientific advice provided to UNCCD bodies and stakeholders:** The conclusions of the “Ad Hoc Working Group to review the question of scientific advice received by the UNCCD processes” will be discussed by the Parties.

Note also the three following special interest sessions to be held during the COP:

- a. **Special segment - Open dialogue sessions with non-governmental organisations:** By its Decision 27/COP.1 (repeated in Decisions 38/COP.10 and 5/COP.9), the COP requested that open dialogue sessions organised by NGOs be included in the official programme of work of the sessions of the COP and that the Secretariat facilitate the inclusion of at least two half-day sessions in the official programme of work. The two half-day sessions have been scheduled provisionally for 20 and 25 September.
- b. **Special segment - dialogue sessions:** An interactive dialogue session is planned between the high-level officials of Parties attending COP11 on 23 and 24 September. This session includes round-table discussions on suggestions for actions to achieve the objectives of The Strategy and guidance on furthering the implementation process. General information on this issue will appear in document ICCD/COP(11)/INF.2 (not available at the time of writing).
- c. **Consultation workshop for the French-speaking world:** The *Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable* will hold a consultation workshop for French-speaking countries.

# 1. BRIEF GLANCE AT THE CONVENTION BODIES

## 1.1 The Conference of the Parties (COP)

Instituted by UNCCD Article 221, the Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme body of the Convention, i.e. it acts as decision-making body. It comprises all governments and regional economic integration organisations that have ratified the UNCCD and is responsible for promoting its effective implementation. The COP met every year until 2001 and has met every two years since then.

One of its main functions is, therefore, to analyse the reports submitted by the Parties under UNCCD Article 27, to examine the measures taken to implement the UNCCD. The COP issues recommendations to the Parties based on these reports. It is also in charge of setting the reporting timetable for the Parties and can adopt procedures to guide Parties in this task.

## 1.2 The Committee on Science and Technology (CST)

UNCCD Article 24 creates the Committee of Science and Technology (CST). This is a subsidiary body devoted to providing the Conference of the Parties (COP) with information and advice on technological questions on combating desertification and mitigating drought.

The CST is a multi-disciplinary body open to the participation of all Parties. It is composed of government representatives competent in the relevant fields of expertise. It meets during ordinary sessions of the COP and the CST Bureau follows up the work of the committee between COP sessions. The COP elects the Chairman of the next CST Bureau at each of its sessions, whereas the CST members elect four Vice-Chairmen. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, who take office immediately, are chosen to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected Countries, especially African countries, and cannot occupy this post for more than two consecutive terms<sup>1</sup>.

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1. Articles 22 and 31 of the rules of procedure, as amended by Decision 25/COP.10 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

### 1.3 The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)

At its fifth session in 2001, the Conference of the Parties (COP) created a Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to assist it in reviewing the application of the Convention on a regular basis. It is a subsidiary body of the COP<sup>2</sup>, just like the CST. The committee was created following numerous debates on how best to revise the implementation of the Convention. Thus, although the COP<sup>3</sup> was required to review the implementation during its regular sessions, there was insufficient time for an in-depth analysis and the COP therefore created an ad hoc committee to review the implementation. This committee met during COP<sup>4</sup> and once during the inter-sessional period. The CRIC modalities were based on lessons drawn from the ad hoc committee.

The CRIC is made up of all the Parties to the Convention. Observers (NGOs, national and international governmental organisations, etc.) may also be authorised to attend its sessions, provided that one of the Parties present do not oppose this. The Chairman is elected by the COP, whereas the Vice-Chairmen are elected by the CRIC members. They form the CRIC Bureau and are chosen to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected countries. They also cannot serve for more than two consecutive mandates. The CRIC meets every year, during and between the ordinary COP sessions<sup>3</sup>.

### 1.4 Permanent Secretariat

UNCCD Article 23 provides for the creation of a Permanent Secretariat (Secretariat), which was instituted at the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) held in Rome in 1997. Bonn in Germany was chosen as the city to house the Secretariat during this session<sup>4</sup>. The Secretariat represents the administrative body of the UNCCD, i.e. it assists the COP in exercising its functions. To achieve this, it organises the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies whilst providing them with services as required. The Secretariat compiles and transmits the reports that it receives, mainly the reports received in application of UNCCD Article 26. It thus makes sure that assistance is given to affected developing country Parties that so request it, especially African countries, in compiling and communicating information required under the UNCCD.

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2. Decision 1/COP.5 (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).  
3. Decision 1/COP.5 Annex (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Add.1).  
4. Decision 5/COP.1 (ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1).

## **1.5 The Global Mechanism (GM)**

The Global Mechanism (GM), instituted by UNCCD Article 21(4), is a subsidiary body of the COP and aims to promote actions leading to the mobilisation and channelling of financial resources to affected developing country Parties. The GM falls under the Conference of the Parties (COP) in the same way as the Convention's Secretariat. In this respect, it is required to report on to the COP on its operation, its activities undertaken to mobilise and channel financial resources to the affected developing country Parties, the assessment of funds available to implement the UNCCD and the search of means for distributing these funds.



## 2. THE 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND FRAMEWORK<sup>5</sup>

Designed as the spearhead for renewing international commitment to combating desertification, land degradation and drought, the 10-year strategic plan and framework 2008-2018 is the most significant effort by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) since its creation. Adopted during the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP8), it aims to ensure a joint and consistent vision in implementing the UNCCD and improving its effectiveness. It advocates a results-based approach for the future conduct of the work of the Convention and intends to make the UNCCD the lynchpin for synergistic initiatives in the sustainable management of lands, climate change, biodiversity and the fight against poverty.

The 10-year strategic plan and framework seeks to take up a certain number of challenges raised in implementing the Convention: the lack of scientific support for the work of the Conference of the Parties, the institutional weaknesses, the lack of financing, the lack of consensus between the Parties and lastly the insufficient mobilisation of policymakers. To achieve this, it provides for strategic objectives that must guide the action of UNCCD institutions and Parties and operational objectives defining the action plan for the next ten years.

Furthermore, to achieve the fixed objectives, the 10-year plan provides a framework for considering the role of the Convention's institutions and operations. The Conventions thus henceforth apply a results-based approach linked to these objectives in scheduling their activities.

### 2.1 Strategic objectives

The Strategy has four strategic objectives that "will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2008–2018, including raising political will. Meeting these long-term objectives will contribute to achieving the overall vision [of The Strategy]" . The Strategy also outlines the "expected impacts", i.e. the long-term effects expected from achieving the strategic objectives<sup>8</sup>.

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5. The full text of The Strategy is available in Annex II of the accompanying Guide.
  6. For the purposes of The Strategy, "long term" means ten years or more.
  7. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 17.
  8. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 17.

## 2.2 Operational objectives

The purpose of the five “operational objectives” is to guide “the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the short and medium term”<sup>9</sup> with a view to supporting the attainment of the above-mentioned vision and strategic objectives”<sup>10</sup>. The Strategy also outlines the “outcomes”, i.e. the short- and medium-term effects expected from the operational objectives<sup>11</sup>.

## 2.3 Assessment of Convention Implementation System (PRAIS)

The Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) is an information monitoring and reporting system set up to assess progress made in the 10-year strategy objectives adopted during COP9<sup>12</sup>. The cornerstone of this project is an online portal giving public access to information on progress in implementing the Convention<sup>13</sup>.

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9. For the purposes of The Strategy, “short and medium-term” means for a period of three to five years.

10. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 19.

11. ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1 page 19.

12. Decision 12/COP.9, ICCD/COP(9)/18/Add.1.

13. <http://www.unccd-prais.com/>.



## 3. THE MAIN RESULTS OF COP10, CRIC 11 AND CST S-3

### 3.1 Tenth session of the COP

COP10 was held in Changwon, South Korea in October 2011. The main issues of this COP concerned the strengthening of the scientific base of the Convention (mainly through on-going reforms of the CST) and its institutional framework (with special attention paid to the changing management structure of the Global Mechanism). The implementation of The Strategy and the realignment of structures and activities of the Parties to comply with it were reviewed. More especially, the COP considered the work of CRIC 9 and the implementation of the PRAIS system, together with most recent progress in developing indicators and national reporting communication and analysis methods.

Apart from a general revision of the implementation, the COP set out provisions to complete the institutional reforms commenced when adopting the Strategy, including:

- the adoption of a programme and budget for the Convention and its subsidiary bodies, the reports on the execution of activities from the previous biennium and the updating of financial statuses;
- continuing with the assessment and reform of the Global Mechanism, following the assessment by the Joint Inspection Unit in 2009 and an independent analysis by consultants engaged by the COP Bureau;
- the review of mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention;
- the application of new procedures governing the participation of civil society organisations in meetings and other processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; and
- continuing reforms of the Committee on Science and Technology, following the assessment of the 1st Scientific Conference and the preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference planned for 2012.

Lastly, the COP also focused on a certain number of points relating to the stature of the UNCCD in the wider international community:

- monitoring the outcome of the World Summit for Sustainable Development of interest to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and of the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development;
- the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020); and

- the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy.

An interactive dialogue with members of parliament took place on 13-14 October, two dialogue sessions with the civil society organisations (CSO) on 14-19 October and the Ministerial round tables on 17-18 October. At the end of this segment the Government of the Republic of Korea presented the "Changwon Initiative" that identified the intended measures of the Republic of Korea to implement the decisions of COP10.

The Conference adopted 39 decisions, as recommended by the Chairman of the COP, the Bureau, the Committee of the Whole, the CRIC, the CST and the Ad hoc Panel of Experts<sup>14</sup>.

### 3.2 Third special session of the CST

The third special session of the CST was held in Bonn, Germany in April 2013. It focused on 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), 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) and 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 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)<sup>15</sup>.

### 3.3 Eleventh session of the CRIC

CRIC 11 was also held in Bonn, Germany in April 2013. It focused on the implementation using provisionally-adopted impact indicators and results, financial flows, issues regarding the alignment of national action programmes (NAP), communication strategies, best practices, exchanges with the other relevant conventions and with the competent international conventions and organisations, institutions and agencies and the governance of the GM<sup>16</sup>.

14. This summary is based on the report of the COP10/CRIC 10/CST 10 in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 241, 24 October 2011 and the report of the Conference of the Parties on its tenth session held in Changwon on 10-21 October (ICCD/COP(10)/31).

15. This section is based principally on the 'Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on its third special session, held in Bonn on 9-12 April 2013' (ICCD/CST(S-3)/7) and the report on /CST-11 in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 242, 15 April 2013.

16. This section is based principally on the 'Report of the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held in Bonn from 15 to 19 April 2013' (ICCD/CRIC(11)/19) and the report on CRIC-11 in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 243, 22 April 2013.

## **4. DECIPHERING THE MAIN TOPICS ON THE AGENDA OF THE MEETINGS OF CRIC 12, CST 11 AND COP11**

### **4.1 The UNCCD in the international institutional context**

The importance of a convention like UNCCD is measured mainly by the influence it has not just in the country Parties but also on the international political stage. Several items on the agenda of miscellaneous meetings will help the country Parties to review this question and to guide, through their decisions, the efforts to be deployed to maximise the international impact of the UNCCD:

- Follow-up to Rio+20
- Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organisations, institutions and agencies
- Collaboration with the GEF
- United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020)

### **FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)**

A new context is emerging at present whereas at Rio+20 the policymakers recognised the importance of an integrated soil vision and reaching neutral degradation of lands. The first challenge will be to ensure that this vision of neutral degradation is turned into operational and realistic national, regional and international objectives, including under the post-2015 Agenda.

What is encouraging is that for once the importance of soils is being recognised other than by traditional stakeholders. Thus, scientists and policymakers in food safety, energy safety, water resources and poverty eradication, to name just those few, stipulate increasingly a vision integrating sustainable land management as key to the success of their initiatives.

The Parties will examine document ICCD/COP(11)/5 presenting the information on this matter. This document suggests especially setting up an intersessional group of experts to review how best to include the conclusions of the Rio+20 process

on the DLDD in the UNCCD processes. Draft terms of reference for this committee will be made available in document ICCD/COP(11)/CRP.1.

### **SALIENT ISSUES**

Multiplying issues relating to sustainable land management and players interested in the question is an excellent opportunity for the UNCCD to move towards achieving the first strategic objective of The Strategy: "to influence actively relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues" However, it will be important to define clearly the role of the Secretariat, the GM and the other UNCCD institutions and bodies in that regard so that their efforts are targeted and add value. Only then will their financing follow. The mandate and composition of the Committee of Experts to be established will be decisive in what happens next.

### **PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER RELEVANT CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES**

The Parties will take stock of progress in advocacy and exchanges with the relevant organisations. The CRIC 11 document (ICCD/CRIC/(11)/19 and Add.1) will report on this question. Documents ICCD/CRIC(12)/INF.2 and ICCD/CRIC(12)/CRP.1 will also report on these questions, when made available.

### **SALIENT ISSUES**

The links between integrated (sustainable) land management, the economic and social development of countries, food safety, drinking water supplies, the control and adaptation of climate change and protection of the biodiversity are today undeniable and recognised by the international community. The UNCCD can, and must, play its part in international discussions on these issues. The UNCCD must not however work in isolation; it must cooperate more with the other conventions, as much through their secretariats as through active involvement in political processes in place like the post-2015 Agenda, REDD+, Climate Smart Agriculture, etc. It will therefore be important for the country Parties to make sure that the UNCCD efforts complement well the activities of other organisations. The main question the country Parties should ask themselves when addressing this issue is: "How can the UNCCD be of use to the other conventions and organisations?". The UNCCD should therefore make its mark as a vector of solutions for these organisations.

## **COLLABORATION WITH THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

As part of the assessment of the collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD, the Parties will review the report of the Global Environment Facility on its strategy, programmes and projects to finance the costs of desertification activities (ICCD/CRIC(12)/6 - not available at the time of writing).

The Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility will also be discussed. To this end, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the GEF Trustee should consult each other on whether the Memorandum of Understanding should be amended. A report will be submitted on this topic during the COP. Document ICCD/CRIC(12)/6 will also contain information on the topic.

### **SALIENT ISSUES**

There is no doubt about the importance of the GEF as a source of financing for DLDD-related activities. It is therefore vital for the country Parties that the agreement between the UNCCD and the GEF reflects this importance, both for the more administrative part of UNCCD activities (e.g. the alignment of SRAPs and RAPs) and for DLDD projects in the field and their global environmental benefits.

## **UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR DESERTS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DESERTIFICATION (2010-2020)**

The Parties will consider a report on the activities supporting the Decade, found in document ICCD/COP(11)/19.

### **SALIENT ISSUES**

It appears that only twelve countries contributed to the UNDDD programme. The need for developed as much as developing countries to support, through concrete actions, the efforts of the United Nations to raise the profile of the combat against desertification is flagrant. The issue is currently gaining momentum internationally and the country Parties must make collective, individual and bilateral decisions to stoke up their efforts to support the Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification. The developing countries should make the most of the momentum created by the United Nations Decade to highlight the efforts already undertaken in their countries, to arouse the interest of national players normally less concerned by these issues and to promote sustainable land management as a solution to the poverty and development challenges facing them. It is the moment for developed countries and international organisations to promote sustainable land management to their authorities as a central international development focal point for the sustainable achievement of their cooperation objectives.

## 4.2 Independent mid-term evaluation of The Strategy

For information, the Strategy, adopted by Decision 3/COP.8, contains **four strategic objectives**: a) improving the living conditions of affected populations; b) improving the conditions of affected ecosystems; c) generating global benefits through effective implementation of the Convention; and d) mobilising resources to support implementation of the Convention. These objectives must serve to guide the action of all stakeholders and all Convention partners during the period 2008-2018.

The Strategy also contains **five operational objectives** listed below. These must guide the short- and medium-term action (three to five years) taken by all the stakeholders and all the Convention partners to work towards achieving strategic objectives:

- 1) **Advocacy, awareness raising and education** to influence actively relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues;
- 2) **Action framework**: to support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought;
- 3) **Science, technology and knowledge**: to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to desertification/land degradation and mitigation of the effects of drought;
- 4) **Capacity building**: to identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought;
- 5) **Technology financing and transfer**: To mobilise and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness<sup>17</sup>.

The report of the Intersessional Working Group on the mid-term evaluation of The Strategy can be found in document ICCD/COP(11)/21. The report lists the observations by the Working Group and contains its recommendations to enhance the implementation of The Strategy. The recommendations are split into four groups: a) planning, improving implementation and monitoring; b) CST; c) CRIC and d) regional coordination mechanisms.

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17. See document ICCD/COP(8)/16/Add.1.

## SALIENT ISSUES

The recommendations of the Working Group on the planning, improving the implementation and monitoring of The Strategy hold no surprises and should reach consensus fairly easily. The main concern will be the availability of resources to implement them, mainly in terms of the PRAIS portal.

The Working Group recommends that a new Strategy be adopted at COP13 to take over when the current Strategy expires. In this context, a natural question will be what should be the role of this strategy and its format. It may be appropriate to consider adopting a high-level strategy, supplemented by one or more action plans, which would have the advantage of stating the implementation means and allowing for periodic updating.

The recommendations on the CST should also reach consensus. One of the most significant recommendations (Recommendation 20) covers the role that the COP should play in terms of the recommendations it receives from the CST and the scientific conferences organised by the UNCCD. Thus, the Working Group suggests, rightly in our view, that the COP should dwell on translating the said recommendations into guidance to advise policymakers in developing policies to address the issues identified by the scientists.

The recommendations of the Working Group for the CRIC aim to raise the impact of work under its auspices by translating its discussions into thematic documents and recommendations to improve policies and programmes at national level (Recommendations 28 and 29). It is also recommended that the work of the CST be integrated more with the work of the CRIC to encourage better incorporation of science into policy decisions.

The recommendations on the regional coordination mechanisms will possibly give rise to the most intense discussions. Recommendation 33 seems to suggest that the relevance of the mechanisms is not clearly established and that their mandate should be clarified. The country Parties should therefore once more ask the question as to what is/will be the added value of such a mechanism in their region. The reply will probably differ from one region to the next. Of interest, also, will be the question of financing these mechanisms. The relevant question will be whether the resources required to operate these mechanisms would not be more useful elsewhere.

Note that the recommendations of the Intersessional Working Group on the regional coordination mechanisms should be considered when the Parties are dealing with the agenda item on improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/COP(11)/14).

## 4.3 CCD workplan and programme and budget

The country Parties will focus on the workplans (four-year) and the programmes and budgets (two-year) for the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in the light of reports on the execution of activities from the previous biennium and the updating of financial statements.

### REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF CCD INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

In accordance with Decision 11/COP.9, it is the remit of the CRIC to undertake a performance review of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies taking an results-based management approach based on reports on the two-year costed work programmes.

A preliminary analysis of these results will be presented in the following documents (unavailable at the time of writing):

- ICCD/CRIC(12)/3 (information provided by the Secretariat, Global Mechanism, CST and CRIC on their performance during the biennium 2012-2013)
- ICCD/CRIC(12)/INF.1 (performance of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies)
- ICCD/COP(11)/8 (financial performance of the Convention trust funds)
- ICCD/COP(11)/9 (unverified financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2012-2013)
- ICCD/COP(11)/10 (audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium ended 31 December 2011)
- ICCD/COP(11)/11 (state of contributions to the Convention trust fund for the biennium 2012-2013)
- ICCD/COP(11)/12 (audited financial statements for the Convention trust fund for the biennium ended 31 December 2011) and
- ICCD/COP(11)/13 (audited financial statements for the Convention trust fund for the biennium 2012-2013).



## **WORKPLANS AND PROGRAMMES AND BUDGETS**

The Parties will consider the multi-year work plan for the Convention (2014-2017). They will also focus on the programme and budget for the biennium 2014-2015. The following documents will be used for this purpose:

- document ICCD/CRIC(12)/2-ICCD/COP(11)/CST/9 containing the full multi-year workplan for the Convention (2014-2017).
- document ICCD/COP(10)/6 presenting the draft budget and reflects the miscellaneous scenarios (zero nominal growth and zero real growth in the budgetary and work programmes focused on results for the biennium 2014-2015)
- document ICCD/COP(11)/7 presenting the costed integrated work programme 2014-2015. This covers the proposed work programmes for the Secretariat, GM, CST and CRIC.

### **SALIENT ISSUES**

The adoption of the UNCCD four-year work plan and biennium programme-budget is a genuine chance for the country Parties to guide the work of the Secretariat and GM in the years to come. In the past, the discussions have above all focused on the financing level for bodies. It is to be feared that this time the debate on the programme-budget will focus on the question of housing the GM and related savings that may or may not be made. It would however be a good idea for the country Parties to spend more time on the Expected Accomplishments planned by the Secretariat and GM to ensure that they meet their national needs and objectives.

## **4.4 Global Mechanism housing arrangements**

By its decision 6/COP.10, the COP decided that the accountability and the legal representation of the GM would be transferred from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the Convention Secretariat. Thus, the Executive Secretary henceforth assumes overall management responsibility, including coordinating reporting on accounting, performance and activities of the Global Mechanism, to the COP. The issue of the GM housing arrangements remains outstanding, however.

An informal debate was organised on this topic at CRIC 11 and a report (ICCD/COP(11)/3 - unavailable at the time of writing) will be submitted to COP for decision. It will include especially recommendations on new housing arrangements for the GM, considering, among other things, potentially sharing premises with the Convention Secretariat and taking into account costs, operating modalities, synergies and governance efficiencies.

### SALIENT ISSUES

Beyond any political issue, the decision regarding the location of the GM headquarters should be based on the body's premier mission: mobilising financial and technical resources to support the country Parties in achieving the UNCCD objectives. The advantages and drawbacks of Bonn and Rome to house the GM headquarters are fairly clearly established. The country Parties may wish perhaps to consider Washington, D.C. as an option when deliberating the matter. The GM has every advantage in establishing close links with major financial organisations (like the GEF, World Bank, IADB, etc.) that are already housed there.

## 4.5 Scientific advice provided to the Convention processes

By its Decision 20/COP.10, the COP established an Ad Hoc Working Group to review the question of scientific advice received by the UNCCD processes. The conclusions of the Working Group will be discussed by the Parties. They can be found in document ICCD/COP(11)/CST/3. One of the Working Group's main recommendations is the establishment of a Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to act as a policy conveyor belt for reports prepared by another entity to be established, the Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists (IGS).

### SALIENT ISSUES

The establishment of an SPI, made up of governmental and non-governmental representatives specialising in the sciences relevant to the Convention is an interesting opportunity for increased development of science-based decisions. Its relevance will, however, be correlated directly with that of the IGS, which is itself dependent on the quality of its membership and its work. To become an authority, the Group will require extensive support from the scientific community. The country Parties should emphasise and contribute to this question through concrete actions. Lastly, it will be important to ensure that the work of the IGS is suitably balanced between the exhaustivity and the timeliness of their reports. This is a major issue currently facing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGTE	Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
AHWGR	Ad hoc Working Group to improve the procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and format of reports on the implementation of the Convention
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties to the CCD
COW	Committee of the Whole
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CRP	Conference Room Paper
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSO	Civil society organisations
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
DAC	Development Aid Committee
DLDD	Desertification, land degradation and drought
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EEC	Central and Eastern Europe (countries)
ENB	Earth Negotiations Bulletin
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FC	Facilitation Committee
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Global Mechanism
GRULAC	Spanish acronym for Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEPF	<i>Institut de l'Énergie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie</i> (Energy and Environment Institute of the French-speaking World) (since 1 February 2013, <i>Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable</i> )
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFDD	French acronym for Institute of the French-speaking world for sustainable development
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IFS	Integrated Financial Strategies
IGS	Independent Non-Governmental Group of Scientists
IIF	Integrated Investment Framework

IIWG	Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group
INC-D	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Desertification
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Climate Change
IYDD	International Year of Deserts and Desertification
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
JLG	Joint Liaison Group
JUSSCANNZ	Japan, United States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand
LAC	Region of Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	Least Developed Countries
NAP	National Action Programme
NFP	National focal point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIF	French acronym for International Organisation of the Francophonie
PDA	Public Development Aid
PRAIS	Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System
RAC	Relevant Activity Codes
RAP	Regional Action Programme
RCM	Regional coordination mechanism
RCU	Regional coordination unit
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SFA	Standard Financial Annexes
SLM	Sustainable land management
SPI	Science-Policy Interface
SRAP	Subregional Action Programme
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
STAR	GEF transparent allocation system
STI	Scientific and Technological Institutions
TN	Thematic network
TPN	Thematic programme networks
UN	United Nations Organisation
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Especially in Africa
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDDD	United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

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UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNSO	United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
WB	World Bank
WEOG	Western European and Others Group
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development





## UNISFÉRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

The UNISFÉRA International Centre is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the advancement of sustainable development. By combining its expertise in policy analysis and formulation with its consulting experience, UNISFÉRA is a powerful vector for knowledge-based solutions.

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UNISFÉRA also offers the non-profit service Planetair that aims to help individuals, businesses and institutions to reduce their climate footprint. Created in 2005, Planetair develops and finances GHG emission carbon offset portfolios, thereby setting up an economic mechanism to achieve environmental and social objectives. It also certifies activities, events and organisations as carbon neutral.

Founded in 2002, UNISFÉRA is based in Montreal, Canada.

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The International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF) is an institution founded on sharing a language - French - and common values. It currently groups 77 States and governments, including has to date 57 members and twenty observers.

The OIF carries out political and cooperation actions on all five continents in the following priority areas: French language and cultural and linguistic diversity; peace, democracy and human rights; education and training; sustainable development and solidarity. OIF pays special attention in all its actions to young people and women and to access to information and communication technologies.

The Secretary General runs the political action of the Francophonie as its international spokesman and official representative. Abdou Diouf has been the Secretary General of the Francophonie since 2003.

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The *Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable* (IFDD - Institute of the French-speaking World for sustainable development), called Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF) until January 31, 2013, is a subsidiary body of the International Organization of la Francophonie. It was born in 1988 from the will of Heads of State and Government of the French-speaking countries.

Based in Quebec City, the Institute today is assisting in:

- training and capacity-building in sustainable development of various categories of development players in French-speaking countries in the energy and environment sectors;
- developing partnerships in the energy and environment sectors for sustainable development.

Its 2010-2013 programme, in synergy with other programmes of the International Organization of La Francophonie, especially under mission D of the Ten-year strategic framework of the Francophonie - "Developing cooperation to ensure sustainable development and solidarity" – IFDD :

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- develops partnerships, publishes guides, specialist journals and scientific and technical works in French in the energy and environment sectors.
- coordinates information and expertise networks for sustainable development.
- carries out any other function entrusted to it by the competent OIF bodies.

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This *Summary for policymakers* and its accompanying Guide, published by the *Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable* (IFDD), is intended first and foremost for delegates of countries attending the international meetings on desertification.

They will also be useful to representatives of non-governmental organisations, international organisations and the general public interested in international current affairs relating to desertification, land degradation and drought.



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