



Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
9 July 2015

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Twelfth session

Ankara, Turkey, 12–23 October 2015

Items 1 (b) and 1 (f) of the provisional agenda

Organizational matters

Adoption of the agenda

Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

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 - (a) Election of the President;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President:
 - (i) Election of Vice-Presidents;
 - (ii) Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (iii) Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) Credentials of delegations;
 - (e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector;
 - (f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

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2. Post-2015 development agenda: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
 - (a) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality;
 - (b) Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (c) Implications of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals for the delivery of science and policy efforts of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (d) Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).
3. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level:
 - (a) Trends in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions, including land-based adaptation to climate change and related advice from the Science-Policy Interface;
 - (c) Securing of additional investments: relations with financial mechanisms:
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 - (ii) Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility.
4. Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
 - (a) Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables:
 - (i) Round table 1: From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action;
 - (ii) Round table 2: Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought;
 - (iii) Round table 3: Land-based adaptation to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management;
 - (b) Land rights (a dialogue with civil society);
 - (c) Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians);
 - (d) Incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector).
5. Programme and budget:
 - (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017;

- (b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds, including an update on the arrangements for the Global Mechanism;
 - (c) Evaluation reports.
6. Procedural matters:
- (a) Maintenance of the roster of experts and the creation, as necessary, of ad hoc panels of experts;
 - (b) Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (c) Rule 47 of the rules of procedure;
 - (d) Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation;
 - (e) Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures;
 - (f) Request submitted by Annex V country Parties regarding the mandate and scope of the Convention;
 - (g) Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters

Venue and opening of the session

1. Pursuant to provisions contained in decision 40/COP.11 and subsequent consultations with the Government of Turkey, the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) will be held in Ankara, Turkey from 12 to 23 October 2015.

2. The twelfth session of the COP (COP 12) will be opened by the President of COP 11.

(a) Election of the President

3. The President of COP 11 will propose the election of the President of COP 12.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

4. The COP will be invited to adopt its agenda and schedule of work for the session.

(c) Election of officers other than the President:

(i) Election of Vice-Presidents

5. *Background:* Decisions 1/COP.1 and 20/COP.2 (rule 22 of the rules of procedure).

6. *Action:* The COP will be invited to elect nine Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. This election will take place at the opening meeting of the COP on 12 October.

(ii) *Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology*

7. *Background:* Decision 25/COP.10, which amended paragraph 1 of rule 22 and rule 31 of the rules of procedure (contained in decision 1/COP.1, as amended by decision 20/COP.2).

8. *Action:* The COP will be invited to complete its consultations and elect the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at the final meeting of COP 12.

(iii) *Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention*

9. *Background:* Rule 31 of the rules of procedure, as amended by decision 20/COP.2, provides for the election by the COP of Chairs of subsidiary bodies other than the CST, unless the COP decides otherwise. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the annex to decision 11/COP.9, the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) is elected at the final meeting of the session of the CRIC, held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and will assume her/his office immediately.

10. *Action:* The COP will be invited to complete its consultations and elect the Chairs of the CRIC.

ICCD/COP(12)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat
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(d) **Credentials of delegations**

11. *Background:* In accordance with rules 19 and 20 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the COP will examine the credentials of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers and submit its report to the COP for decision. This report on credentials will be contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/19.¹

12. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the report of its Bureau and adopt a decision on this matter.

ICCD/COP(12)/19 – Credentials of delegations. Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties

(e) **Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector**

13. *Background:* In accordance with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, of the Convention, of rules 6 and 7 of the rules of procedure, and of decision 26/COP.1, a list of intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs), including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) proposed for accreditation at COP 12, is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/15. By its decision 5/COP.10, the COP adopted revised procedures for the accreditation of CSOs and representatives from the private sector to the COP and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

¹ Document to be issued in-session.

14. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider this matter and decide on the admission of observers as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/15 – Accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and admission of observers. Note by the secretariat

(f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Establishment of a Committee of the Whole and allocation of its tasks

15. *Background:* The practice followed at previous sessions of the COP has been to establish at the opening plenary meeting a sessional Committee of the Whole (COW) open to the participation of all Parties. The COP may wish to follow the same practice at COP 12. The COW will recommend draft decisions for adoption by the COP. Its Chair will have the authority to delegate work, as appropriate, to drafting groups. The COP may allocate the following items to the COW:

- (a) Post-2015 development agenda: Implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:
 - (i) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN);
 - (ii) Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (iii) Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);
- (b) Effective Implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels:
 - (i) Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention;
 - (ii) Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions, including land-based adaptation to climate change and related advice from the Science-Policy Interface;
 - (iii) Securing of additional investments: relations with financial mechanisms:
 - Global Mechanism, including its vision and future direction;
 - Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility;
- (c) Programme and budget:
 - (i) Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017;
 - (ii) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds, including an update on the arrangements for the Global Mechanism;
 - (iii) Evaluation reports
- (d) Procedural Matters:
 - (i) Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the

Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

- (ii) Rule 47 of the rules of procedure;
- (iii) Request by Annex V country Parties regarding the mandate and scope of the Convention;
- (iv) Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
- (v) Any other matters deemed to be appropriate.

16. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider following the practice described in paragraph 15 above.

Committee on Science and Technology

17. The CST is tentatively scheduled to meet between 13 and 16 October. In accordance with decision 29/COP.11 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the Committee's session (ICCD/COP(12)/CST/1), as well as other documents needed for its deliberations.

ICCD/COP(12)/CST/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

18. The CRIC is tentatively scheduled to meet from 13 to 16 October and on 22 October. In accordance with decision 11/COP.9 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the Committee's work (ICCD/CRIC(14)/1), as well as other documents for the session.

ICCD/CRIC(14)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

Ad Hoc Group of Experts

19. *Background:* It is proposed that the open-ended Ad Hoc Group of Experts (AHGE) be reconvened on 22 October, pursuant to decisions 31/COP.11 and 32/COP.11.

20. *Action:* The AHGE will carry out its work on procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation and on annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures and recommend conclusions to be considered and adopted by the COP.

ICCD/COP(12)/14 – Rule 47 of the rules of procedure. Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation. Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures. Note by the secretariat

Initial segment

21. *Background:* It is proposed in the tentative schedule that COP 12 be divided into three segments. During the initial segment, from 12 to 16 October, in addition to the CST and CRIC sessions, the COW would initiate its work.

22. *Action:* The COP would meet in plenary on 16 October to hear reports from the COW, the CST and the CRIC, and will take all necessary decisions on these matters, as appropriate.

2. Post-2015 development agenda: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

(a) Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality

23. *Background:* In paragraph 1 of decision 8/COP.11, Parties decided to establish an intergovernmental working group to: (a) establish a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas; (b) develop options relating to arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas that Parties might consider should they strive to achieve land degradation neutrality; and (c) advise the Convention on the implications for its current and future strategy, programmes and the resource requirements.

24. The COP also decided in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the same decision that the intergovernmental working group, which will report periodically on its progress to the Bureau of the COP, should take note of the following in undertaking its work:

(a) The ongoing process of elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, including, inter alia, the discussions in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals called for at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

(b) Relevant economic studies and work undertaken by the Science-Policy Interface, as appropriate;

(c) The importance of identifying synergies to avoid duplication among the Rio conventions, other international bodies, and agencies addressing environment and development issues.

25. Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its twelfth session on the implementation of decision 8/COP.11. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/4.

26. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the implementation of decision 8/COP.11 and to agree on any further steps, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/4 – Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality. Note by the secretariat

(b) Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

27. *Background:* Decision 12/COP.11.

28. *Action:* The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy) was set to last until 2018. The COP will be invited to consider how the sustainable development goals and related targets could influence the strategic orientation of the UNCCD, and whether there is a need to reconsider the content, or extend the duration of the current Strategy.

ICCD/COP(12)/4 – Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality. Note by the secretariat

(c) **Implications of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals for the delivery of science and policy efforts of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties**

29. *Background:* In decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided that the review, pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d) of the Convention, of the report of the CST, including its recommendations to the COP and its programme of work, and the provision of guidance to it, would be a standing item on its agenda.

30. The CST will transmit to the COP draft decisions resulting from the deliberations coming from the items included in the agenda of its twelfth session, in line with paragraph 1 of decision 29/COP.11.

31. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the report of the twelfth session of the CST and to adopt decisions, as appropriate.

(d) **Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)**

32. *Background:* The comprehensive communication strategy was developed in response to decision 3/COP.8 to serve as a tool for the effective implementation of The Strategy.

33. By its decision 4/COP.11, the COP requested the secretariat to report on progress made in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy at the twelfth session of the COP. This report is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/2.

34. By its decision 7/COP.11, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its twelfth session on the implementation of that decision. Furthermore, by its decision 39/COP.11, the COP decided to include an item on the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) in the agenda for COP 12. A report on activities supporting the Decade is also contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/2 for the consideration of the COP at its twelfth session.

35. *Action:* The COP is invited to consider the actions taken during the reporting period and proposals to strengthen the credibility and effectiveness of UNCCD communications through the enhanced implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).

ICCD/COP(12)/2 – Report on progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and on the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020). Note by the secretariat

3. Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level

(a) **Trends in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties**

36. *Background:* By its decision 11/COP.9, Parties decided to establish the CRIC as a standing subsidiary body of the COP to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. In the same decision, the COP adopted the terms of reference of the CRIC, which, inter alia, define the mandate and functions of the CRIC.

37. Pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d), of the Convention, the COP will review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them. In accordance with decision 11/COP.9, the CRIC shall report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work and in particular through draft decisions prepared at sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP.

38. *Action:* The COP will be invited at its plenary meeting on 23 October to consider the report of the fourteenth session of the CRIC and to adopt decisions as appropriate.

Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention

39. *Background:* In paragraph 1 of decision 3/COP.11, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) to provide to the Regional Coordination Units a document outlining the respective roles and responsibilities of the secretariat and the GM with respect to the Regional Coordination Units.

40. In paragraph 4 of decision 3/COP.11, the COP requested affected country Parties under each Regional Implementation Annex to review, prior to the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, existing subregional and regional action programmes for implementing the UNCCD to ensure that they reflect regional priorities and synergies with regional programmes, and that they are consistent with and support the implementation of The Strategy.

41. In paragraph 13 of decision 3/COP.11, Parties requested the Regional Committees and the secretariat to encourage and facilitate North–South and South–South cooperation platforms, especially with affected regions, with a view to exchanging lessons learned, best practices and knowledge management practices to enhance technology transfer and capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy.

42. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant document and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/12 – Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level. Note by the secretariat

(b) Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions, including land-based adaptation to climate change and related advice from the Science-Policy Interface

Land-based adaptation to climate change, including advice from the Science-Policy Interface

43. *Background:* Land-based adaptation to climate change is a combination of activities, including land-use policies and planning, integrated natural resource management practices, and investment strategies that improve social, economic, and environmental resilience.

44. Agreeing on the appropriate biophysical indicators for reporting on land-based adaptation could assist Parties in targeting and prioritizing adaptation actions when reporting on national action programmes (NAPs). Moreover, the set of indicators could help determine baselines for measuring progress, thereby enriching reporting on NAPs/national adaptation programmes of action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Similarly, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity could report on progress made in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans using the same indicators. These reports would communicate the effectiveness and coherence of adaptation policies and practices.

45. The current work programme of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) also aims at addressing this matter through the SPI report to the CST at its twelfth session.

46. By its decision 9/COP.11, the COP decided to include a review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of this decision in the programme of work of the COP at its twelfth session. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/17.

47. *Action:* The COP may wish to agree on steps for monitoring and evaluating adaptation policy and practice by adopting common indicators or a framework for national reporting on land-based adaptation policies and practices under the Rio conventions.

ICCD/COP(12)/17 – Leveraging of synergies among the Rio conventions. Note by the secretariat

(c) Securing of additional investments: relations with financial mechanisms

(i) Global Mechanism, including its vision and future direction

48. *Background:* By its decision 14/COP.11 on the assessment of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention, the COP requested the GM to provide support to affected countries in assessing their financial needs for capacity-building and integrating them into integrated investment frameworks. The COP also requested the GM to explore the possibility of capturing the financial flows and investments made by innovative funding sources, such as foundations, businesses, the financial industry and civil society organizations, given the difficulties encountered by reporting entities, and present the proposal to the COP at its twelfth session.

49. In the same decision, the COP requested the Managing Director of the GM to prepare a report on the progress of the implementation of this decision for the consideration of the COP at its twelfth session.

50. By its decision 1/COP.11, the COP also requested the GM, subject to the availability of resources and as requested by Parties, to increase its capacity-building support to affected country Parties to assist them in better identifying and accessing internal, external and innovative sources of funding, building on the recommendations of its recent results and impact assessment process.

51. In response to these decisions, the GM will organize a session presenting an assessment of current financial flows and investments, as well as its vision and future direction for increasing the financial flows and investments for the implementation of the Convention.

52. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the reports on this matter and to take any action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2 – Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2016–2019) and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2016–2017). Note by the secretariat.

ICCD/COP(12)/7 – Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/INF.5 – Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat

(ii) *Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility*

53. *Background:* By its decision 9/COP.1, the COP decided to include as a standing item on its agenda a review of available information on the financing of Convention implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions, including information on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) concerning desertification, as specified in article 20, paragraph 2 (b), of the Convention.

54. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UNCCD and the GEF adopted in decision 6/COP.7 provides that the GEF will submit a report to the COP at each regular session through the UNCCD secretariat on its strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification.

55. Paragraph 17 (e) in the annex to decision 11/COP.9 stipulates that, at sessions held in conjunction with the COP, the CRIC shall assist the COP in reviewing the collaboration with the GEF, including in 2013 and at any other time that the COP may decide.

56. In paragraph 12 of decision 11/COP.11, Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF, to prepare draft amendments to the existing MOU between the UNCCD and the GEF and to report on the proposed draft amendments to the COP at its twelfth session on this matter.

57. Document ICCD/CRIC(14)/5 and document ICCD/COP(12)/18 contain the report submitted by the GEF and the draft amended MOU between the UNCCD and the GEF, respectively, for consideration by the COP.

58. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the respective draft decision from the CRIC and the draft amended MOU, and to take any action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/18 – Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(14)/5 – Report by the Global Environment Facility on its strategies, programmes and projects for financing the agreed incremental costs of activities concerning desertification. Note by the secretariat

4. Special segment: boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

(a) Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables

- (i) *Round table 1: From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action*
- (ii) *Round table 2: Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought*
- (iii) *Round table 3: Land-based adaptation to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management*

(b) Land rights (a dialogue with civil society)

(c) Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians)

(d) Incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector)

59. *Background:* In accordance with decision 39/COP.11, interactive dialogue sessions among ministers and other high ranking officials will be conducted on the occasion of the special segment on 20 and 21 October. This would include parallel ministerial/high level round-table discussions focusing on land-based security and resilience. Specific topics to discuss at COP 12 will be the following: (i) from global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action; (ii) drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought; (iii) land-based adaptation to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management; (iv) land rights (a dialogue with civil society); (v) framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians); and (vi) incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector).

60. *Background:* Paragraph 2 of decision 39/COP.11. Interactive dialogue sessions with parliamentarians,² civil society and private sector are planned for 21 October.

61. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the outcomes of the special segment.

ICCD/COP(12)/INF.2 – Note on the special segment of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session. Note by the secretariat

5. Programme and budget

62. Article 22, paragraph 2 (g) of the Convention calls on the COP to approve a programme and budget for its activities, including those of its subsidiary bodies, and to undertake the necessary arrangements for their financing.

² As per past sessions, a round-table discussion with parliamentarians will also be organized as a parallel event on 20–21 October. It is expected that the outcome will be shared during the interactive dialogue scheduled for the afternoon of 21 October.

(a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017

63. *Background:* The COP, in paragraph 22 of decision 10/COP.11, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programmes for the biennium 2016–2017, in line with decision 1/COP.11 on work plans, presenting budget scenarios and work programmes based on the projected needs for the biennium in (1) a zero nominal growth scenario; and (2) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and their associated costs, on the basis of the template laid out in annex III to decision 9/COP.9. The above-mentioned requests from the COP are addressed in document ICCD/COP(12)/5.

64. By its decision 18/COP.11, paragraph 1, the COP decided that the intersessional session of the CRIC, based on its review of performance indicators, shall give recommendations to entities of the UNCCD on priorities to be included in their programme of work and budget for the following programming biennium.

65. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 and take decisions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/5 – Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/INF.4 – Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2 – Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2016–2019) and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2016–2017). Note by the secretariat

(b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds, including an update on the arrangements for the Global Mechanism

66. *Background:* In accordance with the financial rules of the COP, an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period shall be provided to Parties. In decision 10/COP.11, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its twelfth session on the status of income and expenditure and on budget performance, using a results-based management approach. Furthermore, in paragraph 4 of decision 6/COP.11, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to provide an update on the arrangements for the GM. Information on this matter is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/7. The statement of accounts should be read in conjunction with document ICCD/CRIC(14)/3, which contains the report on the implementation of the costed 2014–2015 work programmes of the secretariat, the CRIC, the CST and the GM.

Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds

67. The audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds are contained in documents ICCD/COP(12)/8 and ICCD/COP(12)/9. The audited financial statements for the GM are contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/10.

Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2014–2015

68. The status of contributions to the trust funds for the biennium 2014–2015 is presented in document ICCD/COP(12)/11.

69. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant documents on the financial performance of the Convention and take a decision, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/7 – Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/INF.5 – Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/8 – Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2014–2015 as at 31 December 2014. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/9 – Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium ended 31 December 2013, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/10 – Audited financial statements for the Global Mechanism as at 27 September 2013. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/11 – Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2014–2015. Note by the secretariat

(c) Evaluation reports

70. *Background:* The United Nations regulations and rules governing programme planning, monitoring and evaluation³ request a regular, periodic evaluation of all programmes, and the integration of the evaluation plans with the programme budget cycle. These regulations and rules further state that the evaluation findings shall be communicated to Member States through intergovernmental bodies in order to facilitate the reconsideration of existing mandates, policies, strategies and objectives, the substantive content of programmes and its utility to the users.

71. Accordingly, the findings of the UNCCD evaluations, as well as the 2016–2017 evaluation plan, will be presented to Parties at COP 12.

72. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the evaluation findings and the 2016–2017 evaluation plan and take decisions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/5 – Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(12)/INF.4 – Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017. Note by the secretariat

³ United Nations regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

6. Procedural matters

(a) Maintenance of the roster of experts and the creation, as necessary, of ad hoc panels of experts

73. *Background:* Article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention provides that the COP shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. By its decision 18/COP.1, the COP adopted procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts.

74. In paragraph 1 of decision 26/COP.11, the COP invited Parties to propose new candidates for the roster in order to achieve better representation of all relevant disciplines, including traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices, and of women, and a more balanced geographical distribution of NGOs. In paragraph 3 of decision 26/COP.11, the COP also adopted the updated lists of disciplines and thematic areas provided in annex I and annex II to document ICCD/COP(11)/15, and reproduced in document ICCD/COP(12)/13.

75. In paragraph 7 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to: (a) set up web-based facilities that allow for the direct electronic application and update of information by individual experts to the roster; (b) perform a validation process of all experts in the roster every four years; (c) remove from the roster those experts who have not been confirmed by the relevant national focal points by 31 March 2014 and those who have not been confirmed during the validation process; (d) communicate directly with experts, through e-mail or by post, in order to provide information on access to the roster, the editing of personal data, opportunities offered by the roster, as well as scientific and technical information; and (e) make available updated statistics related to the roster, its gender balance, and representation by discipline on the UNCCD website. Parties also requested the CST in the same decision to update and review the list of disciplines every four years on the basis of the evolution of research on desertification/land degradation and drought.

76. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider document ICCD/COP(12)/13 and act on it, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/13 – Report on the maintenance of the roster of independent experts. Note by the secretariat

(b) Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

77. *Background:* By its decision 5/COP.11, the COP decided that the composition of the Civil Society Organization Selection Panel should include two representatives from the secretariat and one representative from civil society organizations from countries belonging to each of the five United Nations Regional Groups of Members States. The COP also requested the secretariat and the GM to develop a business engagement strategy outlining the objectives, modalities and conditions of UNCCD partnerships with business and private entities for consideration and approval of the Bureau of the COP ad interim and for consideration by the COP at its twelfth session. Furthermore, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its twelfth session on the implementation of this decision, including the report of the Civil Society Organization Selection Panel on the implementation of its tasks.

78. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/3 and take any action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/3 – Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat

(c) **Rule 47 of the rules of procedure**

79. *Background:* Article 22, paragraph 2 (e), of the Convention provides that the COP shall “agree upon and adopt, by consensus, rules of procedure ... for itself and any subsidiary bodies”. By its decision 1/COP.1, the COP adopted its rules of procedure, with the exception of some paragraphs contained in rules 22, 31 and 47. The texts of rules 22 and 31 were amended by decision 20/COP.2 and decision 25/COP.10. By its decision 21/COP.2, the COP also decided to give further consideration to paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure, not yet agreed upon; the text resulting from this decision was provided in the annex to document ICCD/COP(3)/13.

80. By its decision 30/COP.11, the COP requested the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure in the agenda of COP 12 and to report on the status of similar rules of procedure in other multilateral environmental agreements. The relevant information on this item is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/14.

81. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the above-mentioned matter and act on it, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/14 – Rule 47 of the rules of procedure. Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation. Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures. Note by the secretariat

(d) **Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation**

82. *Background:* In accordance with article 27 of the Convention, the COP is to decide on procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation.

83. By its decision 31/COP.11, the COP decided to reconvene, during its twelfth session, the open-ended AHGE (established in decision 20/COP.3) to examine further and make recommendations on procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation. In the same decision, the secretariat was requested to prepare a new working document to include a compilation of submissions by Parties contained in previous COP documents on this matter, including a draft to provide options for, and the terms of reference of, a multilateral consultative process, and also a compilation of views submitted on article 27 of the Convention. Information on these matters, including views communicated by Parties and interested institutions and organizations, is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/14 for consideration by the COP.

84. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the draft decision on this matter from the AHGE for adoption, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP (12)/14 – Rule 47 of the rules of procedure. Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation. Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures. Note by the secretariat

(e) **Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures**

85. *Background:* In accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2 (a) and 6 of the Convention, the COP is also to establish annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures.

86. By its decision 32/COP.11, the COP decided to reconvene the AHGE at its twelfth session to examine further and make recommendations on annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures. In the same decision the secretariat was requested to prepare a document to include: (a) a compilation of submissions contained in previous COP documents on this matter and those submitted on article 28 of the Convention; and (b) an updated version of the annexes contained in document ICCD/COP(9)/14 to reflect these views. Information on the above matters, including views communicated by Parties, is contained in document ICCD/COP(12)/14 for consideration by the COP.

87. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the draft decision on this matter from the AHGE for adoption, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/14 – Rule 47 of the rules of procedure. Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation. Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures. Note by the secretariat

(f) **Request submitted by Annex V country Parties regarding the mandate and scope of the Convention**

88. *Background:* Parties may wish to refer to the communication submitted by Armenia on behalf of Annex V countries requesting clarification on “the mandate and scope of the Convention regarding land degradation and the subsequent legal aspects for its implementation in the territories, which are not related to arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas”.

89. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the request and take any action it deems appropriate.

ICCD/COP(12)/16 – Request by Annex V country Parties regarding the mandate and scope of the Convention. Note by the secretariat

Concluding segment

90. During the concluding segment, the COP will consider all decisions not previously adopted. It will decide the date and venue of the thirteenth session of the COP, taking account of:

(a) The pertinent legislative provisions of article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention, rule 4, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure, rule 3 of the rules of procedure and decision 1/COP.2;

(b) Any offer to host the thirteenth session and meet the additional financial cost.

91. The COP will also decide the date and venue of the fifteenth session of the CRIC, taking into account decision 11/COP.9 on the terms of reference of the CRIC, its operations and its schedule of meetings.

92. The proposed schedule allows for the concluding plenary meeting on 23 October. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by 22 October.

Times of meetings

93. The tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours. No scheduling or budgetary provision has been made for evening or weekend sessions. In order to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the normal working hours of the session will be from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00. No provision has been made for more than two official meetings to be held with interpretation services at any one time.

(g) Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

94. *Background:* In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, which listed items to be included as standing items on COP agendas, and following upon decision 39/COP.11 regarding the programme of work of the COP at its twelfth session, the COP may wish to review its programme of work for the next session as appropriate.

95. *Action:* The COP will be invited to review its programme of work for its thirteenth session and adopt a decision on this matter.

7. Report on the session

96. A draft report of the session will be prepared for adoption at the concluding plenary meeting on 23 October, in accordance with established practice. The COP will be invited to adopt the report of its twelfth session and authorize its Rapporteur to finalize the report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

Annex

Tentative schedule of work for the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties

Monday, 12 October 2015		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<i>Informal consultations</i>	<p><i>Opening of the session by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the President <p><i>Statement by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session</i></p> <p><i>Statement on behalf of the host country</i></p> <p><i>Statement by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification</i></p> <p><i>Statements by the representatives of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations</i></p> <p><i>Statements by the representatives of regional and interest groups</i></p> <p><i>Statement by a representative of non-governmental organizations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the agenda <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/1)</i> - Election of officers other than the President: Election of Vice-Presidents - Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/15)</i>

Tuesday, 13 October 2015		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m. ⁴
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/5</i>, <i>ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2</i> and <i>ICCD/COP(12)/INF.4</i>) - Financial performance for the Convention trust funds, incl. an update on the arrangements for the Global Mechanism (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/7</i>, <i>ICCD/COP(12)/INF.5</i>) - Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/8</i>, <i>ICCD/COP(12)/9</i>, <i>ICCD/COP(12)/10</i>) - Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds (2014–2015) (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/11</i>) - Evaluation reports (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/5</i>, <i>ICCD/COP(12)/INF.4</i>) • Post-2015 development agenda: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Land Degradation Neutrality (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/4</i>) - Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/4</i>) • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request submitted by Annex V country Parties regarding the mandate and scope of the Convention (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/16</i>) • Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Securing of additional investments: relations with financial mechanisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Global Mechanism, including its vision and future direction (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/6-ICCD/CRIC(14)/2</i>, <i>ICCD/COP(12)/7</i>) - Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/18</i>) 	

⁴ From Tuesday afternoon (13 October) to Friday morning (16 October), the subsidiary bodies of the COP (CST and CRIC) will meet and carry out their work according to their respective agendas. The CRIC will also meet on 22 October in the afternoon.

Friday, 16 October 2015		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y		<p><i>Consideration of the preliminary report of the Committee of the Whole</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals for the delivery of science and policy efforts of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties • Trends in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties

Monday, 19 October 2015		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-2015 development agenda: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/2</i>) • Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/12</i>) - Leveraging of synergies among the Rio Conventions, including land-based adaptation to climate change and related advice from the Science-Policy Interface (<i>ICCD/COP(12)/17</i>) 	---

Tuesday, 20 October 2015		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <p><i>Opening of the High-Level Segment</i></p> <p><i>Welcome address by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session</i></p> <p><i>Welcome address by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification</i></p> <p><i>Special statements on behalf of regional and interest groups</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <p><i>Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables :</i></p> <p><i>Round table 1: From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action</i></p> <p><i>Round table 2: Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought</i></p> <p><i>Round table 3: Land-based adaptation to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management</i></p>

Wednesday, 21 October 2015		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Land rights (a dialogue with civil society organizations)</i> - <i>Incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special segment: Boosting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians)</i> <p><i>Final discussions by ministers and other high ranking officials</i></p> <p><i>Closing ceremony</i></p>

Thursday, 22 October 2015		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised procedures for the accreditation of civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector to the Conference of the Parties and their participation in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/3)</i> - Rule 47 of the rules of procedure <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/14)</i> - Programme of work for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties 	---
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
A H G E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/14)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures <i>(ICCD/COP(12)/14)</i>

Friday, 23 October 2014		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of officers other than the President: - Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention - Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology • Credentials of delegations (ICCD/COP(12)/19⁵) <p><i>Consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i></p> <p><i>Consideration of the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts</i></p> <p><i>Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the session

⁵ Document to be issued in-session.