



UNITED  
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat  
Desertification**

Distr.  
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(8)/L.14\*  
7 September 2007

Original: ENGLISH

---

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Eighth session  
Madrid, 3–14 September 2007

Agenda item 8 (a)  
Committee on Science and Technology  
Report of the Committee on Science and Technology

**Reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology  
in line with the recommendations of the Intersessional  
Intergovernmental Working Group Ten-year Strategic Plan**

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson of the Committee  
on Science and Technology

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* article 24 of the Convention,

*Noting* the proposed 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and, in particular, Part A of the implementation framework on the Committee on Science and Technology (CST),

*Stressing* the need for a focused effort to ensure that operational objective 3 under that plan on science, technology and knowledge is fully implemented,

*Noting* the potential of the CST to provide an opportunity for effective knowledge sharing at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels, to support policymakers and stakeholders, including through the identification and sharing of best practice,

*Welcoming* the recent Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) decision to consider establishing a challenge programme on desertification and other such related initiatives and considering that such processes may significantly assist in achieving operational objective 3 of the proposed 10-year strategic plan,

---

\* Re-issued for technical reasons.

*Welcoming also* the process and outcome of the World Meteorological Organization international workshop on climate and land degradation held in Arusha in 2006, and noting that it provides a useful organizational model to enable the CST to achieve the goal of being a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge on combating desertification/land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought,

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

*Taking note* of the observations of the CST at its eighth session,

1. *Decides* that each future ordinary session of the CST shall:

(a) Be organized predominantly in a scientific and technical conference-style format, by the CST Bureau, in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, which is qualified in and has expertise in the relevant thematic topic selected by the Conference of the Parties (COP);

(b) Focus on one specific thematic topic relevant to the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan, to be determined in advance by the COP;

(c) In relation to the priority theme, provide interaction with delegates, and develop and make recommendations, with the lead institution/consortium submitting a report to the COP;

(d) Include presentations by other institutions, other environmental conventions, NGOs and individuals with experience of the thematic topic concerned, as decided upon by the Bureau of the CST in consultation with the lead institution/consortium, ensuring that there is a global call thereby giving every opportunity for contributions from all regions;

2. *Requests* the UNCCD secretariat, in consultation with the CST Bureau, to consider mechanisms to secure additional funds to support the attendance, ensuring support for the participation of experts, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders from the developing countries and eligible countries in all implementation annexes;

3. *Requests* the CST Bureau to develop the terms of reference for the CST meeting, referred to in 1 (b) above, in consultation with the lead institution/consortium;

4. *Encourages* the lead institution/consortium to assist in the mobilization of resources to hold the CST meeting referred to in 1 (b) above.

-----