

THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION: 10-21 OCTOBER 2011

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 10) will take place from 10-21 October 2011, in Changwon, Republic of Korea. Delegates will consider agenda items related to, *inter alia*: the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018); the programme and budget; the evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism; and mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention.

In addition to the COP, the tenth meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 10) is scheduled to meet from 11-13 October. The tenth meeting of the Committee on the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 10) is scheduled to meet for a period of three and one-half days between 11-20 October. Two half-day open dialogues with civil society are scheduled to take place on 14 and 19 October. A special segment, consisting of three round table discussions among ministers and other officials, will take place from 17-18 October. And an interactive dialogue session with Members of Parliament on 13-14 October also will take the form of round table discussions, with any outcome from the roundtable discussions expected to be communicated to COP 10 for consideration.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNCCD

The UNCCD is the centerpiece in the international community's efforts to combat desertification and land degradation in the drylands. The UNCCD was adopted on 17 June 1994, and entered into force on 26 December 1996. Currently, it has 194 parties. The UNCCD recognizes the physical, biological and socioeconomic aspects of desertification, the importance of redirecting technology transfer so that it is demand-driven, and the involvement of local communities in combating desertification and land degradation. The core of the UNCCD is the development of national, subregional and regional action programmes by national governments, in cooperation with UN agencies, donors, local communities and NGOs.

NEGOTIATION OF THE CONVENTION: In 1992, the UN General Assembly, as requested by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, adopted resolution 47/188

calling for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of a convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (INCD). The INCD met five times between May 1993 and June 1994 and drafted the UNCCD and four regional implementation annexes for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Northern Mediterranean. A fifth annex, for Central and Eastern Europe, was adopted during COP 4 in December 2000. Pending the UNCCD's entry into force, the INCD met six times between January 1995 and August 1997 to hear progress reports on urgent actions for Africa and interim measures in other regions, and to prepare for COP 1. The UNCCD entered into force on 26 December 1996.

COPs 1-9: The first COP met in Rome, Italy, from 29 September - 10 October 1997, during which delegates, *inter alia*, selected Bonn, Germany, as the location for the UNCCD's Secretariat and the International Fund for Agricultural Development as the organization to administer the Convention's Global Mechanism (GM).

COP 2, which met in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 November-11 December 1998, invited Central and Eastern European countries to submit to COP 3 a draft regional implementation annex. Parties met for COP 3 in Recife, Brazil, from 15-26 November 1999, and approved a long-negotiated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the GM, among other decisions. COP 3 also decided to establish an *ad hoc* working group to review and analyze the reports on national, subregional and regional action programmes and to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the UNCCD, among other decisions.

COP 4 convened from 11-22 December 2000, in Bonn, Germany, during which delegates, *inter alia*, adopted the fifth regional Annex for Central and Eastern Europe, began the work of the *ad hoc* working group to review UNCCD implementation, initiated the consideration of modalities for the establishment of the CRIC, and adopted a decision on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council initiative to explore the best options for GEF support of UNCCD implementation.

COP 5 met from 1-13 October 2001, in Geneva, Switzerland, during which delegates, *inter alia*, established the CRIC, and supported a proposal by the GEF to designate land degradation as another focal area for funding.

COP 6 met from 25 August - 6 September 2003, in Havana, Cuba. Delegates, *inter alia*, designated the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, decided that a comprehensive

review of the Secretariat's activities would be undertaken by the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and requested the Secretariat to facilitate a costed feasibility study on all aspects of regional coordination.

COP 7 took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 17-28 October 2005. Among their decisions, delegates reviewed the implementation of the Convention, developed a MoU between the UNCCD and the GEF, and reviewed the recommendations in the report of the JIU assessment of the Secretariat's activities. Discussion on regional coordination units ended without the adoption of a decision, and an Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group was established to review the JIU report and to develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

COP 8 convened in Madrid, Spain, from 3-14 September 2007, and, *inter alia*, adopted a decision on the ten-year strategic plan (the Strategy). Delegates also requested the JIU to conduct an assessment of the GM for presentation to COP 9. COP 8 delegates did not reach agreement on the programme and budget, however, and an Extraordinary Session of the COP convened at UN Headquarters in New York on 26 November 2007, to conclude this item. The final decision amounted to a 4% euro value growth in the budget for the biennium 2008-2009, with 2.8% to be assessed from all parties and 1.2% to be provided as a voluntary contribution by the Government of Spain.

COP 9 convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 21 September-2 October 2009. Delegates focused on a number of items that were called for by the Strategy, and adopted 36 decisions, which addressed topics including: four-year work plans and two-year work programmes of the CRIC, CST, GM and the Secretariat; the JIU assessment of the GM; the terms of reference of the CRIC; the establishment of the CRIC as a standing subsidiary body to the COP; arrangements for regional coordination mechanisms (RCMs); the communication strategy; and the programme and budget.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

The CST has convened parallel meetings to each COP. At CST 1's recommendation, the COP established an *ad hoc* panel to oversee the continuation of the process of surveying benchmarks and indicators. CST 2 established an *ad hoc* panel to follow up its discussion on linkages between traditional and modern knowledge. CST 3 recommended that the COP appoint an *ad hoc* panel on traditional knowledge and an *ad hoc* panel on early warning systems. CST 4 submitted proposals to improve the CST's work, and CST 5 adopted modalities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, namely through the creation of a Group of Experts. CST 6 continued discussions on improving its efficiency and effectiveness, among other agenda items. CST 7 considered land degradation, vulnerability and rehabilitation, among other issues. CST 8 decided to convene future sessions in a conference-style format, which led to the convening of the first UNCCD Scientific Conference at CST 9.

The first Special Session of the CST (CST S-1) convened in Istanbul, Turkey, concurrently with CRIC 7, from 3-14 November 2008. The two-day CST S-1 considered preparations for CST 9, elements of the Strategy related to the CST, the CST's four-year work plan and two-year costed work programme, and advice to the CRIC on measuring progress on the Strategy's Strategic Objectives.

CST 9 met concurrently with COP 9, during which the 1st Scientific Conference convened to consider the theme "Biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring and assessment of desertification and land degradation, to support decision-making in land and water management." CST 9 also developed decisions to review the experience of the 1st Scientific Conference and to organize a 2nd Scientific Conference on the theme "Economic

assessment of desertification, sustainable land management and resilience of arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas." In addition, the CST recommended two indicators—the proportion of the population in affected areas living above the poverty line and land cover status—as the minimum required subset of impact indicators for reporting by affected countries beginning in 2012.

The second special session of the CST (CST S-2) took place from 16-18 February 2011. CST S-2 considered the status of work on methodologies and baselines for the effective use of the subset of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the 10-year Strategy, among other matters.

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION:

The CRIC held its first session in Rome, Italy, from 11-22 November 2002, during which delegates considered presentations from the five UNCCD regions, and considered information on financial mechanisms in support of the UNCCD's implementation and advice provided by the CST and the GM.

CRIC 2 met concurrently with COP 6 in 2003 to review implementation of the UNCCD and its institutional arrangements, and review information on the financing of UNCCD implementation by multilateral agencies and institutions.

CRIC 3 convened from 2-11 May 2005, in Bonn, Germany, and reviewed the implementation of the Convention in Africa, considered issues relating to Convention implementation at the global level, and made recommendations for the future work of the Convention.

CRIC 4 met concurrently with COP 7 in 2005, and considered strengthening Convention implementation in Africa, improving communication and reporting procedures, mobilization of resources for implementation; and collaboration with the GEF.

CRIC 5 convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 12-21 March 2007, to review implementation of the Convention in affected country parties in regions other than Africa. The meeting also addressed how to improve information communication and national reporting and reviewed the 2006 International Year for Deserts and Desertification.

CRIC 6 met concurrently with COP 8 in 2007, and reviewed the roles that developed and developing country parties should play in resource mobilization, and collaboration with the GEF.

CRIC 7 convened in Istanbul, Turkey, from 3-14 November 2008, during which delegates considered: the work plans and programmes for the Convention's bodies; the format of future meetings of the CRIC; and indicators and monitoring of the Strategy and principles for improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports submitted to the COP.

CRIC 8 convened concurrently with COP 9 in 2009 and, *inter alia*, reviewed the workplans of the institutions and subsidiary bodies of the Convention and reporting guidelines and indicators. Delegates also recommended adoption of the proposal for a performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS).

CRIC 9 convened in Bonn, Germany, from 16-25 February 2011. Delegates considered, among other items, preliminary analyses of information contained in the PRAIS reports.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2011

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 10) opened on Monday afternoon, 10 October 2011, in Changwon, Gyeongnam, Republic of Korea, with a welcoming ceremony. COP 10 delegates then participated in an afternoon opening session, during which they elected Bureau members and heard opening statements by the COP 10 President, UNCCD Executive Secretary and regional and interest group representatives.

WELCOMING CEREMONY

During a welcoming ceremony, filmmaker Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), introduced delegates to his documentary film on desertification. The film presented messages from heads of UN multilateral environmental agreements and UN departments on the role and importance of drylands, the need to preserve soil as natural capital, and the need to build a land degradation-neutral world. The film was followed by an artistic presentation with music played on gayageum – traditional stringed Korean instruments – and an interpretive painting dedicated to the COP 10 theme “Care for Land, Land for Life.”

Suh Kyu-yong, Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Republic of Korea, welcomed delegates to COP 10, highlighting the Republic of Korea’s success story in land restoration and green economic growth. COP 10 participants were also welcomed by Kim Du Kwan, Governor, Gyeongsangnam-do Province, who expressed hope that COP 10 will specifically address the desertification-poverty cycle.

OPENING SESSION

José Cueva, Director of Soil Conservancy, Argentina, opened COP 10 on behalf of Argentina’s Secretary of Environment Juan José Mussi, President of COP 9. He urged parties to make a concerted effort to achieve the Convention’s objectives, on behalf of the most vulnerable communities on the planet. Cueva then led the Plenary in welcoming the election of Don Koo Lee, Minister of Korea Forest Service, as President of COP 10.

COP 10 President Lee noted that the Republic of Korea is the first Asian country to host a UNCCD COP. Highlighting COP 10’s slogan, “Care for Land, Land for Life,” he lamented the low profile of drought, land degradation and desertification (DLDD) on the international agenda. He urged parties to be bold, ambitious and creative in tackling the unresolved

methodological and institutional issues. He further noted that the Changwon Initiative aims to make a contribution in this regard by mobilizing additional resources and launching the Land for Life Awards to encourage sustainable land management.

Thanking the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for their hospitality, Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, noted that DLDD “corrodes the three pillars of sustainable development” and outlined several of the topics to be addressed by COP 10. He highlighted, among other things: refining the reporting system; agreeing on the approach for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy; discussing messages to convey to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20); considering quantifiable medium- and long-term targets; and organizing international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to the UNCCD. He also announced that the President of the UN General Assembly would present to COP 10 the outcomes of the high-level meeting held in New York in September on DLDD.

STATEMENTS BY REGIONAL AND INTEREST

GROUPS: Argentina, on behalf of the G-77/CHINA, supported the creation of an intergovernmental scientific panel on DLDD, and proposed that Rio+20 call for its establishment. He applauded advances in the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS), and called on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to pursue its support of PRAIS. He noted the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the assessment of the Global Mechanism (GM), and said the G-77/China was prepared to make a decision at COP 10 that may allow parties to overcome the problems of coordination that “undermine the effectiveness and efficiency” of implementation of the Convention.

Poland, on behalf of the EU and its member States, acknowledged the work done by the Secretariat and the GM to provide the basis for COP 10 discussions, including the interactive dialogues with civil society organizations (CSO). She highlighted the importance of: improving PRAIS for better reporting and reduced reporting burdens on countries; the participation of all stakeholders in the development of the terms of reference for the mid-term review of the Strategy; linking the knowledge management system to other processes outside of UNCCD; refining the indicators; assessing the resource implications of COP decisions and setting priorities; and the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative.

Algeria, for the AFRICAN GROUP, emphasized that: the current drought in the Horn of Africa requires vigorous actions; the UNCCD is the only international convention that can provide practical and simple solutions to rehabilitate degraded soils and natural resources in drylands; and the costs of inaction should not continue to be ignored. He assured that the alignment of National Action Plans (NAPs) to the Strategy is well underway in Africa and congratulated the Secretariat for its efforts in this respect. He emphasized that sustainable use of land should be the cornerstone for eradicating poverty and supporting the green economy in the context of sustainable development. He expressed support for: the integration of the GM within the Secretariat structure; the creation of an independent, interdisciplinary body to provide scientific advice; and the Changwon Initiative.

Iran, on behalf of the ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION, stressed the need for further coordination and cooperation between the GM and the Secretariat, and strengthening of regional coordination mechanisms. He supported measures to reinforce the alignment between the NAPs and Regional Action Plans, to provide capacity building to affected country parties in the implementation of the Convention, and to establish a permanent scientific platform for scientific advice.

Speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), Costa Rica drew attention to the effects of DLDD in dry semi-arid and humid areas and highlighted relevant regional activities in this regard, including the Latin American Initiative on Science and Technology and ongoing work in preparation for Rio+20. Noting the need for adequate financing, he called for accelerating the mobilization of transparent and equitable resources for regional-level activities. He also highlighted the role of PRAIS in generating policy-relevant data and the need to strengthen benchmarking of impact indicators.

Ukraine, on behalf of CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES, noted COP 10's relevance for the Rio+20 process. He called for the UNCCD to become the primary instrument for combating DLDD globally and for synergies with other Rio Conventions and institutions at all levels. While welcoming the strengthened relationship between UNCCD and the GEF, he called for further simplification of procedures for accessing GEF funds. He noted that national and regional reports are an important tool for awareness raising on DLDD. He stressed the need to enhance the functioning of the GM in order to achieve the strategic goal on mobilizing financial resources and noted the region's support for the creation of an intergovernmental, interdisciplinary scientific panel.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said it agrees with the findings in the JIU's report regarding the inconsistencies and flaws in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the COP and IFAD. She explained that IFAD's role is to house the GM, while the GM's oversight and governance remain the responsibility of the COP, and said IFAD remains willing to review the MOU.

Future Forest, on behalf of CSOs, stressed the need for greater cooperation among CSOs and governments, and increased participation of CSOs in the UNCCD. He highlighted the efforts of CSOs in addressing DLDD, including through natural resource management activities, harnessing rural renewable energy and supporting women's empowerment. CSOs recommended that the UNCCD: take the lead on advancing synergies among the Rio Conventions; take further efforts to address drought; and increase partnerships with stakeholders to improve management of transboundary resources. He also urged

parties to consider the issue of "large scale land grabbing" in dryland areas in the Strategy, and provide sustainable funding for addressing land degradation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: COP 10 President Lee invited delegates to consider the document on adoption of the provisional agenda and tentative schedule of work (ICCD/COP(10)/1). ARGENTINA suggested including an item on adopting COP 10 decisions after the adoption of the COP 10 report, and moving the discussion on the modification of the rules of procedure from the Committee of the Whole (COW) to the Plenary. JAMAICA suggested reversing the order of discussion on the programme and budget and the follow-up to the assessment of the GM, and reconvening the COW on Friday 14 October in the morning. UNCCD Executive Secretary Gnacadja noted the open dialogue with CSOs on Friday morning, and suggested that the COP Bureau could consider adjustments to the schedule of work. COP 10 adopted the provisional agenda with the amendments suggested by Argentina and the tentative schedule of work.

COP 10 President Lee invited delegates to elect Vice Presidents and Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST). The COP elected Khalifa Abdel Kader (Algeria), Bongani Masuku (Swaziland), B.M.S Rathore (India), Ogtay Jafar (Azerbaijan), Peter Molnar (Hungary), Pedro Garcia Britto (Dominican Republic), Sonia Gonzales Molina (Peru), and Franz Brietwieser (Austria) as Vice-Presidents. Lee noted that the consultations are still ongoing for the second Bureau member from the Western European and Others Group, as well as for the post of Rapporteur. Delegates elected Antonio Rocha Magalhães (Brazil) as CST Chair. Regarding the Chairperson of the CRIC, President Lee reminded delegates that Chenchu Norbu (Bhutan) had been elected as CRIC Chair for its 9th and 10th sessions.

Delegates then established a Committee of the Whole (COW), and elected Philbert Brown (Jamaica) as its Chair.

Delegates also adopted the document on accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, admission of observers (ICCD/COP(10)28 and ICCD/COP(10)29), without comment.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Delegates filing into the Changwon Exhibition Conference Center for the COP 10 opening session expressed satisfaction with the hospitality they had already experienced and many extended compliments to the host Government and its people for the organization of the conference venue, from their reception at the airport to the cultural performances inside and outside the Conference Center.

As they commenced their two weeks of deliberations on the COP 10 agenda, participants indicated a number of expectations from this Conference. Many delegates focused on the benefits that would accrue from successful efforts to measure the size of the problem and the costs of desertification, land degradation and drought, and looked forward to learning more about efforts related to the study of the economics of land degradation and to discussions related to the refinement of the impact and performance indicators. Participants also anticipated, among other topics, discussions related to the organization of scientific advice to the UNCCD, a framework for the mid-term review of the Strategy, and institutional coherence, particularly as it relates to the follow-up to the assessment of the GM.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2011

Delegates at UNCCD COP 10 convened in the COW, CST and CRIC to commence their consideration of a very full agenda. Four contact groups were created during the course of the day, and three held their first meeting during the evening.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COW Chair Philbert Brown (Jamaica) opened the first meeting of the COW. Two contact groups were established: on the GM, facilitated by Naser Moghadasi (Iran); and on the budget and multi-year work plan, facilitated by Thomas Heimgartner (Switzerland) and Hussain Nasrallah (Lebanon).

FOLLOW-UP TO THE ASSESSMENT OF THE GM BY THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: The Secretariat and the GM introduced document ICCD/COP(10)/3 on measures taken to implement paragraphs 1-3 and 5-8 of decision 6/COP 9.

ARGENTINA, supported by GABON, queried about the possible effects of GM institutional changes on the information presented in the document. GM Managing Director Mersmann said that, while changes were not considered, this does not preempt any negotiation outcomes at COP 10. UNCCD Executive Secretary Gnacadja said the substance of the document would not change in the case of institutional changes in the GM. BRAZIL stressed efficiency rather than location of the GM as the important issue. ALGERIA asked for a focused approach to the work of the GM and the Secretariat to show results at the local level. JORDAN asked about obstacles to collaboration encountered by the GM and the Secretariat. GAMBIA and LESOTHO emphasized focusing on GM performance. INDIA said it looked forward to discussion of the JIU's report.

The Secretariat introduced discussion on the evaluation of existing and potential reporting, accountability and institutional arrangements for the GM (ICCD/COP(10)/4 and ICCD/COP(10)/INF.2-7). The EU said the housing arrangements of the GM need to ensure its independence and accountability to the COP. NORWAY praised the GM's good results on the ground and supported the model based on the current arrangements.

Uganda for the AFRICAN GROUP, with ZAMBIA, SWAZILAND, GUINEA, GAMBIA and GUINEA BISSAU, supported the integration of the GM within the Secretariat structure. The REPUBLIC OF KOREA, supported by PANAMA and HONDURAS, said the relationship between the GM and the Secretariat should be based on good governance, transparency, efficiency and accountability. ARGENTINA, GUATEMALA and COSTA RICA stressed the importance of GM accountability. INDIA called for parties to review institutional arrangements in other Rio Conventions, noting that maintaining the status quo is not an option. VIETNAM expressed support for the work of the GM.

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM

2012-2013: UNCCD Executive Secretary Gnacadja presented the programme budget and the costed draft two-year work programmes for the Secretariat, the CRIC, and the CST for 2012-2013 (ICCD/COP(10)/7-8). The Secretariat also introduced the financial performance for the Convention trust funds (ICCD/COP(10)/10-20). The COW will continue its consideration of this agenda item on 14 October.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CST 10 Chair Antonio Rocha Magalhães (Brazil) noted the need to ensure that the challenges and perspectives of drylands are included in the Rio+20 agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chair Magalhães introduced, and participants adopted, the provisional agenda (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/1) and organization of work (Annex 2 of ICCD/COP(10)/CST/1) for CST 10. Magalhães invited delegates to elect Vice-Chairs of the CST, as nominated by regional groups. The CST elected Jean Ndembo Longo (Democratic Republic of Congo), Amjad Virk (Pakistan), Yuriy Kolmaz (Ukraine), and Nicholas Hanley (EU). Delegates were informed that a contact group would be co-chaired by Lawrence Townley-Smith (Canada) and Emmanuel Olukayode Oladipo (Nigeria).

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF CST S-2:

Magalhães introduced the report of the CST on its second special session (ICCD/CST(S-2)/9). There were no comments on the report.

ADVICE ON MEASURING PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 1, 2 AND 3 OF THE STRATEGY:

The Secretariat introduced the documentation for advice on measuring progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategy (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2 and 3, ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.1, INF.2, INF.6, and INF.9), on a peer review process, a pilot study and templates and reporting guidelines for impact indicators. Barron Orr, University of Arizona, summarized intersessional work on the refinement of the set of impact indicators. Damon Stanwell-Smith, UNEP-WCMC, discussed the pilot project for the impact indicators.

Many delegates supported continuing efforts on the indicators, with IRAN encouraging parties to consider the associated costs as investments into the Convention's success. CHINA underscored the need for consistent funding and technical support, and BURKINA FASO and BOLIVIA pointed to the need for capacity-building. INDONESIA advocated more flexibility in metrics and proxies. HONDURAS suggested that data limitations be taken into account in the timelines required for country reporting.

To address concerns about limited resources and data availability, the US encouraged creativity and suggested focusing on indicators that are already agreed on by experts

and ready for testing. CUBA cautioned that the indicators are interrelated. ARGENTINA and BRAZIL raised concerns about the definition of “affected areas” in work on indicators. BANGLADESH, MOROCCO and others asked about the generalizability of indicators, and INDIA noted that national and local circumstances must be considered in their development. PAKISTAN encouraged considering bottom-up approaches. CENESTA, for CSOs, asked about the inclusion of local communities and indigenous people in the refinement of indicators. The EU encouraged strengthening collaboration across institutions, but suggested that the Desertification Monitoring and Assessment Partnership not be institutionalized under the UNCCD. NIGERIA, among others, encouraged building on the work of other organizations and initiatives, including developing synergies among the Rio Conventions.

In the afternoon, the Secretariat introduced the document on modalities for analysis of the scientific and technical information contained in the reports to be submitted in 2012 from reporting entities as well as of the use of the related scientific outcomes (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/4-ICCD/CRIC(10)/14). The EU supported efforts in establishing relevant standards for the treatment of reported data. JAPAN suggested identifying priorities within indicators and analyses.

RESHAPING THE OPERATION OF THE CST IN LINE WITH THE STRATEGY: Chair Magalhães introduced the progress report on the preparation of the UNCCD 2nd Scientific Conference and report on the organization of sessions of the CST in a predominantly scientific and technical conference-style format (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/5). The Secretariat informed participants of the formation of a steering committee and the signing of an MOU between the Secretariat and GRF-Davos. Walter Ammann, President & CEO of GRF-Davos, updated parties on progress in the preparation of the conference, including the selection of members of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The US requested information about the budgetary implications for the timing options for the scientific conference. Several speakers noted that past decisions regarding the timing of the conference are contradicted by the document’s suggested recommendation. MOROCCO, supported by EGYPT, BANGLADESH and MOLDOVA, suggested reconsidering the definition of desertification. NIGER said the CST should help research institutions in Africa getting their research findings published. THAILAND proposed calling for financial and expertise contributions from country parties. BOLIVIA said the conference should consider the costs of controlling desertification. CSOs urged finding ways to include indigenous elders and scientists.

Chair Magalhães then introduced a broader discussion on the 1st and 3rd Scientific Conferences (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/5, ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.3 and ICCD/CST(S-2)/5). Richard Thomas, for the Dryland Science for Development Consortium, informed about the outputs from the 1st Scientific Conference, including peer-reviewed journal articles that are freely available online.

The EU supported holding the 3rd Scientific Conference in 2014, and proposed themes around investments in land, including opportunities, threats and practices to be promoted and avoided. MOLDOVA advised encouraging the inclusion of traditional and indigenous knowledge. BURKINA FASO encouraged seeking alternative ways to disseminate the results of the 1st Scientific Conference. The US commended the organization of the 1st Scientific Conference, and said its deliberations had affected subsequent negotiations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENTS (STCs): The Secretariat introduced documents on the role and responsibilities of STCs (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/7 and ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.4).

The EU said there is a need to formalize and define STCs’ specific roles and responsibilities at a global level. MOROCCO stressed the need for specific roles and requirements for the STCs. Argentina, on behalf of GRULAC, advocated strengthening support for STCs to participate in all CST meetings.

BOLIVIA said the document should clearly distinguish between the roles and responsibilities of National Focal Points (NFPs) and STCs. GUINEA said there should be direct relationship between the CST Bureau and STCs. ETHIOPIA said STCs should have equal status with NFPs. KENYA said the role of STCs should be strengthened at the national level. The Secretariat explained that the parties have asked the Secretariat to communicate directly with NFPs, and said COP guidance would be needed to communicate with STCs.

CRIC

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: Chaired by Chenchu Norbu (Bhutan), CRIC 10 adopted the agenda and organization of work (ICCD/CRIC(10)/1) without amendment. The CRIC agreed to establish contact groups on the iterative process (facilitated by Worapong Waramit, Thailand, and Amjad Virk, Pakistan), and the mid-term evaluation and the GEF-enabling activities.

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE STRATEGY: The Secretariat introduced the report of CRIC 9 (ICCD/CRIC(9)/16). Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja introduced the draft multi-year workplan for the Secretariat (2012-2015) (ICCD/CRIC(10)/3). ALGERIA stressed the importance of adequate funding. COTE D’IVOIRE said workplan implementation would enable parties to take major steps forward in implementing the Strategy.

GM Managing Director Mersmann presented the draft multi-year workplan for the GM (ICCD/CRIC(10)/5), stressing it can be implemented only if institutional changes do not disrupt the GM’s work. ALGERIA called for consistency of the work programmes with the Strategy and increased South-South cooperation. The EU said, while the information provided can help develop a baseline, due to its fragmentation it is difficult to draw conclusions and identify trends based on this document.

The GM introduced several documents relating to the multi-year workplans of the Convention’s institutions and subsidiary bodies: ICCD/CRIC(10)/4-6, and ICCD/CRIC(10)/7-ICCD/COP(10)/CST/10. PANAMA stressed the need to include more narrative analysis. GAMBIA and MOROCCO highlighted partnership building and innovative financing mechanisms to scale up implementation. FINLAND requested clarification on the number of beneficiaries and service providers at country and regional level. NIGER underscored greater synergies in programmes of the three Rio Conventions. ALGERIA called for a study evaluating the contribution of the UNCCD to the implementation of other conventions.

The GM then introduced ICCD/COP(10)/15, on contributions of the GM to the implementation of the Strategy of the UNCCD for the biennium 2010-2011. COTE D’IVOIRE supported by ALGERIA asked whether activities that had not yet been carried out had been carried forward to the multi-year programme.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Participants remarked on how quickly and substantively COP 10 delegates commenced their deliberations on their first full day of negotiations, and into the evening in three of the newly formed contact groups. The contact group on the multi-year work plan and budget opted to discuss the work plan first before conducting budget negotiations. The GM contact group agreed on the need to address GM governance issues as a priority. The CST contact group considered text of a draft decision on advice on how to best measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of the Strategy.

Many participants also eagerly took part in the first full day’s schedule of side events, enjoying generous catered lunch boxes prior to attending a presentation on the impact indicator pilot project, among other topics. Those who ventured outside the main venue, between the CECO and Pullman Hotel, found the Rio Conventions Pavilion making its first appearance at a UNCCD COP.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2011

Delegates at UNCCD COP 10 convened in the CST and CRIC throughout the day, and in four contact groups into the night.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CST 10 Chair Magalhães announced that CST Vice-Chair Nicholas Hanley (EU) would also serve as Rapporteur.

ORGANIZATION OF ADVICE TO SUPPORT THE UNCCD PROCESS: The Secretariat introduced discussion on the assessment of how to organize international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention process (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/6) and presented the results of an electronic survey on four identified options (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/MISC.1).

The EU called for information on gaps in existing mechanisms. JAPAN said resources are limited, and did not support a new panel or platform. The US and NORWAY suggested that the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) could integrate DLDD issues and did not support a separate scientific platform for the UNCCD. ISRAEL said the long list of international organizations that deal with DLDD means a panel would be a mammoth, expensive organization. BRAZIL suggested not rushing to create another body, and said delegates should “make room for” a broader discussion at Rio+20.

Many speakers, including ALGERIA, BUKINA FASO, MALI, TUNISIA and YEMEN supported coordination of sub-regional and regional activities and networks.

The AFRICAN GROUP supported creating a panel. The PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, MOLDOVA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and PERU also supported creating a new panel. CAMEROON said the UNCCD needs to be on an equal footing with the other Rio Conventions. INDIA supported a panel, but said it could be a long-term strategy while enhanced networks could be a short-term strategy. SOUTH AFRICA said the UNCCD needs to become a global authority on DLDD, and should concentrate on science. TURKEY supported a new advisory mechanism with a multi-participatory and transparent selection process.

ECUADOR said it would be better to strengthen existing mechanisms. BOLIVIA said there should be an inclusive process using existing scientific networks. BARBADOS cautioned against creating a new body with an old style and old attitudes. SAUDI ARABIA said a mechanism could be considered later, once the financial implications are known. CENESTA, for CSOs, suggested involving elders and indigenous experts. The REPUBLIC OF KOREA said there should be a procedure to assist with the decision-making process for this agenda item.

ROSTER OF EXPERTS: The Secretariat introduced the report on progress on the maintenance of the roster of independent experts (ICCD/COP(10)/22). MALI, SENEGAL

and others agreed with the need to reconsider the categories of experts. SENEGAL, supported by MOLDOVA and TUNISIA, encouraged the addition of non-traditional disciplines. TUNISIA suggested including disciplines that address water and soil resources and BOLIVIA proposed a category for traditional and indigenous local knowledge. MOLDOVA, KENYA and HONDURAS supported the attention paid to gender balance in the report. NIGER asked about the inclusion of retired scientists and researchers, and CUBA queried how decisions are made to remove experts from the roster.

STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC, RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY: The Secretariat introduced the documents on enhanced scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange between the CST and the scientific subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC and the CBD, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and relevant specialized agencies of the UN (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/INF.5) and on the UNCCD fellowship programme (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/8).

MALI and ALGERIA highlighted the links between the discussion of the first document and the consideration of options for organizing international, interdisciplinary scientific advice to support the Convention. BOLIVIA underlined the importance of improving linkages with the UNFCCC and CBD, although she agreed with ARGENTINA on the need to ensure that the UNCCD’s activities remain focused on its own mandate. BOLIVIA underlined the importance of the fellowship programme, especially for supporting applied research, and MALI encouraged fellowships as a way to expand the pool of researchers. MOROCCO advised focusing the programme on training researchers already in the field. The EU supported the multi-stakeholder partnership option, but added that the fellowship should not be a top priority for the Secretariat, given limited resources and the importance of other activities such as the impact indicators and scientific conferences.

The UN UNIVERSITY (UNU) informed the CST of its proposal to lead a multi-stakeholder partnership for the fellowships. ISRAEL and BOTSWANA agreed with the multi-stakeholder partnership model, but said the UNCCD should be the facilitator.

CRIC

REPORTING PROCEDURES: Chair Norbu reopened discussion on reporting procedures. The GM introduced ICCD/CRIC(10)12, containing additional guidance on the provisional impact indicators adopted at COP 9. There were no comments on the report.

The UNCCD Secretariat then introduced ICCD/CRIC(10)/13, on revised methodological guidelines for CSO reporting. The report generated interventions from 32 parties. The AFRICAN

GROUP stressed that reporting submitted by all stakeholders should be coordinated through NFPs. Nineteen African countries, supported by JORDAN, COLOMBIA, VIET NAM, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, PANAMA, INDIA, CHILE, ECUADOR and the LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, concurred. Several parties stressed the need to monitor all resources earmarked for DLDD, as well as the accuracy of information submitted by CSOs.

While supporting integrated country reports, PERU, CHINA and ARGENTINA emphasized the value of a two-track reporting approach to facilitate knowledge sharing by CSOs, academics and other stakeholders. CSO representatives cautioned that a single report cannot sufficiently capture the diversity of experiences and innovations on the ground. They underlined CSO commitment to harmonized action and called for continued support for knowledge sharing. The Secretariat clarified that the goal of the proposed procedure is to facilitate CSO reporting through the national focal points (NFPs), while also encouraging sharing of best practices.

The Secretariat presented the guidelines for preliminary analysis of information contained in the reports from parties and other reporting entities (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/4-ICCD/CRIC(10)/14). The EU invited the Secretariat and the GM to prepare a roadmap for their future work on the guidelines and stressed the importance of data quality.

The Secretariat presented the iterative process on refinement of methodologies for the review and compilation of best practices (ICCD/CRIC(10)/15). SWITZERLAND suggested CRIC formulate a recommendation to the COP for using World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) formats for best practices. The EU asked the Secretariat to elaborate on the proposed consultative committee on finance for SLM, and its financial implications. ARGENTINA emphasized the relevance on WOCAT and Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA). MALI emphasized promoting and disseminating best practices. ISRAEL stressed testing their applicability. FRANCE called for clarification of the respective roles of CRIC and CST on best practices. The AFRICAN GROUP said the CST's role will be assessing the best practices, with the CRIC responsible for the exchange platform. BURKINA FASO emphasized: capitalizing on experiences; analyzing constraints to application; and disseminating best practices. ZIMBABWE stressed independent verification. INDIA emphasized capacity building, resource mobilization and testing of the applicability of best practices.

The GM introduced the document on the draft format and methodological guidelines for reporting on best practices on funding and resource mobilization (ICCD/CRIC(10)/16). GUINEA BISSAU suggested using methods other than the internet to disseminate best practices.

DRAFT MODALITIES, CRITERIA AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGY:

The Secretariat introduced the document (ICCD/CRIC(10)/17). The AFRICAN GROUP, with INDONESIA, suggested establishing an independent body to undertake the mid-term evaluation. INDONESIA also suggested assessing achievements and challenges.

PROMOTION OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH RELEVANT CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

The Secretariat introduced the document on progress made in the implementation of decision 8/COP.9 (ICCD/CRIC(10)/18). No comments were made.

The Secretariat introduced documents on draft advocacy policy frameworks (ICCD/CRIC(10)/19-21 and (ICCD/CRIC(10)/INF.1), recommending the CRIC approve the advocacy frameworks on climate change, gender and food security. ALGERIA, with ZIMBABWE and LESOTHO, highlighted the need for implementing COP decisions on the ground. Some delegates thanked the Secretariat for its efforts towards the frameworks. Several raised the issue of access to climate-related funds, and highlighted the need for policy coherence and stronger national level coordination. The US

and the EU requested clarification on the status of the policy advocacy frameworks. ERITREA requested clarification on common reporting among the Conventions.

The Secretariat introduced ICCD/CRIC(10)/22 and INF.1, on reporting synergies under the Rio Conventions. Many parties emphasized that NFPs for the three conventions are already working closely together. GUINEA-BISSAU, MOROCCO and others called for GEF to support participation of the NFPs at the respective COPs. The US, JORDAN, and TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO noted that achieving reporting synergies is hampered by different mandates and timetables and, with the EU, questioned the added value of developing a new reporting framework. The EU called for exploring low- and no-cost options, such as enhanced dialogue at the national level. IUCN noted collaboration by the three Conventions on mainstreaming a gender framework. On calls to ease access to climate funds, ARGENTINA, HONDURAS and GUATEMALA cautioned against weakening UNCCD's strong focus on drylands and national level action.

CONTACT GROUPS

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET: The Secretariat introduced its priorities as reflected in its multi-year workplan 2012-2015, and the GM introduced its multi-year workplan, following which delegates offered general comments.

CST: This group reconvened Wednesday afternoon, after having worked until approximately 10:30 pm on Tuesday night. Participants discussed, *inter alia*, issues related to timing, transparency and steering committee roles for the 2nd Scientific Conference. In discussions of the 3rd Scientific Conference, delegates decided to seek input on possible themes from the CST. Regarding the draft decision on measures to enable the UNCCD to become a global authority, participants considered the option to request the formation of an *ad hoc* working group.

ITERATIVE PROCESS: Co-facilitator Amjad Virk (Pakistan), said this group will consider six draft decisions. The Group embarked on a first reading of a draft decision on improving procedures for the communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports. The Group agreed to language requesting the Secretariat and GM to develop, *inter alia*, detailed reporting guidelines on strategic objective 4 including formats and templates for the PRAIS; systems to facilitate data collection; and capacity building.

GM: Presenting the summary of the COP Bureau report on the GM evaluation to the Contact Group, the evaluation consultant said the only viable options for the GM are the assimilation of the GM with the Secretariat, with or without staff relocation, and that chances of finding alternative housing arrangements for the GM are very low. Facilitator Moghadasi (Iran) circulated a "Draft for Consultations" he had prepared. A regional group circulated a draft that highlights the need to maintain the operational independence of the GM. Two regional groups expressed their preference for the assimilation of the GM with relocation.

IN THE CORRIDORS

At the end of the third day of COP 10, some participants noted that, for a number of agenda items, the initial presentation of positions have already laid out clearly defined lines of division. While these differences quickly moved into the contact groups, delegates were reported to be approaching their tasks collegially. Many noted that, although positions on the GM remain diverse, most have indicated that COP 10 must take a decision to change the status quo. Participants in the contact groups indicated they are feeling pressure to make good progress this week, as the high level segment next week will divert delegates' time and attention away from debates about the Convention's internal issues to globally relevant challenges such as food security and harnessing science to combat DLDD.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2011

Delegates at UNCCD COP 10 convened in the CST and CRIC during morning sessions. The contact group on CST issues met all afternoon and evening to complete negotiations on its draft decisions, following which delegates convened for the final CST during a night session to complete its work. The other contact groups convened in the evening.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DRAFT DECISIONS: Chair Magalhães introduced three draft decisions: on advice on how best to measure progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategy (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.1); on measures to enable the UNCCD to become a global authority on scientific and technical knowledge pertaining to DLDD (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.9); and on the role and responsibilities of STCs (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.2). Delegates agreed to these draft decisions without discussion.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (KMS): A representatives from the Secretariat presented the review and needs assessment undertaken on a KMS, including traditional knowledge as outlined in article 16(g) of the Convention text, best practices and success stories on combating DLDD (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/9).

The EU suggested building on existing systems, including PRAIS, and said there should be more information about existing systems, the added value of a new system, potential links with existing systems and partners, and the costs of a KMS. He said the KMS should not be extended to the national level, but links with the country level should be encouraged. Argentina, for GRULAC, emphasized traditional knowledge and noted difficulties with access to technology as an issue for a computer-based KMS. He also suggested that the RCUs be involved with this initiative. EGYPT and ALGERIA asked how the initiative would take intellectual property rights (IPR) over traditional knowledge into account. CSOs said holders of traditional knowledge should be rewarded. UKRAINE suggested looking at how other conventions address IPR.

SWITZERLAND and JAPAN supported the EU and suggested building links to existing KMS and networks. The PHILIPPINES also supported exploring linkages among existing KMS. INDONESIA and others noted the use of WOCAT in this regard.

MOROCCO, UGANDA, SOUTH AFRICA, GHANA and YEMEN emphasized the importance of local and traditional knowledge, and of capturing it in a KMS. SENEGAL, GUINEA and NIGER suggested that alternative ways to disseminate the knowledge should be considered, such as through rural radio or television, and translation into local languages. BOLIVIA suggested exploring flexible mechanisms. CUBA said the emphasis should be on best practices that lead to SLM. PERU said there should be a dialogue among scientists with different backgrounds. TUNISIA noted the need to adapt knowledge to local conditions. The US said flexible systems are important, and the integration of local knowledge and science must be developed at the local level. KENYA emphasized culture and gender components. ITALY said it is essential to document and transmit traditional knowledge as an element of human heritage.

BURUNDI said KMS should respond to specificities of each country. BANGLADESH said the sustainability of indigenous knowledge should be tested. MALI said the information flow should be in multiple directions. UNU suggested prioritizing and finding efficiencies. IRAN said the fourth UNCCD reporting cycle seeks to capture best practices and they should be developed and tested in a systematic way.

CST WORKPLAN: The Secretariat introduced the draft multi-year (four-year) workplan for the CST (2012-2015) (ICCD/CRIC(10)/7-ICCD/COP(10)/CST/10). The EU said the outcomes from the CST Contact Group should be taken into account, and therefore adjustments to the workplan might be needed. BOLIVIA noted the importance of efficient resource use by the CST's working groups, and of continued work on refining impact indicators. NIGERIA encouraged the provision of further information on indicators of success and milestones, to measure the CST's achievements and successes in two years.

The CST reconvened at 10:45 pm, following the conclusion of the CST contact group. Delegates reviewed and agreed on the following draft decisions: Roster of independent experts (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.3); UNCCD fellowship programme (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.4); Knowledge management, including traditional knowledge, best practices and success stories (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.5); Date, venue and programme of work of the third special session of the CST (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.6); Programme of work of the eleventh session of the CST (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.7); and Reshaping the operation of the CST in line with the Strategy and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.8).

The CST Rapporteur Nicholas Hanley (EU) presented the draft report of CST 10 orally. Elysabeth David (Secretariat) thanked the CST Chair and Bureau. CST Chair Magalhães thanked delegates for their work. Lawrence Townley-Smith, Co-Chair of the contact group, thanked the contact group for its work and cooperation. The CST Chair declared CST 10 closed at 11:57 pm.

CRIC

COLLABORATION WITH THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF): The GEF introduced the report on its financing activities concerning desertification (ICCD/CRIC(10)/23), noting the allocation of US\$340 million in projects addressing SLM during the GEF 4th replenishment, and planned allocation of US\$405 million in the GEF 5th replenishment.

Several countries welcomed the report, the amendment to the GEF instrument, by which the GEF now serves as a financial mechanism for the UNCCD, and the support received by GEF. Many delegates, lamenting the low level of resources allocated to the SLM focal area, and the unbalanced distribution of resources allocated for SLM among different regions, called on the GEF and the Secretariat to redress this situation. GUINEA-BISSAU, SWAZILAND, ARGENTINA, LESOTHO, MOROCCO SOUTH AFRICA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, ALGERIA, ZIMBABWE, CHAD, TANZANIA, NIGER and BURUNDI discussed the cumbersome procedures and long time for accessing GEF funds, particularly for enabling activities to support NAP alignment and reporting, and called for fast tracking procedures for such funds.

CHINA asked for more attention to North East Asia and support to focal points. GHANA questioned the conditionality attached to GEF funds disbursement. VIET NAM stressed NAP alignment as a priority for GEF funds. LIBERIA asked for clarification on the role of the GEF focal point. Costa Rica, for GRULAC, supported by CHILE, CUBA and PANAMA, suggested an evaluation of the financial resources and mechanisms in view of establishing a specific fund for the Convention. JORDAN and INDONESIA lamented the absence of a GEF representative during regional coordination meetings. SENEGAL asked for more resources for the Great Green Wall initiative. The LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES asked for more regular meetings with GEF and links to innovative financing mechanisms.

The GEF, responding to the issues raised, highlighted: GEF organizes, at countries' request, national workshops and training on GEF procedures; GEF has established a time limit of 18 months for developing proposals to be submitted for GEF funding, and a 10 business day standard for the GEF Secretariat to respond to funding requests; and the three existing options to access GEF funds for UNCCD enabling activities – direct access with GEF Secretariat, access through a GEF agency and through an umbrella project with no conditionality attached.

The Secretariat introduced a note on facilitating access to funding under the GEF land degradation focal allocations (ICCD/CRIC(10)/24). GUINEA called for funding for NAP alignment and national reporting to be channeled through the Secretariat. Noting it was one of only two countries to have fully aligned its NAP with the Strategy, ALGERIA highlighted the value of the PRAIS process for “renewing our vision for this Convention.” ARGENTINA said NAP alignment is not just an intellectual exercise. INDIA welcomed the availability of predictable funding.

CST Vice-Chair Amjad Virk presented the draft decision for measuring progress on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Strategy (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.1). The CRIC agreed on the decision without comment.

CONTACT GROUPS

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET: This group discussed a draft decision on multi-year workplans of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies and completed its first reading. It will resume its work on Friday.

CST: Delegates agreed to hold the CRIC, CST and 2nd Scientific Conference back-to-back, no later than March of 2013, and noted that this would require an amendment to the previous decision to hold the 2nd Scientific Conference in 2012. The contact group debated a number of proposed themes for the 3rd Scientific Conference and decided on: Combating DLDD for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology and local knowledge and practices. On knowledge management, the Secretariat summarized discussions in the CRIC on the issue. Discussions on the roster of independent experts, fellowships, knowledge management, CST S-3 and CST 11 included questions on the implications of various decisions on the workload and budget of the Secretariat. Delegates also questioned the implications of decisions on the workload and budget of the Secretariat, priorities for the work of CST 11 and the outcome area of KM in the workplan for the CST.

ITERATIVE PROCESS: The contact group continued its work on communication and improved reporting procedures. One delegate cautioned against preempting the outcome of the mid-term reporting process, while others urged parties to avoid setting ambitious targets that might not fit in with priorities being discussed by the budget contact group. The group finalized the text and began negotiations on the assessment of the Convention against performance indicators.

GM: Delegates continued discussing general principles for governance, accountability and institutional arrangements for the GM, with one regional group circulating a document to this effect. Delegates discussed the need for more information on the costs of the different institutional options. Views diverged among those wishing that COP 10 could take a decision on the housing arrangement for the GM, and others considering this secondary to agreeing on a governance structure that meets the expectations of all parties. Facilitator Moghadasi asked each regional group to work on their preferred model for the governance structure for consideration on Friday.

IN THE CORRIDORS

By the end of the fourth day of COP 10, the gracious ladies serving refreshing green tea were long gone, the lines of delegates waiting to pose in traditional Korean costumes had dwindled, and the novelty of scrolling down a shiny tablet loaned to delegates by the Samsung Corporation was starting to wear off. Delegates arrived on Thursday morning having realized in contact group meetings the night before just how much work they needed to complete. As they settled into night sessions, some wondered whether critical decisions would finally be resolved at COP 10, or if they would squander their auspicious start and end up passing the buck to the next COP. The camaraderie among contact group delegates continued to buoy their expectations from the session, and while few were willing to reveal their cards so early in the game, there were hints that consultations among interested parties were underway in an effort to bridge the differences on long standing issues.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2011

UNCCD COP 10 delegates conducted an open dialogue with CSOs focused on “Sustainable land management technologies including adaptation and resilience” during the morning. In the afternoon, the COW discussed the budget, the communication strategy and regional coordination mechanisms, following which the Plenary adopted the CST’s recommendations. Contact groups convened in the evening.

PLENARY

COP 10 President Lee opened the Plenary and delegates elected Yves Guinand (Switzerland) as a COP 10 Vice-President from the Western European and Others Group, and Peter Molnar (Hungary) as Rapporteur.

OPEN DIALOGUE WITH CSOs: President Lee then opened consideration of agenda item 12 on inclusion of activities of NGOs within the official programme of work of the COP. Executive Secretary Gnacadja thanked the EU and the Governments of the Republic of Korea, Finland, Spain and Switzerland for supporting CSO participation at COP 10.

Introducing the panelists, Emmanuel Seck, ENDA Tiers Monde, Senegal, lauded the Convention for promoting “environmental democracy” and urged parties to strengthen documentation and sharing of practical experiences in combating DLDD.

Jaekwang Ko, Korea CSO Network, presented on SLM best practices in East Asia. Noting that desertification affects “non-affected” countries, he described ongoing projects in Mongolia, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and China and noted that cooperation on local-level reforestation and capacity-building offers a model for combating desertification and fostering peace in the region. Halima Slimani, Mouvement écologique, Algeria, highlighted lessons from a project to regenerate the steppe zone in the South Oran region by rehabilitation of the alpha plant. Referring to similar initiatives in Tanzania, Congo and Mauritius, she called on COP 10 to support the compilation of an inventory of drought resistant plants to scale up SLM in drylands and enhance the role of science in DLDD.

Cecilia Leal, Fundación Oasis de Vida, Colombia, presented the alternative agro-forestry projects her organization has implemented in arid areas of Colombia. She highlighted the importance of involving local communities, providing technical assistance and training, raising awareness, and improving people’s livelihood. Maria Bivol, NGO BIOS, Moldova, presented a study done in 2011 by NGO AGREX and BIOS on the gender aspects of SLM. She called for greater gender equality and better opportunities for women, youth and children in SLM.

Celia Barbero, Fundación IPADE, Spain suggested establishing an intergovernmental panel on desertification, and urged that desertification be put on an equal footing with biodiversity and climate change. She also introduced initiatives and projects in SLM her organization has implemented. Subrata Bhattacharyya, Gramin Vikas Trust, India, presented on best practices for SLM in India, highlighting integrated farming systems for enhancing sustainable livelihoods.

In the discussion, moderated by COP 10 Vice-President Sonia María González Molina (Peru), ALGERIA stressed the role of CSOs in local development and in awareness-raising about the dangers of inaction. The PHILIPPINES emphasized avoiding overlaps between CSOs. JORDAN underscored the work of CSOs in situations of conflicting uses of resources, such as scarce water in arid lands. GUINEA and others underscored that CSOs are indispensable stakeholders in combating desertification. Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, and the CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC encouraged strengthening linkages between NFPs and CSOs.

SENEGAL highlighted the role of CSOs in addressing questions of equity, particularly regarding women and youth. ARGENTINA said the presentations highlighted the need for preventative action and an inclusive approach, and pointed to fair trade as a tool to prevent land degradation. INDIA underlined “upscaling” of micro-level initiatives. FINLAND asked how CSOs would disseminate their experiences. Voicing support for SLM initiatives, SOUTH AFRICA noted the challenge of determining their economic value. The US sought more information on approaches for enhancing research-practice linkages. TURKMENISTAN asked about incentives that have been used in other projects to engage local people in SLM activities. AUSTRALIA lauded the contribution by CSOs in iterative policymaking in her country, citing their calls for an integrated approach to water and land management. Byong Hyon Kwon, Future Forest, Republic of Korea, highlighted the launch of a global CSO alliance to strengthen coordinated action. Moderator Seck concluded the session, urging COP 10 to adopt a favourable decision on revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in the Convention.

REVIEW OF CST RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COP: On Friday evening, the Plenary, chaired by COP Vice-President Rathore, considered nine draft decisions recommended by the CST and introduced by CST Chair Magalhães (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.1-5, 6/Rev.1, 7-9).

BOLIVIA made several statements to be included in the COP 10 report. She noted that the report on the refinement of the set of impact indicators on strategic objectives 1, 2 and 3 (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/2) should not be included as an annex to ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.1, as limited time prevented the CST from negotiating its contents and scope. She said negotiating sessions

should not be held in parallel with meetings to adopt decisions and that the Secretariat should ensure there is representation of all regions when adopting decisions. JORDAN also pointed to the challenges for small delegations in participating in parallel sessions. ARGENTINA asked the Secretariat to read aloud all decisions, because written translations were not available.

On a UNCCD fellowship programme (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.4), TANZANIA added a reference to future, along with current, needs of parties. JORDAN added reference to "regional" alongside national and international institutions. On the date, venue and programme of work of CST S-3 (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.6/Rev.1), ARGENTINA asked for clarification on its implications for the timing of the 2nd Scientific Conference in relation to CST S-3 and CRIC 11, and emphasized the need to ensure sufficient time for the CST to consider the recommendations from the Scientific Conference. On measures to enable the UNCCD to become a global authority on scientific and technical DLDD knowledge (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.9), CANADA added a paragraph inviting voluntary contributions to support the *ad hoc* working group.

With these amendments and several technical corrections, the COP adopted the nine decisions (ICCD/COP(10)/CST/L.1-5, 6/Rev.1, 7-9). ARGENTINA acknowledged the efforts of the CST Chair, and delegates gave him a round of applause.

Vice-President Rathore announced, and delegates agreed to, the creation of a COW contact group.

COW

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET: COW Chair Brown (Jamaica) introduced resumed discussion on the programme and budget, with documents for the biennium 2012–2013 (ICCD/COP(10)/7-9) and on the financial performance for the Convention trust funds (ICCD/COP(10)/10-20). GM Managing Director Mersmann introduced the report on the implementation of the costed two-year work programme of the GM (2010–2011) (ICCD/COP(10)/15).

ALGERIA requested clarification on the geographic distribution of expenditures. JAPAN called for a budget based on zero nominal growth. GUYANA asked for clarification of several budgetary items that had changed significantly between the current and upcoming biennium. SWAZILAND suggested that budget negotiations should focus on desired outcomes, and then look at specific required financial increases.

The EU urged that the Convention bodies should, in future reporting cycles, provide a joint presentation on their multi-annual programmes. She stressed the need to reassess the added value of all budget lines, and noted with concern that, in case of limited funds, the draft budget would cut funding for science and technology. The US noted that her country has adopted a no-growth policy and encouraged the Secretariat to implement the Secretary-General's call for a 3% budget cut by UN bodies.

CHAD asked for clarification on the GM's expenditure for Africa, which was reported at 50% of its budget. Following Managing Director Mersmann's request for time to compile a detailed response, COW President Brown suspended discussion on this item.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: The Secretariat provided an overview of progress in implementing the comprehensive communication strategy (ICCD/COP(10)/2).

Several parties commended the Secretariat's efforts to raise awareness on DLDD. ARGENTINA suggested fine tuning the message to focus on vulnerability and SLM of drylands. JORDAN and MEXICO called for training of local media organizations to help amplify the message. KYRGYZSTAN and MOROCCO called for translation of the UN website and awareness materials into Russian and Arabic, respectively. SAINT LUCIA proposed focusing on the nexus between the three Rio Conventions and land management for water quality. GUINEA BISSAU highlighted the role of regional centers of excellence and, supported by MOROCCO, requested the Secretariat to ensure timely dissemination of materials for the annual World Day to Combat Desertification.

REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS (RCMs):

The Secretariat introduced document ICCD/COP(10)/21, on mechanisms to facilitate regional coordination of the implementation of the Convention.

The AFRICAN GROUP recommended: strengthening the regional consultative committee; building capacity of the regional coordination units (RCUs); and developing mechanisms for resource mobilization for implementation at the regional level. The EU recognized efforts by RCMs, and expressed concern over the lack of implementation at regional and sub-regional levels. Costa Rica, for GRULAC, highlighted the importance of consolidating RCMs through regional consultative committees, and, with CHINA, noted the need for the RCUs to have a budget. CHINA and SWAZILAND stressed the importance of giving the RCUs a mandate.

UKRAINE called on the Secretariat and the GM to further strengthen the RCU for Central and Eastern European States based on regional priorities. GRENADA said the subregional coordination mechanism will be hosted by the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development. INDIA stressed looking into suitable institutional options for RCMs. EQUATORIAL GUINEA and BANGLADESH stressed coherence of RCMs with the Thematic Programme Networks. ETHIOPIA emphasized strengthening RCM linkages with regional and subregional organizations. MOROCCO said RCUs should not have to rely on voluntary contributions.

CONTACT GROUPS

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET: The group agreed on a draft decision on the multi-year workplans of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat then distributed a draft decision on programme and budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for negotiation. Co-facilitator Thomas Heimgartner suggested discussing the three scenarios (9.6% increase, zero nominal and zero real growth) contained in ICCD/COP(10)/8, for which delegates expressed different preferences. The group will continue on Sunday.

ITERATIVE PROCESS: This group finalized negotiations on the decision relating to assessment of the Convention against performance indicators. They also considered a draft decision on improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP, and will reconvene on Sunday.

GM: Different regional groups presented their proposals for the governance structure for the Convention, but owing to time constraints, more substantive discussions were deferred to a further meeting on Sunday.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Despite having already spent many late nights in contact groups and the CST not concluding until midnight on Thursday, the conference center was busy on Friday morning as delegates gathered for the open dialogue session with CSOs. In contrast to COP 9, when CSO consultations were sidelined to the penultimate day, some remarked that the substantive interventions and questions following the presentations reflected a genuine appreciation of CSOs' "added value" for boosting the implementation of the Convention.

As many delegates expected, comments in the COW on the budget revealed tensions between the need for austerity measures in the current economic climate and adequate funding to meet the aims of the UNCCD. With several discussions deferred to the contact group on the budget, some delegates put away their guidebooks, acknowledging that their chance to explore Changwon's sights would be limited by contact group sessions on Sunday afternoon.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2011

UNCCD COP 10 delegates offered regional group positions in the morning and heard statements from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, ministers and other dignitaries, and video messages from the UN Secretary-General and the Prince of Wales in the afternoon on the first day of the high-level segment. They also participated in two roundtables, which focused on the topics “Desertification, land degradation and drought and food security: Preserving the resource base for our food security” and “The UNCCD in the context of Rio+20: Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought as a cornerstone of the Green Economy.” Presentations at the Rio Conventions Pavilion focused on the theme “Gender and the Rio Conventions.” Side events, the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum, and contact groups also took place during the day.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

UNCCD COP 10 President Don Koo Lee opened the high-level segment and, calling attention to the Changwon Initiative as a “new landmark” in the UNCCD process, said the Initiative could be part of a mechanism to build a land degradation-neutral world. Recalling the work of the CST last week, and outlining the aims of the upcoming week in the CRIC, Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary, reminded participants of the expectation that COP 10 would agree on messages to convey to Rio+20.

Regional group representatives then presented statements. Algeria, on behalf of the AFRICAN GROUP, underscored the urgency of food security and combating DLDD, and highlighted projections that Africa could lose two-thirds of its arable land by 2025 if urgent action is not taken. He called for, *inter alia*: strengthened institutional coherence; support for the Secretariat’s budget proposal; adequate funding for the implementation of action plans for DLDD; and support for the Changwon Initiative. Iran, on behalf of ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, requested the GEF to further support the implementation of the Convention, and urged united governance for the Convention, while maintaining the mandate of the GM. Cuba, for GRULAC, stressed the importance of strengthening regional coordination mechanisms, financing and GEF support, and data processing and treatment.

Poland, for the EU and its member States, noted the decision to establish an *ad hoc* expert working group to discuss options for providing scientific advice, invited the Secretariat to

improve mechanisms to share best practices, and supported the International Economics of Land Degradation Initiative and Changwon Initiative. Moldova, for the CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES, highlighted the need for: simplifying procedures for accessing GEF resources and more GEF funding for DLDD; creating an intergovernmental platform for scientific advice; and strengthening cooperation at the regional level. He supported the Changwon Initiative.

ROUNDTABLE ON FOOD SECURITY: COP 10 President Lee opened the roundtable, referring to ICCD/COP(10)/INF.8 and emphasizing: long-term sustainable agricultural development; improving land productivity; formulating policies and legal frameworks for SLM; and achieving food security through synergistic programmes for SLM. Roundtable Co-chair Rachid Benaissa, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Algeria, underscored the need to preserve soil for food security and the increased recognition of land degradation as a global problem. Roundtable Moderator Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), underscored the importance of biodiversity for food security. Dennis Garrity, UNCCD Drylands Ambassador, gave a keynote presentation on “Land regeneration: the key to ending hunger,” in which he presented agroforestry case studies and benefits.

Speaking for the West Africa region, Jean Koulidiati, Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Water Resources, Burkina Faso, highlighted policy and legislative frameworks for SLM, including the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the TerrAfrica initiative. Noting that “when the drumbeat changes, the dance must change,” he called for increased synergies with the Rio+20 process. Douglas Gardner, Deputy Assistant Administrator, UNDP, cited the multi-agency Horn of Africa programme as a good example of scalable humanitarian intervention that also addresses the underlying issues of food insecurity in drylands. He highlighted “land grabbing” either by local elites or external investors as a critical issue.

In the ensuing discussion, Ministers and other officials commented on the need for effective international cooperation, political will and strengthened regional coordination. Some pointed to challenges such as: land tenure; market access; and land salinization. Others provided country examples of success in combating desertification. UNCCD support to the Nairobi Action Plan, developed in September 2011 in response to the

drought and famine crisis in the Horn of Africa, was proposed, as were efforts to make COP 10 decisions more relevant to real issues.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT:

In the afternoon, after COP 10 President Lee formally opened the event, delegates watched a film on desertification and the importance of forests in combating desertification. Dancers, artists and a children's choir, joined by Korean actress and Honorary Ambassador of COP 10 Bo Young Lee, then presented cultural performances focused on the COP 10 theme, "Care for Land, Land for Life."

Participants viewed a video message from His Royal Highness Charles, the Prince of Wales, in which he encouraged delegates to consider how the UNCCD could better gather and disseminate scientific information on natural resource depletion and DLDD. COP 10 President Lee said SLM, guided by a green growth paradigm, is needed to reverse land degradation. The Governor of Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea, Du Kwan Kim, expressed hope that COP 10 would provide momentum for action on DLDD, and pledged his province's continued commitment to such action.

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th session of UN General Assembly (UNGA), reported on the UNGA High-level Event on Desertification, noting recommendations to strengthen the scientific basis to better cope with DLDD, and to develop a goal for zero net land degradation, among others. In a video message, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for intensifying international cooperation among governments, CSOs and industry on combating desertification. Sha Zukang, Secretary-General, UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), said Rio+20 is a "once-in-a-generation opportunity," and governments need to show vision and exercise leadership.

UNCCD Executive Secretary Gnacadja urged parties to build on the momentum created by the UNGA High-level Event, and take advantage of the opportunity given by Rio+20 to raise SLM on the international agenda. Hwang Sik Kim, Prime Minister, Republic of Korea, welcomed delegates to the Republic of Korea and expressed confidence that COP 10 will stimulate international action and cooperation in the fight against desertification, including through the adoption of the Changwon Initiative.

ROUNDTABLE ON GREEN ECONOMY: Co-chair Janusz Zaleski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Poland, highlighted the recent consultations on the green economy in Warsaw, noting that Rio+20 provides an opportunity to renew political commitment for sustainable development. In a keynote address, Sálvano Briceño, Chair Elect, Science Committee, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), called for effective utilization of the risk reduction tools set out in the Hyogo Framework for Action. Concluding that combating DLDD is essential for building resilience, which in turn is at the heart of adaptation to climate change, he called for an integrated approach to funding humanitarian and development action.

Pointing to links between DLDD and poverty, and stressing the need for political will to address these challenges, Kabelo Mafura, Minister of Forestry and Land Reclamation, Lesotho, Moderator of the session, called on Ministers, Vice-Ministers and officials to offer perspectives on mechanisms needed to address DLDD in the framework of the green economy. Speakers commented on the debate over the definition of the green economy, and the potential for a green economy roadmap with specific goals and actions to provide an instrument to address DLDD. They addressed, *inter alia*, the need for poverty alleviation as a central goal, integrated approaches and recognition of the economic impacts of DLDD.

In the following discussion, delegates addressed the contribution of the fight against DLDD to the green economy by highlighting: the importance of the synergies among the three Rio Conventions; the successes of land rehabilitation in the Republic of Korea as an inspiring example; the need to invest in natural capital; the role of governments in providing ecosystem services; regional and south-south cooperation; capacity building and technology transfer; examination of current consumption patterns; and links between DLDD and forest management.

CONTACT GROUPS

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET: On Sunday, this contact group completed the first reading of the draft budget decision. On Monday afternoon, the group discussed the programme and budget of the Secretariat for the biennium 2012-2013. Delegates asked the Secretariat to prepare a table on the budget of RCUs and a staff table including all 65 posts of the Secretariat, which were provided and discussed in the evening.

ITERATIVE PROCESS: After agreeing on text on Sunday relating to draft decisions on best practices for implementing the Convention, programme of work for CRIC 11, and date and venue of CRIC 11, the contact group finalized negotiations on the accreditation of CSOs and private sector representatives before embarking on a first reading of the draft decision on promoting relationships with relevant conventions and international bodies. Negotiations on this draft decision will resume on Tuesday.

GM: A Chair's text for a draft decision was distributed to participants on Monday evening, but the contact group postponed its consideration to Tuesday morning, to allow participants to attend the welcome dinner hosted by the Minister of the Korea Forest Service on the occasion of the High-level Segment.

COW OUTSTANDING MATTERS: Chaired by Markku Aho (Finland), this group met on Monday evening to address ten draft decisions. Delegates agreed to a provisional programme of work for the group, aiming to finalize their work by Wednesday afternoon. The decision on a common fundraising strategy was deferred, given ongoing discussions on the structure and governance of the GM. After agreeing on the draft decision on the rules of procedure, the group considered the draft decision on the election of officers of the CST. This contact group will resume on Tuesday.

IN THE CORRIDORS

As COP 10 participants exchanged stories about their delightful Saturday sightseeing trips, organized and sponsored by the Korean Government, and caught up on the contact groups' progress during meetings on Sunday, the enormity of the task ahead of them loomed large. The newly formed COW contact group began consideration on ten draft decisions, while the CRIC contact group on the iterative process struggled to find common ground on synergies with other conventions and international agencies before it was turned into yet another contact group, to start work on the mid-term evaluation and collaboration with the GEF. Meanwhile, the dedication of the contact groups on perennial last-night bottlenecks – the budget and the GM – notwithstanding, many wondered how the week's deliberations might conclude.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2011

During the second day of the High-level Segment, UNCCD COP 10 delegates concluded their roundtable on addressing DLDD as a cornerstone of the green economy, and held a roundtable on harnessing scientific knowledge for combating DLDD. The High-level Segment concluded with the consideration of the “Changwon Initiative” and statements from the business community, CSOs and the COP 10 President’s summary. Presentations at the Rio Conventions Pavilion focused on the theme “Engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable land management.” Side events, the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum, and contact groups also took place during the day.

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

ROUNDTABLE ON GREEN ECONOMY: Delegates resumed their roundtable on UNCCD in the context of Rio+20 and the green economy, moderated by Kabelo Mafura, Minister of Forestry and Land Reclamation, Lesotho, and representatives of 21 countries made statements. Many speakers highlighted the interlinkages between DLDD and poverty, food security, biodiversity protection and climate change and called for a broad and inclusive understanding of the green economy. Others cautioned against widening the scope of the Convention.

On the agenda for Rio+20, speakers highlighted that DLDD is now recognized as a global problem and called for incorporating SLM, including by vulnerable communities, into assessments of the true value of ecosystem services. Stressing that “nature is not a capital asset,” one speaker urged parties against treating it as a set of resources that can be exploited, modified, altered, privatized, commercialized and transformed without consequences.

Other speakers noted that a green economy focus includes, *inter alia*: linking forest, water and land management; creating employment; access to technologies, know-how and capacity building; strengthening sub-regional cooperation to expand greenbelts; South-South exchange and learning; and securing innovative financing to scale up SLM, especially at the local level. Summarizing the session, Co-chair Denis Lowe, Minister of Environment and Drainage, Barbados, underscored that the green economy agenda must address poverty eradication, employment and ecosystem vulnerability.

ROUNDTABLE ON SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE: COP 10 Vice-President Sonia Gonzales Molina, Peru, introduced the third roundtable on harnessing science knowledge for combating DLDD. Session Co-Chair Yin Hong, Vice Minister, State Forestry Administration, China, noted the shift from

resource to ecosystem management approaches, called attention to the link between desertification and other development issues, and encouraged raising public awareness of these links. Moderator Timo Mäkelä, Director, International Affairs, Life and Eco-innovation, European Commission, called attention to the policy-science platforms in the other two Rio Conventions. Keynote speaker Rattan Lal, Ohio State University, US, outlined the “trilemma” of DLDD, pointing to its causes, effects and consequences. He called for a “soil-based green revolution,” and underscored the centrality of soils in climate change mitigation, food security and environmental improvement.

Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology, Ghana, highlighted the need for an intergovernmental panel to provide scientific advice to policy makers and mechanisms to disseminate information to people who need it. Mohammed Al Shiha, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Saudi Arabia, said the world should stand as one to address desertification, and supported establishing an intergovernmental panel for scientific advice. Noting that insufficient science has weakened support for UNCCD, William Dar, Director-General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics, and former CST Chair, proposed that the UNCCD produce an authoritative “World Land Health Report” every five years and suggested that the UNCCD Scientific Conference be conducted separately from the CST, with a small panel of scientists subsequently reporting its findings to the CST and COP. Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), emphasized the importance of objective scientific advice for decision makers, and recalled that WMO has created regional drought monitoring centers in collaboration with UNCCD and organizes regional drought forecast meetings.

Several delegations, including ARGENTINA, ANGOLA, ECUADOR and GABON, urged the establishment of an independent, intergovernmental, interdisciplinary scientific panel on DLDD issues. BURKINA FASO stressed the need for ongoing financial support for such a platform. On its scope of work, SOUTH AFRICA and TANZANIA called for the platform to, *inter alia*: undertake regular assessments and syntheses of the state-of-the-art on DLDD; combine modern and traditional knowledge; and propose measures to promote ecosystem services and alternative energy. ETHIOPIA added that such a body should build a consolidated and accessible information database on DLDD. ISRAEL encouraged identifying knowledge gaps.

Supporting the role of the UNCCD in setting the science-policy nexus, the US urged building on existing and emerging platforms, including the IPBES. On incentives to reward participation in SLM, the PHILIPPINES suggested “innovative

funding arrangements,” including payments for ecosystem services. THAILAND shared an example from his country of farmer participation in SLM activities. VIET NAM and EGYPT called on the international community, donors and the GEF to ensure adequate resources for implementing the Convention and combating DLDD. KUWAIT announced it is organizing a conference on desert sandstorms later in the year. RWANDA highlighted the recent completion of its national land-use masterplan, underpinned by land tenure reform.

Summing up the roundtable, Co-chair Abdeladim Lhafi, High Commissioner for Water, Forests and Desertification Control, Morocco, reiterated the multi-faceted and dynamic nature of DLDD and called on the scientific community to compile aggregate indicators and policy-relevant syntheses to support drought risk management.

CHANGWON INITIATIVE: Younghyo Ha, Deputy Minister, Korea Forest Service, Republic of Korea, introduced the draft Changwon Initiative (ICCD/COP(10)/MISC.5/Rev.3), noting that it is a contribution to UNCCD COP 10 by the Republic of Korea as the COP 10 President. He highlighted its three components: enhancing the scientific process of the UNCCD; mobilizing resources and facilitating partnerships; and promoting best practices and establishing the “Land for Life Award.”

Supporting the initiative, Algeria, for the AFRICAN GROUP, agreed that the UNCCD is ready for a paradigm shift, as reflected in the Changwon Initiative. INDONESIA, UAE, CHINA, SAUDI ARABIA, INDIA, PERU and the PHILIPPINES also supported the Initiative.

Costa Rica, on behalf of GRULAC, took note of the document and called for its improvement. Highlighting that the Changwon Initiative is not a document for negotiation and noting that some work would be needed before it could be agreed text, ARGENTINA joined with GRULAC and supported the Initiative.

Supporting the objective of the Initiative, SWITZERLAND and the US expressed concern about overlaps of a scientific panel with existing scientific initiatives, such as FAO’s Global Soils Partnership. BRAZIL and the US said the UNCCD’s scope on arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions should be respected. POLAND proposed building on existing platforms rather than establishing a new scientific body.

Supporting the Initiative, KENYA said existing scientific bodies have already-established terms of reference, and it might not be possible to ask them to consider other issues. BURKINA FASO lauded the Changwon Initiative for seeking to mobilize private sector participation. KUWAIT hoped to participate in the Initiative at the regional level. TURKEY supported the Initiative as part of creating synergies for developing a green economy. Friends of the Earth, on behalf of CSOs, welcomed the Changwon Initiative, but stressed the need for more explicit recognition of the role of CSOs.

CLOSING STATEMENTS: Moon Kook-hyun, Chair of the SLM BUSINESS FORUM, reported on the outcome of the 1st SLM Business Forum. He presented a declaration from the business community containing five pillars, including building private sector awareness of the importance of land and DLDD issues and encouraging governments to develop new policies and incentives for SLM. Lamenting the decreasing participation of CSOs in the UNCCD, the Social Fund “Socium” of Support and Realization Youth’s Initiatives, Kyrgyzstan, on behalf of CSOs, said CSOs have taken an initiative to forge a CSO platform, which would provide an entity for “meaningful partnership and dialogue” with UNCCD stakeholders, and enhance the implementation of the Convention.

COP 10 President Lee closed the High-level Segment, which he said involved 156 countries. He noted the Segment had considered and “takes note with appreciation” the proposed Changwon Initiative. BRAZIL asked for copies of the Chair’s summary from the Segment.

CONTACT GROUPS

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET: This group met in the afternoon and, in a collaborative spirit, completed the first reading of the programme and budget of the GM (2012-2013). Some questions were raised regarding the staff costs. Regarding the Secretariat’s budget, some commented that efficiency should be raised and savings could be made. Parties will prepare a list of items where they believe efficiencies could be achieved and the Secretariat will comment on the implications of such proposed savings.

ITERATIVE PROCESS: This group concluded without agreeing on final text for its draft decision on synergies with other conventions. During an evening session, the group also embarked on a preliminary exchange of views on a draft decision on collaboration with the GEF, before adjourning to allow parties to make further consultations. The group will continue discussions on this decision on Wednesday, following which it will take up the decision on the mid-term review process.

GM: In the morning, the group agreed on preambular paragraphs of the draft decision. In the afternoon and late into the evening, participants agreed on operational paragraphs on: the transfer of legal representation of the GM from IFAD to the Secretariat; the Executive Secretary (ES) assuming overall management responsibility, including coordinating reporting on accounting, performance and activities of the GM to the COP; ensuring all accounts and staff managed by the GM are administered by the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG); and the ES to coordinate, with the support of senior staff of GM and of the Secretariat and others as appropriate, activities on joint workplans and corporate identity, and streamline financial management. The group will reconvene Wednesday morning.

COW OUTSTANDING MATTERS: With amendments following clarification from legal counsel on consistency of text across decisions, this group agreed to a draft decision on the election of officers to the CST. In consideration of the draft decision on the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, they discussed links between the decision and the communication strategy, amendments to requests to the Secretariat and financial implications. Delegates also queried the cost implications of actions in the draft decision on the review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy. Negotiations on decisions continued into the evening, and an informal meeting was called for Wednesday morning.

IN THE CORRIDORS

While High-level Segment discussions reaffirmed parties’ commitments to addressing DLDD, challenges remained for delegates negotiating the details of decisions. Some participants pointed to mismatches in scales of action and expectation to explain these challenges. Contrasts were noted between those who focused on identifying what a multilateral convention could do to set an international framework versus those who favored catalyzing action at the local level, and between those who came to COP 10 seeking ambitious outcomes versus those who had instructions to focus on minimizing costs. While those inclined to view the glass as half full pointed to side events as evidence of the UNCCD’s convening power, the “half-empty” camp questioned the ability of parties to reach meaningful compromises. Meanwhile, a number of sharp-eyed delegates speculated about the implications of the addition of cans of cold espresso to the free drinks in the refrigerators around the conference venue, and wondered whether a relaxant rather than a stimulant might be a better aid for reaching consensus.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2011

UNCCD COP 10 delegates discussed the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy during the morning, engaged in an open dialogue with CSOs in the afternoon and convened in the COW in the evening. Presentations at the Rio Conventions Pavilion focused on the theme “Poverty Reduction and the Rio Conventions.” Side events and contact groups also took place during the day.

CRIC

CRIC 10 Chair Chencho Norbu opened the panel discussion on the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy. Moderator Matt Walpole, UNEP-WCMC, invited the session’s three panelists to offer reflections on progress in realizing the goals of the Convention and proposals for the way forward. Octavio Pérez Pardo, Argentina, in his personal capacity, highlighted key achievements of the Convention as: a legal framework signed by 194 countries; a common strategy and institutional process for its implementation; country-led NAPs; PRAIS; and securing additional funding under the GEF land degradation focal area. He challenged parties to move away from a preoccupation with “internal housekeeping matters,” and focus instead on the “real issues.” Highlighting the interrelated problems of accessing financing and demonstrating results on the ground, he called for NAPs to start speaking in a language that banks understand by developing a clear message on “the environmental infrastructure required for SLM.”

ALGERIA noted that it is impossible to evaluate the Convention if it has not been properly implemented, and proposed a target of 50% NAP alignment for undertaking the mid-term evaluation. On the value of a long-term vision, BURKINA FASO said the Strategy has helped his country to “backstop” its national vision, by providing a means to operationalize SLM into national and local planning and capacity-building processes.

Sina Maiga Damba, AFAD, Mali, presented her organization’s activities in empowering women to combat desertification, by *inter alia*, enabling women’s access to loans and land, and boosting their participation in decision-making. She appealed to the international community to: improve political will and commitment to the Convention; raise awareness of DLDD; and establish a dialogue among institutions at all levels on DLDD. During the discussion, CHILE said the terms of reference for the mid-term evaluation should include the objective of increasing political and financial support to the UNCCD. ERITREA said the evaluation report must be results-based and should be a document of the COP.

Gustavo Fonseca, GEF, in his personal capacity, reviewed challenges related to resource mobilization, noting that financing decisions require needs assessments, the identification of existing flows and gaps and estimates of the overall need. Among other actions, he suggested projecting positive messages and success stories, demonstrating that SLM works and sharing that drylands are valuable to national economies. Fonseca highlighted that national trust funds can contribute to building capacity in developing countries; suggested tapping into the private, agricultural sector so these actors become boosters of SLM; and called for considering eliminating subsidies. He stressed the need to deliver tangible results from SLM, said there are mutual and interconnected responsibilities among recipients and donors in this regard, and highlighted the relevance of the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

OPEN DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The second open dialogue with CSOs for COP 10 focused on the theme “Dynamics, challenges and opportunities for civil society in implementing the UNCCD on the ground in the context of the Changwon Initiative” and was chaired by COP 10 Vice-President Breitwieser. Introducing the panelists, Moderator Patrice Burger, CARI-France, said the session would highlight issues that have not yet been sufficiently addressed.

Rachel Harris, WEDO, US, commended the UNCCD for developing an advocacy policy framework on gender. Interventions highlighted ongoing efforts to enhance gender mainstreaming across the Rio Conventions. Other speakers noted that synergies on this issue can best be realized at local level and underscored the usefulness of a gender approach for enhancing the effectiveness of SLM actions. The role of political will and enabling legal frameworks for women’s full participation were also highlighted.

Seyram Aqbemanya, ICLEI, South Africa, presented a case study of the Walvis Bay municipality on the Namibian coast, to illustrate the links between industrialization and desertification. She called for holistic approaches that engage local municipalities and businesses in SLM. During the discussion, speakers suggested looking beyond urbanization to address global supply chains and unsustainable consumption patterns. Others noted the contributions of CSO advocacy to reducing pressure on vulnerable areas and of voluntary business forums to green investments.

Subrata Bhattacharyya, Gramin Vikas Trust, India, outlined multi-stakeholder partnerships between government, the private sector and CSOs, and urged identification of partners with

significant and legitimate interests in services targeting the poor. Speakers noted that CSOs are at the heart of South-South cooperation.

Khadija Razavi, CENESTA, Iran, presented the impact of large-scale land grabbing and said CSOs have launched a global appeal to stop this growing practice. Speakers highlighted the role of legislation in addressing land grabbing, and one suggested distinguishing between land grabbing driven by need versus “economic greed” in order to develop appropriate policy responses.

Noel Oettle, EMG, South Africa, highlighted local adaptation for SLM in a rapidly changing world, showing a short film of actions taken by members of a local farmers cooperative following a severe drought in 2003. Oettle stressed that the Convention should support communities to adapt to climate variability. Interventions: called for a shared understanding of adaptation; cautioned against a narrow focus on carbon sequestration; lamented the limited funding available for climate adaptation vis-à-vis mitigation; called for access to green and proven technologies; and called for evaluation of the true value of the land, beyond production.

In final remarks, one CSO representative called for the COP “to start peddling solutions, not desperation.” Concluding the session, Co-facilitator Byong Hyon Kwon, Future Forest, thanked parties for the opportunity to share CSO experiences at COP 10 and welcomed the decision to include CSOs in the final version of the Changwon Initiative.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

PROGRAMME AND BUDGET: COW Chair Philbert Brown reopened discussions on the programme budget and financial performance for the Convention’s trust funds (ICCD/COP(10)/7-20), which had been adjourned to allow the GM Managing Director to prepare a detailed response as requested by Chad. Managing Director Mersmann reported that 46.5% of contributions received in 2009-2010 (page 22 of ICCD/COP(10)/15) were directly invested into activities in Africa, and provided figures on the amount spent for various components. The AFRICAN GROUP asked the GM to provide parties with a clearer breakdown of spending for each region in future reports.

ELECTION OF CST OFFICERS: The Secretariat introduced the document on the amendment of the rules of procedure (including rule 22) related to the election of officers of the CST (ICCD/COP(10)/24). No comments were offered.

PARTICIPATION OF CSOs: The Secretariat introduced the agenda item on revised procedures for the participation of CSOs in meetings and processes of the UNCCD (ICCD/COP(10)/5 and ICCD/COP(10)/29).

The AFRICAN GROUP said the list of NGOs should be “cleaned up” and expressed concern about the practice through which certain developed countries directly fund CSO participation. GUINEA-BISSAU and PERU regretted the low-level of CSO participation at COP 10. GRULAC said the accreditation procedure should be clarified, CSO participation should be equitable among regions, and the selection committee should include representatives from each Annex.

OUTSTANDING JIU RECOMMENDATIONS: The Secretariat reported on the actions taken to implement JIU recommendations (ICCD/COP(9)/4). ARGENTINA commended the Secretariat for its work, noting the JIU recommendation on improving the Secretariat’s effectiveness has yielded results.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF WSSD: The Secretariat reported activities the Secretariat had carried out (ICCD/COP(9)/6). Algeria for the AFRICAN GROUP called on countries to increase their efforts so that DLDD will be placed high on the Rio+20 agenda.

RULE 47 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE: The Secretariat introduced the document (ICCD/COP(10)/23). The AFRICAN GROUP and GRULAC supported reaching decisions at the COP by consensus, and suggested deferring the consideration of this item to COP 11.

UN DECADE FOR DESERTS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DESERTIFICATION (UNDDD): The Secretariat presented document ICCD/COP(10)/27. The AFRICAN GROUP encouraged developed countries to reconsider the decision to only provide voluntary contributions. Others suggested, *inter alia*, involving every region, complementing the Strategy with the comprehensive communication strategy, and pursuing synergies between biodiversity and UNDDD.

CONTACT GROUPS

OUTSTANDING MATTERS: On CSO matters, participants discussed, *inter alia*, whether language used in invitations for funding signaled the commitment of all parties to the participation of CSOs in the UNCCD process. Some also expressed concerns about references to outcomes of the high-level UNGA meeting on desertification. On mechanisms for regional coordination, delegates discussed the possibility of deferring the decision to COP 11, but some expressed their preference for a decision at COP 10. They expressed general agreement on the value of regional coordination. Negotiations were punctuated with reminders from many on the need to lighten the bureaucratic demands under the Convention and operate efficiently to make the best use of limited resources. On strengthening and enhancing the process of action programme alignment, delegates sent text related to the GEF to the CRIC contact group working on GEF-related matters, and discussed text on guidelines and barriers for alignment along with implementation of the NAPs, SRAPs and RAPs.

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET: On Tuesday night, parties discussed items related to the posts proposed in the Secretariat’s programme and budget for which the parties had raised questions. Parties asked the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive list of these items with related costs. During its meetings on Wednesday morning and afternoon, the group discussed the list prepared by the Secretariat. The group resumed its meeting in the evening and met into the night.

GM: The group met throughout the day to address operational paragraphs on delegation of authority for GM operations, termination or revision of the MoU with IFAD, and relocation of GM staff. The group agreed on the delegation of authority by the Executive Secretary to the Managing Director of the GM to: manage the GM programme and budget and take actions to implement the GM work programme; enter into agreement with donors on voluntary contributions; and employ GM personnel. The group will resume its deliberations on Thursday.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Despite having meetings scheduled in the morning, afternoon and evening blocks and contact groups gathering in every available gap, many still carved out time for side events. At lunch, many gathered for a “questions and answers” session with the GEF Secretariat where basic elements of the GEF and its functioning were touched upon, in addition to much anticipated clarifications on how to access GEF funds for enabling activities under the land focal area. Others learned about the Global Soil Partnership, an initiative announced by the FAO in early September, where questions regarding how it meshed with the UNCCD and CST’s work were raised. The Secretariat paused to wish Executive Secretary Luc Gnacadja a happy birthday, with some observers speculating his birthday wish might be an early resolution of all issues.

UNCCD COP 10 HIGHLIGHTS THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2011

UNCCD COP 10 delegates convened in the CRIC during the afternoon, where they considered and agreed on four draft decisions. During the evening, the COW considered and agreed on six draft decisions. The Rio Conventions Pavilion held a closing reception, and side events and contact groups also took place during the day.

CRIC

In the afternoon, CRIC 10 Chair Chenchu Norbu reopened discussions on the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Strategy. Four draft decisions were tabled and agreed to without comment.

The draft decision on the iterative process relating to the assessment of implementation, including performance and impact indicators, methodology and the reporting procedures (ICCD/CRIC(10)/L.3/Rev.1) includes sections on: refinement of the set of performance indicators and associated methodologies; how best to measure progress on strategic objective 4 of the Strategy; format and methodological guidelines for reporting by CSOs (2012-2013); and guidelines for the preliminary analysis of information contained in the reports.

The draft decision on the consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention (ICCD/CRIC(10)/L.4) decides that the review of the themes of best practices will be carried out according to an annexed schedule, invites the reporting entities to continue reporting on best practices on the themes already considered at previous CRIC sessions, and takes note of a revised classification of best practices, among other items.

The draft decision on the programme of work for CRIC 11 (ICCD/CRIC(10)/L.5) decides that CRIC 11 should review the communication of information in light of decision 11/ COP.9 on additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the COP in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention, and to review input and reports from specified entities.

Draft decision ICCD/CRIC(10)/L.6 decides that CRIC 11 will be held in Bonn, Germany, for five working days not later than March 2013, in the event that no party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional financial cost.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

On Thursday evening, COW Chair Philbert Brown led delegates through six draft decisions that had been forwarded by the COW contact group (ICCD/COP(10)/L.1, 2, 4-6 and 8).

He introduced a draft decision on the election of officers of the CST (ICCD/COP(10)/L.5), and the Secretariat read out a proposed correction to the text. The text decides to replace paragraph 1 of rule 22 with alternate text specifying that the Chairperson of the CST will be elected at the final meeting of the COP and will assume office immediately. It also decides to replace rule 31 with text that indicates the Vice-Chairpersons of the CST shall be elected at the same time as the Chair. The COW agreed to the amended draft decision, and agreed to forward it to the COP.

Chair Brown introduced, and the Secretariat read aloud for simultaneous translation, a draft decision on strengthening and enhancing the process of alignment of action programmes with the Strategy (ICCD/COP(10)/L.8), with a correction to insert missing text on funding assistance. The REPUBLIC OF KOREA proposed the addition of a preambular paragraph welcoming the Changwon Initiative proposed at COP 10 as a complementary measure for enhancing support to the NAP alignment process. Acknowledging some parties' concerns that the Initiative was not a negotiated text, he recalled references in CBD decisions to the Satoyama Initiative, which he noted was not a negotiated document either. GUINEA BISSAU appreciated the proposal, although he suggested adding reference to alignment at national and subregional, in addition to regional, levels. Several delegations, including the US, AUSTRALIA and BRAZIL, expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its efforts to support the implementation of the Convention and its proposal, but objected to the inclusion of a reference to the Changwon Initiative in the draft decision. The COW agreed on the draft decision as corrected, without the additional preambular text proposed by the Republic of Korea, and agreed to forward it to the COP.

The COW agreed and recommended to the COP a draft decision on the review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy (ICCD/COP(10)/L.1), without discussion. The decision calls on parties to implement the comprehensive communication strategy and invites financial and in-kind support to ensure effective implementation, among other actions.

Chair Brown introduced the draft decision on revised procedures for the accreditation of CSOs and representatives from the private sector to the COPs and their participation in meetings and processes of the UNCCD (ICCD/COP(10)/L.6). PERU, supported by ARGENTINA and BRAZIL, proposed the addition of a paragraph, which he recalled had been suggested

by GRULAC on Wednesday, on changes to the composition of the selection panel for CSO accreditation, requesting representation on the panel of CSOs from all annexes of the Convention and proposing they use electronic technology for their communication. With minor adjustments to the proposed text, parties agreed to this addition.

On an operative paragraph deciding that CSOs shall submit reports on their activities to the Secretariat every 5 years, GUINEA BISSAU asked for clarification on the choice of 5 years as the time scale for reports. The Secretariat explained that the contact group had debated the options of 3 or 5 years, following procedures established for CSO inclusion in other processes, including the Economic and Social Council. He further clarified the aims of the decision, noting these reports were intended to confirm the activities and interests of CSOs in supporting the implementation of the Convention, and would be required for CSOs to maintain accreditation to the UNCCD.

BOLIVIA, supported by KENYA, proposed adding text to mandate CSOs to submit these reports through the NFPs, as she said one of the functions of NFPs is to coordinate national reports. The US and PARAGUAY opposed the addition, noting that CSOs are free to submit and publish information outside of government channels. GUINEA and LIBERIA raised concerns about data validation and quality if NFPs were not involved in these processes. The DOMINICAN REPUBLIC proposed that CSOs would submit reports directly to the Secretariat, but would be required to send copies to NFPs to ensure the data could be compiled and disseminated nationally. The COW agreed and, with the amendments, agreed to the draft decision to forward to the COP.

Chair Brown invited delegates to consider the draft decision on Rule of 47 of the rules of procedure (on voting majority) (ICCD/COP(10)/L.4). The decision requests that this pending rule of procedure be included in the agenda of COP 11 and for the Secretariat to report on the status of similar rules of procedure under other MEAs. No comments were made and the COW agreed on the draft decision and decided to submit it to the COP for adoption.

On the draft decision on the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (UNDDD) (ICCD/COP(10)/L.2), SAUDI ARABIA suggested adding to the preamble “taking note of the document ICCD/COP(10)/27 entitled ‘Report on activities supporting the UNDDD (2010-2020)’.” With this addition and some editorial amendments, the draft decision was agreed on and the COW decided to submit it to the COP for adoption. The decision requests the Secretariat to extend its partnership network to include representatives of civil society, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs and invites funding to support the elaboration and implementation of the programme for UNDDD, among other actions.

CONTACT GROUPS

OUTSTANDING MATTERS: This contact group reconvened on Thursday morning and discussed the proposal for a draft decision on a common fundraising strategy. Acknowledging that any decision would need to be in accordance with the decision taken on the structure of the GM, they agreed to take note of the strategy.

CRIC: The contact group finalized consideration of a draft decision on collaboration with the GEF, before embarking on negotiations on its final decision, relating to the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy.

WORKPLANS AND BUDGET: This group met on Wednesday evening, and continued to discuss the list of items in the programme and budget of the Secretariat about which

parties had raised questions. Parties reached consensus on most of the items. On Thursday, Co-facilitator Thomas Heimgartner proposed limiting discussions on four items for which no consensus had been reached the night before. Three of these items were related to staff posts. The group accepted the proposal and decided to continue the discussion of the four items once the outcomes of the other contact groups, mainly those on the GM and GEF, are clear. The group also finalized the draft decision on the multi-year workplans (2012-2015).

GM: This group met throughout the day and in the evening to complete a first reading of the draft decision. The group agreed on authorizing the ES to revise its MoU with IFAD to limit it to logistic and administrative support to the GM. The group also agreed to request the ES in consultation with the COP10 Bureau to undertake a process to identify a new housing arrangement for the GM, including potential co-location, with the Secretariat and to present a recommendation on this issue to COP 11 for decision. The proposed establishment of an advisory committee remained bracketed.

RIO CONVENTIONS PAVILION

The Rio Conventions Pavilion organized an informal discussion bringing together presenters from the various sessions to talk about the outcomes of the sessions and how to move forward. Many speakers agreed that the Pavilion is an important outlet for bilateral discussion as, unlike regular side events, themes run over several days. Some participants also noted that it is useful to have actual sessions devoted to exploring the linkages between the three conventions and how to achieve synergies. They cited the gender day as a good example of how specific presentations on different approaches to gender mainstreaming by the three conventions had provided the basis for developing a forward-looking perspective for enhancing synergies during Rio+20 and beyond. The Pavilion will convene again at the Durban Climate Change Conference.

IN THE CORRIDORS

On the penultimate day of UNCCD COP 10, delegates continued to work through the large number of draft decisions in the contact groups. The interconnections among several decisions, on issues such as the programme and budget and the GM, held up some talks, while another key issue – the mid-term evaluation of the Strategy, including the terms of reference for the review – was addressed for the first time and looked to keep delegates going into the night. Unlike previous days, where a predominantly positive spirit had been observed among participants negotiating difficult issues, many commented that tensions were high and attributed this “fun-free zone” to multiple late nights, the stress of needing to reach agreement by the close of the meeting, and the attention needed for keeping track of all the emerging details.

ENB SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* summary and analysis of UNCCD COP 10 will be available on Monday, 24 October 2011 online at: <http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop10/>

SIGN UP FOR LAND-L: A mailing list for news and announcements related to land policy issues, moderated by IISD: <http://www.iisd.ca/land-l/>

SUMMARY OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION: 10-21 OCTOBER 2011

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 10) convened from 10-21 October 2011, in Changwon City, Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea. The tenth meetings of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 10) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 10) convened in parallel to the COP. Approximately 6,300 participants registered for the COP, CST, CRIC and a number of associated events during the two-week meeting. By the close of COP 10, delegates in these three bodies had negotiated and adopted 40 decisions.

In addition to the COP, CRIC and CST, two half-day open dialogues with civil society organizations (CSOs) took place on 14 and 19 October, and a special segment, consisting of roundtable discussions among Ministers and other officials, took place from 17-18 October. At the conclusion of this segment, the Government of the Republic of Korea presented, and COP 10 delegates took note of, the “Changwon Initiative,” which identified actions the Republic of Korea would take to implement COP 10 decisions. In addition, an interactive dialogue session with Members of Parliament took place from 13-14 October, a Sustainable Land Management Business Forum convened from 17-18 October, the Rio Conventions Pavilion convened discussions to consider linkages with biodiversity and climate change topics, and a full schedule of side events took place.

UNCCD COP 10 delegates took a number of critical decisions for the implementation of the Convention and contribution to global efforts to address issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD). Through the decisions developed in the CST, two *ad hoc* working groups were established: one to continue the iterative participatory process on impact-indicator refinement and monitoring and assessment of impacts; and one to further discuss options for the provision

of scientific advice to the UNCCD. The COP also called for a multi-stakeholder partnership model for launching a fellowship programme and identified a process for its development.

Through the decisions recommended by the CRIC, delegates: approved the strategic orientation of the Convention’s institutions and subsidiary bodies as contained in the workplans adopted at COP 10; adopted four operational objectives to assess the implementation of the Convention against performance indicators; and approved an iterative process on reporting procedures and the refinement of methodologies for the review and compilation of best practices, including by CSOs. The COP also adopted decisions on collaboration with the GEF and promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations.

Among the decisions discussed under the aegis of the Committee of the Whole (COW), the COP took a decision on a long-standing question about the governance structure for the Global Mechanism (GM), by which parties agreed that the accountability and legal representation of the GM shall be transferred from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the UNCCD Secretariat. A decision

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related to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20) requests the UNCCD Executive Secretary to actively prepare for and participate in the UNCSD. And the budget decision holds the Secretariat budget close to its existing level, at €16 million. COP 10 delegates expressed their hope that the institutional dilemmas faced by the Convention might have been overcome, and that their decisions had set in place a structure that could begin to deliver concrete results.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNCCD

The UNCCD is the centerpiece in the international community's efforts to combat desertification and land degradation in the drylands. The UNCCD was adopted on 17 June 1994, and entered into force on 26 December 1996. Currently, it has 194 parties. The UNCCD recognizes the physical, biological and socioeconomic aspects of desertification, the importance of redirecting technology transfer so that it is demand-driven, and the involvement of local communities in combating desertification and land degradation. The core of the UNCCD is the development of national, subregional and regional action programmes by national governments, in cooperation with UN agencies, donors, local communities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

NEGOTIATION OF THE CONVENTION: In 1992, the UN General Assembly (UNGA), as requested by the UN Conference on Environment and Development, adopted resolution 47/188 calling for the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of a convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (INCD). The INCD met five times between May 1993 and June 1994 and drafted the UNCCD and four regional implementation annexes for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Northern Mediterranean. A fifth annex, for Central and Eastern Europe, was adopted during COP 4 in December 2000. Pending the UNCCD's entry into force, the INCD met six times between January 1995 and August 1997 to hear progress reports on urgent action for Africa and interim measures in other regions, and to prepare for COP 1.

COPs 1-9: The first COP met in Rome, Italy, from 29 September-10 October 1997, during which delegates, *inter alia*, selected Bonn, Germany, as the location for the UNCCD's Secretariat and the International Fund for Agricultural Development as the organization to administer the Convention's Global Mechanism (GM).

COP 2, which met in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 November-11 December 1998, invited Central and Eastern European countries to submit to COP 3 a draft regional implementation annex. Parties met for COP 3 in Recife, Brazil, from 15-26 November 1999, and approved a long-negotiated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the GM, among other decisions. COP 3 also decided to establish an *ad hoc* working group to review and analyze the reports on national, subregional and regional action programmes and to draw conclusions and propose concrete recommendations on further steps in the implementation of the UNCCD, among other decisions.

COP 4 convened from 11-22 December 2000, in Bonn, Germany, during which delegates, *inter alia*, adopted the fifth regional Annex for Central and Eastern Europe, began the work of the *ad hoc* working group to review UNCCD implementation, initiated the consideration of modalities for the establishment of the CRIC, and adopted a decision on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council initiative to explore the best options for GEF support for UNCCD implementation.

COP 5 met from 1-13 October 2001, in Geneva, Switzerland, during which delegates, *inter alia*, established the CRIC and supported a proposal by the GEF to designate land degradation as another focal area for funding.

COP 6 met from 25 August - 6 September 2003, in Havana, Cuba. Delegates, *inter alia*, designated the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, decided that a comprehensive review of the Secretariat's activities would be undertaken by the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and requested the Secretariat to facilitate a costed feasibility study on all aspects of regional coordination.

COP 7 took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 17-28 October 2005. Among their decisions, delegates reviewed the implementation of the Convention, developed an MoU between the UNCCD and the GEF, and reviewed the recommendations in the report of the JIU assessment of the Secretariat's activities. Discussion on regional coordination units ended without the adoption of a decision, and an Intergovernmental Intersessional Working Group was established to review the JIU report and to develop a draft ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

COP 8 convened in Madrid, Spain, from 3-14 September 2007, and, *inter alia*, adopted a decision on the ten-year strategic plan (the Strategy). Delegates also requested the JIU to conduct an assessment of the GM for presentation to COP 9. COP 8 delegates did not reach agreement on the programme and budget, however, and an Extraordinary Session of the COP convened at UN Headquarters in New York on 26 November 2007 to conclude this item.

COP 9 convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 21 September - 2 October 2009. Delegates focused on a number of items that were called for by the Strategy and adopted 36 decisions, which addressed topics including: four-year work plans and two-year work programmes of the CRIC, CST, GM and the Secretariat; the JIU assessment of the GM; the terms of reference of the CRIC; arrangements for regional coordination mechanisms (RCMs); the communication strategy; and the programme and budget.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CST): The CST has convened parallel meetings to each COP, as specified in the Convention. At CST 1's recommendation, the COP established an *ad hoc* panel to oversee the continuation of the process of surveying benchmarks and indicators, and decided that CST 2 should consider linkages between traditional and modern knowledge. CST 3 recommended that the COP appoint *ad hoc* panels on traditional knowledge and on early warning systems. CST 4 submitted proposals to improve the CST's work, and CST 5 adopted modalities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, namely through the creation of a Group of Experts. CST 6 continued discussions on improving