



Conference of the Parties

Fifteenth session

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 9–20 May 2022

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

Organizational matters

Adoption of the agenda

Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

I. Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of the President;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President:
 - (i) Election of Vice-Presidents;
 - (ii) Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology;
 - (iii) Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) Credentials of delegations;
 - (e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers;
 - (f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
2. UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework:
 - (a) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);
 - (c) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;



- (d) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
3. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies.
4. Policy frameworks and thematic issues.
5. High-level opening ceremony:
 - (a) Heads of States and Governments Summit;
 - (b) Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables:
 - (i) Round table 1: Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship;
 - (ii) Round table 2: Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery;
 - (iii) Round table 3: The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience;
 - (c) Interactive dialogue 1: Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping a sustainable land agenda;
 - (d) Interactive dialogue 2: Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption.
6. Programme and budget:
 - (a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023;
 - (b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds;
 - (c) Report of the Evaluation Office.
7. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (b) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy;
 - (c) Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.
8. Report on the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters

Venue and opening of the session

1. Pursuant to provisions contained in decision 33/COP.14 and subsequent consultations with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) will be held in Abidjan from 9 to 20 May 2022. A document containing general information for participants has been prepared by the secretariat (ICCD/COP(15)/INF.1).

ICCD/COP(15)/INF.1 – Information for participants. Note by the secretariat

2. The fifteenth session of the COP (COP 15) will be formally opened by the President of COP 14 on 11 May 2022.

(a) Election of the President

3. The President of COP 14 will propose the election of the President of COP 15.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

4. *Background:* In accordance with decision 32/COP.14 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional annotated agenda for COP 15 (ICCD/COP(15)/1), as well as other documents needed for its deliberations.

5. *Action:* The COP will be invited to adopt its agenda and schedule of work for the session.

ICCD/COP(15)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

(c) Election of officers other than the President

(i) Election of Vice-Presidents

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

7. *Action:* The COP will be invited to elect nine Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. This election will take place at the opening meeting of the COP on 11 May 2022.

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

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

9. *Action:* The COP will be invited to complete its consultations and elect the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at the final meeting of COP 15.

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

10. *Background:* Rule 31 of the rules of procedure, as amended by decision 20/COP.2, provides for the election by the COP of Chairs of subsidiary bodies other than the CST, unless the COP decides otherwise. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 13/COP.13, the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) is elected at the final meeting of the session of the CRIC, held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and will assume office immediately.

11. *Action:* The COP will be invited to complete its consultations and elect the Chair of the CRIC at the final meeting of COP 15.

(d) Credentials of delegations

12. *Background:* In accordance with rules 19 and 20 of the rules of procedure, the COP Bureau will examine the credentials of representatives, alternate representatives and advisers and submit its report to the COP for decision. This report on credentials will be contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/22.¹

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

ICCD/COP(15)/22 – Credentials of delegations. Report of the Bureau to the Conference of the Parties

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

14. *Background:* In accordance with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, of the Convention, of rules 6 and 7 of the rules of procedure, and of decision 26/COP.1, a list of intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs), including non-governmental organizations proposed for accreditation at COP 15, is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/14. By its decision 5/COP.10, the COP adopted revised procedures for the accreditation of CSOs and representatives from the private sector to the COP and their participation in meetings and processes of the UNCCD.

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

ICCD/COP(15)/14 – Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers. Note by the secretariat

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

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

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

- (a) UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework:
 - (i) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);
 - (ii) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;
- (b) Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;
- (c) Policy frameworks and thematic issues;
- (d) Programme and budget
 - (i) Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023;
 - (ii) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds;

¹ Document to be issued in-session.

- (iii) Report of the Evaluation Office;
- (e) Procedural matters:
 - (i) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;
 - (ii) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy;
 - (iii) Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;
 - (iv) Any other matters deemed to be appropriate.

17. By its decision 32/COP.14, paragraph 5, the COP requested the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to COP 15 a single document with all draft decisions prepared for Parties for consideration at the COP. Accordingly, document ICCD/COP(15)/21 includes all substantive draft decisions proposed by the secretariat that will serve as starting point for discussion and further negotiation in the COW contact groups.

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

Committee on Science and Technology

19. The CST is tentatively scheduled to meet from 11 to 13 May. In accordance with decision 21/COP.14 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the Committee's session (ICCD/COP(15)/CST/1), as well as other documents needed for its deliberations.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

20. The CRIC is tentatively scheduled to meet on 12 May in the morning and from 16 to 18 May. In accordance with decision 14/COP.14 and other relevant decisions, the secretariat has prepared a provisional agenda for the Committee's work (ICCD/CRIC(20)/1), as well as other documents for the session.

ICCD/CRIC(20)/1 – Provisional agenda and annotations. Note by the secretariat

High-level opening ceremony

21. In accordance with decision 32/COP.14, a high-level opening ceremony, comprising a Heads of States and Governments Summit, round tables and interactive dialogue sessions among ministers and other high-ranking officials, will be conducted on 9 and 10 May.

Initial segment

22. During the initial segment, from 11 to 13 May, in addition to the CST and CRIC sessions, the COW would initiate its work.

Open dialogue sessions

23. In accordance with decision 32/COP.14 and further to the request of the COP in decision 5/COP.9 to ensure that the programme of work of the COP includes open dialogue sessions with the civil society in the first week of the COP, in order to ensure the effectiveness of its input in the deliberations of the COP, two half-day sessions have been planned for this purpose on 12 May in the afternoon and 17 May in the morning.

Concluding segment

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

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

(b) Any offer to host the sixteenth session and meet the additional financial costs.

25. The COP will also decide the date and venue of the twenty-first session of the CRIC, taking into account decision 13/COP.13 on the terms of reference of the CRIC, its operations and its schedule of meetings, and any further decision on the matter taken during the current session.

26. The proposed schedule allows for the concluding plenary meeting on 20 May. Accordingly, all negotiations should be concluded by 19 May.

Times of meetings

27. In order to avoid incurring overtime expenses, the tentative schedule aims to make best use of the facilities available during normal working hours of the session (from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00).

2. UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

(a) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties

28. *Background:* By its decision 13/COP.13, the COP decided to renew the mandate of the CRIC as a standing subsidiary body of the COP to assist it in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. In the same decision, the COP adopted the terms of reference of the CRIC, which, inter alia, define the mandate and functions of the CRIC.

29. Pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (d), of the Convention, the COP will review reports submitted by its subsidiary bodies and provide guidance to them. In accordance with decision 13/COP.13, the CRIC shall report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work and in particular through draft decisions prepared at sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP.

30. *Action:* The COP will be invited at its plenary meeting on 19 May to consider the report of the twentieth session of the CRIC and to adopt decisions as appropriate.

ICCD/CRIC(19)/6 – Report of the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, held from 15 to 19 March 2021

ICCD/CRIC(20)/10 – Draft decisions for consideration at the twentieth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention. Note by the secretariat

(b) Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)

31. *Background:* By its decision 4/COP.14, paragraph 5, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to (a) review the communication plan and base it on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in its entirety; (b) identify key audiences and propose relevant options for increasing awareness about the objectives of the Convention in support of its implementation; (c) actively contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030); (d) enhance media engagement and

develop partnerships with media organizations to expand outreach to non-English speaking audiences; (e) raise the profile of UNCCD outreach programmes and products; (f) maximize the traditional and social media outreach potential by developing new multimedia content based on scientific and technical data from scientific assessments; and (g) build communications capacity for appropriate staff of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM).

32. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the same decision, the COP invited the Parties to raise public awareness and promote youth engagement on UNCCD issues and to actively support the implementation of the UNCCD communication plan.

33. The COP requested the secretariat to report on progress made in the implementation of decision 4/COP.14 at COP 15. This report is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/3.

34. *Action:* The COP is invited to consider the actions taken during the reporting period through the implementation of the UNCCD communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/3 and the related draft decision for adoption, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/3 – Report on progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

(c) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

35. *Background:* By its decision 7/COP.14, paragraph 2 (c), the COP requested its Bureau to inform Parties at COP 15 about the ongoing discussions on preparing for the midterm evaluation with a view to gathering further elements and identifying priorities for its proposal on the modalities, criteria and terms of reference for the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

36. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the proposals of the COP Bureau as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/2 and the related draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/2 – Modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

(d) Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

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

38. The CST will transmit to the COP draft decisions resulting from the deliberations coming from the items included in the agenda of its fifteenth session, in line with decision 21/COP.14.

39. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the report of the fifteenth session of the CST and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology. Note by the secretariat

3. Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

40. *Background:* By its decision 8/COP.14, paragraph 1, the COP requested the secretariat and appropriate Convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to (a) seek new partnerships to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework; (b) continue working with the Group on Earth Observations Land Degradation Neutrality Initiative to address gaps related to the land-based progress indicators and increase the policy relevance of Earth observation data, tools and interfaces for the next UNCCD reporting cycle 2021–2022 and Sustainable Development Goals reporting; (c) build on the collaboration initiated with relevant United Nations entities to support gender mainstreaming at all levels, but especially at the national and subnational levels; and (d) continue to strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, development partners and relevant international and regional organizations to support activities on sand and dust storms, drought monitoring, preparedness and early warning systems, drought vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures.

41. In paragraph 2 of the same decision, the COP requested both the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue to fulfil their respective roles in the established partnerships and seek new partnerships according to their respective mandates to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

42. The COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP at its fifteenth session on progress made in implementing decision 8/COP.14. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/4.

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

ICCD/COP(15)/4 – Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

4. Policy frameworks and thematic issues

Migration

44. *Background:* By its decision 22/COP.14, paragraph 1, the COP invited Parties, as appropriate, to consider (a) promoting the restoration of degraded land; (b) reviewing development policies, including land-use policies and agricultural practices, with a view to promoting large-scale ecological restoration; (c) fostering renewable energy as a means to catalyse restoration of land and the development of rural enterprise; (d) promoting the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas; (e) encouraging responsible and sustainable investment by the private sector in land restoration, conservation and improvement, and livelihood development; (f) supporting the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security in Africa as well as creating initiatives in other regions by restoring degraded lands and facilitating access to land and land tenure security; and (g) organizing conferences on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) and migration, inter alia, to follow up on the recommendations of the Conferences of Almeria II in order to move from policies to action within the scope of the UNCCD.

45. In addition, in paragraph 3 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to (a) support Parties, upon request, in implementing the actions mentioned in paragraph 1 of that decision; (b) support regional and international cooperation and initiatives, within the scope of the Convention, that aim to promote the positive role sustainable land management can play to address DLDD as one of the drivers that causes migration; and (c) strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders to share information on the linkages between DLDD and migration.

46. The COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP at its fifteenth session on progress made in implementing decision 22/COP.14. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/18.

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

ICCD/COP(15)/18 – The positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Drought

48. By its decision 23/COP.14, paragraph 1, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM and appropriate UNCCD bodies, within their respective mandates, to build on the Drought Initiative during the biennium 2020–2021.

49. In paragraph 5 of the same decision, the COP requested the GM to identify potential and innovative financing instruments, based on clearly identified added value, for addressing drought, and to make available related information and guidance for facilitating the access of Parties to these instruments.

50. In paragraph 9 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to compile an inventory of existing drought-related tools beyond the Drought Toolbox and make this information available to Parties.

51. In paragraph 10 of the same decision, the COP decided to establish an intergovernmental working group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD, with a view to presenting its findings and recommendations to Parties for their consideration at COP 15.

52. The COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP on the implementation of decision 23/COP.14 at future sessions of the COP.

53. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the relevant documents and draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/15 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/20 – Final report of the intergovernmental working group on effective policy implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD. Report by the intergovernmental working group

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Gender

54. By its decision 24/COP.14, paragraph 2, the COP requested the secretariat, the GM and appropriate UNCCD bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates, to continue their support to UNCCD country Parties on gender mainstreaming and the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

55. In paragraph 3 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue collaboration and partnership-building with other United Nations entities, international organizations and other relevant organizations to explore further ways of strengthening awareness-raising, improving the Gender Action Plan and developing further tools and guidelines for the use of Parties in the thematic areas of the Gender Action Plan and the gender-responsive implementation of the Convention.

56. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to availability of resources, to strengthen gender-related knowledge and capacity, both in the secretariat and the GM, and support the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

57. The COP requested the secretariat to present a report on policy issues relevant to decision 24/COP.14 at its fifteenth session.

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

ICCD/COP(15)/17 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Gender. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Sand and dust storms

59. By its decision 25/COP.14, paragraph 2, the COP requested the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies, within the scope and the mandate of the Convention and subject to the availability of resources, to (a) finalize and publish the Sand and Dust Storms Compendium in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities and specialized organizations and promote its use; (b) refine, in cooperation with other relevant agencies, the Global Sand and Dust Storms Source Base-map at global, regional and national levels; and (c) build the capacity of Parties to address sand and dust storms by developing a toolbox including decision-making support tools, in collaboration with relevant United Nations entities, institutions and partners.

60. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, within its scope and mandate and subject to the availability of resources, to continue participation in the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms and enhance its cooperation and collaboration with United Nations agencies, organizations and treaties to address sand and dust storms source mitigation.

61. In paragraph 5 of the same decision, the COP requested the GM, within its scope and mandate, to support the development of transformative DLDD projects and financing options related to anthropogenic sand and dust storms source mitigation.

62. The COP requested the secretariat to prepare a report for future sessions of the COP on the implementation of decision 25/COP.14.

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

ICCD/COP(15)/16 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: sand and dust storms. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

Land tenure

64. Background: By its decision 26/COP.14, paragraph 9, the COP requested the secretariat, in consultation with the CRIC Bureau, to explore options for the integration of existing globally agreed Sustainable Development Goal indicators relevant to land

governance into the UNCCD reporting process, with a view to avoiding duplication of reporting efforts and ensuring the widest reach among different national contexts.

65. In paragraph 10 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant partners to collaborate to produce a technical guide on how to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality.

66. In paragraph 11 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat to explore options on how, within its scope and mandate, to promote awareness-raising on responsible land governance for combating DLDD among all stakeholders, particularly among vulnerable populations, including indigenous peoples and local communities.

67. The COP requested the secretariat to prepare a report for future sessions of the COP on the implementation of decision 26/COP.14.

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

ICCD/COP(15)/19 – Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Land tenure.
Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

5. High-level opening ceremony

(a) Heads of States and Governments Summit

(b) Parallel ministerial/high-level round tables

(i) *Round table 1: Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship*

(ii) *Round table 2: Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery*

(iii) *Round table 3: The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience*

(c) **Interactive dialogue 1:** Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping a sustainable land agenda

(d) **Interactive dialogue 2:** Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption

69. Background: On the invitation of the President of Côte d'Ivoire, a Heads of States and Governments Summit will be held on 9 May. In accordance with decision 32/COP.14, paragraph 2, interactive dialogue sessions with relevant stakeholders including ministers and other high-ranking officials will be conducted on 10 May. Parallel ministerial/high-level round-table discussions focusing on the following topics: (a) Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship; (b) Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery; and (c) The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience will be held on 10 May in the morning. Two interactive dialogue sessions on the following topics: (a) Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping a sustainable land agenda; and (b) Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption are planned for 10 May in the afternoon. An information note on the special segment of the COP at its fifteenth session is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/INF.2.

70. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the outcomes of the high-level opening ceremony.

ICCD/COP(15)/INF.2 – Note on the high-level opening ceremony of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session. Note by the secretariat

6. Programme and budget

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

(a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023

72. *Background:* The COP, in paragraph 18 of decision 10/COP.14, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programme for the biennium 2022–2023, in line with decision 1/COP.14, presenting two budget scenarios and a work programme based on the projected needs for the biennium in (a) a zero nominal growth scenario; and (b) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and the added costs or savings related to them.

73. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023 and corresponding draft decision and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/5 – Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/6-ICCD/CRIC(20)/2 – Comprehensive multi-year workplan for the Convention (2022–2025) and two-year costed work programme for the Convention (2022–2023). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

(b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds

74. *Background:* In accordance with the financial rules of the COP, an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period shall be provided to Parties. In decision 10/COP.14, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to report to the COP at its fifteenth session on the status of income and expenditure and budget performance, using a results-based approach. Information on this matter is contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/7. The statement of accounts should be read in conjunction with document ICCD/CRIC(20)/3, which contains the report on the implementation of the costed 2020–2021 work programmes of the secretariat, the CRIC, the CST and the GM.

Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds

75. The audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds are contained in documents ICCD/COP(15)/8 and ICCD/COP(15)/9.

Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2020–2021

76. The status of contributions to the trust funds for the biennium 2020–2021 is presented in document ICCD/COP(15)/10.

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

ICCD/COP(15)/7 – Financial performance for the Convention trust funds. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/CRIC(20)/3 – Report on the performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (2020–2021). Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/8 – Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the year ended at 31 December 2019, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/9 – Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the year ended 31 December 2020, including the report of the United Nations Board of Auditors. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/10 – Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2020–2021. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

(c) Report of the Evaluation Office

78. *Background:* The United Nations regulations and rules governing programme planning, monitoring and evaluation² request a regular, periodic evaluation of all programmes, and the integration of the evaluation plans with the programme budget cycle. These regulations and rules further state that the evaluation findings shall be communicated to Member States through intergovernmental bodies in order to facilitate the reconsideration of existing mandates, policies, strategies and objectives, the substantive content of programmes and its utility to the users.

79. Accordingly, the findings and recommendations of the UNCCD evaluations in 2020–2021 and related action taken, as well as the 2022–2023 Evaluation Office workplan, will be presented to Parties at COP 15 as contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/11.

80. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the evaluation findings and recommendations and the 2022–2023 Evaluation Office workplan and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/11 – Report of the Evaluation Office. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

7. Procedural matters

(a) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

81. *Background:* By its decision 5/COP.14, paragraph 2, the COP requested the secretariat to continue working with key stakeholders, including youth, faith-based organizations, local governments, farmers, pastoralists, women’s organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities.

82. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the renewal of the membership of the Civil Society Organization Panel for two years in January 2020, in accordance with previously adopted decisions.

83. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the COP requested the Civil Society Organization Panel, through the secretariat, to report to the COP at future sessions on its activities during the forthcoming biennium.

² United Nations regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and the methods of evaluation (ST/SGB/2016/6).

84. The COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP at future sessions on the implementation of decision 5/COP.14.

85. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/12 and corresponding draft decision and take any further action, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/12 – Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

(b) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy

86. *Background:* By its decision 6/COP.14, paragraph 2, the COP requested the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue implementing the UNCCD business engagement strategy when engaging in partnerships with the private sector.

87. In paragraph 3 of the same decision, the COP requested the secretariat and the GM, within their respective mandates, to evaluate options to be presented for consideration at COP 15 for promoting greater participation of the private sector in the development and mainstreaming of innovative and sustainable solutions for combating DLDD and achieving land degradation neutrality.

88. The COP requested the secretariat to report to the COP at future sessions on the implementation of decision 6/COP.14.

89. *Action:* The COP will be invited to consider the information contained in document ICCD/COP(15)/13 and corresponding draft decision and take further actions, as appropriate.

ICCD/COP(15)/13 – Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Note by the secretariat

ICCD/COP(15)/21 – Draft decisions for consideration at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties. Note by the secretariat

(c) Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

90. *Background:* In accordance with decision 9/COP.1, which listed items to be included as standing items on COP agendas and following upon decision 32/COP.14 regarding the programme of work of the COP at its fifteenth session, the COP may wish to review its programme of work for the next session as appropriate.

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

8. Report on the session

92. A draft report of the session will be prepared for adoption at the concluding plenary meeting on 20 May, in accordance with established practice.

93. *Action:* The COP will be invited to adopt the report of its fifteenth session and authorize its Rapporteur to finalize the report after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the President.

Annex

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

Monday, 9 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level opening ceremony <p><i>Heads of States and Governments Summit</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level opening ceremony

Tuesday, 10 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level opening ceremony <p><i>Round table 1: Rights, rewards and responsibilities: the future of land stewardship</i></p> <p><i>Round table 2: Land restoration: A path to sustainable post-pandemic recovery</i></p> <p><i>Round table 3: The Big Dry: From disaster to drought resilience</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level opening ceremony <p><i>Interactive dialogue 1: Land reGeneration: The role of youth in shaping a sustainable land agenda</i></p> <p><i>Interactive dialogue 2: Future-proofing land use: Shifting patterns in production and consumption</i></p>

Wednesday, 11 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<p><i>Opening of the session by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the President <p><i>Statement by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session</i></p> <p><i>Statement on behalf of the host country</i></p> <p><i>Statement by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification</i></p> <p><i>Statements by the representatives of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations</i></p> <p><i>Statements by the representatives of regional and interest groups</i></p> <p><i>Statement by a representative of non-governmental organizations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the agenda <i>(ICCD/COP(15)/1)</i> - Election of officers other than the President: Election of Vice-Presidents - Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers <i>(ICCD/COP(15)/14)</i> - Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies 	---

Wednesday, 11 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m. ³
C O P	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme and budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme and budget for the biennium 2022–2023 (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/5, ICCD/COP(15)/6-ICCD/CRIC(20)/2, ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>) - Financial performance for the Convention trust funds (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/7, ICCD/CRIC(20)/3</i>) - Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/8, ICCD/COP(15)/9</i>) - Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds (2020–2021) (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/10</i>) - Report of the Evaluation Office (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/11, ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>) • UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/2, ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>)

Thursday, 12 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	_p.m. – __p.m. ⁴
P L E N A R Y	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open dialogue session

³ From Wednesday afternoon (11 May) to Friday afternoon (13 May), the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) will meet and carry out their work according to their respective agendas. The CRIC will also meet from 16 to 18 May.

⁴ The COP is to follow immediately after the adjournment of the CST.

Friday, 13 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	_p.m. – __p.m. ⁵
C O W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Drought</i> (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/15, ICCD/COP(15)/20 and ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>) 	---
P L E N A R Y	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credentials of delegations (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/22</i>)⁶ UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/CST/8</i>)

Monday, 16 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy frameworks and thematic issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Migration</i> (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/18, ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>) <i>Gender</i> (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/17, ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>) <i>Sand and dust storms</i> (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/16, ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>) <i>Land tenure</i> (<i>ICCD/COP(15)/19, ICCD/COP(15)/21</i>)

Tuesday, 17 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of activities of civil society organizations within the official programme of work of the Conference of the Parties: open dialogue session 	---

⁵ The COP is to follow immediately after the adjournment of the CST.

⁶ Document to be issued in-session.

Tuesday, 17 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of progress in the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification communication plan and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) <i>(ICCD/COP(15)/3, ICCD/COP(15)/21)</i> • Promotion and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies <i>(ICCD/COP(15)/4, ICCD/COP(15)/21)</i>

Thursday, 19 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties <i>(ICCD/CRIC(19)/6, ICCD/CRIC(20)/10)</i> 	---

Thursday, 19 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
C O W	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification <i>(ICCD/COP(15)/12, ICCD/COP(15)/21)</i> - Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy <i>(ICCD/COP(15)/13, ICCD/COP(15)/21)</i> - Programme of work for the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties <p><i>Adoption of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i></p>

Friday, 20 May 2022		
	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
P L E N A R Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of officers other than the President: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology - Election of the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention <p><i>Consideration of the report of the Committee of the Whole</i> <i>(ICCD/COP(15)/21)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the session <p><i>Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties</i></p>
