

Date: 27 July 2015
Ref.: ERPA/COP12/CSO
cc: mbt, rb, lb

Dear Civil Society Organizations,

Subject: Twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12)

I would like to inform and invite the Civil Society Organizations accredited and provisionally accredited to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) that the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) will be held at the **Congressium Ankara - ATO International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Ankara, Turkey from 12 to 23 October 2015.**

It is proposed that COP 12 be divided into three segments. During the initial segment from 12 to 16 October, negotiations will be devoted to the work of the twelfth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST12), the fourteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC14), and to other major issues included in the programme of work of the COP.

The high level segment, to be held on 20 and 21 October, will be organized in the form of three parallel ministerial round-tables. Specific topics to be discussed on that occasion will be the following: (i) from global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action; (ii) drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought; (iii) land-based adaptation to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management. In addition, three interactive dialogue sessions will be organized on land rights (a dialogue with civil society); the framing of legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians); and incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector).

During the concluding segment, the COP will consider all decisions not previously adopted.

Additionally, please be informed that following standard practice, a meeting of civil society organizations will be organized with the assistance of CSOs from the host country prior to the beginning of the COP. Additional information on this event will be provided at a later stage.

Please be reminded that the Supplementary Fund enables the UNCCD secretariat to support the participation of a limited number of CSO representatives accredited to the COP from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, and of **only one representative per organization**. In this regard, please note that the eligibility criteria and the provisions contained in decision 5/COP.9 will apply. Organizations requiring financial support need to send an official request to the secretariat.

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To: Civil Society Organizations provisionally accredited to the Conference of the Parties

In order to assist delegations in preparing for the conference, a provisional agenda and relevant documents for the session will be made available on the UNCCD web site (<http://www.unccd.int>) including the “Information for participants” (ICCD/COP(12)/INF.1) document.

Please also note that COP12 will be a paperless session. Accordingly, official pre-session documents for COP12/CRIC14/CST12 will be made available on the UNCCD website. Official documents produced in session will also be posted on the web and limited quantities may be printed on demand only.

You are kindly asked to inform us of your interest and availability to participate, as well as to designate the representative(s) from your organization to attend the session. Please use the attached form to include the names of the CSO representatives.

In order to ensure optimum participation at the session, I would appreciate if your organization would communicate officially the name and title of the representatives (including participants not to be funded by the UNCCD) who would attend the session as soon as possible and no later than **1 of September 2015** to the following address:

UNCCD Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
D-53113 Bonn, Germany
E-mail: cso@unccd.int (title *CSO COP12 participation*)

The secretariat would like to underline that participants are responsible for getting their own visas, hotel reservations and any type of health or other insurance they may need. Participants requiring visas must therefore obtain these from the Embassies or Consulates of Turkey in their country of residence before their departure to Ankara.

I look forward to the pleasure of seeing you in **Ankara**.

Sincerely yours,

(Original signed by)
Monique Barbut
Executive Secretary