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PRESS INVITATION

**TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP 12)
12 – 23 OCTOBER 2015**

**CONGRESIUM ANKARA
ATO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE
ANKARA, TURKEY**

The twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be hosted by the Government of Turkey.

Venue of the session

COP 12 will be held at the following conference location:

Congresium Ankara

ATo International Convention and Exhibition Centre

Söğütözü Caddesi No:1/A, 06510 Çankaya

Ankara, Turkey

Tel.: +90 (312) 285 0 385

Fax: +90 (312) 285 0 057

www.congresium.com

The session will open Monday, 12 October 2015. Working hours will normally be from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00.

Requirements for Media Participation

To attend the Conference, all the media representatives are required to register. Early registration for foreign journalists provides early clearance from the Secretariat to attend the meeting and is helpful for those needing visas or to fundraise to attend the Conference to report on the event. The clearance serves as the invitation letter. It also speeds up the on-site registration when you arrive.

The following documentation is required to obtain advance clearance:

- A letter of introduction from the bureau chief
- A copy of the passport (for foreigners) or other national identification card (for local journalists)
- One recent passport-size colour photograph not larger than 35 x 45 mm
- A **valid** press card
- Duly filled accreditation form

The application form will be made available for download from the media section of the host country COP 12 website at <http://www.unccdop12.gov.tr/en/Home/Index> or from the UNCCD media webpage at <http://www.unccd.int/en/media-center/Pages/mediahome.aspx>.

All journalists are encouraged to start the accreditation process as soon as possible. Online registration for representatives from the media will be available from 1 July to 30 September 2015.

Applicants should send the above-mentioned documentation via e-mail or fax to the UNCCD secretariat:

E-mail:
press@unccd.int

Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99

For information concerning accreditation, please contact:

Ms. Wagaki Wischnewski

Tel.: + 49 228 815 2820

Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99

E-mail: wwischnewski@unccd.int

Additional information regarding visa requests, travel, accommodation and other logistical matters is available on the host Government's website at: < www.unccdcop12.gov.tr > and in the document "Information for participants" at : <http://www.unccd.int/Lists/OfficialDocuments/cop12/inf1eng.pdf>

A list of hotels for participants to book directly is provided on the UNCCD website at: <<http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/COP/COP12/AnkaraHotels.pdf>>.

A visa may be required for entry into the Republic of Turkey. Participants concerned are strongly advised to seek information on visa requirements applicable to their case from Turkish diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries. A list of the Turkish diplomatic and consular missions can be found at:

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/default.en.mfa>

Registration

The registration of participants and issuance of the identity badge will take place at the convention centre entrance during the pre-registration and registration hours, and upon presentation of the originals of these electronic documents submitted above. It is of the utmost importance that the credentials of each member of delegations attending COP 12 be accompanied with a passport-size photograph to ensure an accelerated pre-registration process.

The onsite registration will start on Monday, 12 October at 08:00 and continue throughout the session's working days from 08:00 to 13:30 and 14:30 to 17:00. Any changes to the opening hours of the registration desk will be communicated in the Official Journal of the session.

For those arriving early, pre-registration is available during the following times:

- Friday, 9 October from 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00
- Saturday, 10 October from 09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00
- Sunday, 11 October from 09:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00

Identity badges must be worn at all times while on the premises. Access to the session venue is permitted only upon presentation of a valid badge.

Press Facilities and Working Modalities

Access to the meeting rooms and venues depends on the accreditation form under which one participates. A dedicated working space exclusively for the press and media will be provided at the conference venue. However, media representatives are encouraged to bring their own working tools.

At least three press conferences are envisioned: at the start, in the middle and at the end of the Conference. A media kit on the Conference will be issued on Monday, 5 October 2015.

For information about participation or other media-related inquiries, contact:

Ms. Wagaki Wischnewski

Public Information and Media Officer

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