



Ref.: COP15/2022/GEN

## NOTE VERBALE

The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) presents its compliments to the Embassy and has the honour to inform that the **fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP15), the twentieth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC20) and the fifteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST15)** to the UNCCD will take place at the **Sofitel Hôtel Ivoire in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire from 9 to 20 May 2022**. The secretariat of UNCCD has the honour to invite the Government of your country to participate in COP15 under the overarching theme "Land. Life. Legacy. From scarcity to prosperity".

**Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's regional implementation annexes** for Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Mediterranean and Central and Eastern European country Parties in preparation to COP15 will be convened prior to the session **from 7 to 8 May 2022, at the same venue**.

On the invitation of His Excellency the President of Côte d'Ivoire, a Heads of States and Governments Summit, will be held on 9 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<sup>1</sup>.

During the initial segment, from 11 to 13 May, in addition to the CST15 and CRIC20 sessions, the Committee of the Whole (COW) would initiate its work. In order to ensure the effectiveness of the civil society input in the deliberations of the COP, two half-days of open dialogue sessions have been planned on 12 May in the afternoon and 17 May in the morning.

During the concluding segment, the COP will consider all decisions not previously adopted. It will decide inter alia on the date and venue of the twenty-first session of the CRIC and of the sixteenth session of the COP respectively.

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 website<sup>2</sup> including the "Information for participants" (ICCD/COP(15)/INF.1) document.

All embassies and permanent missions

<sup>1</sup> For the exact title and timing of these events, please refer to the COP15 provisional annotated agenda (document ICCD/COP(15)/1)

<sup>2</sup> Please check the following link: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-15-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022>

It is requested that representatives of Parties to the Convention be provided with full powers to participate in the session, including the possibility to serve as officers of COP15 and its subsidiary bodies, and of any sessional committees, working groups or subsidiary bodies, established by the Conference.

The secretariat of the UNCCD would like to remind that, in accordance with Rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, the credentials of delegations shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Parties are kindly requested to observe this requirement.

It is brought to the attention of States that are not Parties at the time of COP15 that, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 7 of the Convention and rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

Please also note that COP15 will be a paperless session. Accordingly, official pre-session documents for COP15/CRIC20/CST15 will be made available on the UNCCD website and the UNCCD Conference app. Official documents produced in session will also be posted on the website and the Conference app. Limited quantities may be printed on demand only.

The secretariat would be grateful if the Government of your country would kindly nominate the representative(s) who will attend COP15. Online registration will be available from 9 March 2022 on this link: <http://www.unccd.int/cop-15-online-registration>. All participants are required to upload an official nomination letter confirming their capacity to attend the COP15 session. For more information on the online registration, please refer to the document “Information for participants” (ICCD/COP(15)/INF.1).

Participants will be required to fully comply with and adhere to COVID-19 health and safety regulations as mandated by the host country and the United Nations. Information on the COVID-19 measures during COP15 will be included in a COVID-19 protocol to be available on the UNCCD COP15 webpage<sup>3</sup>.

The secretariat would like to draw your attention that participants are responsible for getting their own visas, hotel reservations and any type of health or other insurance they may need. While the secretariat will assist with the issuance of Note Verbale, participants requiring visas must therefore obtain these from the Embassies or Consulates of Côte d’Ivoire in their country before their departure to Abidjan.

The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Embassy, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Bonn, 16 February 2022

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<sup>3</sup> Please check the following link: <https://www.unccd.int/cop15>