



United for land

UNCCD COP15 Press Kit

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

9-20 May 2022



**Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties
to the
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

an#UNCCDCOP15 #UNited4Land #LandLifeLegacy, @unccd



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COP 15 Venue

COP 15 will be held at Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire at the following address:

Boulevard Hassan II,
08 Bp 01 Abidjan
08 Abidjan,
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel.: +225 27 22 48 26 26
Fax: +225 27 22 44 65 18
E-mail: H8844@SOFITEL.COM

Detailed logistical information about COP15 is accessible online in all UN languages on this site: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documentscop-15-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022/iccdcop15inf1>

Additional information may be found on the host country website, which is also accessible via the UNCCD portal: <https://unccd-cop15.org/>

Media Accreditation

To attend the Conference, all media representatives are required to register for the Conference and get accreditation to cover the event as a media organization. Early online registration and accreditation will reduce the time needed for on-site registration. The online accreditation can be done at this site, <https://indico.un.org/event/1000768/overview> which is accessible via the UNCCD COP15 webpage: <https://www.unccd.int/cop15/registration>.

Registration to the Conference is done in two steps. First, all journalists will need advance clearance to participate in COP15. For foreign journalists, this clearance also serves as a letter of invitation, which is required for the visa application. The following documentation is required to obtain this document when you register via the online portal:

- One recent passport-size photograph
- A valid press card
- A copy (picture and signature pages) of the passport (for foreign journalists) or national identity card (for local applicants)
- A letter of introduction on official stationery from the bureau chief, media house or publisher that the journalist represents. For freelance journalists, a letter is required from the media organization assigning them to cover the Conference;
- Duly filled online accreditation form accessible through the Conference registration portal.

Second, all journalists are also required to submit an online application for registration for COP15. Online registration for media representatives is available from 9 March 20 May 2022 through the following webpage: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000768/overview>. From 6 May 2022, registration will also be carried out at the accreditation and registration center located at the conference venue during the pre-registration and registration hours. All documentation listed above, except the passport photograph that will be taken on site, will be required. For rapid accreditation, journalists and representatives of media organizations based in Côte d'Ivoire are strongly encouraged to register via the online portal in advance.



Visa Requirements for Côte d'Ivoire

All foreign journalists intending to cover the conference must apply for a **Conference Visa** either online or from the closest consulate of Côte d'Ivoire. Please refer item 10 in the [information document](#), which is accessible in all UN languages.

Foreign journalists who need an invitation to apply for a visa at the local Embassy should email: kjimenez@unccd.int.

Press Centre

A dedicated press and media working space will be available at the conference venue. A working room equipped with printer will also be available. Interview cubicles and editing rooms will also be provided. Request the use of the press conference or studio facilities by emailing: mshafqat@unccd.int

Internet and Computers

Free wireless Internet will be available throughout the conference venue. The agenda of the meetings are available via the links included in this document. Journalists are advised to bring their computers to use in the press working room, where they will have access to the wireless Network to avoid the congestion at the Internet Café.

Press Releases

The Secretariat will issue press releases after each of the official press conferences. They will be distributed electronically to the media registered with the UNCCD. If you are covering the event remotely and wish to be on the list, please contact press@unccd.int. Press releases will also be posted in the UNCCD website, under the News and Stories section: <https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/press-releases>.

Daily Journal

The events taking place each day will also be announced in the *Daily Journal* via a link on the UNCCD COP15 website: https://www.unccd.int/cop15/daily_journal

Conference App

The UNCCD Conference App is available for download from any App store. The Conference App will keep you up to date on the schedule of meetings, press conferences, latest news, press releases, and other relevant conference information. Details are available here: <https://www.unccd.int/unccd-conference-app>

Conference Guide and Manuals

Essential guides to COP15 include the Code of Conduct, informal guide and security arrangements, and are available here: <https://www.unccd.int/cop15>

COP Agenda

Outlined below is an overview of the major COP meetings that journalists and media representatives have access. The full agenda of the meeting, including the breakdown of side events held during each segment, is available online and is updated regularly. Details, including the expected outcomes of these events and ideas of potential stories for journalists are provided further below.

Follow the links below to find the detailed agenda and descriptions of the outcomes of the official meetings.

COP15: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-15-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022>

CRIC 20: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cric-20-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022>

CST 15: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cst-15-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022>

Snapshot of COP15 agenda

DATE		TIME				
		09:00-10:00	10:00-13:00	13:00-15:00	15:00-18:00	18:00-20:00
8-9 May	Youth Engagement Days	Expected Outcome: Land based jobs for youth (land is the future) and meaningful engagement for you to protect and rehabilitate the land				
9 May	Official Meetings		<i>Plenary</i> : High-level Opening Ceremony (Heads of State)	Opening Press Conference (High Level Segment)	<i>Plenary</i> : High Level Opening Ceremony	UNCCD Reception
	RCP	16:00-18:00: Gender Caucus High Level Segment				
10	Official Meetings		<i>Plenary</i> : Interactive Dialogues: Youth; Production and Consumption	Press Conference (Expected Outcomes)	<i>Plenary</i> : Round Tables Land Tenure; Land Restoration; Drought Resilience	
	RCP	High Level Opening of Pavilion: Hosts – UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC				
11	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	<i>Plenary</i> : COP Agenda adoption		<i>COW</i> : Programme and Budget <i>CST</i> : Land Use Planning; Monitoring Resilience	
	RCP	Drought Day: Hosts – UNCCD				
12	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	<i>CRIC20</i> : Agenda adoption and reports <i>CST</i> : LDN reporting; Best Practices		<i>Plenary</i> : Open Dialogue with Civil society Organizations <i>CST</i> : LDN reporting	
	RCP	Food Day: Hosts – UNCCD, WWF, ICRAF-CIFOR, IICA				

DATE		TIME				
		09:00-10:00	10:00-13:00	13:00-15:00	15:00-18:00	18:00-20:00
13	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	<i>COW</i> : Drought Issues <i>CST</i> : Work for 2022-2		<i>Plenary</i> : Adopt Science Report <i>CST</i> : Adopts own report	
	RCP	Land for Life Day: Hosts – GEF, UNCCD				
14 May		Science Day: Hosts – UNCCD Science-Policy Interface 12:00-12:45 and 16:30-17:15: Exclusive Briefing Sessions for Journalists				
15 May		Field Trip – UNCCD and Host Country				
16 May	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	Biennial Reports SDG15		<i>COW Policy frameworks</i> : Migration, gender, land tenure and Sand and Dust Storms <i>Capacity Building</i>	
	RCP	Sand and Dust Storms Day: Hosts - UNCCD, FAO				
17	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	<i>Plenary</i> : Open Dialogue with Civil Society		<i>COW</i> : GEF Report GM Report Communication Report	
	RCP	Land Restoration Day: Hosts – UNCCD				
18	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	Financial Investment		<i>CRIC20</i> : Adopts own Report	
	RCP	Great Green Wall Day: Hosts – Global Mechanism				
19	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	<i>Plenary</i> : Adopts CRIC20 Report		<i>COW</i> : Adopts own Report	
	RCP					
20	Official Meetings	Media Briefing	<i>Plenary</i> : Adopts COW Report	Press Conference (Closing)	<i>Plenary</i> : Adopts COP15 Report	
	RCP					

Access to Meetings

Accredited journalists may attend all meetings open to them, which include the opening plenary, the opening of the High-level segment, plenaries of the committees on science and technology (CST) and on the review implementation of the Convention (CRIC). They also have access to side events and events organized in the Rio Conventions Pavilion, the exhibition as well as product launches, cultural events and performances that are open to other delegates. Where demand may exceed capacity, access to these sessions could be restricted to meet UN safety and security requirements. In these cases, entry is often granted on a first-come-first-served basis.

Journalists are strictly prohibited from attending or covering any of the informal meetings, such as contact groups, regional, interest group or stakeholder groups that are closed to the media.



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COP15 Documents

The Provisional agenda is available in all the UN languages. Downloaded it here: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documentscop-15-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022/iccdcop151>

The COP's Official Documents are posted here: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-14-new-delhi-Côte d'Ivoire-2019>

The **Heads of State Summit** and **High Level (ministerial) Segment** will take place on Monday, 9 May 2022 and Tuesday, 10 May 2022, respectively. The COP15 official session will open on Wednesday, 11 May 2022.

CRIC 20 Documents

CRIC, the Committee that reviews the progress being made in implementing the Convention, will meet in the first week of the Conference. See the CRIC 20 provisional agenda here:

The CRIC's official documentation can be downloaded here: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cric-20-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022>

CST 15 Documents

The Committee that provides scientific guidance and advice to the Parties will also meet during the first week of COP15.

Provisional agenda: <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-06/CST1%20-%20advance.pdf>

To access CST 15 official documentation, follow this link: <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cst-15-abidjan-cote-divoire-2022>

COP15 Outputs and Outcomes

At the end of COP15, the decisions taken by the Parties and the COP15 report will be posted on the UNCCD website under this link, under post session documents: <https://www.unccd.int/cop15/official-documents>

Pre-Scheduled Press Conferences

Press conferences will take place in the Press Conference Room, MET10. Only COP15 accredited journalists may attend these press events, however, the pre-scheduled press events below will be streamed live. (Check online for the weblink closer to these dates). Press conferences will be conducted in the six United Nations languages Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian, and webcast live. The web link will be posted on the UNCCD COP15 website, when the information is made available on the UNCCD website on 9 May 2022.

When	What	Who
Monday, 9 May 2022 13:15-13:45hrs	Host Country Expectations of COP15 & Heads of States Summit Expected Results of Ministerial Dialogue	Representative Cote d'Ivoire Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD
Tuesday, 10 May 13:15-13:45hrs	Expected Outcomes of COP15	Representative Cote d'Ivoire Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD
Wednesday, 11 May 13:15-13:30	Launch of the drought campaign	Representative of Spain UNCCD Representative
Friday, 20 May 2020 18:00-18:45hrs	Outcomes of COP15	Representative Cote d'Ivoire Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD

Other Press Events

Partners accredited to UNCCD may be convening press conferences or organize media engagements independent of the UNCCD. All notifications of these events when received by the press team will be shared with the accredited media.

Distribution of Press Materials

The UNCCD, on behalf of partner organizations accredited to COP15, will facilitate, **as appropriate**, the dissemination of press releases to all COP15 accredited journalists. A few copies of the press releases will be made available at the information desk in the media center.

Media Briefings

Media Briefings with experts attending the conference will take place in the Media Working Room [406] every morning from 09:00-10:00 hrs, except on the days when the press conferences are taking place.

Social Media

COP15 will have an active, virtual presence via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCCD>

<https://twitter.com/UNCCD>

<http://www.youtube.com/theunccd>



Follow us on Twitter via #UNCCDCOP15. #UNited4Land #LandLifeLegacy
Live tweeting @UNCCD, @globalmechanism and @RioPavilion

Press Contacts

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10 Frequently Asked Questions

What Issues are on the COP15 Agenda

COP15 is focused on two key themes: restoration and drought mitigation. The Conference theme is: 'Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity'. This is a call to action to ensure land, the lifeline on this planet, continues to benefit present and future generations.

Land refers to the vision of a land degradation-neutral world and the potential to restore one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030. Life speaks to the role of land in climate-proofing and drought-proofing our planet and sustaining thriving communities and biodiversity.

Legacy echoes the host country's commitment to host a COP with tangible impact through the Abidjan Legacy programme.

COP15 actions will aim to strengthen the policies, science, capacity-building and practical implementation of the Convention, including through working with new partners, such as youth and the private sector, and developing new and innovative mechanisms to mobilize the resources needed. Actions to ensure the 1 billion hectares of land committed for restoration by 2030 are successful, including through improving land governance in areas such as land use planning, land tenure, gender equality and youth employment. Actions to reduce drought impacts and increase the resilience of the most vulnerable communities in 70 drought-prone countries, including through sustainable land management and strengthened international cooperation. Actions to mobilize new financial resources through innovative approaches involving the private sector and diaspora communities, among others.

What is the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification?

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the global vision and voice for land. We unite governments, scientists, policymakers, private sector and communities around a shared vision and global action to restore and manage the world's land for the sustainability of humanity and the planet. Much more than an international treaty signed by 197 parties, UNCCD is a multilateral commitment to mitigating today's impacts of land degradation and advancing tomorrow's land stewardship in order to provide food, water, shelter and economic opportunity to all people in an equitable and inclusive manner: <https://www.unccd.int/our-work/country-profiles/countries-per-annex-of-the-convention>

What is the mandate of the Convention?

The purpose of the Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought to achieve sustainable development in the affected areas by taking effective action at all levels through international cooperation and partnership agreements. In 2017, the Parties adopted the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework, which has five strategic objectives: (i) improve conditions of affected populations; (ii) improve conditions of affected ecosystems; (iii) mitigate the impacts of drought; (iv) work through partnerships; and (v) generate global benefits. For more information see: <https://www.unccd.int/convention/history-unccd>

Why are desertification, land degradation and drought threats, and why does land restoration matter?

Land degradation refers to decline in the net primary productivity the land due the combination of human actions and climatic variations. Desertification refers to the degradation of the land in the drylands (arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas) only.

Humanity has altered an estimated 70% of all land on Earth and 20-40% is degraded. In addition to losing benefits of varying degrees, land degradation threatens our survival due to the dangers that arise, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, hunger, and environmental pollution. These impacts make communities more vulnerable to disease, drought, floods, or wildfires and their associated disasters.

The Global Land Outlook Second Edition (GLO2) launched in April 2022 projects the planetary consequences of three scenarios through 2050: business as usual, restoration of 50 million square km of land, and restoration measures augmented by the conservation of natural areas important for specific ecosystem functions. The business as usual scenario for 2050, projects a further degradation of 16 million square km—an area the size of South America. The Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America will be worst affected. As well, an additional 69 gigatonnes of carbon will be emitted through 2050 due to land use change and soil degradation, equal to 17% of current annual greenhouse gas emissions. An estimated \$US 44 trillion—roughly half the world’s annual economic output—is being put at risk by the ongoing degradation of finite natural capital and the loss of nature’s services that regulate climate, water, disease, pests, waste and air pollution.

Countries and other stakeholders have pledged to restore 1 billion degraded hectares (10 million square km – an area the size of the USA or China) by 2030. Meeting that pledge requires \$US 1.6 trillion this decade – a fraction of today’s annual \$700 billion in fossil fuel and agricultural subsidies (\$7 trillion per decade). Nearly half of the 1 billion hectares earmarked for restoration by 2030 are commitments under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Restoring degrading land offers multiple social, economic and environmental benefits. According to GLO2, the economic returns of restoring land and reducing degradation, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss are estimated at \$US 125-140 trillion every year - as much as 1.5 times global GDP in 2021 (\$93 trillion).

What is the Conference of the Parties?

The 197 Parties to the Convention meet every two years in a Conference, known as the Conference of the Parties (COP), to find solutions and agree on the actions to take to address global threats and challenges linked to desertification and land degradation, and to mitigate the impacts of drought.



The last (fourteenth) session of this Conference of Parties (COP 14) took place in New Delhi, India, in October 2019. The 15th session will take place from 9-20 May 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Information about COP15 is available here: <https://www.unccd.int/cop15>

How does the Conference of the Parties Work?

The Convention works through five entities. The Conference of the Parties (COP); its two substantive bodies, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). It also set up the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to facilitate the work of these three bodies.

An information guide about the work of these entities during COP15 is available here: <https://www.unccd.int/resources/manuals-and-guides/cop15-informal-guide>

Who can participate in the Conference?

All stakeholders to the Convention can participate in Conference of the Parties, but they must attend as representatives of very specific constituencies: governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society (non-governmental organizations and the private sector) or press and media. But to attend, each participant must be specifically and officially assigned by his or her organization to represent them at the COP. An organization may assign as many people as it wishes. Each participant designated to attend the Conference must also apply to the secretariat of the Convention for accreditation to participate in the Conference. After verifying each application, the secretariat issues an access badge for the Conference. Press and media register here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000768/overview>

What are the requirements for participation of press and media?

Media participants must meet register to request for accreditation. The required documentation is listed above. Freelance journalists and digital press representatives lacking press cards must submit a minimum of two, verifiable, articles on the environment published in the last six months by a legally-registered and active media organization.

When can I pick up my access badge?

The registration of the media attending the Conference in person can pick up their badges starting on Friday, 6 May 2022 to Friday, 20 May 2022 at the registration desk of the Conference venue in Abidjan.

Are there Stories I can write about?

[Earth Journalism Network](#), supported by UNCCD, will host virtual 45-minute media briefings to enable journalists to write publishable stories. Journalists will have a question-and-answer session on the day's topical issue following a brief introduction of the issue by one of the issue expert(s). UNCCD will organize press conferences, field trips and assist journalists, on request, to find interviewees. The UNCCD press kit contains high resolution B-roll, video, photographs, human interest stories and social media assets for use at no cost. Download the materials here: [\(bitlylink\)](#)



Request for Interviews

Requests for interviews can be (pre)arranged rapidly by emailing press1@unccd.int. Provide as much detail as possible or use the generic form provided at the end of this document to share the four key details. You may also reach out to the independent spokespersons listed below via email. Pay attention to their areas of specialization.

Name & Organization	Specialization	Contact

REQUEST FOR UNCCD INTERVIEWEE

Please fill this form to expedite the identification of the right interviewee and their availability.

1. Scheduling

Publisher:

Website address:

Press type:

Print Radio TV Internet

Publication date:

Proposed interview date:

Time (CET):

2. Audience

Who is the target audience?

Size (number of people)

3. Topic/Subject

Focus of the interview (you may add interview questions if email responses are enough)

4. Information about the interviewer

Name(s) of interviewer?

Email:

Brief biography of the interviewer and/or web or twitter link