



Ref.: CRIC21/2023/GEN

NOTE VERBALE

The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) presents its compliments to the diplomatic missions and has the honour to inform that the **twenty-first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 21)** to the UNCCD will take place at the Silk Road Samarkand Congress Center, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from **13 to 17 November 2023**.

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 Europe in preparation for CRIC 21 will be convened **on 12 November 2023**, at the Silk Road Samarkand Congress Center. Further information on the regional consultations will be shared in a separate communication.

In due consideration of the above, the secretariat of UNCCD has the honour to invite your Government to participate in CRIC 21.

The **provisional agenda** (ICCD/CRIC(21)/1) and the pre-session documentation will be made available on the UNCCD website (<https://www.unccd.int/convention/official-documents/cric-21-samarkand-uzbekistan-2023>). At CRIC 21 Parties will review the assessment of implementation of the UNCCD along the Strategic Objectives of the 2018 – 2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework and its implementation framework with a view of providing targeted recommendations on strategic objectives. Updates on specific activities supporting Parties in their voluntary LDN target-setting efforts and on how they advance action towards implementation with the support of the Global Mechanism and relevant Partners, including the LDN Fund will be also presented.

Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Working Group on effective policy and implementation measures for addressing drought under the UNCCD will present its progress report for consideration by Parties at CRIC21. Also, in line with decision 7/COP15 (Annex I), participatory consultations on the conclusions and recommendations of the independent assessment will be conducted to identify possible future action to further enhance the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

In accordance with requests made by Parties, the session will facilitate interactive exchanges among Parties and their development partners on topics selected by the Bureau of the CRIC.

A high- level event on Sand and Dust Storms¹ will be organized by the Government of Uzbekistan under the aegis of the CRIC 21.

In order to assist delegations in preparing for the conference, a document entitled **“Information for participants”** (ICCD/CRIC(21)/INF.1) will also be made available shortly on the UNCCD website.

¹ Please check document ICCD/CRIC(21)/CRP.1 at the above indicated link.



As per past practice, CRIC 21 will be a paperless session. Accordingly, official documents of the session and its journal will not be printed and distributed. All such documents will be made available on the UNCCD website.

The secretariat would be grateful if your Government would kindly nominate the representative(s) who will attend CRIC 21. **Online registration will be available from 11 September 2023 at the following link: <www.unccd.int/cric-21-online-registration>**. For more information on the online registration, please refer to the document “**Information for participants**” (ICCD/CRIC(21)/INF.1).

The secretariat would like to kindly recall 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 apply online by filling-up the visa application form at : <www.e-viza.gov.uz>² and uploading a scanned copy of a facial photo and their passport bio-data page.

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

(Signed UNCCD seal)
Bonn, 25 July 2023

Distribution:
To Parties and observer States to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification through their national focal points and diplomatic missions

² Please note that the requisite guidance will be provided via the above-mentioned website.