



UNITED NATIONS

# JOURNAL

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  
Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties

(COP 16)

2-13 December 2024



UNCCD

Monday, 2 December 2024

Content last updated on: 1 Dec 2024 20:17

## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA

### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

9:30 - 10:00 am

**Opening Ceremony**

Plenary Hall

10 am - 1 pm

**COP 1st meeting**

Plenary Hall

*Opening of the session by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session*

Organizational matters [item 1]

(a) Election of the President

*Statement by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session*

*Welcome remarks by the Mayor of Riyadh*

*Opening remarks by the United Nations Deputy Secretary General (video)*

*Welcome remarks by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*

*Statement by the Prime Minister of Mongolia, official host of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties*

*Statement by the Prime Minister of Niger*

*Keynote speaker, Mr. Johan Rockström (Special Report on Land)*

*Presentation of the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience partnership (MEWA) (video)*

*Statement by the Islamic Development Bank President on behalf of the Arab Coordination Group*

*Announcement by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

*Statements by the representatives of regional and interest groups*

*Statement by a representative of civil society organizations*

3 - 6 pm  
Plenary Hall

### **COP 2nd Meeting**

Organizational matters [item 1]

(b) Adoption of the agenda ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/1](#))

(c) Election of officers other than the President:

(i) Election of Vice-Presidents

(e) Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/14](#))

(f) Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies

### **SPECIAL SEGMENT**

3 - 6 pm  
Main Committee Room

**Ministerial Dialogue on Drought Resilience: "From Geneva to Riyadh and beyond, enhancing global and national policy instruments for a proactive drought management approach"**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

3 - 6 pm  
Plenary Hall

### **COW 1st Meeting**

*Following immediately after the adjournment of the 2nd meeting of the Conference of the Parties.*

Programme and budget [item 6]

(a) Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026 ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/5](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/6-ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/2](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/22](#))

(b) Financial performance for the Convention trust funds ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/7](#), [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/3](#))

- Audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds

([ICCD/COP\(16\)/8](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/9](#))

- Report on the status of contributions to the Convention trust funds (2022–2024) ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/10](#))

(c) Report of the Evaluation Office ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/11](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/22](#))

*Introduction and discussion*

Policy frameworks and thematic issues [item 4]

- Drought ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/15](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/20](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/22](#))

*Introduction and discussion*

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## **FORTHCOMING OFFICIAL MEETINGS**

*Tuesday, 3 December 2024*

## CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

3 - 6 pm

### **COP Formal Statements**

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Delegations wishing to deliver formal statements are kindly invited to submit their requests to the secretariat at [formalstatements@unccd.int](mailto:formalstatements@unccd.int) by 6 p.m. on 2 December. The time limit for the Formal Statements is 10 minutes.

Statements will be delivered on 3 December from 3 PM to 6 PM in a conference room (to be announced).

Webcasting facilities would be offered to ensure real-time sharing of the statements within the Conference Center and worldwide.

Please note that the statements will be delivered and web-streamed only in floor language.

The provisional list of speakers will be drawn up in accordance with the level of representation and order of inscriptions, and will be published in the Journal of 3 December.

### **SPECIAL SEGMENT**

10 am - 1 pm

Main Committee Room

**Ministerial dialogue on finance: “Unlocking public and private finance for land restoration and drought resilience”**

2:00 - 4:30 pm

Plenary Hall

**Ministerial Dialogue: Impacts of Land Degradation and Drought on Forced Migration, Security and Prosperity**

4:30 - 5:00 pm

Plenary Hall

**High Level Segment - Closing Session**

### **COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

10 am - 1 pm

Plenary Hall

#### **CRIC 1st meeting**

*Opening of the twenty-second session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention by the Chair of the Committee*

*Statement by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification*

*Statements by representatives of the regional and interest groups and a representative of non-governmental organizations*

Organizational matters [item 1]

(a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work ([ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/1](#))

(b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels [item 2]

(b) Multi-year workplan for Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/6-ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/2](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/22/Add.1](#))

(c) Performance of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies ([ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/3](#))

- (a) Review of the report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on its twenty-first session ([ICCD/CRIC\(21\)/11](#) and [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/8](#))

*Introduction and discussion*

## COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

3 - 6 pm

### **CST 1st meeting**

Main Committee

*Opening of the sixteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology by the Chair of the Committee*

*Statements by representatives of the regional and interest groups and a representative of non-governmental organizations*

#### Organizational matters [item 1]

- (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/1](#))
- (b) Election of officers other than the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology

#### Items resulting from the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the triennium 2022–2024 [item 2]

- (a) Evidence on sustainable land use systems and their potential to address desertification/land degradation and drought ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/2](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/10](#))
- (b) Evidence on historical global and regional aridity trends and future projections that may contribute to expanding drylands and affected populations and the adaptation approaches ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/3](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/10](#))

*Interactive dialogue*

*Introduction and discussion*

## ACTION AGENDA

6 - 7 pm  
C-17

### **Inauguration of the Resilience Pavilion: Launch of International Drought Resilience Observatory (IDRO) and Global Drought Atlas**

Explore the prototype of the first global, AI-powered data platform for proactive drought management and an initiative of the [International Drought Resilience Alliance](#) (IDRA) to help analyze and visualize key social and environmental drought resilience indicators and support practical decisions.

As record-breaking droughts are becoming a new normal around the globe, the UNCCD and the European Commission Joint Research Centre launch the most comprehensive global publication on drought risks and solutions as an urgent wake-up call for world leaders and citizens.

## OTHER MEETINGS

*The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.*

1 - 2 pm	<b>Group of Arab States Coordination Meeting</b>
MET-32	(closed meeting)
1:15 - 2:30 pm	<b>COP 16 Opening press conference</b>
MET-17	
6:00 - 8:30 pm	<b>Interregional Group Central Asia-Russia</b>
MET-26	(closed meeting)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### REGISTRATION FOR DELEGATES

Registration for delegations of country Parties, United Nations organisations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, side event participants, media and other participants will take place as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>
2 -7 December 2024	Everyday	8:00 to 18:00
9 -12 December 2024	Everyday	8:00 to 18:00
13 December 2024	Friday	8:00 to 14:00

Any changes to the opening hours of the registration desk will be communicated in the Official Journal of the session.

Identity badges will be issued at the time of registration, and participants are requested to wear them at all times, as they will not be allowed access to the session venue without presenting them.

### CHANGWON PAVILION: ADVANCING LAND RESTORATION NEUTRALITY GOALS (BLUE ZONE, D)

The Changwon Pavilion, rooted in the Republic of Korea's [Changwon Initiative](#) launched at COP10, brings renewed focus to combating desertification and achieving [Land Degradation Neutrality](#) (LDN).

Located in Zone D/D13, this pavilion offers a dynamic platform for events showcasing forestry innovations, land restoration techniques, and global partnerships driving progress toward SDG15.3. Attendees can engage with diverse initiatives aimed at reversing land degradation while celebrating the enduring legacy of this visionary commitment to sustainable land use.

### RESILIENCE PAVILION: PIONEERING DROUGHT SOLUTIONS (PAVILION C17)

As drought's severe impacts on economies and societies take center stage at UNCCD COP 16, the Resilience Pavilion emerges as a hub for innovation and action. Supported by the [International Drought Resilience Alliance](#) (IDRA), this pavilion will spotlight groundbreaking solutions to prepare for and adapt to harsher droughts.

A highlight is the unveiling of [International Drought Resilience Observatory](#), the world's first AI-powered global data platform designed to assess and enhance drought resilience. An immersive experience will offer

COP 16 participants a glimpse into this innovative platform, which is in the prototype stage and is expected to launch at COP 17 in 2026.

## **CREDENTIALS**

Delegations are advised to contact Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi (00966 568701092) and Mr. Stadler Trengove (00966 568682169), AREA B, Office n° 11 – Legal Office as soon as possible.

## **ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICE**

Delegations are advised that wireless internet access is available throughout the venue. The network name is **COP16 Public**, and no password is required.

A Computer Center is located in **Area-C**, providing 100 workstations and printing facilities. An **ICT Helpdesk counter** is also available in the same area to assist with technical support.

A link to the stream of the meetings of the COP 16 session can be found on the [COP 16 page](#) of the [UNCCD website](#).

## **LOST AND FOUND**

The Lost and Found service is located near the Registration area, offering convenient access near the Main Entrance.

## **MEDICAL SUPPORT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

Medical services will be provided throughout the event by qualified healthcare professionals, ensuring that assistance is readily available. The Medical Care Center is located near the Registration area, close to the Main Entrance.

Emergency Response:

- **Immediate Action:** Medical vehicles will be stationed on-site to ensure a rapid response in case of emergencies.
- **Coordination with Local Services:** Collaboration with local emergency teams will be ensured to manage serious medical situations effectively.
- **Health and Safety Standards:** All procedures will adhere to the most current guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO) and local health authorities.
- **Ambulance Placement:** Ambulances will be strategically located at key areas, including the Blue Zone and VIP sections, to ensure quick access to medical care.

You can find a list of Emergency Contact Numbers [here](#).

The KSA Emergency number is 112 (reachable without a SIM card).

## **MEETING ROOMS FOR REGIONAL AND INTEREST GROUPS**

Requests for inclusion in the schedule of meetings of regional and interest groups should be communicated to:

Kayhan UI ([kul@unccd.int](mailto:kul@unccd.int) ; phone: 00966-544050235) or Mahamadou Tari Bako ([mbako@unccd.int](mailto:mbako@unccd.int) ; phone: 00966-568723965).

## **SHUTTLE SERVICE AND INTERACTIVE MAP**

To facilitate seamless transportation during COP 16, a dedicated shuttle service has been arranged between the conference venue and official hotels.

Use our [Interactive Map](#) to explore routes and locations, including shuttle pickup and drop-off points, along with timetables for transportation between hotels, the venue, and the airport. This resource is also available in the app under *COP 16 Information*.

We encourage participants to use the shuttle service to minimize environmental impact and ease transportation logistics. Thank you for contributing to a sustainable COP 16!

## **THE UNCCD CONFERENCE APP**

The [UNCCD Conference App](#) is an easy tool for participants of official UNCCD events to have access to the latest conference schedules, all official documents and other relevant information related to the UNCCD process and conference logistics, including an interactive map for shuttle services. It also provides information on the latest up-to-date schedule of events in the Blue Zone.

The [UNCCD Conference App](#) is relevant for all delegates and other participants of all sessions of the UNCCD Conference of Parties (COP), the Committee of Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

