



UNITED NATIONS

JOURNAL

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties
(COP 16)
2-13 December 2024



UNCCD

Tuesday, 3 December 2024

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PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND AGENDA

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

- 10 am - 1 pm
Main Committee Room
- COP 3rd meeting**
Ministerial dialogue on finance: “Unlocking public and private finance for land restoration and drought resilience” (item 5 a ii)
The ministerial dialogue addresses the critical need for increased investments to combat land degradation, desertification, and drought, which cost the global economy 10 trillion USD annually. Public finance supports long-term restoration projects, while private finance introduces innovative tools like green bonds and impact investing.
- 2 - 5 pm
Plenary Hall
- COP 4th meeting**
Ministerial Dialogue: Impacts of Land Degradation and Drought on Forced Migration, Security and Prosperity (item 5 a iii)
The ministerial dialogue will examine how sustainable land management (SLM) and drought resilience can address the interconnected challenges of land degradation, forced migration, and conflict. With 3.2 billion people globally affected by land degradation and over 120 million forcibly displaced, these issues undermine stability, security and livelihoods.
High Level Segment - Closing Session, beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- 3 - 6 pm
MET-09
- COP 5th meeting**
Formal statements session
List of speakers and their statements
- [GABON](#)
Her Excellency Ms. Arcadie Svetlana Minguengui Ndomba, Minister of Environment, Climate and Human-Wildlife Conflict
[Read Statement](#)
- [BANGLADESH](#)
Her Excellency Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hasan Minister (Advisor), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
[Read Statement](#)
- [MALI](#)

Her Excellency Ms. Doumbia Mariam Tangara, Minister of Environment,
Sanitation and Sustainable Development

[Read Statement](#)

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

[Read Statement](#)

THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

[Read Statement](#)

LESOTHO

His Excellency Mr. Letsema Adontsi, Minister of Environment and Forestry

[Read Statement](#)

NICARAGUA

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Farrara Lashtar, Minister Advisor to the President
of the Republic for Africa, the Middle East, and Arab Countries

[Read Statement](#)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Saeed Al Nuaimi, Undersecretary of the
Ministry of Climate Change & Environment

[Read Statement](#)

FRANCE

His Excellency Mr. Thani Mohamed Soilihi, Secretary of State for
Francophonie and International Partnerships

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SPAIN

His Excellency Mr. Hugo Alfonso Moran Fernández, Secretary of State for the
Environment

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SERBIA

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PORTUGAL

His Excellency Mr. Emídio Sousa, Secretary of State for Environment

[Read Statement](#)

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

His Excellency Mr. Moutaz Douaji, Deputy Minister of Local Administration
and Environment

[Read Statement](#)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

His Excellency Mr. Khamis Hamza Khamis Deputy Minister from the Vice
President's Office (Union and Environment)

[Read Statement](#)

AUSTRALIA

Ms Kim Farrant, Assistant Secretary, Future Drought Fund Strategy and
Delivery Branch, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries

and Forestry
[Read Statement](#)

[DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO](#)

Mr. Toirambe Bamoninga Benjamin, Secretary General for the Environment and Sustainable Development
[Read Statement](#)

[SURINAME](#)

Mr. Iemdaad Nasser Rodjan, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment
[Read Statement](#)

[ARMENIA](#)

Ms. Narine Hakobyan, Deputy Head of Land and Underground resources policy Department of The Ministry of Environment
[Read Statement](#)

[CANADA](#)

His Excellency Mr. Jean-Philippe Linteau Ambassador to Saudi Arabia
[Read Statement](#)

[BARBADOS](#)

The Hon. Mr. Adrian Forde Minister of Environment and National Beautification
[Read Statement](#)

[SRI LANKA](#)

His Excellency Mr. Omar Lebbe Ameer Ajwad, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia
[Read Statement](#)

[PHILIPPINES](#)

Mr. Rommel A. Romato, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Philippines in Riyadh
[Read Statement](#)

[NEPAL](#)

Mr. Rajendra KC, Head of Delegation
[Read Statement](#)

[PANAMA](#)

Ms. Erika Gomez, Lead Negotiator
[Read Statement](#)

[MONGOLIA](#)

[Read Statement](#)

[International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#)

Ms. Grethel Aguilar, Director General
[Read Statement](#)

[Foundation for the Development of the Dry and Semi-Arid Zones of Mesoamerica](#)

Ms. Susan Gardner, Director of the Ecosystems Division

[Read Statement](#)

[UNCCD Interregional Group Central Asia - Russia](#)
[Read Statement](#)

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

10 am - 1 pm

CRIC 1st meeting

Plenary Hall

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

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/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

FORTHCOMING OFFICIAL MEETINGS

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

OFFICIAL MEETINGS

10 am - 1 pm

Joint CRIC&CST Plenaries

Plenary Hall

CRIC 2nd session

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties (item 3).

([ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/7–ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/8](#) and [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/8](#))

Interactive dialogue

Introduction and discussion

CST 2nd session

Interfacing science and policy, and sharing knowledge (item 4)

(c) Information on modalities for reporting on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

[\(ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/7-ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/8, ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/8\)](#)

*Interactive dialogue
Introduction and discussion*

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

3 - 6 pm

COW 2nd meeting

Main Committee Room 1. Policy frameworks and thematic issues (item 4).

- Migration ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/18](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/22](#))
- Land tenure ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/19](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/22](#))

Introduction and discussion

2. 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (item 2).

(c) Follow-up on the midterm evaluation of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification ([ICCD/COP\(16\)/2](#), [ICCD/COP\(16\)/22](#))

Introduction and discussion

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

3 - 6 pm

CRIC 3rd meeting

Plenary Hall

Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms (item 4).

(b) Update on the Global support Programme in support of UNCCD reporting ([ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/7-ICCD/COP\(16\)/CST/8](#) and [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/8](#))

(a) Report by the Global Environment Facility on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification/land degradation and drought ([ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/4](#) and [ICCD/CRIC\(22\)/8/Add.1](#))

Introduction and discussion

CONTACT GROUPS

2 - 3 pm

COW Contact Group on Budget

MET-16

(closed meeting)

6 - 8 pm	COW Contact Group on Budget
MET-16	(closed meeting)
6 - 8 pm	CoW Contact Group on other matters
MET-12	(closed meeting)
6 - 8 pm	CRIC Contact Group
MET-13	(closed meeting)

SPECIAL EVENTS

10:00 - 11:30 am	Riyadh Action Agenda: Water Resilience Dialogue
MET-32	(closed meeting)
1:00 - 2:30 pm	Türkiye's Vision Document on Combating Desertification: National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification
MET-24	

ACTION AGENDA

8:30 - 8:45 am	Inauguration of Finance Discussions: Keynote - Saudi Environment Fund
MET-33	A Keynote address by the CEO of the Saudi Environment Fund, sponsor of COP16's finance discussions, on their unique model for financing land and climate positive initiatives
9 - 10 am	Inauguration of Finance Discussions: Needs and Opportunities
MET-33	This session will examine the cost of drought and land degradation and begin to explore how we can find solutions, setting the context for further discussions and panels on financing land and drought throughout COP16. It will highlight three foundational reports: UNCCD's financial needs assessment report, the Islamic Development Bank's sustainable financing modalities for drylands report, and Germany's economics of drought report. Making inaugural remarks and launching the reports will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Executive Secretary Ibrahim Thiaw • Islamic Development Bank President H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser • The Federal Republic of Germany's Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Niels Annen
1 - 2 pm	Leveraging Islamic Finance to Combat Desertification
MET-33	This session explores the challenges and opportunities for mobilizing Islamic finance to support UNCCD-aligned goals – strengthening drought resilience and tackling land degradation and desertification.
2 - 3 pm	Financing Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa
MET-33	
3:00 - 4:15 pm	Harnessing the Power of the Market
MET-33	

This panel will explore market mechanisms such as bonds, credits, insurance, KPI-linked debt, and microfinance as critical tools for sustainable land management. Panelists will discuss the challenges in mobilizing resources and examine how these financial instruments can mitigate risks and incentivize sustainable practices.

4:15 - 4:30 pm

MET-33

Launch of the Takaful Alliance

This event is to announce the Global Takaful Alliance, a public-private partnership to enhance the financial resilience of Muslim communities to rising risks, including climate change, land degradation, drought and environmental challenges, through Takaful, a financial resilience tool suitable to Muslim communities.

4:30 - 5:30 pm

MET-33

Investing for Impact

A subsequent panel will address challenges in attracting private sector funding, highlighting successful case studies and innovative financing approaches to foster public-private partnerships and drive sustainable land management investment.

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.

8:30 - 9:00 am

MET-22

Indigenous Peoples Caucus

(closed meeting)

8:30 - 10:00 am

MET-09

Meeting of the Regional Implementation Annex for Africa (Annex I)

(closed meeting)

8:30 - 10:00 am

MET-10

Meeting of the Regional Implementation Annex for Asia (Annex II)

(closed meeting)

8:30 - 10:00 am

MET-26

Meeting of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)

(closed meeting)

9 - 10 am

MET-22

CSO Consultations

9 - 10 am

MET-11

Meeting of the Regional Implementation Annex for Latin America and the Caribbean (Annex III)

(closed meeting)

1 - 2 pm

Group of Arab States coordination meeting

MET-32	(closed meeting)
2 - 3 pm	Meeting of the C-SIDS Ministers and UNCCD
MET-21	(closed meeting)
6:30 - 8:30 pm	Peace Forest Initiative High-level Partners Roundtable
MET-29	

SIDE EVENTS

The information below is reproduced as received and does not imply any opinion or endorsement by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

9:00 - 10:30 am MET-01	181 - UNDP Catalyzing Private Investment to Protect and Restore Our Land: A New Partnership Between UNCCD and the Nature Investment Facility
9:00 - 10:30 am MET-05	275 - Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH - GIZ The Economics of Drought – presentation of the UNCCD Flagship Report
9:00 - 10:30 am MET-07	339 - Bankers Without Boundaries (BwB) Aligning Carbon and Biodiversity Credits: Actionable Pathway for Carbon and Biodiversity Credit Mechanisms
9:00 - 10:30 am MET-06	63 - People Environment and Sustainability Foundation Women, Culture and Climate and Land Rights in Sub Saharan Africa
11:00 - 12:30 pm MET-01	100 - Unpacking the intersections between desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD), climate change, peace and security, and displacement: a case from the MENA region
11:00 - 12:30 pm MET-04	164 - OPEC Fund For International Development Arab Coordination Group (ACG): 50 years of Financing Resilient & Sustainable Development
11:00 - 12:30 pm MET-24	390 - Unlocking the Power of Nature Finance for Global Resilience. Lessons learned and benefits from nature finance for achieving land degradation neutrality
11:00 - 12:30 pm MET-03	NCVC Harnessing the Power of mangroves conserving and restoring Saudi Arabia's mangrove ecosystems to unlock environmental social and economic benefits for local communities.
1:00 - 2:30 pm MET-05	336 - African Development Bank HIGH LEVEL EVENT MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL: CURRENT STATUS AND WAY FORWARD
1:00 - 2:30 pm MET-01	Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development From Thirst to Prosperity: Investing in a Water-Smart Future for the Arab World
3:30 - 5:00 pm MET-02	204 - Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative / GIZ Financing Land Restoration - Joint Action Across Conventions

3:30 - 5:00 pm MET-06	251 - Italian Agency for Development Cooperation NEXUS Approaches and Source-To-Sea Management: Tools for Enhancing Convention's sustainable land management pursuits
3:30 - 5:00 pm MET-07	369 - Commonwealth Secretariat Sustainable Land Management and Climate Resilience: Addressing Desertification and Land Degradation in the Commonwealth
6:00 - 7:30 pm MET-06	365 - Islamic Development Bank Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) support for Life on Land
6 - 8 pm MET-07	Extraordinary Ministerial Council Meeting for the Panafrican Agency for the Great Green Wall

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

2 December 2024

1st meeting

Opening of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties by the President of the fifteenth session

His Excellency Alain Richard Donwahi, President of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session, opened the session and delivered his opening statement.

Election of the President [item 1 (a)]

The Conference elected by acclamation His Excellency Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen Al Fadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia as President of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16).

The President made a statement.

Welcoming remarks were made by His Royal Highness Faisal bin Abdulaziz bin Mohammed bin Ayyaf Al-Muqrin, Mayor of Riyadh; Her Excellency Amina Mohamed, United Nations Deputy-Secretary-General (via video); and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; .An opening statement was made by His Excellency Oyun-Erdene Luvsannamsrai, Prime Minister of Mongolia, as host of the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties. A keynote statement was made by Mr. Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam.

The Conference viewed a video on the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience partnership (MEWA).

The President made an announcement on the Riyadh Drought Resilience partnership.

A statement was made by His Excellency Muhammed Al-Jasser, President of the Islamic Development Bank President on behalf of the Arab Coordination Group.

Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the African Group), the European Union, Bhutan (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group), Ecuador (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group),

Hungary (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV)) and Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Regional Implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V)).

A statement was also made by a representative of civil society.

Establishment of Friends of the Chair Group

The Conference established a Friends of the Chair Group on matters relating to the “Riyadh Political Declaration of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD at its 16th session”.

The meeting was adjourned.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

2 December 2024

Meeting 2 a

Organizational matters: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies (ICCD/COP(16)/1/Rev.1) [item 1 (b)]

The Conference began its consideration of the item and adopted its provisional agenda for the session.

Election of officers other than the President [item 1 (c)]

(i) Election of Vice-Presidents

The Conference elected as Vice-Presidents of its sixteenth session: Mr. Luis Constantino of Angola and Mr. Khalid Cherri of Morocco (group of African States), Ms. Ariuntuya Dorjsuren of Mongolia (group of Asia-Pacific States), Mr. Rodrigo Andrade of Chile and Mr. Julius Smith of Trinidad and Tobago (group of Latin American and Caribbean States), and Ms. Juliane Wiesenhuetter of Germany and Ms. Stephanie Piers of Switzerland (group of Western European and Other States).

Organization of work, including the sessions of the subsidiary bodies [item 1 (f)]

The President (Saudi Arabia) made a statement.

The Conference adopted its proposed schedule of work as orally revised for the session.

The Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole and to allocate to the Committee the agenda items detailed in paragraph 16 of the agenda.

The Conference designated Ms. Anna Louise of Italy as the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and representatives from the private sector, and admission of observers [item 1 (e)]

The Conference decided to accredit, as observers, the organizations and private sector entities, as listed in documents ICCD/COP(16)/14.

The meeting was adjourned.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

2 December 2024

Meeting 2 b

Ministerial Round Table: From Geneva to Riyadh and beyond, enhancing global and national policy instruments for a proactive drought management approach.

- Chair: His Excellency Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia
- Co-Chairs: Her Excellency Bernice Swarts, Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of South Africa and Mr. Cary Fowler, Special Envoy for Global Food Security of the United States of America.
- Introductory remarks: Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- Keynote speakers: Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha, Global Director for the World Bank Group's Water Global Practice, His Excellency Muhammed Al-Jasser, the President of the Islamic Development Bank, and Ms. Shaima AlSheiby, Vice President of OPEC Fund for International Development

Round table 1 was co-chaired by Her Excellency Bernice Swarts (Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of South Africa) and Mr. Cary Fowler (Special Envoy for Global Food Security of the United States of America).

Introductory remarks were delivered by Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw (Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

2 December 2024

1st meeting

The Chair (Italy) made an introductory statement.

Allocation of agenda items and organization of work of the Committee of the Whole

The Chair made a statement regarding the agenda items allocated to the Committee by the Conference of the Parties.

Establishment of Contact Groups and appointment of facilitators

The Committee decided to establish the following Contact Groups: Contact Group 1 on programme and budget to be facilitated by Mr. Balchinluvsan Lkhagvasuren of Mongolia, and Contact Group 2 on other COW-related matters to be facilitated by Mr. Asher Nkegbe of Ghana.

Programme and budget [item 6]

(a) *Programme and budget for the biennium 2025–2026*

(b) *Financial performance for the Convention trust funds*

The Committee began its consideration of the sub-items.

Introductory statements were made by the representatives of the UNCCD secretariat and the United Nations Board of Auditors.

Statements were made by the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the African Group), Japan, and the European Union.

The representatives of the UNCCD secretariat and the United Nations Board of Auditors responded to comments made from the floor.

(c) Report of the Evaluation Office

The Committee began its consideration of the sub-item.

An introductory statement was made by the representative of the UNCCD secretariat.

A statement was made by the representative of China.

The representative of the UNCCD secretariat responded to comments made from the floor.

The Committee decided that that further discussions on item 6 as a whole be taken up in COW Contact group 1.

Policy frameworks and thematic issues [item 4]

The Committee began its consideration of the item.

- Drought

Introductory statements were made by the Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought and by the representative of the UNCCD secretariat.

Statements were made by the representatives of Eswatini, Togo, the United States, the European Union, Argentina, Brazil, China, the Marshall Islands, Mexico and Algeria.

A statement was also made by the representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations as well as by a representative of civil society.

The Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought and the representative of the UNCCD secretariat responded to comments made from the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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 [UN Web TV website](#), the [COP 16 page](#) of the [UNCCD website](#).

FUNDING FOR ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for eligible participants will be distributed from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Please ensure you collect your allowance during these hours at the DSA room, which is located in Area C.

KEY REPORTS

- Investing in Land's Future: Financial Needs Assessment for UNCCD Report

When: Tuesday, 3 December 2024, 08:45–09:45

Where: MET-33

The report highlights that the world needs US\$1 billion a day - the equivalent of the annual amount wasted on polluting subsidies - to reverse land degradation, restore ecosystems and build drought resilience, and underlines the urgent need to scale up financial commitments and promote innovative solutions to bridge the funding gap.

- Economics of Drought: Investing in nature-based solutions for drought resilience Report

When: Tuesday, 3 December 2024, 10:00–10:30

Where: MET-05

This report highlights the underestimated economic costs of drought, which go beyond immediate damage to impact critical sectors such as energy, health and the wider economy. By investing in sustainable land and water management, the report highlights how nature-based solutions not only mitigate the multi-billion dollar costs of man-made drought, but also deliver far-reaching economic, social and environmental benefits.

LOST AND FOUND

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

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

All journalists must be accredited to attend. Accreditation can be completed through the [Online Registration System \(ORS\)](#). Additional information, including the full agenda and session details, is available on the [COP16 website](#).

For inquiries, contact press@unccd.int

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 ; phone: 00966-544050235) or Mahamadou Tari Bako (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).

