

UNCCD COP 16 Media Kit



02-13 DEC
2024



COP16, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



UNCCD
COP16
Riyadh | 2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. What is COP16 and why does it matter?

UNCCD COP 16 is more than a critical milestone; it represents a moonshot moment to raise global ambition and accelerate action on land and drought resilience through a people-centered approach.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the global voice for land and one of the three major UN treaties known as the Rio Conventions alongside climate and biodiversity.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the main decision-making body of UNCCD's 197 Parties – 196 countries and the European Union. COP16 will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 2-13 December 2024 under the theme "Our Land. Our Future."

Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of UNCCD, COP16 will be the largest UN land conference to date, and the first UNCCD COP held in the Middle East and North Africa region, which knows first-hand the impacts of desertification, land degradation and drought.

COP16 is poised to be a game-changer, marking a renewed global commitment to accelerate investment and action to restore land and boost drought resilience for the benefit of people and planet.

At COP16, countries are expected to decide on collective actions to:

- Accelerate restoration of degraded land by 2030 and beyond;
- Boost resilience to intensifying droughts and sand and dust storms;
- Restore soil health and scale up nature-positive food production;
- Secure land rights and promote equity for sustainable land stewardship;
- Ensure that land continues to provide climate and biodiversity solutions;
- Unlock economic opportunities, including decent land-based jobs for youth.

For the first time, COP16 will introduce a dual approach with a Negotiation Track and an Action Agenda, both interlinked to achieve bold outcomes in formal negotiations and facilitate the implementation of COP decisions.

1.2 What is the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification?

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) serves as the global voice for land. The Convention unites governments, scientists, policymakers, the 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. More than just an international treaty signed by 197 parties, UNCCD represents a multilateral commitment to mitigating land degradation and advancing land stewardship to ensure food, water, shelter, and economic opportunity for all in an equitable and inclusive manner.



2. Media Accreditation

2.1 Registration Process

To attend COP16, all media representatives must register and obtain accreditation as members of a recognized media organization. Early online registration and accreditation are encouraged to reduce processing time at the venue.

Journalists are invited to apply for accreditation via our [Online Registration System](#)

Media registration for COP16 is a two-step process. The first step requires journalists to obtain advance clearance, which also acts as an official letter of invitation for foreign journalists seeking a visa. To complete the online registration, the following documents are required:

- A recent **passport-size photograph**
- A **valid press card**
- A **copy of the passport** (photo and signature pages) for foreign journalists or a national identity card for local journalists
- A **letter of introduction** on official letterhead from the bureau chief, media house, or publisher that the journalist represents.
- Freelance journalists must provide a letter from the **media organization** assigning them to cover COP16.
- Completed **online accreditation form**, accessible via the COP16 registration portal.

2.2 On-Site Registration Information

Starting **December 1, 2024**, on-site registration will also be available at the accreditation and registration center located at the conference venue during registration hours. Journalists are required to submit all necessary documentation listed above; a passport photograph can be taken on-site if it has not been uploaded online.

Media attending the conference in person will be able to collect their badges at the registration desk at the conference venue in Riyadh from **Friday 29 November until Friday 13 December 2024**.





3. Facilities for Media

3.1 Press Conference Room and daily briefings

Accredited journalists are invited to attend **daily press briefings** in the designated press conference area which will also be live-streamed. The room accommodates up to 150 attendees, offering clear sightlines to all speakers. Interpretation services will be provided in all six official UN languages (**English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, and Russian**). The space is equipped with a live feed and a raised platform for additional cameras.

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

3.2 Media Center features

The COP16 venue also features a fully equipped media center designed to meet broadcast and online media requirements. It includes **192 workstations**, multiple broadcast booths, seating areas, tables for media representatives, and designated spots for TV and radio stations, as well as stand-up interviews. A fully equipped workroom with power outlets, a radio and video studio, and a control room ensures smooth audiovisual operations throughout the event. A **limited number of designated booths** are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you would like to use the press conference or studio facilities, please contact:
press@unccd.int.

3.3 Internet and IT support

Free wireless Internet will be available throughout the conference venue with dedicated cable connections in the broadcast area for high bandwidth requirements. Journalists are encouraged to bring their own devices for use in the press working room, where access to the secure wireless network will help avoid congestion in public areas.



4. Information Resources

4.1 Press Releases

The UNCCD Secretariat will issue **media advisories and press releases on key events**. Registered media representatives will receive these by email. The UNCCD, on behalf of partner organizations accredited to COP16, will facilitate, as appropriate, the dissemination of press releases to all COP16 accredited journalists.

To join the distribution list, please contact press@unccd.int.

Press releases will also be available on the [Press Release section](#) of the UNCCD website.

4.2 Daily Journal

Each day's events will be announced in the [Daily Journal](#), accessible through a dedicated link on the COP16 website.

The [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#) (ENB) will provide **comprehensive daily multimedia coverage** of COP 16, including detailed reports, photographs, and analyses of the proceedings.

All ENB photos are free to use with [attribution](#).

4.3 Conference App

The [UNCCD Conference App](#) is available for download on all major app stores. The app provides real-time updates on the schedule of meetings, press conferences, news, press releases, and other essential information about COP16.

4.4 Guide and Manuals

Essential guides for COP16, including the Code of Conduct, informal guide, and security arrangements, are available on the [UNCCD Official COP16 Website](#).



5. COP Agenda

5.1 Overview of Key meetings

A summary of the main COP16 meetings open to journalists and media representatives is provided below. The full agenda, including detailed side event schedules, is regularly updated online.

For comprehensive information, including expected outcomes and story ideas, visit the [COP16 official website](#).

The **High-Level (ministerial) Segment** will take place on Monday, December 2, 2024, and Tuesday, December 3, 2024, respectively. The official COP16 session will open on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

Follow the links below to access the detailed agenda and descriptions of official meeting outcomes:

- A complete agenda in all UN languages: [COP16 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2024 Schedule](#)
- Overview schedule of COP16 events and Action Agenda: [Negotiations Track and Action Agenda Overview](#)
- Decisions, outcomes, and reports from the conference : [COP16 Official Documents](#)

6. Media Access and Engagement

6.1 Sessions open to media

Accredited journalists are welcome to attend all sessions open to the media, including the **opening plenary, the High-level segment opening, and plenary sessions of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC)**. Journalists also have access to **side events, exhibitions, product launches, and cultural events** open to other delegates. In cases where demand exceeds capacity, access may be limited in accordance with UN safety and security protocols, with entry on a first-come, first-served basis.

6.2 Guidelines for Restricted Meetings

Journalists are kindly reminded that attendance at informal meetings—such as contact groups, regional or interest group discussions, and closed stakeholder sessions—is restricted to authorized participants only and not open to the media.

6.3 Blue and Green Zone

For the first time, the UNCCD COP will feature **Blue and Green Zones** where accredited media will be able to engage with a broad range of stakeholders, learn about new technologies and innovative solutions to combat desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as participate in cultural and sports activities.



7. Digital and Social Media

COP16 will maintain an active virtual presence across multiple platforms, providing real-time updates, engaging content, and coverage for a global audience.

Follow COP16 on Social Media:

- **X (formerly Twitter):** [@UNCCD](#)
- **LinkedIn:** [UNCCD Page](#)
- **Facebook:** [UNCCD Facebook Page](#)
- **YouTube:** [UNCCD Channel](#)

Stay Engaged:

- Use and follow hashtags
 - **Primary hashtag:** #COP16Riyadh
 - **Secondary hashtags:** #UNCCDCOP16, #OurLandOurFuture, #UNited4Land
- Join the conversation with live tweeting from [@UNCCD](#)

Social Media Kit:

Download the [Social Media Kit](#) for branded assets, templates, and guidelines to amplify your coverage. Visit the [COP16 website](#) for more details.

8. Press Contacts

For media inquiries, please contact:

- **UNCCD Press Office:** press@unccd.int
- **Ms. Fragkiska Megaloudi/UNCCD Press and Media Officer**
+966 56 896 8947 fmegaloudi@unccd.int
- **Portland Communications:** unccd@portland-communications.com

9. Logistics

9.1 COP16 Venue Details

COP16 will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, at the following location:

Address:

3864 Prince Turki Ibn Abdulaziz Al Awwal Rd, Hittin, RRHB8150, Riyadh 13516

Additional Resources:

- [UNCCD Official COP16 Website](#): Detailed logistical information, including venue access, transport, and accommodations.
- [Host Country's COP16 Website](#): Additional resources and practical details from the host country.