



The second extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties COP(ES-2)

Overview of key events and dates

6 September: Notification sent to all Parties; pre-session documentation available online in all UN languages

8 October: Deadline for Parties willing to participate in the informal budget group to inform secretariat at informalgroupbudget@unccd.int

18 October – 12 November: Informal online group on budget

9 December: Deadline for Parties to register to COP(ES-2) via <https://www.unccd.int/conventionconference-parties-cop/cop-es-2-extraordinary-session>

9 December: Deadline for Parties to submit the formal credentials

6-9 December: COP(ES-2) through silence procedure (not online or in-person meetings)

Questions and answers

With the aim to assist Parties in preparing for the second extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties (COP(ES-2)), the UNCCD secretariat has compiled into this paper practical information on the COP and its preparatory process in the form of questions and answers. This is an informal paper and should not be referred to as an UNCCD official document. For further questions and clarifications, please contact the UNCCD secretariat at secretariat@unccd.int

1. Why is COP(ES-2) organised?

The fifteenth session of the COP was scheduled for 2021 but due to the COVID pandemic, it has been postponed to 2022. The UNCCD budget that was approved by COP 14 covers the years 2020-2021, and the extraordinary session is organised to decide on an interim budget for 2022. This will ensure that the secretariat and the Global Mechanism dispose of the resources required to function smoothly despite the postponement of COP 15.

2. Who authorized the organization of COP(ES-2)?

As it became clear that COP 15 could not be organised in 2021, the COP Bureau considered the situation and building on similar experiences in the UN system, the President of COP 14 requested that COP(ES-2) be convened to consider and approve an interim programme budget for 2022. The request of the COP President was communicated to the UNCCD Parties on 28 June, and after receiving expressions of support from more than one third of the Parties as specified in rule 4 paragraph 3 of the COP Rules of Procedures, the secretariat went ahead with the organisation of COP(ES-2).

3. When will the COP(ES-2) be held?

The extraordinary session of the COP will take place from 6 to 9 December 2021 through a silence/written procedure. There will be not online or in-person meetings during the COP(ES-2).

4. Is there an online opening session?

There will be not online or other type of meetings during the COP. Circulation of written statements prepared by the COP President for the opening and respectively closure of the session will be made via



e-mail to all registered participants in all UN languages. Respective written statements will be also made available online on the COP(ES-2) webpage.

5. Should my country or region prepare for an opening or closing statement?

There will be no need for regional or country statements as the session will unfold through the silence procedure. However, if regional groups, parties, or observers will want to make any statements, these should be sent in advance to the secretariat at: secretariat@unccd.int and will be posted on the COP(ES-2) webpage.

6. What is a silence procedure?

The “silence procedure”, which is also known as the “written procedure” or the “no objection procedure”, is a procedure that is used by certain United Nations bodies to adopt decisions, while not meeting in person. Where a plenary meeting is not practical, a draft decision is circulated in writing by the presiding officer of the body concerned under a silence procedure, usually lasting up to 72 hours. The use of a written silence procedure presupposes prior consultations or negotiations about the decision that is tabled for adoption. The presiding officer usually makes sure that no issues would arise, or no objection would be made against the draft decision during the period of silence. If the silence is not broken, the decision is presumed adopted.

7. How is the silence procedure used at the UNCCD COP(ES-2)?

The COP 14 President will submit by email a written statement and a draft budget decision text for consideration of all registered Parties on 6 December, 12:30 p.m CET, and place it under the silence procedure until 9 December, 12:30 p.m. CET. If the silence is not broken (i.e. no comment has been received during the preceding 72 hours), the decision will be considered adopted, and the President will announce same through a written statement that will be transmitted to delegations at 1:30 p.m. Bonn time (Central European Time) on the same day, thereby also marking the end of COP ES-2. If the silence procedure is broken, following consultations and further agreement of the COP Bureau members, the session will be suspended to allow more time for consultations among Parties. The resumed session may be held for a silence period of 48 hours.

8. What if some Parties do not accept the proposed draft decision?

Those Parties that do not accept the proposed draft decision negotiated and agreed by the Informal Contact group on budget, may submit their comments in writing to the secretariat. In this case it is considered that the silence procedure is broken. To address them, the COP (ES-2) session will be suspended, the COP President and the secretariat will consult with the commenting Party and, if necessary, other Parties, to find a solution. Once agreement has been achieved, the COP session with a silence procedure will resume. It may be held for a silence period of another 48 hours. However, the preparatory process before the COP is meant to ensure that the draft decision that is circulated by the COP President on 6 December is acceptable to all Parties.

9. What is needed to be able to participate at COP(ES-2)?

Similarly to any COP, participation in COP(ES-2) requires participants to register and to provide a confirmation of their full powers to represent their country at the session (credentials).

10. How do I register?

A nomination letter providing the names of the representatives should be submitted as soon as possible, and in any case no later than 9 December. This letter is submitted through an online link on the UNCCD website: <https://www.unccd.int/conventionconference-parties-cop/cop-es-2-extraordinary-session>



11. How do I submit the credentials of delegation?

In accordance with Rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the COP, the credentials of delegations shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. The credentials are necessary for ensuring that the representatives have the authority to negotiate in the COP context. The credentials of the delegations can be submitted through the same above link as for registration. The credentials can also be sent by email to secretariat@unccd.int in case of unavailability of the document during the registration.

12. What is the preparatory process for COP(ES-2)?

An informal group on budget will be convened via both online and email exchanges from 18 October to 12 November. The documentation for COP(ES-2), consisting of a provisional annotated agenda and a document called “Interim programme and budget for 2022”, are already available in all UN languages on the COP(ES-2) webpage¹.

13. Who participates in the informal group on budget?

Participation in the informal group on budget will be open to all delegations, and Parties who would like to be part of group should contact the secretariat no later than 08 October 2021 by sending an email to informalgroupbudget@unccd.int. Parties are also asked to notify, for information purposes, the Bureau members representing their region.

14. How will the informal group function?

The composition and operation of the group will be constituted similarly to the budget contact group format at the ordinary COP sessions, although through online meetings and email exchanges. It will start by a presentation of the secretariat on the proposed interim programme budget, and regional and interest groups as well as individual Parties may provide their feedback to the proposal if they so wish. With the guidance of a Chair nominated by the COP President and support from the secretariat, the group will negotiate the draft decision, with the aim to produce an agreed version that will be submitted to the COP 14 President and used as the basis of the silence procedure. As per the established procedure for informal consultations, the group will work in English only. The first online meeting of the informal group on budget is planned for 18 October.

15. What will happen to budget matters after COP(ES-2)?

According to the planned schedule of COP(ES-2), the decision on the interim programme and budget for 2022 would be adopted and distributed for the information of Parties in the afternoon of 9 December (CET). After the adoption of the interim programme and budget for 2022, all Parties would receive the formal request for their next year’s contribution to the UNCCD core budget, as usual. COP 15 (scheduled for May 2022) will provide a proper negotiating environment for Parties to consider in detail the 2022-2023 budget.

¹ <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-es-2-bonn-2021>