



PRESS INVITATION

**SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (CRIC 17)**

**28-30 JANUARY 2019
ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTER
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA**

The Seventeenth Session of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CRIC 17) will be hosted by the Government of Guyana.

Venue of the session

CRIC 17 will be held at the following conference location:

Arthur Chung Conference Center (ACCC)
5 (E) Half Orchid Drive
Liliendaal
Greater Georgetown, Guyana
Phone: 592-222 7503
acc@acc.gov.gy
<http://www.gicc.gov.gy/>

The session will open on Monday, 28 January 2019. Working hours will normally be from 10:00hrs to 13:00hrs and from 15:00hrs to 18:00hrs.

Requirements for Media Participation

To attend the Conference, all the media representatives are required to register and obtain clearance from the Secretariat to cover the meeting. Online pre-registration for media representatives starts on **22 November 2018** and ends on **10 January 2019**. Online pre-registration will be done via the UNCCD CRIC17 webpage: <www.unccd.int/cric-17-online-registration>.

Foreign journalists are especially encouraged to register online during this period in order to obtain the documentation they need to apply for visas or fundraise to attend the Conference. Whereas journalists from Guyana may register onsite, they too are encouraged to pre-register



online during this period in order to speed up the on-site issuance of badges upon arrival at the start of the Conference.

The following documentation is required to complete the online pre-registration and obtain clearance to cover the meeting:

- A letter of introduction from the bureau chief on a letterhead of the media house or publisher you will represent (freelance journalists can obtain this from the editor of a media house that is willing to support them)
- A copy of the passport, for foreigner journalists, and a government approved photo identification card, for Guyanese journalists
- A recent passport-size colour photograph not larger than 35 x 45 mm
- A valid press card
- Duly filled online accreditation form

Once the request for online registration has been cleared, the UNCCD secretariat will validate and send a QR-coded confirmation of pre-registration to each applicant by e-mail. Any foreign journalist who needs an official invitation letter should email the request with a copy of the validated confirmation to the UNCCD press office address provided at the end of this message.

Onsite Registration

Once the pre-registration period is closed, registration will resume on site just prior to the start of the Conference.

Onsite registration for journalists will take place from Sunday, **27 January** to **Wednesday, 30 January** and from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm** and from **2 pm to 5 pm**. Any changes to the opening hours of the registration desk will be communicated in the Official *Journal* of the session. Those applying onsite must submit all the required documents in original, except the photo, which will be taken on site.

Pre-registered journalists will finalize their registration on-site and collect their badges at the Conference Center from **27 January 2019 through 30 January 2019** during the registration hours. To collect their badges, applicants must present the originals of the documentation that was submitted electronically. A photo will be taken on site if none was submitted electronically. Presentation of the pre-issued QR-coded confirmation letter will accelerate onsite registration.

Visas, Health and other Requirements,

Journalists are responsible for making their own travel arrangements, hotel reservations and getting the visas, health and other insurances or requirements needed to enter Guyana. Anyone requiring a visa can visit the closest Embassy of Guyana or apply online by filling the visa application form at <http://staging.doc.gov.gy/> and submitting a scanned copy of the passport bio-data page. Guidance about visas will be provided via the website mentioned above.



Foreign journalists travelling to Guyana to report on the Conference, including those travelling as part of their government delegation, are advised to apply for their visas early. Online visa application starts on **Thursday, 26 October 2018**. Additional information about the logistical, visa, health and other requirements relating to the Conference in Guyana, is provided in the document titled, "*Information for participants*", provided online via this link:

<https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/relevant-links/2018-10/CRIC17%20_Information%20for%20participants.pdf>

Press Facilities and Working Modalities

Identity badges must be worn at all times while on the Conference premises. Access to the session venue is permitted only upon presentation of a valid badge.

Access to the meeting rooms and venues depends on the accreditation form under which one participates. A dedicated working space exclusively for the press and media will be provided at the conference venue. However, media representatives need to bring their own working tools.

At least two official press conferences are envisioned: at the start and at the end of the Conference. A media kit on the Conference will be issued by 14 December 2018.

Media Training

A two-day pre-conference media training is expected to take place in Georgetown in mid-January 2019. The training is designed to enable journalists to understand the process and issues to be covered by CRIC 17 and, thereafter, by the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Fall 2019.

For information about accreditation, participation, interviews or other media-related inquiries, contact:

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