



Ref.: COP(ES-2)/2021/GEN

NOTE VERBALE

The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) presents its compliments to the diplomatic missions and has the honour to inform that, further, to Note Verbale issued on 28 June 2021, the Secretariat has received, as of 2 September, letters from 89 Parties to the Convention, communicating their support to the convening of the second extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties COP(ES-2) from 6 to 9 December 2021. The COP(ES-2) be conducted through a silence/written procedure for the purpose of considering and approving an interim programme budget for the secretariat's operations in 2022.

As indicated in the above-mentioned Note Verbale, it is requested that representatives of Parties to the Convention be provided with full powers to participate in the session. 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. Parties are kindly requested to observe this requirement.

It is brought to the attention of States that are not Parties at the time of COP(ES-2) that, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 7 of the Convention and rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which is qualified in matters covered by the Convention and which has informed the Permanent Secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object.

The secretariat would be grateful if the Government of your country would kindly nominate the representative(s) who will attend COP(ES-2). **Online registration will be available from 15 September 2021 and it will be announced on UNCCD website.**¹ All participants are required to upload an official nomination letter and full powers confirming their capacity to attend the COP(ES-2) session.

The provisional annotated agenda and the main document for the session addressing the interim programme budget for 2022 are made available as advance copies in English only on the UNCCD website². Ensuing language versions will be posted as soon as available.

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Distribution:

To country Parties and observers to the United Nations Convention on Combat Desertification through their national focal points and diplomatic missions

¹ Please check the following link for COP(ES-2) webpage <https://www.unccd.int/conventionconference-parties-cop/cop-es-2-extraordinary-session>

² Same as above



The secretariat would also like to inform that, an informal group of representatives of Parties is being formed to support preparation of the interim budget for 2022. The composition and operation of the informal group will be constituted along the lines of the Budget Contact Group format at ordinary sessions of the COP. Participation in the informal group on budget is open to all delegations. Accordingly, Parties who may wish to be part of the informal group are invited to express their intention by contacting the Secretariat no later than 08 October 2021, at informalgroupbudget@unccd.int. Parties may also consider, for information purposes, notifying the Bureau members representing their respective region. Following the appointment of its Chair by the COP President, the informal group on budget will start its work through a virtual meeting on 18 October 2021.

The informal group on budget is planned to undertake its work from 18 October to 12 November 2021. It will conduct its work with the support of the Secretariat. The informal group will work in English on the basis of the working document prepared by the Executive Secretary and will submit the outcome of its work to the COP President in the form of a draft decision on the interim budget for 2021. The draft will then be submitted, through the COP President, in all UN languages to the Parties for their consideration at the second extraordinary session of the COP (COP(ES-2)).

The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the diplomatic missions the assurances of its highest consideration.

(Signed UNCCD seal)
Bonn, 6 September 2021