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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Conference of the Parties

Fourteenth session

New Delhi, India, 2–13 September 2019

Information for participants

Note by the secretariat

The fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will be held from 2 to 13 September 2019 in New Delhi, India. This document contains general information for participants. Additional information will be provided in due course on the UNCCD website <www.unccd.int> and the COP 14 website of the host country.¹

1. Secretariat

The secretariat of the UNCCD is headed by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, and based in Bonn, Germany, at:

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Langer Eugen
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel.: + 49 228 815 2800
Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99
E-mail: secretariat@unccd.int

2. Host country authorities

The Government of India has established a National Organizing Committee in charge of preparations for COP 14.

For the most up-to-date information, participants are encouraged to visit the host country COP 14 website.

¹ Further information on the COP 14 host country website will be posted on the UNCCD website.

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For any additional information, participants may contact:

1. Shri Jigmet Takpa

Joint Secretary and National Focal Point to the UNCCD

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Road

New Delhi-110 003

India

Tel.: 91-11-24695274

Fax: 91-11-24695277

E-mail: takpa.jigmet@gov.in

2. Ms. Anuradha Singh

Director, Desertification Cell

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Road

New Delhi-110 003

India

Tel.: 91-11-24695272

E-mail: singh.anuradha@nic.in

3. Dr. R. B. Lal

Additional Director

Officer on Special Duty (OSD – COP 14)

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Road

New Delhi-110 003

India

Tel.: 91-11-24695362

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E-mail: rb.lal@nic.in

4. Ms. Manoj Kumar Rai

Under Secretary, Desertification Cell

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Road

New Delhi-110 003

India

Tel.: 91-11-24695404

Fax: 91-11-24695404

E-mail: manoj.rai@nic.in

3. Venue for the session

COP 14 will be held at India Expo Mart Ltd., Greater Noida, at the following address:

Plot Nos. 23–25 & 27–29,

Knowledge Park - II

Gautam Budh Nagar

Greater Noida – 201306

Tel.: 91-120-2328011

E-mail: Info@Indiaexpocentre.com

The session will open on Monday, 2 September 2019. Regional consultations of affected country Parties of the Convention's Regional Implementation Annexes in

preparation of COP 14 will be convened prior to the session from 31 August to 1 September 2019 at the same venue.

Working hours will normally be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Meeting rooms will be made available for informal meetings without interpretation services, subject to arrangements being made with the secretariat.

4. Registration

Registration of participants to COP 14 will consist of the following steps:

Submission of request for registration online

A registration page has been designed to accommodate the participants' registration requests for COP 14. They are invited to pre-register from 1 June 2019 at the following link: <<http://www.unccd.int/cop-14-online-registration>>.

In order to facilitate the verification of requests for registration at the conference, all participants are required to upload an official nomination letter confirming their capacity to attend the COP 14 session.

Participants are also required to upload a standard passport photo in order to accelerate on-site registration and badge collection.

Confirmation and validation e-mail

Once the request for online registration has been cleared, the UNCCD secretariat will validate and send a confirmation of pre-registration to COP 14 to participants by e-mail.

On-site registration

Once pre-registered, delegates will be able to finalize their registration on-site and to collect their badges at the Conference Centre. Participants are to present their passport including their pre-registration QR code to the secretariat for badge issuance. The registration desk will be open at the following times:

- Thursday, 29 August 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m.
- Friday, 30 August to Sunday, 1 September from 09:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m.
- Monday, 2 September to Friday, 13 September from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Participants are requested to wear their issued identity badges at all times since they are required in order to gain access to the Conference Centre.

5. Credentials

The credentials of representatives of Parties and the names of alternative representatives and advisers must be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. To ensure full participation in the work of the conference, it is recommended that representatives of Parties be provided with full powers to participate in the session and, if necessary, to serve as officers of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, as well as of any committees or working groups of the session.

Credentials must be submitted to the UNCCD secretariat. The Bureau of COP 14 will examine the credentials and report to the session.² Observer States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations must also be accredited.

It is strongly recommended that participants fax a copy of their credentials to the secretariat in advance, in order to facilitate their registration during the conference:

Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99

² See document ICCD/COP(14)/21, to be issued in-session.

6. Information for the media

Information on the accreditation procedure for journalists and representatives of media organizations will be made available in due time on the UNCCD media webpage.

For inquiries concerning accreditation or coverage of the event, please contact:

E-mail: Press@unccd.int

Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99

For all other media-related issues, please contact:

Ms. Wagaki Wischniewski

Tel.: + 49 228 815 2820

Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99

E-mail: wwischniewski@unccd.int

7. How to reach the session venue

International flights to New Delhi

Indira Gandhi International Airport is the largest airport in India and one of the major international air transport hubs for northern India and the entire country.

It serves as a major hub or a focus destination for several Indian carriers including Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir and Vistara. Approximately 80 airlines serve this airport.

Indira Gandhi Airport has three active passenger terminals: Terminal 1, Terminal 2 and Terminal 3.

- (a) Terminal 1 is used by airlines such as GoAir, IndiGo and SpiceJet, and is divided into Terminal 1-C, used for domestic arrivals, and Terminal 1-D, used for departures.
- (b) Terminal 2 has been redesigned to temporarily host the carriers of Terminal 1.
- (c) Terminal 3 is the newest terminal.

The Terminals are separate, and a taxi/shuttle bus should be taken to go from one to another. Terminals 1 and 3 are connected to the city centre by metro train and an 8-lane highway.

Transfer services from Indira Gandhi International airport

Indira Gandhi International airport is located just off National Highway 8. The driving time from the airport to central Delhi is approx. 30 minutes.

Metro trains, taxis and buses are available from the airport to the city.

The metro train is the fastest and most comfortable way to reach the city centre. The Orange line of the Delhi Metro connects the New Delhi Railway Station directly with Terminal 3 of the airport (journey time 25 minutes). The first train leaves the airport at 5.15 a.m. and the last at 11.15 p.m. The first train leaves the city at 5.35 am and the last at 11.35 p.m.

Taxi: Taxi services are located immediately outside the arrivals areas; drivers accept payment in cash.

Bus: Air-conditioned bus services are available at the airport's Terminal 3 every 30 minutes, running to the Kashmere Gate Inter State Bus Terminal via Connaught Place.

A UNCCD COP 14 information counter will be set up in the arrivals hall of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, for conference participants. Participants will be presented with a welcome pack which includes maps of the city as well as information brochures on the transport network and facilities.

On dates of registration and departure, transfer services organized by the host country will be provided on a commercial basis from Indira Gandhi International Airport. Up-to-date information will be made available on the host country COP 14 website.

How to reach the India Expo Mart

The India Expo Mart is located in Greater Noida, near the JP Golf Course and within easy reach of Central Delhi and the international airport on the new 8-lane Greater Noida Expressway. The venue is easily accessible by car from central Delhi within 30 mins.

It takes approximately 60 minutes to travel from Indira Gandhi International Airport to India Expo Mart. Approximate driving distance between Indira Gandhi International Airport and India Expo Mart is 49 km.

The venue is easily accessible by car from central Delhi within 45 mins.

Take NH 24 and continue left from Akshardham Setu on Mayur Vihar – Noida road, through the DND underpass. Continue past Film City and onto the Expressway.

Metro train or bus are public transportation alternatives that may be used to reach the India Expo Mart.

It takes 37 minutes to travel from India Expo Mart to Noida City Centre Metro Station. Approximate driving distance between India Expo Mart and Noida City Centre Metro Station is 31 km.

Further information on transportation will be made available on the host country COP 14 website.

Local transportation in New Delhi

Taxi

It is easy to hail a taxi on the street, especially in the city centre, at the airport or at train stations. To avoid the hassle of haggling for a price, try the Delhi Traffic Police Pre-Paid Taxi Booth at the airport or book taxis through your hotel. App-based cab aggregators are also available throughout the city.

Bus

The bus system in New Delhi is cheap and serves many routes. The main bus station is called Delhi Inter State Bus Terminal and is located north of the Old Delhi train station.

Delhi Metro Train

The Delhi Metro Train map is available at http://www.delhimetrorail.com/Zoom_Map.aspx.

8. Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements and are encouraged to finalize their booking and payment as early as possible. It should be noted that a deposit payable by either credit card or bank transfer will be required for processing all hotel reservations.

A list of recommended hotels for participants will be provided on the host country COP 14 website.

9. Services available for participants at the session venue

Information on medical services and emergency numbers, postal, telephone, fax, photocopying and Internet services, catering, cafeterias, bars, banking services, travel

agencies and any other additional services available for participants will be published in the official journal of the session and on the host country COP 14 website.

10. Immigration formalities and customs regulations

Visa regulations

All foreign nationals require a visa to enter India. The only exceptions are nationals of Nepal and Bhutan who can enter India without a visa.³ Delegates are strongly advised to seek information on visa requirements applicable to their case from Indian diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries.⁴

All individual visa seekers are requested to apply for the Indian Visa through an online application link.⁵ To obtain a visa, applicants must hold a passport⁶ valid for at least six months (from the date of arrival in India), fill out an online visa application form, provide a passport-size photograph and present a copy of their confirmation of accreditation. A United Nations letter of invitation to COP 14 and/or a document issued by a relevant home country authority that proves official participation may facilitate obtaining a visa. The duration and number of entries granted to the applicant will be solely at the discretion of the embassy/consulates.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their visa application and collect their passport in person.

The Indian authorities will do their utmost to facilitate entry procedures for all participants. Information on visa procedures can be found on the website of the National Portal of India at <<http://passportindia.gov.in/AppOnlineProject/online/visaServices>> and its appendix <<http://passportindia.gov.in/AppOnlineProject/onlineHtml/visaAppendix.html>>.

For detailed information on immigration regulations please visit the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs website at <<https://www.boi.gov.in/>>.

Health regulations

Foreigners coming from or through yellow fever countries must have a valid vaccination certificate.

Customs regulations

Information on the customs regulations in force in India can be obtained from any Indian embassy or consulate or at the following link: <<http://www.cbic.gov.in/>>.

Any delegate who fails to comply with the customs requirements regarding entry into India may be prevented from entering the country by the local authorities.

11. Intervention at official meetings

United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/270 on the pattern of conferences requests the Secretary-General to, inter alia, redouble his efforts to ensure the highest quality of interpretation and translation services in all six official languages.

In the interest of ensuring that meetings run smoothly, participants are reminded of the need to maintain a normal speed whenever delivering speeches or making statements so that the provision of the required high-quality simultaneous interpretation services can be achieved to the entire satisfaction of all participants.

³ Nepalese and Bhutanese nationals need a visa if entering India from China.

⁴ A list of the Indian diplomatic and consular missions is available at <<https://www.mea.gov.in/indian-missions-abroad-new.htm>>.

⁵ Please check the link: <<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>>.

⁶ The passport should have at least two blank pages for stamping by the Immigration Officer.

12. Side events

Participants who wish to organize side events during the conference are requested to apply to the secretariat using the following telephone, fax and/or e-mail contacts:

Tel.: + 49 228 815 2800
 Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99
 E-mail: sideevents@unccd.int

The application form can be downloaded from the UNCCD website at <www.unccd.int> and should be submitted before 23 June 2019.

Participants are advised that the secretariat is responsible only for room allocation. Time slots and rooms will be accommodated according to availability on a first-come, first-served basis.

Should a side event require interpretation services, simultaneous interpretation from English/French/Spanish and vice versa can be made available on a commercial basis through:

Dr. Sujata Arora
 Adviser
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
 Government of India
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
 Jor Bagh Road
 New Delhi -110 003
 India
 Tel.: 91-11-24695135
 Fax: 91-11-24695135
 E-mail: sujata@nic.in

A list of services available from local providers will be made available on the host country COP 14 website.

For catering services please contact:

Shri Suneesh Buxy
 Deputy Inspector General
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
 Government of India
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
 Jor Bagh Road
 New Delhi -110 003
 India
 Tel.: 91-11-24695233
 Fax: 91-11-24695233
 E-mail: suneesh.buxy@gov.in

Participants are reminded that no side events may be organized during the COP 14 official working hours (see item 3 above) and the special segment of the conference (9–10 September).

A calendar of side and parallel events during COP 14 will be published in the official Journal of the session and will also be available on the host country COP 14 website. For any additional information on side events, please refer to the guidelines posted on the UNCCD website.

13. Sustainable Land Management Business Forum

The Sustainable Land Management Business Forum will take place alongside COP 14 and will bring together chief executive officers and other business leaders, politicians, policymakers, government representatives, opinion leaders, experts and other stakeholders

from across the globe to exchange views on the initiatives undertaken by business and industry entities to achieve land degradation neutrality. Additional information will be available on the UNCCD website.

The forum is co-organized by the host country and the UNCCD secretariat. For more information, please contact:

Mr. Marcos Montoiro
 NGO and Civil Society Liaison Officer
 UNCCD secretariat
 Tel.: + 49 228 815 2806
 Fax: + 49 228 815 2899
 E-mail: mmontoiro@unccd.int

14. Youth Forum

A Youth Forum will take place on the sidelines of COP 14. The forum will bring together young leaders, youth organizations, politicians, policy makers, government representatives, opinion leaders, experts and other stakeholders from across the globe. They will exchange views on the role of youth in land related issues, share successful cases of youth activism, and discuss approaches to reaching and engaging more youth in combating desertification and climate change in a way that contributes to the achievement of land degradation neutrality. Additional information will be available on the UNCCD website.

The forum is co-organized by the host country and the UNCCD secretariat. For more information, please contact:

Mr. Marcos Montoiro
 NGO and Civil Society Liaison Officer
 UNCCD secretariat
 Tel.: + 49 228 815 2806
 Fax: + 49 228 815 2899
 E-mail: mmontoiro@unccd.int

15. Exhibition facilities

In addition to the usual exhibition, COP 14 will include a UNCCD Technology Fair. Here we will showcase the latest efficient technologies in the field of sustainable land management. Space for participants will be limited. Arrangements can be made through the secretariat depending on availability and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participants wishing to set up exhibits are invited to contact Ms. Katya Arapnakova at:

Tel.: + 49 228 815 2864
 Fax: + 49 228 815 2898/99
 E-mail: exhibition@unccd.int

The secretariat is responsible only for the allocation of exhibition space. Applicants will be allotted a maximum of 9 m² of exhibition space, which will be assigned with due consideration of relevance to the objectives of the Convention and equitable geographical distribution requirements. The deadline for the submission of requests to the secretariat is 15 June 2019.

Exhibitors will be responsible for the customs clearance of their exhibition material in accordance with the customs regulations in force in India. The secretariat may, however, provide assistance. Exhibitors will be responsible for their own stands. The setting up of exhibition structures must be done in consultation with the national preparatory committee. For all further information about additional equipment for exhibitors, including infrastructure and technology, as well as transport, shipment and storage, please contact:

Dr. J R Bhatt
Adviser
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi -110 003
India
Tel.: 91-11-24695293
Fax: 91-11-24695293
E-mail: jrbhatt@nic.in

16. General information about the session venue

Information about Delhi

Delhi, officially the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT), is a city and a union territory of India containing New Delhi, the capital of India. It is situated alongside the River Yamuna and is bordered by the Haryana state on three sides and by the Uttar Pradesh state to the east. The NCT covers an area of 1,484 square kilometres (573 sq mi).

According to the 2011 census, Delhi's city proper population was over 11 million, the second-highest in India after Mumbai, while the whole NCT population was about 16.8 million. Delhi's urban area is now considered to extend beyond the NCT boundaries and to include the neighbouring satellite cities of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Noida in an area now called the Central National Capital Region (CNCR) and in 2016 had an estimated population of over 26 million people, making it the world's second-largest urban area according to the United Nations.

Delhi is well connected with the neighbouring regions and other major cities of India through all modes of transport such as airways, railways and roads.

Information about hotels, restaurants, museums, sightseeing, transport and much more can be obtained on the host country COP 14 website.

Currency

The national currency in India is the Indian Rupee (INR).

USD 1 = approximately INR 69.69

EUR 1 = approximately INR 77.73

Payment by international credit card is accepted in most of the recommended hotels, big shopping malls and restaurants. It is advisable to carry a mixture of cash and credit cards to guard against any situation. US dollars and euros are easy to exchange.

Weather

The average temperature for the month of September is 29 degrees Centigrade with approximately 117 mm precipitation.

Electricity

The electricity supply in India is 220 volts, alternating at 50 cycles (Hertz) per second. You can use your electric appliances in India, if the standard voltage in your country is between 220-240V (as it is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). If the standard voltage in your country is in the range 100-127V (as it is in the US, Canada and most South American countries), you need a voltage converter in India. You can also consider a combined power plug adapter/voltage converter.

In India, the power plugs and sockets are of type C (standard "Euro" plug), and D (mainly used in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and some African countries).

Local time

The standard time is GMT + 5:30 hours.

Business hours

Hospitals are open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Government offices and shops are usually open Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Some may be open on Saturday for half the day, but all are closed on Sunday. Generally, corporate offices operate five days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Post offices are open on weekdays, Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to about noon. The main post offices may have longer hours.

Banks are open on weekdays, Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. 2 p.m. for public dealings, and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Restaurants and bars have varied closing hours depending on the legally enforced timings in different states. In most parts of India, they are usually open until 11 p.m., while nightclubs and discos close by midnight. The food establishments that are legally open 24 hours a day are coffee shops in five-star hotels.

Shops do not have any standard timing but mostly close by 8 p.m. and in many states the shops are closed on Sundays, while in Delhi, many shops close on a weekday as they remain open on Sundays. Before setting out for shopping, do remember to check the closing days. In major metros, you may find malls and department stores open all seven days until 8 p.m.

Travel information

The numerous places to visit in Delhi leave all travellers enthralled, offering a perfect blend of the old and new. From exploring heritage buildings and prestigious national museums to relaxing in one of those green spaces and praying at ancient temples, there is a multitude of interesting places to visit in Delhi.

Further information on travel and tourism is available at the official tourism website <www.incredibleindia-tourism.org> recognized by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Also, information on travel and tourism is available at the official tourism website for the Government of NCT: <<http://www.delhitourism.gov.in/delhitourism/index.jsp>>.

Further information on the conference is available on the UNCCD website <www.unccd.int>.
