



UNITED
NATIONS



**Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/CRIC(1)/INF.1
25 September 2002

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
First session
Rome, 11-22 November 2002

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Note by the secretariat

The first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) will be held from 11 to 22 November 2002 in Rome, Italy. The present document contains general information which may be helpful to participants.

1. Committee secretariat

The head of the Committee secretariat is Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the Convention's secretariat.

The secretariat can be reached at the following address:

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Haus Carstanjen
Martin-Luther-King-Strasse 8
D-53175 Bonn, Germany
Tel. no.: (+ 49 228) 815 28 00
Fax no.: (+ 49 228) 815 28 98/99
E-mail: secretariat@unccd.int

2. Venue of the session

The first session of the CRIC will be held at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy, at the following address:

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
I-01000 Rome, Italy
Tel. no.: (+ 39 06) 570 50229
Fax no.: (+ 39 06) 570 50230

Participants are advised that the aforesaid telephone/fax numbers will be activated as of 14 October 2002. Preliminary information on the Committee's session could also be obtained at the following secretariat's phone number: (+49 228) 815 28 14.

The session will open on Monday, 11 November 2002, with the official opening at 10 a.m. in the Plenary Hall (Third floor, Building A). In addition to the Plenary Hall, other meeting rooms will be made available for informal meetings without interpretation, subject to arrangements being made with the secretariat. Working hours will normally be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

3. Admittance to the session

Given that the same provisions governing the Conference of the Parties (COP) apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of its subsidiary bodies, participation to the CRIC is open to country Parties' delegations, the United Nations specialized agencies and observers¹ in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the rules of procedure of the COP.

Since the CRIC is a subsidiary body to the COP, country Parties' delegations do not need to present credentials. However, an official list of the delegations' members should be forwarded to the UNCCD secretariat prior to the CRIC session for registration and security purposes. Observers already accredited by previous COPs should also comply with this requirement.

Any body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, which has not yet obtained observer status may be admitted to the first session of the CRIC, pending a final decision on its accreditation as observer by the COP at its next ordinary session, by submitting an official request to the UNCCD secretariat by 11 October 2002. The request to the secretariat should state the body's or agency's competence/qualification in matters covered by the Convention.

4. Registration

The secretariat has engaged in the upgrading of its registration system in order to harmonize it and ensure its compatibility with the procedures used in the UN System. One of the major developments in that regard will consist in the use of photo badges for the UNCCD meetings, starting with the first session of the CRIC.

Accordingly, it is of the utmost importance to send to the secretariat a passport-size picture of each member of delegations attending the first session of the CRIC. This will allow for a timely pre-registration procedure, which will greatly reduce the waiting time for delegates at the session's venue.

¹ In accordance with article 36, paragraph 2, of the UNCCD, for each State or regional economic integration organization which ratifies, accepts or approves the Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention enters into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of the relevant instrument. Consequently, the Parties as of the opening of the first session of the CRIC on 11 November 2002 will be the States and regional economic integration organizations to have deposited their instruments by 14 August 2002. Those to deposit their instruments after 14 and by 25 August 2002 will become Parties during the session. Those to do so after 25 August 2002 will not become Parties until after the closure of the session but can participate in the session as observers.

Pre-registration for national delegations, United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as for the media, will operate from Thursday, 7 to Saturday, 9 November 2002, at 10:00 a.m. at the FAO premises' entrance. Registration will resume on Monday, 11 November and continue throughout the session according to a schedule to be provided by the secretariat. Identity badges will be issued at the time of registration and participants are requested to wear them at all times, since they will be allowed access to the session venue only upon presentation of their badges.

5. How to get to the session venue

(a) From Leonardo da Vinci Airport (Fiumicino)

During the day, Fiumicino airport is connected to Roma Termini railway station by train. The train fare costs EUR 8.78 and the journey takes approximately 30 minutes. Tickets can be purchased at the ticket office close to the railway platform at Fiumicino airport. For arrivals and departures between 11.30 p.m. and 5 a.m., there is a night bus which runs approximately hourly. Taxis are readily available at Fiumicino airport; a one-way journey to the city centre costs approximately EUR 50.

(b) From Termini railway station

FAO Headquarters can be reached by underground line B in the direction of Laurentina, which runs between 5.30 a.m. and 11.30 p.m. every day (0.30 a.m. on Saturdays). The closest stop is "Circo Massimo". The one-way fare is EUR 0.77.

To assist participants, additional practical information regarding transport facilities will be provided during the session.

6. Hotel accommodation

Hotel booking should be made directly by participants. The Rome Hotel Owners' Association (APRA) may be helpful in reservation of hotel rooms. It can be contacted at:

Associazione Provinciale Romana Albergatori -
Rome Hotel Owner's Association (APRA)
Corso d'Italia 19
I-00198 Rome, Italy
Tel. no.: (+ 39 06) 841 41 05
Fax no.: (+ 39 06) 884 55 59
E-mail: apra@flashnet.it

7. Medical services and emergency numbers

A medical service for participants will be available at the FAO Headquarters for first aid in emergencies. It will be located in room A 354 (on the third floor of Building A, close to the Plenary Hall). The telephone number for medical emergencies is 30. The telephone number of medical services (nurses) is 53640. Both numbers are effective only during usual office hours.

The necessary arrangements for admission to hospital will be made if required. The UNCCD secretariat will be responsible only for facilitating access to a hospital.

The telephone number for fire incidents is 33. The security booth at reception can be reached on number 35.

8. Postal, telephone, telefax and Internet services

Postal facilities (for postal/money orders, stamps, mail etc.) are available on the ground floor of Building B (next to the BCI Bank). The telephone extension is 53160.

Opening times:	Monday - Friday	8.25 a.m. - 6.20 p.m.
	(postal/money orders:	8.25 a.m. - 1.50 p.m.)
	Saturday	8.25 a.m. - 11.50 a.m.

The DHL Courier Service Office is located on the ground floor of Building C (room C-005).

A telephone and fax office for participants is on the second floor of Building A. Additionally, telephone calls can be made from public payphones. Prepaid cards may be purchased at the newsstand (B057).

Computers with access to the Internet will be also made available to participants.

9. Cafeteria and bars

The cafeteria, on the 8th floor of building C, is open from noon to 2.30 p.m.

The bars are located on the ground floor of Building A (Polish Bar, open from 8 a.m. to 10.55 a.m. and from 11.45 a.m. to 5 p.m.), the 8th floor of Building B (Caracalla Bar, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), the 8th floor of Building C (Blue Bar, open from 8 a.m. to 10.55 a.m. and from 11.45 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and the ground floor of Building D (Casa Bar, open from 7.20 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.).

Arrangements for cocktail parties, private luncheons and dinner parties can be made through the Catering Liaison Officer (ext. 55162).

10. Banking services

A branch of the "Banca Commerciale Italiana" (BCI) is located on the ground floor of Building B. The telephone extension is 53424.

Opening times:	Monday - Friday	8.40 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
----------------	-----------------	-----------------------

11. Travel agency

The "Summertime" travel agency has an office located on the ground floor of Building D (Room D-074). The telephone extensions are 55145 and 56122.

Opening times:	Monday - Friday	9 a.m. - 12.45 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
----------------	-----------------	--

12. Additional services available for participants

Participants to the session will be able to use the various facilities at the session venue.

A bookshop selling FAO publications is located at the ground floor of Building B and is open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A photoshop is located on the ground floor of Building D and is open from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Lost and found office is located on the ground floor of Building B (room B062) and is reachable on extension 54427.

The newsstand is located on the ground floor of Building B (room B057).

13. Immigration formalities and customs regulations

The Government of Italy advises that immigration formalities will be facilitated at its embassies or consulates. Applications may be submitted, with reference to the Committee session, to the nearest Italian embassy or consulate. Information on customs regulations in force in Italy may be obtained from any Italian embassy or consulate.

14. Side events

Participants wishing to organize side events during CRIC 1 are kindly requested to send an application to Mr. Sasa Cvijetic at:

Fax no.: (+ 49 228) 815 28 98/99

E-mail: scvijetic@unccd.int

The application form can be downloaded from the UNCCD Web site. Participants are advised that the UNCCD secretariat will be responsible only for room allocation. No equipment or additional services can be provided by the UNCCD secretariat. Time slots and rooms will be accommodated according to availability, on a first-come-first-served basis.

A special calendar of any additional parallel events that may be organized during CRIC 1 will be published.

15. Exhibition facilities

Space for exhibition facilities will be available to participants. Arrangements can be made through the secretariat on a first-come-first-served basis. Participants wishing to set up exhibits are invited to contact Ms. Cheemin Gloria Kwon at:

Fax no.: (+ 49 228) 815 28 98/99

E-mail: ckwon@unccd.int

16. Press centre

An international press centre will be provided for accredited journalists. For information concerning accreditation, please contact Ms. Cheemin Gloria Kwon at:

Fax no.: (+ 49 228) 815 28 98/99

E-mail: ckwon@unccd.int

17. General information about the session venue

Various useful information about accommodation, transport and other facilities in Rome can be found at the Tourism Portal of the City of Rome on the Web site <http://www.romaturismo.com>.

Currency: 1 euro = approximately 1 US\$ (indicative rate)

Weather: During the month of November, the average temperature in Rome is between 10 and 15 degrees Celsius. Participants are recommended to bring warm clothing and an umbrella.

Electricity: 230 Volts, 50 Hertz

Local time: GMT + 01

- - - - -