



AMCEN



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Convention to
Combat
Desertification

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Tenth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the regional preparatory meeting for the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire 30 August - 6 September 2024

Information note on the tenth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the regional preparatory meeting for the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

“Raising Ambition for Accelerating Action on Drought Resilience and Combating land degradation and desertification”

Introduction

1. The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was established in 1985 to promote regional cooperation between African Governments in addressing environmental challenges confronting the region. The work of AMCEN has contributed significantly to the heightened policy responses of African Governments and the international community to Africa's environment and sustainable development opportunities and challenges.
2. Over the years, AMCEN has demonstrated strong leadership in advancing African causes and interests in environment and sustainable development matters. AMCEN through its meetings provides guidance with regard to key regional policies and initiatives related to the environment and sustainable development. Pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 9 of its Constitution, AMCEN holds its special sessions as and when necessary.
3. In view of this, and in response to the kind offer by the Government of Cote d' Ivoire, the tenth special session of AMCEN (**the special session**) will be held from 3 to 6 September 2024 at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire. The session will consist of a meeting of the expert group from 3 to 4 September, and a ministerial segment, on 5 and 6 September 2024.
4. The special session will be preceded by a regional preparatory meeting for the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (**regional UNCCD preparatory meeting**) which will take place from 30 August to 2 September 2024 and a **major groups and stakeholder meeting** from 1 to 2 September 2024.
5. The special session under the theme: *“Raising Ambition for Accelerating Action on Drought Resilience and Combating land degradation and desertification”* will be an opportunity for the region to consider and discuss: its drought mitigation efforts; progress on land degradation neutrality targets; opportunities to enhance ecosystem restoration and, partnerships and synergies to enhance resource mobilization to address land degradation, desertification and drought. The session will also provide an opportunity for ministers to provide policy guidance for the effective participation of African countries in the upcoming sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16) to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2-13 December 2024).
6. The special session will also provide an opportunity for ministers to be briefed on preparations for the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and; the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

7. The special session will therefore offer a platform for strengthening Africa's collective engagement in the global environmental agenda, including in the various conference of the parties of environmental agreements, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and other multilateral processes related to combating climate change, desertification, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution, among others, and ensure that the region is not only able to address the challenges in these areas but also seizes emerging opportunities for a sustainable development of the continent.

8. The special session will further enable ministers to provide policy guidance for upcoming key environmental events, including the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity and; the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment and; the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

9. Ultimately, the special session will adopt a declaration, decisions and a set of key messages reflecting the discussions during the session.

Associated meetings

10. The following associated meetings will be held:

- (a) 30 August – 2 September 2024: Regional preparatory meeting for the sixteenth session of UNCCD (COP 16)
- (b) 1 – 2 September 2024: Pre-AMCEN major groups and stakeholders (civil society) meeting.
- (c) 6 September 2024: Ministerial working dinner focusing on the Africa Circular Economy.

Venue

11. The tenth special session, the regional UNCCD preparatory meeting and, the major groups and stakeholder meeting will be held at the Sofitel Hotel Ivoire, Abidjan at the following address:

Boulevard Hassan II,

08 Bp 01 Abidjan

08 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Tel.: +225 27 22 48 26 26

Fax: +225 27 22 44 65 18

E-mail: H8844@SOFITEL.COM

Registration

12. All participants will be required to pre-register prior to the **regional UNCCD preparatory meeting, the major groups and stakeholder meeting and, the special session** and on arrival at the Sofitel Abidjan Hotel.

13. Participants will pre-register at the following link <https://indico.un.org/e/10thAMCEN>

14. Registration at the venue of the conference will be open from Thursday, 29 August 2024, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

15. Badges will be issued to participants upon registration. For identification, security reasons, and to access the meeting rooms, participants are reminded that they should wear their badges at all times during the meeting.

Documents

16. The main pre-session documents for the **regional UNCCD preparatory meeting, the major groups and stakeholder meeting and, the special session** will be available to participants in advance of the meetings in the meetings website at the following link: <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/tenth-special-session-african-ministerial-conference-environment-amcen>

Greening the tenth special session of AMCEN

17. *Paper Smart meeting*: Participants are encouraged to bring laptops or other electronic devices, as all meeting documents will be available on the meetings website. No hard copies will be provided.

18. In addition to the distribution of information and background documents on the meeting website, the meeting documents will be shared by email.

19. Efforts will be made to ensure that the meeting is a plastic free meeting. Therefore, meeting badges, water bottles, refreshments, *inter alia*, will be provided with plastic free material.

How to reach the meeting venue

International flights to Abidjan

20. Abidjan International Airport or Felix Houphouet-Boigny International Airport is the largest airport in Côte d'Ivoire. It is located in the municipality of Port-Bouet, about 16 kilometres (10 miles) south-east of Abidjan's city centre, on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

21. There are commercial and international flights out of Abidjan International Airport. Over 20 airliners connect to the two terminals. Several daily flights connect Abidjan with other sub-region capitals and intercontinental flights allow passenger traffic between Côte d'Ivoire, Europe, the Middle East and other continents, directly or with a connection.

Transfer services from Abidjan International Airport

22. Rapid access to different parts of the Ivorian city from the airport is provided by fast boulevards connected by interchanges (Airport Boulevard, Giscard d'Estaing Boulevard, Bassam Express Lane, De Gaulle Boulevard, Boulevard de la Paix). Numerous hotels are available around the airport: business hotels and residences in Abidjan, and tourist hotels in Grand-Bassam and Assinie.

23. Taxis are available 24 hours a day at Abidjan International Airport. They are recognizable by their orange colour. They have a meter but any ride can be negotiated with the driver before entering the vehicle. Abidjan is a very large city, and the price and the ride time (15 to 40 minutes) depend on the distance to the destination area and on congestion in the streets. Expect to pay XOF 2,000 to XOF 5,000 for a trip from the airport to Le Plateau city centre or Cocody's residential area.

24. Shuttles and buses: The 'Monbus 6' bus line operated by SOTRA connects the airport with the Sud Plateau station from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on board the bus and cost XOF 200. Minibus shuttles¹ set up by hotels run between the airport, the city centre and tourist areas.

25. Several car rental companies offer their services in Côte d'Ivoire. Some have an office in Abidjan International Airport where a car can be picked up 24 hours a day, and others provide the car upon arrival.

26. Several companies offer a VIP transport service² at the airport upon request. A comfortable air-conditioned car or minibus will drive you safely from the airport to your hotel or residence anywhere in the country.

27. An information counter for meeting participants attending the **regional UNCCD preparatory meeting, the major groups and stakeholder meeting and, the special session** will be set up in the 'Arrival' hall of Abidjan International Airport to provide participants with information about the meetings.

The session venue

28. The Session venue, Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire, is located on the edge of the Ebrié lagoon near the city centre and the business district of Abidjan, and close to the tourist sites of Grand-Bassam and Assinie.

29. It is easily accessible by taxi/shuttle from Abidjan International airport within 30 minutes. The approximate driving distance between Abidjan International Airport and Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire is 22 km.

30. Lagoon or bus transportation are public transport alternatives that may be used to reach the Sofitel Abidjan Hotel Ivoire.

Accommodation

31. Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements and are encouraged to finalize their booking and payment as early as possible.

32. An indicative list of recommended hotels by the host country for delegates may be found in the Annex to this document.

33. With regard to logistical arrangements, participants should send information on flights, dates of arrival and departure and the name of the hotel where they intend to stay to Ms. Julie Kaibe, e-mail: julie.kaibe@un.org; with copies to unenvironment-amcen@un.org;

Visas

34. Foreign nationals visiting Côte d'Ivoire, must obtain a visa online (e-Visa³) or from the diplomatic

¹ Shuttles can be booked at the following link: <https://www.aeroport-abidjan.com/en/int/booking/airport_shuttles.php?lg=en>

² VIP transport services can be booked at the following link: <https://www.aeroport-abidjan.com/en/int/booking/airport_vip_services.php?lg=en>.

³ Please check the following link for the e-visa application procedure: <<http://snedai.com/e-visa/>>, e-mail contact@snedai.ci or call +225 22 51 08 08 / +225 03 62 62 19 / +225 54 36 29 15

missions⁴, unless they belong to the visa-exempt countries. Passports must be valid for six months.

35. Delegates are strongly advised to seek information on visa requirements applicable to them from Côte d'Ivoire diplomatic or consular missions in their home countries.

36. Foreign nationals from the following countries do not require a visa to enter Côte d'Ivoire: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic (90 days), Chad (90 days), Congo (90 days), Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania (90 days), Morocco (90 days), Niger, Nigeria, Philippines (90 days), Rwanda (90 days), Senegal, Seychelles (90 days), Sierra Leone, Singapore (90 days), Togo and Tunisia (90 days).

37. Nationals from the following countries, diplomatic passport holders or official service passports are not subject to the visa requirement: Austria, Brazil, China, Gabon, Iran, Israel, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela and Vietnam.

38. Standard single-entry visas valid for 90 days will be issued following an e-visa application. After registering and paying online, and if the e-visa is approved, it can be collected on arrival at Abidjan International Airport upon presentation of the confirmation e-mail. A United Nations letter of invitation to COP 15 and/or a document issued by a relevant home country authority that proves official participation may facilitate the visa application process. Applicants are advised to apply for the e-visa online several days before the date of travel to allow time for the application to be processed.

39. Côte d'Ivoire authorities will do their utmost to facilitate entry procedures for all participants.

Customs Regulations

40. Information on the customs regulations in force in Côte d'Ivoire can be obtained from any Côte d'Ivoire embassy⁵ or consulate or at the following link: <http://www.douanes.ci/>

41. Any delegate who fails to comply with the customs requirements regarding entry into Côte d'Ivoire may be prevented from entering the country by the local authorities.

Health

42. Vaccination against yellow fever is required to enter Côte d'Ivoire (the vaccination certificate indicating your protection against yellow fever is required). Malaria prophylaxis is recommended before, during and after the travel.

43. It is prohibited for any person who know they are infected with coronavirus to enter the country. Any persons showing Covid-19 symptoms should appropriately wear a face mask, get self-tested or test at a health facility and follow and implement the general Covid-19 preventive measures should they test positive. Any Covid-19 positive persons shall isolate themselves either at home or at a health facility according to the severity of the illness until declared recovered by a health professional.

44. Participants are advised to take adequate travel and health insurance before leaving their respective countries. The Government of Cote d' Ivoire or any of its partners organizing the conference will not be held liable for any incidents that may arise due to a lack of adequate travel and health insurance.

45. Nevertheless, an on-site emergency medical service consisting of a medical facility and a fully staffed ambulance will be extended to all participants and support staff on the days of the AMCEN meeting. Hospitalization at either a state or private healthcare facility will be on the account of the patient.

Time Zone

46. The time zone for Cote d' Ivoire is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT; UTC±00:00)

Contacts and further information

47. For further information on the tenth special session of AMCEN, please do not hesitate to contact the AMCEN secretariat, e-mail: unenvironment-amcen@un.org, with a copy to julie.kaibe@un.org and allan.meso@un.org

48. For information about the regional UNCCD preparatory meeting please contact Mr. Cheikh Toure e-mail: ctoure@unccd.int; Ms. Milcah Ndegwa e-mail: mndegwa@unccd.int and Ms. Marie-Paule Lorcka-Lavri e-mail: mlavri@unccd.int

49. For information about the Major Groups and Stakeholders meeting, please contact Damaris Mungai e-mail: Damaris.mungai@un.org

⁴ A list of Côte d'Ivoire embassies may be found at the following link: <https://snedai.com/liste-des-ambassades/>.

⁵ Information on the Côte d'Ivoire embassies/consulates can be found at: <https://diplomatie.gouv.ci/missions/>.

Annex

Accommodation list

ABIDJAN			
1	Azalai Hotel Abidjan	+225 21 22 25 55 / 21 22 25 88 E-mail: reservationaha@azalaihoteles.com	Abidjan – Marcory
2	Hotel le WAFOU	+225 21 25 62 01 / 21 25 62 02 E-mail: reservation@lewafou.com	Abidjan – Zone 4
3	Ivotel Hotel Abidjan	+225 20 25 66 66 / Fax: +225 20 25 66 67 E-mail: ivotel@ivotel.com , www.ivotel.com	Abidjan – Plateau
4	Hotel Sofitel Ivoire	+225 22 48 26 26 / Fax: +225-22 44 65 18 E-mail: reservation@hotellivoire.com , H8844-TE@sofitel.com, H8844-GM@sofitel.com	Abidjan – Cocody
5	Novotel	+225 20 31 80 00 / Fax: +225 20 31 80 20 E-mail: H0481-TE@accor.com, H8844-GM@sofitel.com	Abidjan – Plateau
6	Hotel Tiama	+225 20 31 30 00 / Fax: +225 20 31 31 31 / +225 20 31 32 E-mail: Service.technique@hotel.tiama.ci, Kouyate_michel@yahoo.fr	Abidjan – Plateau 32
7	Ibis Plateau	+225 20 30 16 16 / +225 20 30 16 00 / Fax: +225 20 21 78 75	Abidjan – Plateau
8	Ibis Marcory	+225 21 75 63 00 / Fax: +225 21 35 89 10 / +225 21 24 35 16 E-mail: H0067-TE@accor.com , H0667-FO@accor.com	Abidjan- Marcory
9	Pullman	+225 20 30 20 20 / Fax: +225 20 21 20 28 E-mail: H1146-TE@accor.com	Abidjan – Plateau
10	Nouvelle Pergola	+ 225 21 75 35 01 / Fax: 225 21 75 35 02 E-mail: hotelnouvellepergola@yahoo.fr	Abidjan – Zone 4
11	Palm club hotel	+225 22 40 53 00 / +225 07 61 35 10 E-mail: reception@hotelpalmclub.com, Josiane.benie@hotelpalmclub.com	Abidjan – Cocody
12	Radisson Blu	+225 21 22 20 00 E-mail: info.abidjan@radissonblu.com	Abidjan – Port Bouet
13	Hotel Riyo	+225 22 41 15 15 / 19 E-mail: riyohotels@yahoo.fr	Abidjan – II Plateaux Vallon
14	La Residence Ohinene	+225 22 41 52 53 / 60 / 64 E-mail: info@residenceohinene.com	Abidjan – II Plateaux Vallon

15	La Residence Bertilles	+225 22 41 39 15 / 79 E-mail: reservation@residencebertilles.com	Abidjan – II Plateaux Vallon
16	Residence Le Flamboyant	+225 22 52 38 63 / 07 38 20 77 E-mail: residenceleflamboyant@hotmail.com	Abidjan – II Plateaux 7e tranche
17	Residence Eburnea	+225 22 52 70 05 E-mail: resebur@aviso.ci	Abidjan – II Plateaux 7e tranche
18	Hotel Residence Le Chalet	+225 22 52 22 35 E-mail: residencelechalet@yahoo.fr	Abidjan – II Plateaux 7e tranche
19	Hotel Gestone	+225 22 43 72 83 / 22 43 72 74 / Fax: +225 22 43 72 83 E-mail : achilledoua@gmail.com	Abidjan – Riviera II
20	Le Vaisseau	+225 54 19 72 18	Abidjan – II Plateaux 7e tranche
21	Achenbach	+225 22 42 74 61	Abidjan – II Plateaux 7e tranche
22	Seen Hôtel	+225 20 00 67 00	Abidjan – Plateau
23	Noom	+225 20 00 80 00	Abidjan – Plateau
24	Wellbeing Resort	+225 47 79 95 07	Abidjan – Riviera 4
25	Laforge	+225 87 93 61 09 / 22 52 04 44	Abidjan – II Plateaux 7e tranche
26	White House	+225 86 29 75 67 / 22 44 11 24	Abidjan – II Plateaux 7e tranche
27	Refuge	+225 07 80 91 05 / 21 25 85 76	Abidjan – Zone 4
GRAND BASSAM			
28	Hotel NSA	+225 27 21 31 28 00 / 01 / 02 / 03 E-mail: nsahotel@aviso.ci	Grand Bassam
29	Hotel Etoile du Sud	+225 21 30 29 39 / 21 30 35 50 / +225 57 69 74 73 E-mail : etoile_dusud@gmail.com	Grand Bassam
30	Hotel Korál Beach	+225 21 30 19 08	Grand Bassam
31	Taverne Bassamoise	+225 21 30 10 62	Grand Bassam
32	Hotel de France	+225 09 56 75 44	Grand Bassam
33	Hotel Nouvelle Pailotte	+225 08 84 79 82 / 08 39 64 13	Grand Bassam
34	Hotel Afrikland	+225 21 30 14 30 / 21 30 14 37 E-mail: reservations@afrikland-hotel.com	Grand Bassam
ASSINIE			
35	African Queen Lodge Hotel	+225 21 30 06 66 / +225 07 93 38 72 E-mail: africanqueenlodge@gmail.com	Assinie
36	Hotel Annie et Francis (Les Marines de Babihana)	+225 07 07 57 40 / 07 93 55 32 E-mail: annieetfrancis@yahoo.fr	Assinie

37	Hotel Coucoue Lodge	+225 21 30 81 81 / 07 07 77 69 / Fax: +225 21 30 98 76	Assinie
		E-mail: laurentlalanne@hotmail.com	
38	Hotel Le Climbie	+225 31 30 80 84 / 07 55 58 80	Assinie
KORHOGO			
39	Prestige	+225 36 85 13 80 / +225 01 59 59 48 / +225 07 44 83 72	Korhogo
		E-mail: hotelleprestige2005@yahoo.fr	
40	Chigata	+225 05 57 30 96 / +225 01 89 11 86 +225 36 86 38 63 / +225 09 24 00 73	Korhogo
41	Rose Blanche	+225 36 86 38 63 / 09 24 00 73	Korhogo
		E-mail: sicthotel@gmail.com	
42	Residence Tamanan	+225 36 86 11 50 / 45 77 97 77	Korhogo
43	Le Missionnaire	+225 67 32 48 68 / 05 18 68 25	Korhogo
		E-mail: hotel.lemissionnaire@yahoo.fr	
44	Non Stop	+225 36 86 36 70 / 07 96 75 53	Korhogo
45	Hotel Olympe	+225 36 85 05 38 / +225 57 44 03 54 / +225 36 00 00 47	Korhogo
		E-mail: ch.olymp@gmail.com	
46	Valencia	+225 36 85 37 13 / +225 47 72 23 12	Korhogo
		E-mail: hotel-rhv@yahoo.fr / hotelvalencia3@gmail.com	
47	Harmonies	+225 88 00 73 21 / +225 03 68 55 34	Korhogo
		E-mail: hotelharmoniekgo@yahoo.fr	