



Draft Concept Note

Sand and Dust Storms Day: *Towards Resilience and Preparedness*

6 September 2019, 09:00-18:00

Rio Conventions Pavilion MET11, India Expo Center and Mart

UNCCD COP 14, New Delhi India

A day dedicated to Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) will be organized at UNCCD COP 14 in the Rio Conventions Pavilion. The SDS Day will serve as a platform to inspire and facilitate information exchange among various stakeholders and partners involved in SDS related issues from policy and decision making, implementation, science, experts to field practitioners and local communities. Outcome of discussions will ultimately input to COP deliberations on SDS and other related fora.

In the SDS Day event, SDS related initiatives/programmes/products/projects will be launched including the UN Coalition for Combating Sand and Dust storms, a compendium for sand and dust storms and a global SDS source base map. This includes on-going efforts and future actions in addressing SDS impact. The SDS Day will provides an opportunity for knowledge sharing and capacity development of interested stakeholders.

The SDS Day can facilitate cooperation and collaboration in SDS management in support of the implementation of major global decisions and policies including the UNCCD COP decisions related to SDS including decision 31/COP.13 (2017), and the provisions of UNGA resolutions on combating SDS, namely resolutions 70/195 (2015), 71/219 (2016), 72/225 (2017) and 73/237 (2018), and UNEA resolutions 2/21 (2016) and 4/10 (2019).

6 September 2019	Provisional Agenda
09:00-11:00	<p>Meeting of the UN SDS Coalition¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks by UNEP and UNCCD • Presentation on the SDS Coalition, its mandate and objectives • Roundtable discussion on challenges and opportunities in addressing Sand and Dust Storms in the light of achieving Sustainable Development Goals, including presentations by the Coalition members² on their roles and contributions • Interactive dialogue between Member States, UN agencies and other stakeholders on opportunities for collaboration at national and regional level on SDS that can be promoted and enhanced by the Coalition • Expression of interest and commitments including by new partners in support of the Coalition
11:00-11:30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11:30-13:00	<p>Technical session on Sand and Dust Storms Sources mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDS impacts (Hesham El-Askary, Chapman University) • A global SDS source mapping (Marijana Kapovic-Solomun, UNCCD SPI) • Sand dust mapping approach based on data fusion of satellite image and UAV observations: A case study in Mongolia (Jungrak Kim, University of Seoul) • Mapping soil organic matter content using Sentinel-2 data with Google Earth Engine (Xiaosong Li, Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences)
13:00-14:30	<p>High level session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks: Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary • Welcome remarks: Tim Christopher, UNEP • Congratulatory remarks (Guoji Sun, China) • Launch of the SDS Coalition • Introduction of the global sand and dust storms source base-map interface
14:30-15:00	<p>Coffee Break</p>
15:00-17:00	<p>Actions to combat sand and dust storms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks (Kiyeon Ko, Republic of Korea) • SDS vulnerability assessment and mapping (Sanjay Srivastava, UNESCAP) • SDS source mitigation (Enrico Bonaiuti, ICARDA/WOCAT) • Human Security Trust Fund on Aral Sea (Bakhodir Kuziev, Uzbekistan) • Central Asia SDS Initiative (Jamal Annagylyjova, UNCCD) • Transboundary cooperation (Abeer Suwaid Alabri, Kuwait/Rawea Mahmood, Iraq) • Support to SDS monitoring and forecast for the Sahelian countries (Jose Camacho, WMO) • SDS action in Nigeria (Bala Gukut, Nigeria) • Presentation of the SDS compendium (Utchang Kang, UNCCD)
17:00-18:00	<p>Concluding session: Resilience and Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive discussions and conclusion

¹ More information on the UN SDS Coalition can be found [here](#)

² Members of the Coalition include: UNEP, WMO, UNCCD, UNITAR, ICAO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, WHO, ESCAP, ESCWA, IUCN, FAO, World Bank, ITU and UNECE.

