


Webinar Series

UNCCD Youth Caucus Road to UNCCD COP16

 10 | 16 NOV
23 | 30 2024 |  15.00 (CEST)

 Online

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) recognizes the vital role of youth in addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought. As future stewards of our planet's landscapes, young people are uniquely positioned to drive sustainable development agendas and innovate transformative solutions. The recently launched Youth Engagement Strategy sets also the basis for the enhanced meaningful participation of the young and future generations in the meetings and processes of the UNCCD.

In this regard, COP16 presents a pivotal platform for global young people's voices to engage in shaping sustainable land management policies and to actively combat desertification on a global scale.

The role of young people in fostering intergenerational dialogue, inspiring environmental action, and strengthening the global response to land degradation, desertification, and drought has never been more critical.

This webinar series aims to prepare and empower young people for impactful participation in COP16, equipping them with knowledge, tools, and strategic insights for effective engagement. Participants will gain a deep understanding of how to leverage the UNCCD framework to advocate for meaningful change, connect with like-minded youth advocates worldwide, and mobilise their communities in support of sustainable land management.

The UNCCD Youth Caucus stands as a dynamic platform designed to amplify young people's voices, empower emerging leaders, and champion inclusive land stewardship. Through this series, young professionals, activists, researchers, and students with a passion for environmental sustainability, climate action, and social justice are invited to take part. Participants will include youth representatives from UNCCD focal points, UNCCD Land Heroes, youth organizations, universities, and civil society groups globally.

I. Objectives

The "UNCCD Youth Road to COP16" webinar sessions is designed to mobilise and empower youth globally, equipping them to make meaningful contributions to COP16 deliberations. Through these sessions, we aim to:

- **Equip youth with in-depth knowledge and skills** related to the objectives of the UNCCD including information on desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD), highlighting their critical connections to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the broader environmental agenda.
- **Outline upcoming youth engagement opportunities at COP16**, spotlighting youth-centred activities such as the Youth Forum and for the very first time, a dedicated "Children & Youth Resilience Hub" pavilion. These spaces offer a unique and dynamic platform to highlight, empower, and celebrate the critical role of youth in driving resilience and to fostering inclusive, participatory discussions among youth leaders, experts, and stakeholders on the key challenges and opportunities in sustainable land management.
- **Guide participants through COP16 logistics and registration processes** while highlighting strategies for youth to maximise their visibility at the event and actively support the Youth4Land campaign.
- **Develop youth-led recommendations and priorities** aimed at influencing COP16 negotiations and shaping impactful outcomes aligned with youth perspectives.

II. Expected Outcomes:

- **Enhanced awareness and knowledge:** Participants will gain a deeper understanding of DLDD issues, along with their far-reaching impacts, empowering youth to drive informed action in their communities and networks and the UNCCD Youth Engagement Strategy.
- **Strengthened collaboration and networking:** The series will foster a robust network of youth stakeholders, enabling collaboration and collective advocacy efforts to address DLDD challenges globally.
- **Youth4Land campaign promotion strategies:** Participants will develop targeted strategies to promote the Youth4Land campaign, using COP16's platform to amplify youth-led calls for sustainable land management.
- **Youth-led policy recommendations:** The series will culminate in the creation of youth-driven recommendations and policy inputs designed to influence COP16 negotiations and advance the youth agenda in sustainable land management.
- **Comprehensive COP16 participation review:** Participants will receive guidance on COP16 logistics, including registration and visa application processes, ensuring full readiness to engage in COP16 activities.

III. Format:

The series will be conducted bi-weekly, starting November 10th leading up to COP16 in December. Each session will feature expert presentations, panel discussions, interactive Q&A segments, and virtual networking opportunities. Sessions will be recorded and shared for broader dissemination and engagement.

IV. Schedule & Topics:

Date	Session Title	Abstract
10 November 2024	Navigating COP16: Key Moments and Opportunities for Youth	<p>This informative session is designed to help youth participants navigate COP16 effectively and will be divided into two key parts:</p> <p>Part 1 will provide an overview of the COP16 program, highlighting the agenda's main areas of focus and key moments for youth involvement. Participants will gain insights into sessions, events, and networking opportunities tailored to amplify youth voices at COP16.</p> <p>Part 2 will cover essential practicalities, including guidance on registration, visa procedures, and important Dos and Don'ts for participants.</p>
16 November 2024	Youth Leadership and Engagement	<p>This interactive webinar session is designed to empower young leaders with the skills, strategies, and insights needed to drive impactful change in sustainable land management. Youth have a critical role to play in addressing the global challenges of DLDD, and this session provides a foundation for understanding how to lead, advocate, and collaborate effectively within this vital field. Participants will leave with enhanced leadership capabilities, a clear vision for their role in DLDD efforts, and connections to a supportive community of like-minded youth advocates.</p>
23 November 2024	Climate Change Adaptation Biodiversity and DLDD strategies	<p>This webinar offers youth participants the knowledge, tools, and collaborative space to explore and develop integrated solutions addressing climate change, biodiversity, and desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD). Recognizing the critical nexus between these issues, the session will emphasise the role of youth in advancing climate-resilient approaches in agriculture and forestry. Participants will be equipped with a deeper understanding of climate adaptation and mitigation from an integrated perspective, practical strategies for local implementation, and collectively developed policy recommendations that reflect youth priorities for COP16 and beyond.</p>
30 November 2024	Youth Action Plan for COP16	<p>This workshop is designed to unite youth participants in crafting a powerful, action-oriented strategy for meaningful engagement at COP16. This session will focus on creating a comprehensive Youth Action Plan that prioritises youth-led recommendations, outlines targeted advocacy approaches, and establishes alliances to maximise collective impact on DLDD issues. By the end of this workshop, participants will have created a clear, actionable plan that reflects youth priorities and establishes the necessary strategies and partnerships for impactful participation at COP16. This workshop will equip youth with a shared vision, unified voice, and coordinated roadmap to ensure their advocacy shapes the outcomes of COP16 and advances sustainable land management efforts.</p>

More info: [Youth Forum at COP16](#)