



Draft Concept Note

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

UNCCD COP 14/Rio Pavilion MET11

6 September 2019, New Delhi India

A day dedicated to Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) will be organized at UNCCD COP 14 in the Rio Convention 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).

Tentative Agenda

6 September 2019	Agenda
09:00-11:00	<p>Meeting of the UN SDS Coalition ¹</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 members ²on 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.
11:00-13:00	<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 • (Jungrak Kim, University of Seoul) • (Seema Singh, Punjab University, tbc) • (Ina Tegen, Leibniz Institute, tbc)

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.

<p>13:00-14:30</p>	<p>High level session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks: Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary • Welcome remarks: UNEP (tbc) • Congratulatory remarks: Korea Forest Service • Launch of the SDS Coalition • Launch of the global sand and dust storms source base-map
<p>15:00-17:00</p>	<p>New initiatives to combat sand and dust storms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks: China (tbc) • SDS vulnerability assessment and mapping (Sanjay Srivastava, UNESCAP) • SLM - source mitigation (WOCAT) • Human Security Trust Fund on Aral Sea (Uzbekistan) • Central Asia SDS Initiative (Jamal ? UNCCD) • Northeast Asia action to combat SDS (tbc) • Nigeria (Pilot project – source mapping/national SDS plan) • Presentation of the SDS compendium (Utchang Kang, UNCCD) (tbc)
<p>17:00-18:00</p>	<p>Concluding session: Resilience and Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive discussions and conclusion