



**Agenda and Concept Note for the official side event at COP28
DeltasUNite: Urgent Call for Climate Action with a UN convention on Conserving
River Deltas (UNCCRD)**

Date: Monday December 4th, 2023, at 16:45-18:15 (4:45PM - 6:15PM GMT+4)

Venue: B6, Building 85, Side Event Room #7, COP 28 Blue Zone, Dubai UAE

Zoom link:

<https://bennington.zoom.us/j/99119839499?pwd=ay9vODFqeVWUUhZRU1qaUtMd2ZO UT09>

Hashtags: #UNCCRD #DeltasUNite

Background and objectives:

The growing impact of climate change on water resources will continue to top global discussion – as the main driver and cause of most water-related challenges across the globe leading to human migration especially among young people, to poverty, hunger, and communal conflicts as well as to new disease outbreaks. The foregoing has serious implications for the future peaceful coexistence of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), South Asian and South-East Asian countries with shared transboundary water resources. Sadly, indigenous peoples and local communities especially women, young people, and the elderly – remain the most vulnerable and mostly affected by these impacts. Conservation of inland and ocean facing deltas is critical to offsetting the deadly impacts of worsening climate crises and saving the lives of millions of vulnerable people facing these crises. The displacement of ~33 million people in Indus, and ~ 1 million people in the Niger Delta region as well as livelihood losses is just a little foretaste of what is to come, if necessary immediate, midterm and long-term actions to build climate resilience at the regional and global scale are not implemented.

Side event objectives:

The side event will present an opportunity for the unveiling of a new United Nations draft convention on Conserving River Deltas. The United Nations will announce a new convention to be called “United Nations Convention on Conserving River Deltas (UNCCRD)”. This conversation started at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh and the Cairo Water Week (Egypt) to build on international alliances to achieve the objectives, given below, followed by an event in New York Water week in March 2023. UNCCRD will provide a structure, status, and UN high-level





recognition of their place-based peculiarities and challenges. In this regard, we are seeking to achieve the recognition of the ecological, environmental, socio-economic and cultural sustainability of deltas and their communities. The UNCCRD will also bring about integrative Highlands to Oceans (H2O) climate action for building resilient communities.

The panel discussion will address the following:

1. The challenges faced by river deltas and how they are impacting local communities.
2. Provide some context and insight into process and progress of new draft convention (UNCCRD)
3. Exploring opportunities and platforms to support communities and provide them with solutions to their problems caused by climate change.
4. Exploring opportunities to collaborate with governments in river deltas to support communities at grass root levels.
5. Proposing local communities and youth as a priority stakeholders to address issues faced by different river deltas among other stakeholders.
6. Exploring future opportunities to work together with the development sector, civil society and academia to achieve goal of empowering local communities for adaptation and mitigation.

Expected outcomes:

1. Working towards the success of draft UN Convention on Conserving River Deltas
2. Commitments/partnerships from stakeholders towards help the river deltas to tackle to the issues of climate change.

Format/programme of the side event:

The structure of the event would be a moderated panel discussion.

<p>Meeting Moderator</p>	<p>Freeman Elohor and Susan Sgorbati</p>
<p>Programme and speakers (90 minutes)</p>	<p>Opening of the session: Susan Sgorbati, Co-founder TWIN and Center for the Advancement of Public Action at Bennington College, USA (Introduction of the side event, objectives, and agenda- 4 minutes)</p> <p>Event welcome & introductory remarks: Freeman Oluowo Centre Coordinator – African Centre for Climate Actions and Rural Development (ACCARD), Focal Person UNCCRD and DeltasUNite Initiative (4 minutes)</p>





High-level UNCCRD Speech delivery by the Nigerian Bayelsa State Government – Governor Duoye Diri – **7 minutes**

Presentations

Understanding the deltas challenges

- Indus Deltas (Senator Memon) - 7 minutes
- Nigerian Niger Delta (Dr. Aboje Andrews) - 7 minutes
- Mekong River Delta and other deltas (Prof. Asim) – 7 minutes

Brief on UNCCRD Convention Language - Prof Asim Zia, Co-founder TWIN, Professor of Public Policy and Computer Science & Director, Institute for Environmental Diplomacy and Security (IEDS), UVM (7 minutes)

Science support of UNCCRD - Professor Michael, Centre for Capacity Building, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA – 7 minutes

Proposed Governance Structure of UNCCR Governance (Ambassador Godknows Igalai & Wakedei Davidson) – 7 minutes

Pakistani delegation with Senator Sherry Rehman, the former Climate Change Minister of Pakistan and other top government people – 5 minutes

Governmental and Expert panel Discussion Panel:

Moderators: Same

Speakers (60 minutes; 4 minutes each speaker):

1. Prof. Arukwe Augustine, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
2. Ambassador Godknows Igalai, Nigeria (TBC)
3. Joannes Cullman, UN Policy Advisor
4. Prof Mukhtiar Ahmed Mahar, University of Sindh Jamshoro
5. Grace Ananda Policy and Advocacy Manager - Habitat for Humanity international
6. Keziah Therese Gerosano - UN Youth Water
7. Vivian Madueke Green Environment Fund (GRF)
8. Leslie Durschinger, Founder, CEO, CIO, Climate Finance Terra Global Capital
9. Michael leahmann, GIZ





	<p>10. Rebecca Apapa – local community expert, Akassa Development Foundation</p> <p>11. Senator Patrick Joseph Leahy, VT, USA (online)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are river deltas being affected due to changing climate? 2. How UNCCRD is going to help affected communities in river deltas due to climate change? 3. How is the new UN convention different from others? How would this convention work? (process of convention) 4. What effective role would be of stakeholders such as communities, governments, development sector, academia and youth? 5. How do disappearing deltas affect food insecurity? 6. How is it leading to hunger, poverty, migration and conflict? 7. How is financial flow possible with direct access to local people? 8. What roles IPs and LCs play in advancing and implementing UNCCRD <p>Opening question discussion (10 minutes): If time permits, the moderator will take two rounds of questions from the audience.</p> <p>Call and unveiling of the UNCCRD by Governor Duoye Diri, Executive Governor of Bayelsa State</p> <p>Closing remarks (4 minutes): Freeman Oluowo, Centre Coordinator - ACCARD, Focal Person UNCCRD and DeltasUNite Initiative (closing & future announcements – 2024 International Deltas Summit, Partners, advancing more Parties to UNCCRD) and team/partners appreciation.</p> <p>Group photographs</p>
Language	English