

UNCCD COP16

YOUTH FORUM



 **5-7** DEC 2024

 **Riyadh,**
Saudi Arabia

EVENT TITLE	TIME	ROOM	SESSION LEADS
Opening Ceremony	09:00-10:00	CSO Room MET 22	UNCCD Youth Caucus & UNCCD
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: Ensuring the meaningful participation of women, young people and marginalized groups in land restoration efforts.	10:00-11:15	CSO Room MET 22	UNCCD Youth Caucus
Financing Mechanisms for Land Restoration: Exploring funding opportunities & financial instruments to support land restoration projects, young entrepreneurship and land-based jobs.	11:30-12:45		
AFTERNOON SESSIONS			
Youth Advocacy for Land Rights and Policy Change: Discussion on the importance of securing land rights and influencing policy for sustainable land management.	14:00-15:30	CSO Room MET 22	LANDESA
Innovations in Sustainable Agriculture: Exploring innovative farming practices that promote soil health and resilience while implementing green, decent, land-based jobs for youth in the area of land restoration.		Children and Youth Resilience Hub	Youth Assembly Team World Food Forum
Mapping Land Degradation Hotspots: Hands on session using mapping tools to identify areas vulnerable to land degradation while sharing best practices and innovative approaches for restoring degraded lands.	14:00-15:00	MET 23	WOCAT
Community Engagement: The Role of Young People in Combatting Land Degradation	16:00-17:30	CSO Room MET 22	UNDP

DAY TWO

CSO Briefing Meeting	09:00-10:00	CSO Room MET 22	UNCCD CSO Panel
Reflections on Day One	10:00-10:30	CSO Room MET 22	UNCCD Youth Caucus
Opening Keynote For Day 2: Opportunities & challenges in land restoration & sustainable land management.	10:30-11:00	CSO Room MET 22	Director G20 Global Land Initiative, Muralee Thummarukudy
Understanding the Interlinkages: Exploring the connections between land degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss and youth engagement and leadership while empowering young people to take action and drive change in their communities.	11:00-12:15	CSO Room MET 22	UNCCD Youth Caucus
Policy Advocacy and Governance: Strategies for influencing policy & promoting sustainable land management practices at local, national, and international levels as well as fostering green, land-based jobs for young people.	12:30-13:15		

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Decent, green, land-based jobs for youth: Presenting opportunities & the important role in combating DLDD as well as concrete possibilities and actions to create and support them.	14:00-15:30	CSO Room MET 22	ILO x UNDP
Youth Empowerment in Addressing Migration Challenges Linked to Drought and Land Degradation		MET 23	IOM
Networking and Collaboration Session: Advancing Climate Finance & Strategic Partnership	16:00-18:30		Surge Africa

DAY THREE (PEOPLES DAY: SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS)

<p>Youth Uniting for Policy Coherence: Bridging the Gap in Global Desertification and Land Restoration Efforts i.e addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought, as highlighted in UNEA Resolution 6/14, while promoting policy coherence and empowering youth to contribute to sustainable land management and drought resilience efforts.</p>	<p>09:00-10:30</p>	<p>MET23</p>	<p>UNEP</p>
<p>By Youth for Youth: Youth at the Forefront: The session's primary objective is to inspire greater collaboration and engagement by showcasing the unique value of youth-driven innovation and action in environmental sustainability. It aims to foster a deeper understanding of the critical need for youth inclusion and to promote stronger partnerships to unlock their potential as changemakers.</p>	<p>10:30-12:00</p>	<p>MET24</p>	
<p>Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2024: Launching the "Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2024" report by ILO, IUCN, and UNEP, highlighting how NbS address global challenges like land degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss while creating social and economic benefits, including jobs.</p>	<p>12:30-14:00</p>	<p>MET23</p>	<p>ILO</p>
<p>Highlevel Event Closing Event of the Youth Forum Action for Land, Restoring Work for Resilient and Sustainable Futures</p>	<p>15:00-15:35</p>		
<p>Deep-Dive Panel Discussion: Intergenerational Dialogue: Empowering Youth Engagement in Combating DLDD and Shaping the UNCCD Future" emphasizes the importance of intergenerational collaboration in addressing land degradation, desertification, and drought (DLDD). By connecting the wisdom and experience of older generations with the innovative thinking, optimism, and energy of youth, this approach fosters a dynamic and inclusive environment. It enables the exchange of knowledge, skills, and diverse perspectives, leading to the development of effective and equitable solutions to combat DLDD.</p>	<p>15:35-16:15</p>	<p>Action Dome</p>	<p>UNCCD Secretariate & UNCCD Youth Caucus</p>

<p>Challenges and Opportunities in Addressing DLDD: A Multi-Stakeholder Approach: This panel will gather high-level representatives from key organizations, including UNEP, international bodies, youth-driven initiatives like the Youth Negotiator Academy, and influential groups such as the MISK Foundation. They will discuss the challenges and opportunities related to combating Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought (DLDD), focusing on innovation, collaboration, and sustainable action. Topics will include overcoming institutional and financial barriers, addressing policy gaps, and leveraging technology, community-based solutions, and international cooperation. The dialogue will also emphasize engaging youth as active partners and leaders in tackling DLDD</p>	<p>16:15-17:00</p>	<p>Action Dome</p>	<p>UNCCD Secretariate & UNCCD Youth Caucus</p>
<p>Charting the Future: Reflections on Youth Leadership and Resilience in the Fight Against Land Degradation: This session will feature the CEO of MISK Foundation to offer reflective remarks on the critical role of youth in driving solutions to combat desertification, land degradation, and drought. Drawing on key themes from COP16 and the outcomes of the Youth Forum.</p>	<p>17:00-17:10</p>		
<p>Reflections and Closing: Summarizing key takeaways and outlining next steps for continued youth engagement in global efforts to combat desertification, restore degraded land, and enhance drought resilience</p>	<p>17:10-17:30</p>		