Thirteenth Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern African Region (Abidjan Convention)

Virtual Meeting, 13th to 15th December 2021
I  Introduction

The Abidjan convention Secretariat is pleased to welcome you to the Thirteenth Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13) to the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern African Region. The conference will be organized virtually online from 13th to 15th December 2021. COP13 will focus on the following theme: «Oceans Governance: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development in Africa».

Due to the current global health situation and the Omicron COVID-19 variant, the meeting will be held online through the ZOOM platform. Participants will directly log on from their location via the below platform link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84291450122?pwd=NFJjbUZGK3FkNVVHN0RNSXgvTTFsUT09

ID de reunion : 842 9145 0122

Code secret : 967534

Participants are invited to respect the following rules and regulations:

➢ Ensure to have a strong and fast enough internet connection through the entire meeting;
➢ Select the interpretation language in the zoom application upon entering the meeting room;
➢ Turn on the camera to introduce themselves at the beginning of each segment;
➢ Keep their microphones off unless they are making a contribution;
➢ Raise their hand via the application to make contributions;
➢ Turn on the video at the end of each segment for a group photo;
➢ Have a headset (Optional);
➢ Refrain from sharing the meeting link with other people as the number of attendees is limited.

II  Meeting Date and Venue

Date and Time: the meeting will start on Monday, 13 December at 09:00 am GMT and will end at 18:00 pm GMT. Kindly refer to the agenda for further details.

Venue: Virtual mode on-line

Geographical Address: Each participant should connect from his/her location

For more information on the Conference, please visit: http://cop13.abidjanconvention.org
III Documents
Meeting and working documents are posted on our website. Participants are invited to download all relevant documents from the COP13 website at http://cop13.abidjanconvention.org

IV Historical Context
The conference is being organized in accordance with Article 17 of the Abidjan Convention which stipulates that the Contracting Parties shall meet in ordinary sessions every two or three years. However, due to the international sanitary situation, COP13 could not take place in 2020. Therefore, after several meetings, the COP12 Bureau has decided to choose an acceptable date for the holding of the Conference. COP13 will be organized in two segments:

- **The Experts Meeting** will take place from 13th to 14th December 2021. This segment will deliberate on various agenda items, including draft decisions and other technical documents to be submitted for adoption during the ministerial segment.

- **The Ministerial Segment** will take place on 15th December 2021. This is a high-level segment during which ministers will take informed decisions.

The provisional agenda is joined to this Information Note. The annotated agenda and information on logistical arrangements as well as the working and information documents will be posted on the COP13 website: (http://cop13.abidjanconvention.org).

COP13 will be the occasion of networking and sharing of information on marine environmental issues in Africa and beyond. The conference will also be the place where partners of the Abidjan Convention could share information on their projects, publications, etc. through exhibition booths and side events.

We remain hopeful that your organization will take advantage of this opportunity to share its achievements with the 22 delegations and ministers from the Abidjan Convention countries.

In line with the directives, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat will designate one person from the Experts group as the workshop President or Vice President.

V Agenda and COP13 activities
The agenda and other documents are available on the Abidjan Convention website: www.abidjanconvention.org as well as the COP13 website: http://cop13.abidjanconvention.org.

According to directives, a great part of the workshop will focus on environmental challenges. A program of activities will be established to reach the goal of developing environmental norms.

The following meeting will be organized in connection with COP13:
VI Side Events

Under the supervision of COP13’s Organization Committee, a secretariat has been created to facilitate side events. Queries related to practical organization of these (costs and terms of reference) should be directed to:

Mr. Serge LOGOSSOU  
Cel: +225 05 05 625 154  
Email: serge.logossou@un.org

Ms Paule-Myriam BANA  
Cel: +225 07 47 670 767  
Email: paule.bana@un.org

Ms. Alison AMOUSSOU  
Cel: +33 62 72 606 26  
Email: alison.amoussou@un.org

Registration forms are available at http://cop13.abidjanconvention.org

VII Translation Services

The official languages at the workshop are English and French. These languages will be used simultaneously.

Using a different language for documents will require the participant to translate them into English. The written translation submitted to the Abidjan Convention in English or French will be used by the convention as the official version.

VIII Information and COP13 results

COP13 documents will be in French and English. The English version of the documents is authentic.

In conformity with the guidelines, participants may add their inputs to the information proposed at the conference. COP13 participants will contribute by advising or using relevant documentation.

Discussion points will be presented in the form of a summary prepared by the President or Vice President in collaboration with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. Participants may make any comments on the draft summary and the final version, which, will be revised accordingly, before the President or Vice Presidents, and the Secretariat members submit the document for final publication.

An electronic version will be sent to the Abidjan Convention Secretariat for official publication on the website. This version will serve as an official United Nations document.
IX Registration of delegates / Participants lists

Delegates are invited to register. The registration is mandatory online from the Abidjan Convention (COP13) webpage https://cop13.abidjanconvention.org/part_registration lately by 10th December COB.

Delegates are reminded that the list of participants is based on the information provided by themselves at the time of registration and that inclusion in the list of participants is conditional upon official registration.

The Abidjan Convention Secretariat will post the participants list on the COP13 website.

X Media registration and other facilities

Media representatives are requested to register online at https://cop13.abidjanconvention.org/part_registration lately by 10th December COB. After registering, kindly send an email of confirmation of your participation to Ms. Vanessa Ahouadjiro (vanessa.ahouadjiro@un.org) to facilitate the accreditation process.

XI Resource Persons

Persons listed below should be contacted if need be for issues related to the meeting:

- Richard Dacosta/Programmes +225 05 75 391 800 richard.dacosta@un.org
- Abdoulaye Diagana/Programmes +225 01 02 763 820 abdoulaye.diagana@un.org
- Jacques Abé/Thematic Leader +225 07 07 085 800 jacques.abe@un.org
- Bartheley Batieno/Regional Agreements +221 77 417 38 24 bartheley.batieno@ext.iucn.org
- Serge Logossou/Finances +225 05 05 625 154 serge.logossou@un.org
- Patricia Mélèdje/Administration +225 07 08 180 928 patricia.meledje@un.org
- Vanessa Ahouadjiro/Media +225 07 57 365 840 vanessa.ahouadjiro@un.org
- Ariel Medrid/IT +225 07 07 113 321 ariel.medrid@un.org

XII Useful Links

FACEBOOK: (UN environment - Abidjan Convention) https://web.facebook.com/AbidjanConvention/