



# **International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms**

## **Tehran, Iran. 3-5 July 2017**

### ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

The International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms will be opened by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This international conference is co-organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran and UN Environment, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Participants will include Ministers and Government representatives from involved countries, and relevant technical experts drawn from a number of countries.

<b>Sunday, 2 July 2017</b>	
	Arrival/Registration of international participants. (Arrangements will be made for the participants to register at their hotel.)
<b>Monday, 3 July 2017</b>	

8:00-09:30	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Anthem</li> <li>• Recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an • Video clip – stage setting on SDS (3.5 minutes)</li> <li>• Welcoming addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H.E. Dr. Ebtekar, Vice President and Head of Department of Environment, Iran</li> <li>○ H.E. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H.E. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, Executive Secretary of Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME)</li> <li>○ H.E. Dr. Rouhani, President of Islamic Republic of IRAN</li> </ul> <p>Official photograph (TBC)</p>
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09:30-10:00	Break
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10:00 – 12:00	<p>Session 1. <b>Ministerial dialogue</b></p> <p><b>Overview of global and regional trends of sand and dust storms, including global, regional and local cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Madam Ebtekar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Agenda and election of officers</li> <li>• WMO Video</li> <li>• Introductory remarks by Gary Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator • Overview presentation by Jamil Ahmad, Head, Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy Director, UN Environment, New York Office.</li> <li>• Statements and interactive discussions.</li> </ul>
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12:00-14:00	<p>Lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ad hoc drafting committee meets to finalize the Ministerial Statement</li> </ul>
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14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 2. <b><i>Ministerial dialogue (continuation)</i></b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Madam Ebtekar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Solheim, Head of UN Environment, also representing the Secretary General of the United Nations</li> <li>• The ministerial dialogue on the overarching theme continues.</li> <li>• FRWO video on combating desertification (4 minutes).</li> <li>• Rapporteur presents highlights of the Ministerial discussions.</li> <li>• <u>Ministerial Declaration</u> presented for adoption.</li> </ul>
15:30-16:00	Break

16:00 – 17:30	<p>Session 3. <b><i>Social, economic and environmental impacts and costs</i></b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> H.E. Tarsicio Granzio, Minister of Environment of Ecuador</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Mazen Malkawi from WHO-CEHA/Amman. Cross-sectoral cooperation</p> <p><b>Speaker 1:</b> Mr. Charles Kelly – Risk and impact assessment methodology</p> <p><b>Discussion, Q &amp; A</b></p> <p>Sand and dust storms (SDS) have a wide geographical extent, as they occur in all world regions and are trans-boundary in nature. Their negative impacts preventing the achievement of sustainable development are therefore significant at the local, regional and global levels. The result must be combined efforts at each of these levels. During this session, experts will synthesise and highlight the environmental and socio-economic causes and impacts as well as costs of sand and dust storms, at the regional and global level, including the impacts on health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Announcement of logistics for following day's missions to Ahvaz and Kashan</i></b></li> </ul>
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20:00 – 22:30	<p>Official Banquet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venue: Tehran Diplomatic Club</li> <li>• Transportation arranged from Hotel to Venue departing at 19:15.</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, 4 July 2017</b>	
	<p>Field Trip:</p> <p><b>Package 1 – KASHAN:</b> Aran Bidgol Region – Kashan City (Isfahan Province)</p> <p>Successful examples of practical solutions to combat sand and dust storms and their effects on land rehabilitation and environmental improvement on 200,000 ha desert lands.</p>
	<p><b>Package 2 – AHVAZ:</b> Ahvaz City (Khuzestan Province)</p> <p>Visit to dry land that recently generated sand and dust storms to the southeast of Ahvaz City. View land rehabilitation project of this region, and (if time is available) visit to a successful action plan for restoring the 127,000 ha Hur-ul Azim wetlands as an active source of sand and dust storms along the Iran-Iraq border.</p>
<b>Wednesday, 5 July 2017</b>	

<p>09:00 – 10:30</p>	<p>Session 4. <b><i>Source Recognition, Monitoring, Observation, Forecasting and Early Warning Systems</i></b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> H.E. Mostapha Zaher, Director General, National Environment Protection Agency</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. C. K. Park, Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, World Meteorological Organisation</p> <p><b>Speaker 1:</b> Dr. Zieaoddin Shoaei – National Centre for Combatting Dust Storms, Tehran</p> <p><b>Speaker 2:</b> Ms. Ana Vukovic – University of Belgrade, Serbia</p> <p><b>Speaker 3:</b> Dr. Mustafa Coşkun, Director of the Research Department at the Turkish State Meteorological Service</p> <p><b>Speaker 4:</b> Presentation of State Meteorological Agency of Spain (AEMET) by Ms. Ana Vukovic</p> <p><b>Discussion, Q &amp; A</b></p> <p>Governments have emphasized the need to cooperate at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing and managing dust storms and sandstorms. This includes the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning. During this session, experts will provide information on the progress made to better observe, understand and monitor atmospheric sand and dust.</p>
<p>11:00 – 12:30</p>	<p>Session 5. <b><i>Policy options, technology innovation and resource mobilization, considering cross-sector integrated approaches</i></b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> H.E. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, UNCCD</p>

	<p>DoE video on the wetlands (4 minutes)</p> <p><b>Speaker 1:</b> Mr. Bassem Katlan – Land degradation specialist at ASCAD (the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands)</p> <p><b>Speaker 2:</b> Dr. Wang Wenbiao – Chairman of the Elion Foundation, Inner Mongolia of China</p> <p><b>Speaker 3:</b> Prof. Jacqueline McGlade</p> <p><b>Speaker 4:</b> Dr. Hassan Mohammadi – Sand and Dust storm in the ROPME region, Kuwait Convention Secretariat</p> <p><b>Discussion, Q &amp; A</b></p> <p>During this session, experts will synthesize information on current policy responses for mitigating SDS, presenting options for an improved strategy for mitigating SDS at the local, regional and global levels, building on existing institutions, mechanisms and agreements. Experts will also comment on technical measures for mitigating SDS. Forwardlooking measures will be presented and discussed.</p>
12:30-14:00	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Scientific drafting committee meets to finalize the “Policy Options and Technical Recommendations on Combating Sand and Dust Storms”</p>

<p>14:00 – 15:30</p>	<p>Session 6. <b><i>Global, regional and cross-sectoral cooperation and responses</i></b></p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> H.E. Susanna Terstal, Ambassador of Netherlands representing the European Union</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. C. K. Park, Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, World Meteorological Organisation</p> <p><b>Speaker 1:</b> Ms. Tiziana Bonapace from ESCAP</p> <p><b>Speaker 2:</b> Dr. Alireza Daemi, Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Energy, I.R. Iran, Regional cooperation on sustainable dust disaster management</p> <p><b>Speaker 3:</b> Mr. Mazen Malkawi from WHO-CEHA/Amman. Cross-sectoral cooperation</p> <p><b>Speaker 4:</b> Dr. David Laylin, Specialist in Iranian ecology</p> <p><b>Discussion, Q &amp; A</b></p>
	<p>The importance of the Sand and Dust Storms is well recognized at the global and regional levels. Due to its transboundary nature, cooperation at all levels and among sectors has become essential. During this session, experts will share experiences on ongoing cooperation activities at global, regional and cross-sectoral levels, provide fresh ideas and suggest concrete actions on how to strengthen and expand cooperation and partnership to that end.</p>
<p>16:00 – 17:00</p>	<p>Session 7. <b><i>Conclusions and way forward</i></b></p> <p><b>Chair: Madam Ebtakar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Session Chair 3 reports back.</li> <li>• Session Chair 4 reports back. • Session Chair 5 reports back.</li> <li>• Session Chair 6 reports back.</li> <li>• Rapporteur to present recommendations and highlights.</li> <li>• “Policy Options and Technical Recommendations on Combating Sand and Dust Storms” endorsed.</li> <li>• Concluding remarks by UN Environment and UN DESA.</li> <li>• Vote of thanks.</li> </ul>

17:00	Closing
<b>Thursday, 6 July 2017</b>	
	Return travel of international participants