

Media Side Event – December 1, 2023

Advancing UNCCRD to narrow the energy poverty in the global south for a just-transition.

(a) UNCCRD Media Event

Date: December 1, 2023

Venue: Solar+ Pavilion

Time: 14:00 – 15:30 hrs (2pm to 3:30pm)

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/urgent-call-establish-new-un-convention-conserving-river-deltas-un-ccrd>

Climate change induced variability in the distribution of water poses complex human and environmental security challenges in both developed and developing countries. Not well managed in the future can potentially throw an estimated half a billion people living on ocean-facing river deltas and coastal communities around the globe into hunger, poverty including energy, community displacement and homelessness, particularly in the Global South, among others. This figure will be higher if inland deltas and hinterlands of existing deltas are included.

This substantially contributes to the disturbing and worrisome numbers of science reports on disappearing deltas, in West Africa's Niger River Delta, Pakistan's Indus Delta, Vietnam's Mekong Delta and Netherlands Rhine Delta, for example. With notable geomorphological changes mainly due to natural processes, social and ecological vulnerabilities in deltas accentuated by human activities such as deforestation, mangrove destruction, dredging, land development, oil and gas exploitation, agriculture, and greenhouse gas emissions as well as the widening energy poverty.

This has serious implications for biodiversity and livelihood losses, food systems and human survival. The growing evidence of environmental changes, creeping and sometimes pronounced demographic-related changes in the deltaic ecosystems mostly due to sea level rise, storm surges, coastal erosion, and human-induced ecosystem degradation, which are common problems of Delta's globally. This has resulted in the loss of lives, livelihoods and ecosystems with dynamic alterations in their characteristics, structure and function.

DeltasUnite Initiative is coordinated by African Centre for Climate Actions and Rural Development Initiative (ACCARD) is a local-to-global assembled stakeholders focusing on two specific water-related concerns: (1) Ocean-facing River deltas confronted by sea level rise and saltwater intrusion and (2) Melting glaciers in highlands leading to streamflow variability in lowlands and deltas of river basins.

Helpful links:

<https://businessday.ng/opinion/article/a-call-for-un-convention-on-conserving-river-deltas/>

<https://www.app.com.pk/national/pakistans-indus-delta-emerges-on-un-radar/>

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2410962/river-indus-delta-shrinking-un>

<https://arynews.tv/un-recognises-pakistans-indus-delta-for-global-convention/>

Agenda (At most 1 hour 30 minutes)

1. Welcoming of Media organisations participants
2. Introduction of the Media Side event by Freeman Elohor, Focal person, and Lead for DeltasUNite and UNCCRD.
3. The new convention – Expert presentation of UNCCRD purpose, structure, and solutions and future energy needs
4. United Nations and local community inclusivity in governance and solution
5. Unveiling event
6. Media question and answers
7. Closing statements