

2ND REGIONAL MEETING OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT CHAMPIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COP16



Location: Cali, Colombia

Dates: 21 – 25 October
2024

Note: *This is not a basic level learning process.* Participation in the Biodiversity Conference 16 (COP16) will include activities carried out prior to the official agenda during the same week of October.

Context:

The Conference of the Parties to Biodiversity (COP16) is a crucial event in the global conservation calendar, where world leaders, scientists, and non-governmental organizations come together to discuss and set policies for the protection of biodiversity. This year, COP16 will be held in Colombia, a country renowned for its rich biodiversity and commitment to environmental conservation. Within the framework of its Roadmap for Climate, Environment and Resilience 2024-2027 of the Regional Office for the Americas, the Regional Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has prioritized creating spaces for the exchange of good practices and cooperation among the National Societies of the region. Therefore, the **2nd Meeting of Champions for Climate and Environment**, which brings together the technical focal points focused on climate and environment issues at regional level, will be held in parallel to the COP16 program, in order to emphasize the added value that National Societies have when addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.

IFRC plays a vital role in responding to emergencies and promoting community resilience. In the context of COP16, the IFRC seeks to highlight the interconnectedness between human health, biodiversity and climate change. The organization advocates for the integration of biodiversity conservation strategies into disaster response plans and

sustainable development initiatives.

IFRC is currently committed in ten years to address five main challenges, one of which is to address the growing climate and environmental crises, as part of its 2030 Strategy. As local, national and international humanitarian organisations, the IFRC and its National Societies are aligning themselves globally under the Climate Charter, to work together on reduce the impacts of the climate and environmental crises, accelerating their action and mobilizing other stakeholders to do the same as well.

In the Americas, in order to meet the objectives, set out in the 2030 Strategy, the IFRC Regional Office (ARO) and its National Societies (NS) have identified pillars of action to promote climate and environmental action at the regional level: the Climate and Environment Action Roadmap 2024-2027. This four-year plan outlines the goals, milestones, and actions that the IFRC and National Societies of the Americas aim to complete in the coming years, a systematic strategy to achieve a more sustainable and resilient future for the communities they serve, and take urgent action to address climate change and environmental crises.

IFRC's participation in COP16 in Colombia represents a unique opportunity to strengthen partnerships, share knowledge and promote joint actions that address both the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Through its presence at the conference, the IFRC hopes to influence global policies and ensure that the most vulnerable communities are considered in decisions that affect the environment and foster their resilience.

Objective

The main objective of the **2nd Regional Meeting of Climate and Environment Champions** is to foster peer-to-peer exchanges between technical focal points of National Societies in the region of the Americas, for the discussion of progress, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of projects with a climate, environment and resilience approaches. **This event will be held in parallel to the IFRC's participation in COP16**, where the integration of biodiversity conservation and climate action strategies into disaster response and sustainable development plans will be advocated.

The IFRC seeks to highlight the vital connection between resilience, biodiversity and climate change, promoting the adoption of measures that strengthen the most vulnerable communities. In addition, it aims to highlight the role of National Societies as key actors in the implementation of local actions that strengthen environmental sustainability and emergency response.

Through its presence at the conference, the IFRC aims to influence global policymaking, strengthen strategic partnerships, and mobilize resources and concrete actions that contribute to a sustainable future.

Audience Objective

This is not a basic level learning process.

Participants must have been nominated by their National Society as their main focal point for climate and environmental issues (e.g. the certified NS representative to the Regional Network of Climate Change Champions)

We recommend that the participant selected by the National Society be the focal point involved in the strategic positioning of climate change and environment issues within the National Society, so that the participant supports and assists at a technical level the management of their SN in the planning processes and incorporation of these climate and environment

considerations into SN programs and operations after the end of the workshop.

Preferably, the participant in this space for technical exchange between National Societies must have relevant technical training in climate change, environmental sustainability, and/or disaster risk management, and/or have completed common core learning courses along with demonstrated experience in disaster risk management. Moreover, previous experience at UNFCCC international conferences is preferred, but not mandatory.

Approach

The **2nd Regional Meeting of Climate and Environment Champions** contributes to increasing the understanding and programmatic coherence of National Societies in the region around key climate and environmental considerations, and how these issues can be integrated into their current programmes, projects, policies and plans.

By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to identify and apply the tools and procedures suggested by IFRC at the global level, provide strategic and operational advice to leadership on climate change and environmental issues that could be implemented at the National Society level.

Likewise, participation in key spaces of **COP16** will provide participants with relevant information for the integration of climate and environmental considerations in the planning and design processes of programs and operations of their SNs.

Agenda (provisional)*

Day 0 – October 20	Day 1 – October 21	Day 2 – October 22	Day 3 – October 23	Day 4 – October 24	Day 5 – 25 October	Day 6 – 26 October
<i>Arrival in Cali</i>	Champions Meeting Agenda	Champions Meeting Agenda	Champions Meeting Agenda	Champions Meeting Agenda	Champions Meeting Agenda	<i>Departure of participants</i>
	COP16 Sessions	COP16 Sessions	COP16 Sessions	COP16 Sessions	COP16 Sessions	

The sessions will be coordinated according to the COP16 agenda:

<https://www.cop16colombia.com/es/>

Key dates

Key dates	
Submission of the concept note	August 19, 2024
Open invitation sent to the National Societies that make up the Climate Champions	August 19, 2024
International Participant NS Selection Process	August 28, 2024
Accreditation management with UNFCCC	August 30, 2024
Arrival in Colombia	October 19, 2024
COP16	21 to 25 October 2024
Departure from Colombia	October 26, 2024

Selection of participants

Up to a maximum of 35 participants, including facilitators, will be accepted. They will have to be accredited in order to enter the specific areas of COP16, so the names of the focal points pre-authorized by the National Society must be received by the close of August 28, 2024.

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/rLTmNRgrNN>

Costs

The organization of the event will cover transportation within Colombia, hotels (including meeting rooms) and meals for the duration of the event (October 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25).

National Societies and/or the respective delegation offices are expected to cover the costs of the participants' flights, insurance, and travel expenses. If a National Society is unable to cover the costs of its selected participant, IFRC will look for funding options; however, the funding available is limited to a limited number of participants.

For more details

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