



12 May 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letters dated 8 February 2021 and 14 April 2021 regarding the High-level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, to be held on Thursday, 20 May 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the UN General Assembly Hall, I have the honour to circulate the final programme and the list of speakers. Furthermore, in support of facilitating results-oriented discussions center on accelerating implementation, I have the honour to circulate a ‘Solution Brief’ prepared by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Kindly note that the time limit for statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements delivered on behalf of groups of States. The texts of the statements of those inscribed on the list that are not delivered by the end of the meeting will be posted on “eStatements” in the Journal of the United Nations. In this regard, delegations are encouraged to send their statements to estatements@un.org. I would like to remind delegations that the guidelines for submission of the pre-recorded statements have been previously circulated.

Regarding participation in the ‘Question & Answer’ section of each panel, there will not be a pre-determined list of speakers. Delegations are requested to press the button at their seat to express their interest in posing a question, and placement on the list will be determined on a first-come first-served basis.

For further information on the meeting, your office may contact my Advisers Mr. Mohammed Amin Mohammed Shaker (mohammed.shaker@un.org) and Ms. Sara Ibrahim Al-Ahmad (sara.alahmad@un.org).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Programme
High-Level Dialogue
on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD)
Thursday 20 May 2021, 10am – 6pm EDT



10:00am-10:05am	Musical Performance: Land Anthem by Baba Maal and Ricky Khej
10:05am-10:35am	Opening Segment <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. H.E. Mr. Volkan BOZKIR, President of the General Assembly.2. H.E. Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General.3. H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC.4. H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, UNCCD COP14 President.5. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Undersecretary-General and Executive-Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.6. Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of Chad.
10:35am-10:45am	Setting the Stage: Sir Robert Watson on the Global Status of Land
10:45am- 10:55am	Multi-stakeholder Spotlight
10:55am-11:45am Panel: 40 minutes Q&A: 10 minutes	Panel 1: Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) to Accelerate COVID-19 Recoveries and the Decade of Action The General Assembly has identified SDG.15.3 as an SDG accelerator and integrator. Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality is essential to address the loss of half all agricultural land, and prevent losing more arable land in the coming years. This risks plunging millions of farmers into poverty and contributing to forced migration and conflict. The urgent adoption and implementation of LDN targets by all countries, upscaled ecosystem restoration, food systems reform and mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction are necessary in order to sustainably secure land’s vital resources for generations to come and accelerate the entire 2030 Agenda. The international community must unite to address these threats. Thus far, 123 countries have committed to setting voluntary targets and securing high-level commitments to achieve LDN. For too long, desertification, land degradation and drought issues were a blind spot for the international community and treated as regional or local concerns. Yet land solutions have the potential to power COVID-19 recoveries and accelerate environmental action.

	<p><u>Guiding Questions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can LDN accelerate the 2030 Agenda, ecosystem restoration, and support food systems reform in light of COVID-related food shortages, and guard against future systemic health or environmental risks and cascading hazards? 2. How can the achievement of LDN contribute to economic recovery and building back better in the post-Covid-19 era? 3. What actions can facilitate universal adoption and implementation of LDN targets by all member states? 4. What local, regional and multilateral mechanisms can support sustainable consumption and production patterns to support LDN implementation? 5. What must be done to secure the financing needed for DLDD, including making existing funds more accessible? <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organisation. 2. Ms. Inger Anderson, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Environment Programme. 3. Ms. Mami Mizutori, UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction. 4. Mr. Juergen Voegelé, Vice President for Sustainable Development, World Bank Group. 5. Ms. Nicole Schwab, Executive Co-Head, Nature Based Solutions, World Economic Forum. 6. Dr. Roger S. Pulwarty, Senior Scientist for Climate Research, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program and Physical Sciences Laboratory. 7. Moderator: Ms. Agnes Kalibata, Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit.
<p>11:45am-1:00pm</p>	<p>High-Level Plenary: Speakers are invited to focus their statements on contributions to the overall vision, goals and targets of addressing Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought and achieving Land Degradation Neutrality. In this regard, Member States are encouraged to outline national and regional challenges, policy responses and commitments, and announce partnerships, new multi-stakeholder initiatives and development cooperation.</p>
<p>1:00 pm – 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>
<p>3:00pm – 3:10 pm</p>	<p>Multi-stakeholder Spotlight</p>
<p>3:10 pm-4:00 pm Panel: 40 minutes Q&A: 10 minutes</p>	<p>Panel 2: Urgent Global Cooperation on Land to Deliver the Future We Want</p> <p>General Assembly Resolution 75/218 has recognized that “land-based solutions, as part of nature-based solutions, constitute promising options to evaluate and consider in connection with sequestering carbon and enhancing the resilience of people and</p>

ecosystems affected by desertification, land degradation, and drought, as well as adverse effects of climate change”.

Over 1 billion people are employed in global agriculture, representing 1 in 3 of all workers. Landholders with secure tenure are more willing and able to invest in their land, supporting agricultural productivity and environmental stewardship, wealth generation, civic participation, and the rule of law. Some of the most promising pathways to maximize and capture these include formalizing and respecting land tenure rights for indigenous and small-scale producers, including female farmers, who are responsible for between 60-80% of food production in developing countries; and combating drought and forest fires, including through reforestation and sustainable forest management practices. This panel will highlight some of the best practices, cutting-edge technologies, and innovative funding and business models needed to achieve progress on these fronts.

Guiding Questions

1. How can increased action on the interlinkages between land, biodiversity and climate, including to LDN implementation, support socio-economic recoveries and building back better?
2. What synergies can be achieved between commitments and initiatives Member States and stakeholders made during the Summits on Biodiversity and Climate Action, at the local, regional and international levels, along the path to the UNFCCC COP26, UNCCD COP15, and UNCBD COP15?
3. What more can Member States and stakeholders do to incorporate LDN into Nationally Determined Contributions and future commitments under the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework?
4. What mechanisms can be used for upscaling technology and capacity building cooperation at the local, regional and multilateral levels for greater drought early warning, prevention, mitigation and implementation efforts?
5. How can the tenure rights of women, small land holders and indigenous peoples be better secured, and their institutional, technical and financial capacities strengthened?

Panelists

1. Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, UN Development Programme.
2. Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
3. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary, UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
4. Mr. Tony Simons, Director-General, World Agroforestry Centre.
5. Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea, Founder and President, CHIRAPAQ, Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru.
6. Ms. Thato Mokgadi, Manager and Agripreneur, Tsoo13.
7. Professor José M. Moreno, Professor of Ecology, University of Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo.

	8. Moderator: Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility.
4:00 pm – 5:55pm	High-Level Plenary (continued)
5:55pm-6:00pm	Call to Action

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION

High-level dialogue on desertification,
land degradation and drought (resolution 75/218)

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Thursday, 20 May 2021, 10:00 AM
General Assembly Hall

1. COSTA RICA (HS)
2. NIGERIA (HS)
3. MALAWI (HS)
4. NAMIBIA (HG)
(on behalf of the Group of Friends of
Desertification, Land Degradation
and Drought)
5. ICELAND (HG)
6. SAINT VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES (HG)
7. EUROPEAN UNION (DPM)
8. SPAIN (DPM)
9. GUINEA (M)
(on behalf of the Group of 77
and China)
10. GERMANY (M)
11. FRANCE (M)
12. AUSTRALIA (M)
13. EGYPT (M)
14. CUBA (M)
15. MADAGASCAR (M)
16. ETHIOPIA (M)
17. PERU (M)
18. ECUADOR (M)
19. JORDAN (M)
20. SOUTH AFRICA (M)
21. PHILIPPINES (M)
22. SWEDEN (M)
23. BELGIUM (M)
24. BURUNDI (M)
25. COLOMBIA (M)
26. GUATEMALA (M)
27. BRAZIL (M)
28. CYPRUS (M)
29. PORTUGAL (M)
30. TURKEY (M)
31. SENEGAL (M)
32. RUSSIAN FEDERATION (M)
33. BURKINA FASO (M)
34. UKRAINE (M)
35. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (M)
36. TIMOR-LESTE (M)
37. KENYA (M)
38. EL SALVADOR (M)
39. ISRAEL (M)
40. PANAMA (M)
41. CANADA (M)
42. MAURITANIA (M)
43. QATAR (VM)
44. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (VM)
45. SWITZERLAND (VM)
46. NETHERLANDS (VM)
47. SAUDI ARABIA (VM)
48. REPUBLIC OF KOREA (VM)
49. ITALY (VM)
50. MEXICO (VM)
51. AZERBAIJAN (VM)
52. ARGENTINA (VM)
53. CHINA (HL)
54. MOROCCO (HL)
55. ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(on behalf of the Alliance of
Small Island States)
56. COMOROS
(on behalf of the African Group)
57. MONGOLIA
58. AFGHANISTAN
59. ALGERIA
60. INDONESIA
61. UZBEKISTAN