



#UNited4Land OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE.

DESERTIFICATION AND
DROUGHT DAY · 17 JUNE 2024



Global Observance – Desertification and Drought Day 2024

17 June 2024, 2:30 – 4:45 pm

**Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany
(Bundeskunsthalle), Bonn, Germany**

Desertification and Drought Day 2024, “United for Land: Our Legacy. Our Future.”, will spotlight the future of sustainable land stewardship. The theme is a global call to mark the 30th anniversary of the UNCCD – the sole legally binding treaty to manage and restore the world’s land for the sustainability of humanity and the planet. The event will celebrate past achievements and set the course for the future in the run-up to UNCCD COP 16, which is scheduled for December 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Desertification and Drought Day will be a pivotal moment for raising global awareness and mobilising all parts of society in support of sustainable land stewardship. It will spotlight initiatives for securing healthy land for current and future generations. The event will bring together high-level representatives from government, international organisations, civil society, the private sector and academia alongside youth representatives and other key stakeholders and prominent figures.

OPENING

2:30 pm

Music performance

Ricky Kej

Welcoming speeches

- **Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, President of the Federal Republic of Germany (tbc)
- **António Guterres**, UN Secretary-General (tbc)
- **Jochen Flasbarth**, State Secretary, BMZ
- **Ibrahim Thiaw**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNCCD
- **Katja Dörner**, Mayor, City of Bonn
- **N.N.**, UN Youth Representative (tbc)

Announcement of UNCCD’s Land Ambassador

Music performance

Inna Modja



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30 YEARS OF UNCCD: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES ON OUR LEGACY	
3:00 pm	<p>The Past: Looking back on 30 years of UNCCD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive Secretary 2013-2019▪ Luc Gnacadja, UNCCD Executive Secretary 2007-2013▪ Tarja Halonen, UNCCD Land Ambassador, Former President of the Republic of Finland▪ Pamela Chasek, Co-founder & Executive Editor, Earth Negotiations Bulletin
3:30 pm	<p>The Present: Act now for a sustainable future for the next generations – learning from experiences and best practices</p> <p>Keynote speech</p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Alain-Richard Donwahi, COP 15 President, Côte d’Ivoire▪ Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chair, 23rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues▪ Nicole Harari, Centre for Development and Environment & WOCAT Executive Team member▪ JulietGrace Luwedde, Global Coordinator of the Youth Constituency of UNCCD
4:00 pm	<p>The Future: How to foster intergenerational equity and strengthen the land agenda</p> <p>Youth Voices towards UNCCD COP 16 <i>Youth representatives pitch their messages on transforming land use for a sustainable future, as developed on 16 June 2024 during the workshop “United for Land – Youth Voices towards UNCCD COP 16”, and make their voices heard by decision-makers in the run-up to UNCCD COP 16.</i></p> <p>“The hot seat” – short reactions to youth pitches by several high-level decision-makers and topic experts</p>
CLOSING	
4:30 pm	<p>Closing speeches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Kehkashan Basu, UNCCD Land Hero▪ Ibrahim Thiaw, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNCCD▪ Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, BMZ <p>Music performance Baaba Maal</p>
4:45 pm	<p>Reception: networking with snacks and drinks</p>

