CONCEPT NOTE

MINISTERIAL EVENT: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF DROUGHT IN THE CONTEXT OF ACHIEVING LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY

16 July 2018
1:15-2:45 PM
Permanent Mission of Canada, 885 2nd Ave, 14th Floor
(between 47th and 48th Streets), New York

Context:

The High-level Political Forum will meet at Ministerial level from 16 to 18 July 2018 at the UN Headquarters. At its last meeting at Ambassadorial level on 28 February 2018, the Permanent Representatives of member countries of the Group of Friends on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought, decided to host a Ministerial/High-level event on drought during the HLPF Ministerial segment in the context of the review of SDG Target 15.3 on achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN). The event focuses on the premise that drought will continue to impede the achievement of SDG.15, especially Target 15.3, if not tackled appropriately. In so doing, the event will also reflect on the recent decision 29/COP.13 on policy advocacy on drought through which Parties committed to implement the drought initiative for the biennium 2018–2019 which proposes action on: (i) drought preparedness systems; (ii) regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk; and (iii) a toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought.

It also called for supporting countries to develop and implement national drought management policies, as well as the establishment and strengthening of comprehensive drought monitoring, preparedness and early warning systems.

Moreover, the COP adopted the new UNCCD strategy which now includes a specific strategic objective on drought.
Objective:

The objective of the event is to take stock of progress made in addressing the challenges of drought and to provide guidance on drought preparedness, reducing vulnerability and risks, as well as resilience, as building blocks for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the achievement of the SDG target on land degradation neutrality.

Organization and hosting of the event:

The event is being organized by the GOF/DLDD (Group of Friends on Desertification, Land degradation and Drought), in collaboration with the UNCCD and is co-hosted by Iceland, Namibia, Canada, and Germany, on Monday 16 July 2018 at 1.15 to 2.45 pm at the Permanent Mission of Canada. The event is aimed at Ministers/Head of Delegation or Permanent Representative. Ms. Monique Barbut, UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, will moderate the discussions.

Date: 16 July 2018
Time: 1.15-2.45
Venue: Permanent Mission of Canada, 885 2nd Ave, 14th Floor (between 47th and 48th Streets), New York

Attendees:

The Ministerial event will be attended by Ministers and Ambassadors of the countries members of the Group of Friends on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (GOF/DLDD). Other Member States will be also invited to attend at Ministerial or Permanent Representatives levels.

Program:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00-1.15</td>
<td>Arrival and refreshments</td>
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<td>1:15-2.15</td>
<td>• Welcoming and opening remarks by Mr. Adam Vaughan,</td>
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Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada
- Setting of stage by Ms. Monique Barbut, UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD also acting as moderator
- Remarks by Honourable Obeth Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and Director-General of the National Planning Commission of Namibia – Co Chair GOF DLDD
- Remarks by H.E. Dr. Christoph Heusgen Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations
- Respondent from floor: CSO – Representative

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.15-2.40</td>
<td>Interactive discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45</td>
<td>Closing remarks and adjournment of the event: Ambassador María Erla Marelsdóttir, Director General, Directorate for International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland</td>
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