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1. Describe UNCCD with 3 words only:

Game-Changer Asset

2. How different the UNCCD is today from the time you joined the secretariat?

**In 1996, the Convention was still perceived by some circles as “the poor-man Convention”, just made to help desert affected countries to cope with desertification. Today, history has proven them wrong. The Convention is now seen as an invaluable tool to address several global policy challenges most of them now under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is now seen as an asset at our disposal, to lift people out of poverty, hunger, key to achieve other sustainable development goals.**

If Climate change is deemed the biggest challenge of our time, then let us harness the capacity of our land to sequester carbon, to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change shocks. Let use our land as an enabler, an accelerator and an integrator to achieve sustainable development goals. With land degradation neutrality now a sustainable development target, the UNCCD has got an implementation vehicle. In 1996 the Convention was small. Today, it is the most ratified treaty with a whopping number of Parties reaching 196.

3. Your 3 most precious memories?
  - o The entry into force of the Convention on 26 December 1996

- The GEF becoming the Convention Financial Mechanism against many odds in 2003
- Achieving Land degradation Neutrality as Sustainable Development Target to be achieved by 2030 (Target) and assessed through indicators (measurability), realms hard to imagine before.