

June 14, 2001

Letter of the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD Secretariat to NGOs on the Occasion of June 17 - World Day to Combat Desertification

I am pleased to refer to General Assembly resolution 49/115 entitled "Observance of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought".

This resolution invites all member states and non-governmental organizations and others to observe the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on 17 June with a view to promoting public awareness at various levels.

The successful implementation of this Convention depends enormously on local populations being made aware of the Convention and how it could assist them in their daily fight against desertification and the mitigation of the effects of drought. This will also provide the international community with an enabling and efficient framework for ensuring food security and poverty eradication. Even the smallest public awareness raising effort will, in the long-term, make a difference to the 1,2 billion people affected by desertification and drought. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to encourage the non-governmental community to undertake activities to raise awareness about the global problems of desertification.

The Secretariat would also appreciate receiving from the non-governmental community any information about activities undertaken to celebrate this day. Please communicate your activities to the Secretariat before 10 July, 2001.

Yours sincerely,
Hama Arba Diallo
Executive Secretary