



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 June 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letters dated 12 May 2021 and 19 May 2021, I have the honour to circulate the final programme and the list of speakers for the High-level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, to be held on Monday, 14 June 2021 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the UN General Assembly Hall.

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](mailto: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](mailto:mohammed.shaker@un.org)) and Ms. Sara Ibrahim Al-Ahmad ([sara.alahmad@un.org](mailto:sara.alahmad@un.org)).

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir'.

Volkan BOZKIR

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



**High-Level Dialogue on Desertification,  
Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD)**  
Monday 14 June 2021, 10 a.m. –1 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m. EDT



<b>10:00 am - 10:05 am</b>	<b>Musical Performance:</b> <a href="#">Land Anthem by Baaba Maal and Ricky Kej</a> (video)
<b>10:05 am - 10:35 am</b>	<b>Opening Segment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the General Assembly</li><li>• H.E. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Munir Akram, President of ECOSOC</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, UNCCD COP14 President</li><li>• Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Undersecretary-General and Executive-Secretary of the UNConvention to Combat Desertification</li><li>• Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)</li></ul>
<b>10:35 am - 10:45 am</b>	<b>Setting the Stage:</b> Sir Robert Watson on the Global Status of Land
<b>10:45 am - 11:45 am</b>  Spotlight videos: <i>10 minutes</i> Statements and panel discussions: <i>40 minutes</i> Questions from the floor: <i>10 minutes</i>	<b>Panel 1: Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) to Accelerate COVID- 19 Recoveries and the Decade of Action</b>  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 agricultural land and prevent losing more arable land in the coming years. These risks are 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 recovery and accelerate environmental action.

	<p><u>Guiding Questions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can LDN accelerate the 2030 Agenda, ecosystem restoration, and support food systems reform considering COVID-related food shortages, and guard against future systemic health or environmental risks and cascading hazards?</li> <li>2. How can the achievement of LDN contribute to economic recovery and building back better in the post-Covid-19 era?</li> <li>3. What actions can facilitate universal adoption and implementation of LDN targets by all member states?</li> <li>4. What local, regional, and multilateral mechanisms can support sustainable consumption and production patterns to support LDN implementation?</li> <li>5. What must be done to secure the financing needed for DLDD, including making existing funds more accessible?</li> </ol> <p><i>Multistakeholder spotlight videos</i></p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Agnes Kalibata, UNSG Special Envoy to the 2021 Food Systems Summit</li> </ul> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Qu Dongyu, FAO Director General</li> <li>• Ms. Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director</li> <li>• Ms. Mami Mizutori, UNDRR Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG)</li> <li>• Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, UN Special Coordinator for the Sahel</li> <li>• Ms. Nichole Schwab, Co-Head, Nature-based Solutions of WEF</li> <li>• Dr. Roger S. Pulwarty, Senior Scientist at NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:45 am - 1:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>High-Level Plenary Segment: Statements by HOS/G and Ministers</b></p> <p>Member States 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 multistakeholder initiatives and development cooperation.</p>
<p><b>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
<p><b>3:00 pm - 4:00 pm</b></p> <p>Spotlight videos: <i>10 minutes</i> Statements and panel discussions: <i>40 minutes</i></p>	<p><b>Panel 2: Urgent Global Cooperation on Land to Deliver the Future We Want</b></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 ecosystems affected by desertification, land degradation, and drought, as well as adverse effects of climate change”.</p>

<p>Questions from the floor: <i>10 minutes</i></p>	<p>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, wealth generation, civic participation, and the rule of law. Some of the most promising pathways to maximize and capture the benefits of land restoration 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.</p> <p><u>Guiding Questions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> <li>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?</li> </ol> <p><i><b>Multistakeholder spotlight videos</b></i></p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Andrew Steer, President and CEO, The Bezos Earth Fund</li> </ul> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator</li> <li>• Ms. Patricia Espinosa, UNFCCC Executive Secretary</li> <li>• Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary</li> <li>• Mr. Juergen Voegelé, WB Vice President, Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Mr. Tony Simons, ICRAF Director General</li> <li>• Ms. Tarcila Rivera Zea, CHIRAPAQ President</li> <li>• Ms. Thato Mokgadi, Tomato Agripreneur founder of Tsoo 13</li> <li>• Prof. José Manuel Moreno, Department of Environmental Sciences of the University of Castilla - La Mancha</li> </ul>
<p><b>4:00 pm - 5:55 pm</b></p>	<p><b>High-Level Plenary Segment:</b> Statements by HOS/G and Ministers (continued)</p>
<p><b>5:55 pm - 6:00 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Call to Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Under-Secretary-General and Executive-Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification</li> </ul>

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION

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

#### LIST OF SPEAKERS

Monday, 14 June 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. **KAZAKHSTAN (M)**  
(on behalf of the Landlocked  
Developing Countries)
10. **GERMANY (M)**
11. **FRANCE (M)**
12. **AUSTRALIA (M)**
13. **EGYPT (M)**
14. **CUBA (M)**
15. **MADAGASCAR (M)**
16. **ETHIOPIA (M)**
17. **ECUADOR (M)**
18. **JORDAN (M)**
19. **SOUTH AFRICA (M)**
20. **PHILIPPINES (M)**
21. **SWEDEN (M)**
22. **BELGIUM (M)**
23. **BURUNDI (M)**
24. **COLOMBIA (M)**
25. **GUATEMALA (M)**
26. **BRAZIL (M)**
27. **CYPRUS (M)**
28. **PORTUGAL (M)**
29. **TURKEY (M)**
30. **SENEGAL (M)**
31. **RUSSIAN FEDERATION (M)**
32. **BURKINA FASO (M)**
33. **UKRAINE (M)**
34. **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (M)**
35. **TIMOR-LESTE (M)**
36. **KENYA (M)**
37. **ISRAEL (M)**
38. **PANAMA (M)**
39. **CANADA (M)**
40. **MAURITANIA (M)**
41. **VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF) (M)**
42. **MALDIVES (M)**
43. **SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (M)**
44. **QATAR (VM)**
45. **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (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. **EL SALVADOR (VM)**
54. **PERU (VM)**
55. **SWITZERLAND (HL)**
56. **CHINA (HL)**
57. **MOROCCO (HL)**
58. **AFGHANISTAN (HL)**
59. **GUINEA**  
(on behalf of the Group of 77 and China)
60. **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**  
(on behalf of the Alliance of  
Small Island States)
61. **COMOROS**  
(on behalf of the African Group)
62. **MONGOLIA**
63. **PAKISTAN**
64. **ALGERIA**
65. **INDONESIA**
66. **UZBEKISTAN**