



MESSAGE OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION 2015

On behalf of WMO and the international meteorological and hydrological communities, I would like to congratulate the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its Executive Secretary Monique Barbut, on World Day to Combat Desertification 2015. WMO is proud to support the theme of this year, “attainment of food security for all through sustainable food systems”, and the slogan, “No such thing as a free lunch. Invest in healthy Soils.”

WMO has a long record of actively supporting international efforts to combat desertification. As the slogan selected for this year World Day to Combat Desertification stressed, there is a strong link between food security and sustainable land practices and is largely acknowledged that land degradation in arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities. WMO work focuses on the development of Integrated Management approaches to flood and drought issues through the Associated Programme on Flood Management and the Integrated Drought Management Programme, together with UNCCD. To coordinate regional efforts, WMO and other partners have established in the 1990s a number of regional Drought Monitoring Centres in Africa in the 1990s. More recently, UNCCD and WMO helped established the Drought Management Centre for South Eastern Europe in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

As the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, says: “In a world of plenty, no one – not a single person – should go hungry”. WMO is promoting the use of weather and climate information by smallholder farmers and shepherds Roving Seminars in many regions of the world performed by National Meteorological Services in close cooperation with other governmental or civil society organizations at many countries. Sustainable practices adapted to climate variability and climate change have been promoted through more than 350 Seminars mainly in sub-Saharan African countries in the last six years.

Today, the partnership of WMO and UNCCD is stronger than ever. Therefore, on this auspicious occasion, I would like to reiterate our sincere appreciation to Ms Barbut for this vital partnership and to wish UNCCD an exceptional World Day to Combat Desertification in the context of this extraordinary year for UN System.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Jarraud', is positioned above the name. The signature is stylized with long, sweeping lines.

(M. Jarraud)

WMO Secretary-General