



Speech of Monique Barbut

Executive Secretary, UNCCD

At the opening

of CRIC16

7 September 2017

CRIC 16

Ordos, China

Distinguished Chair,



Distinguished Participants,

National Focal Points, Civil Society Organizations, Friends,

*Allow me to welcome you to the sixteenth (16th) session of the
Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.*

*I would like to thank both the Government and people of China for
hosting us here in Ordos. Indeed, for making this whole event possible.*

*This Conference of the Parties is exceptional. We will witness the
adoption of a new strategic framework – with some bold and ambitious
goals for the Convention. This framework will guide the implementation
of the Convention for years to come.*

It will be fundamental for the work of the CRIC.

*Confucius once said that “When it is obvious goals cannot be
reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps”.*

*We count on you to keep us on track and to ensure we have the
right level of ambition to achieve our goals. And to guide us in terms of the
adjustments needed.*



To get us started, in the forthcoming reporting process – to begin almost immediately after the conclusion of this COP - we will have the first substantive data-driven review of the Strategic Objectives and their related indicators.

Parties can proactively get involved in assessing how much progress they have made so far. And will, for the first time, report on the progress indicators.

I trust many of you have already started this exercise. And that it will be made easier for many of you because of the analysis undertaken during the Land Degradation Neutrality target setting process, facilitated by the Global Mechanism.

More than 100 Parties who have committed to set their voluntary targets nationally have already started putting in place a monitoring and reporting systems for the bio-physical indicators.

I am pleased to confirm that in the upcoming reporting period, an even bigger number of Parties will receive further support to help them submit their national reports in a timely manner. This is being made possible by funding for enabling activities at national-level from the GEF.



I do know that reporting on and then reviewing our work is sometimes a heavy process. And it is not going to be an easy year. We will all be busy preparing for the reporting. The secretariat and the Global Mechanism are already working hard on making all the necessary reporting tools and technical support available.

But, I have to say, this time it is going to be worth it.

At the end of the exercise, we will be looking at real data that you, dear Parties, can use to shape your decisions going forward. Real data that will be a solid base line to – as Confucius put it “adjust your action steps” and mobilize future investment.

To a certain extent, we have already seen that start to happen. In the LDN-Target Setting countries adopting voluntary LDN targets has brought the challenge and the opportunities to a higher political level. It is the next logical step that this approach is rolled out to all Parties.

Because we all want our precious lands and ecosystems to be preserved, to be well managed and to be restored. Because we all want our land to be as healthy and productive as possible. Because we all want to take proactive steps to counter drought.



You have a big job ahead of you. We look forward to your guidance on how to develop and maintain a sustainable monitoring and reporting systems for the coming years - not only for the next reporting process.

A sustainable monitoring and reporting system that by 2030, at the end of our new strategy, will tell us just how far we have come. That will help us collectively adjust our action steps along the way. That will help us reach our national targets and our common goals for this Convention.

I thank you in advance for your diligence and wish you all a productive CRIC session.

Thank you