It is the first time at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties meeting that the Youth Forum is taken place in conjunction with different other side events in Ordos Inner Mongolia, China between the 6th and 16th September 2017.

The 13th Sessions of conference of parties (COP13) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) incorporated the youths perspectives and actions in tackling desertification, poverty, climate change and sustainable land Management sharing success experiences and best practices among more than 23 youths delegates, UNCCD Secretariat, Government of China and other civil society organisations from different part of the world.

The executive secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Monique Barbut, The representatives of United nations Environment, All China Youth Federation, and State Forestry Administration lauded the vital contribution youths play in combating desertification and sustainable land management highlighting the state of play and key facts on desertification and sustainable land management as one of our ecological assets, promoting economic growth, and job opportunities for the youths and future generation.
The youth delegates in their working groups and shared experiences on the perspective of Government, businesses, civil society organizations, research institutes and individuals to better engage youths in combating desertification and improving sustainable Land Management.

The following suggestions were put forwards by the youths to actively involve in combating desertification and improving sustainable land management.

- Promote research grants, scholarship and awards on sustainable land and control desertification strategies among research institutes, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

- Encourage long term sustainable and action orientated projects on control desertification techniques which can be incentivize and scale up to have multiplier effects.

- Introduce issues related to desertification and sustainable land management in school curricular at the basic level to activate and stimulate interest among children and youths across the world.

- UNCCD and Government to provide legal frame work to support holistic, integrated multi stakeholder approach and partnerships in combating desertification and improve sustainable land management.

- To encourage networking formal or informal to better exchange information and share experiences on best Practices on combating desertification and improving sustainable land management.

- Promote the use of social media platform and apps as tool box and tool kits to share success stories, gain experience and build capacity of relevant stakeholders and affected communities and regions on desertification and sustainable land management.

Youth delegates participated in field trip exercise visiting of the Desert zones in Ordos inner Mongolia and the adoption of the youth declaration collectively by the Youth Delegates, UNCCD secretariat, All China Youth Federation, and State Forestry Administration Team culminated youth forum of the 13th Sessions of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

FONGOH ERIC

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Photos

Youths Delegates in working sessions

Youth Delegates Sharing experiences during group work

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