



Convención de Lucha contra la Desertificación

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Conferencia de las Partes

14º período de sesiones

Nueva Delhi (India), 2 a 13 de septiembre de 2019

Tema 5 del programa

Fase especial

Fase especial

Proyecto de decisión presentado por el Presidente de la Conferencia de las Partes en su 14º período de sesiones

La Conferencia de las Partes,

Recordando la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y el Marco Estratégico de la CLD para el período 2018-2030,

Habiendo escuchado los informes resumidos de las mesas redondas de alto nivel/ministeriales celebradas en paralelo, presentados por:

El Excmo. Sr. Ralph Gonsalves, Primer Ministro de San Vicente y las Granadinas, Presidente de la Mesa redonda 1: Tierra, clima y energía renovable,

La Excm. Sra. Ana Cristina Quirós, Viceministra de Agricultura y Ganadería de Costa Rica, Presidenta de la Mesa redonda 2: Comunidades rurales y urbanas: unidas en el éxito y el fracaso,

El Excmo. Sr. Nestor Bassiere, Ministro de Medio Ambiente, Economía Verde y Cambio Climático de Burkina Faso, Presidente de la Mesa redonda 3: Fomento de un movimiento mundial para la restauración de los ecosistemas,

Habiendo escuchado los informes resumidos de las sesiones de diálogo interactivo, presentados por:

El Excmo. Sr. Ezekiel Joseph, Ministro de Agricultura, Pesca, Ordenación Territorial, Recursos Naturales y Cooperativas de Santa Lucía, moderador del Diálogo interactivo 1: Un enfoque de la ordenación territorial basado en los valores,

El Excmo. Sr. Dennis Musuku Wanchinga, Ministro de Aprovechamiento de los Recursos Hídricos, Saneamiento y Protección del Medio Ambiente de Zambia, moderador del Diálogo interactivo 2: Tierra sana, gente sana,

La Excm. Sra. Patricia Appiagyei, Viceministra de Medio Ambiente, Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación de Ghana, moderadora del Diálogo interactivo 3: Impulsar cadenas de valor sostenibles para las actividades comerciales basadas en la tierra,

1. *Acoge* con aprecio la Declaración de Nueva Delhi;
2. *Toma nota* con aprecio y gratitud de los resúmenes de los presidentes y moderadores;



3. *Decide* incluir la Declaración de Nueva Delhi como anexo a la presente decisión;
4. *Decide también* incluir los resúmenes de los presidentes y moderadores como anexo a la presente decisión.

Anexo I

Declaración de Nueva Delhi: invertir en la tierra y generar oportunidades

Nosotros, los Ministros y representantes reunidos en la fase de alto nivel del 14º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de las Partes en la Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación (CLD), celebrada los días 9 y 10 de septiembre de 2019 en Nueva Delhi por invitación del Gobierno de la República de la India,

Expresando nuestro sincero agradecimiento al Gobierno de la República de la India por su hospitalidad y a la secretaría de la CLD por la organización de la fase de alto nivel,

Conscientes de que la desertificación, la degradación de las tierras y la sequía socavan la salud, el desarrollo y la prosperidad en todas las regiones y reconociendo que los ecosistemas de tierras secas son zonas que requieren especial atención,

Profundamente preocupados porque los efectos de la desertificación, la degradación de las tierras y la sequía afectan con más intensidad a las personas vulnerables,

Recordando la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y el Marco Estratégico de la CLD para el período 2018-2030, y aguardando con interés el examen y seguimiento exhaustivos de los progresos realizados con el fin de acelerar la implementación de ambos instrumentos,

Recordando también que los esfuerzos por lograr la neutralización de la degradación de las tierras podrían llegar a acelerar la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y facilitar la obtención de financiación para el desarrollo sostenible con miras a aplicar la Convención,

Reconociendo las prácticas que conservan y restauran las tierras y los suelos afectados por la desertificación, la degradación de las tierras, la sequía y las inundaciones, contribuyen a lograr la neutralización de la degradación de las tierras y pueden asimismo reportar múltiples beneficios a largo plazo para la salud, el bienestar y el desarrollo socioeconómico de toda la sociedad, especialmente para los medios de vida de los pobres de las zonas rurales,

Observando el vínculo existente entre la restauración y ordenación sostenible de las tierras y la creación de empleos decentes, incluidas las iniciativas de empleos verdes y otras oportunidades de generación de empleo, para las comunidades vulnerables de las zonas degradadas,

Recordando que en la Declaración de Sharm el-Sheikh, de la cual tomó conocimiento la Conferencia de las Partes en el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica en su 14º período de sesiones, se pedía que se crearan sinergias para hacer frente a la degradación ambiental, la pérdida de biodiversidad y el cambio climático,

Tomando nota de las conclusiones de la evaluación sobre la degradación y restauración de las tierras de la Plataforma Intergubernamental Científico-Normativa sobre Diversidad Biológica y Servicios de los Ecosistemas y su Informe de Evaluación Mundial sobre Biodiversidad y Servicios de los Ecosistemas, así como del informe especial del Grupo Intergubernamental de Expertos sobre el Cambio Climático acerca del cambio climático, la desertificación, la degradación de las tierras, la ordenación sostenible de las tierras, la seguridad alimentaria y los flujos de gases de efecto invernadero en los ecosistemas terrestres, en los que se reconoce el papel que desempeña el sector del uso de la tierra,

Reconociendo la contribución de la gobernanza y gestión eficaces y responsables de los recursos naturales, especialmente de la tierra y el agua, a la lucha contra la desertificación, la degradación de las tierras y la sequía y al desarrollo sostenible de las generaciones actuales y futuras,

Convencidos de que la participación, según corresponda, a nivel local, subnacional, nacional y regional, de un conjunto diverso de múltiples interesados procedentes de todos los sectores de la sociedad, incluidos las organizaciones de la sociedad civil, el gobierno local y el sector privado, será crucial para que se alcancen los objetivos de la Convención,

Renovando nuestro compromiso con la cooperación internacional concertada en aras de la aplicación efectiva de la Convención,

1. *Alentamos* a que se elaboren, a nivel local, nacional y regional, proyectos y programas transformadores impulsados por la comunidad que tengan en cuenta el género con miras a dar ímpetu a la aplicación de la Convención;

2. *Alentamos también* a que, en el contexto de los proyectos destinados a luchar contra la desertificación, la degradación de las tierras y la sequía y a lograr la neutralización de la degradación de las tierras y el aumento de la resiliencia, entre otras cosas y según proceda, se efectúe la transición y se amplíe el acceso a la energía en las comunidades rurales y urbanas, en el marco de la CLD;

3. *Alentamos además* a que se adopte un enfoque proactivo para reducir los riesgos y efectos de la desertificación, la degradación de las tierras y la sequía mediante la ejecución de planes de preparación para la sequía y una mayor mitigación de los riesgos relacionados con las sequías y las tormentas de arena y polvo;

4. *Invitamos* a los asociados para el desarrollo, los mecanismos financieros internacionales, el sector privado y otros interesados a que impulsen las inversiones y el apoyo técnico en favor de la aplicación de la Convención y del logro de la neutralización de la degradación de las tierras, creen empleos verdes y establezcan cadenas de valor sostenibles para los productos procedentes de la tierra;

5. *Promovemos* oportunidades que apoyen, como y cuando corresponda, los objetivos a largo plazo del Acuerdo de París y la elaboración de un ambicioso marco mundial para la diversidad biológica después de 2020, teniendo en cuenta soluciones basadas en la tierra para la acción climática y la conservación de la biodiversidad y la aplicación de las tres convenciones de Río, que se refuerzan mutuamente;

6. *Acogemos con satisfacción* el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Restauración de los Ecosistemas (2021-2030), *nos comprometemos* a adoptar un enfoque integrado para la restauración de las tierras basado en las mejores prácticas y en pruebas científicas y conocimientos tradicionales que ofrezca esperanza a las comunidades vulnerables e *invitamos* a las Partes, los observadores y otros interesados pertinentes de la CLD, incluido el sector privado, a que aceleren y amplíen las iniciativas existentes en este ámbito a todos los niveles;

7. *Tomamos nota* de los beneficios que ha reportado a los países participantes la aceleración de la ejecución de iniciativas que apoyan una narrativa transformadora en el Sahel, como la Iniciativa de la Gran Muralla Verde del Sáhara y el Sahel, y la Iniciativa para la Sostenibilidad, la Estabilidad y la Seguridad;

8. *Tomamos nota también* de la puesta en marcha de la Iniciativa Bosques para la Paz y de que esta puede contribuir al fortalecimiento de la cooperación en materia de neutralización de la degradación de las tierras, entre otros ámbitos en la restauración de las tierras y la reforestación en zonas transfronterizas de los países participantes, según corresponda;

9. *Reafirmamos* la pertinencia de las Directrices Voluntarias sobre la Gobernanza Responsable de la Tenencia de la Tierra, la Pesca y los Bosques en el Contexto de la Seguridad Alimentaria Nacional para mejorar el acceso, el control y la administración de la tierra y la seguridad equitativa de la tenencia, de conformidad con la legislación nacional pertinente, con miras a aplicar la Convención y promover la ordenación sostenible de las tierras;

10. *Alentamos* a los gobiernos locales a que instauren una gestión integrada del uso de la tierra y una mejor gobernanza de la tierra para rehabilitar la base de recursos naturales que hace que las ciudades sean sostenibles, teniendo en cuenta la Nueva Agenda

Urbana, entre otras cosas mediante la reducción de las tasas de consumo de tierras y sellado del suelo, así como la pérdida de biodiversidad y de ecosistemas;

11. *Acogemos con satisfacción* las diversas iniciativas de neutralización de la degradación de las tierras presentadas por la India, como “Har Khet Ko Pani”, “More Crop Per Drop” (Más cultivos por cada gota), el Programa Nacional de Forestación, el Programa Nacional de Garantía del Empleo Rural, “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna”, “Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana” y el Programa de Tarjetas de Salud del Suelo;

12. *Acogemos con satisfacción también* la propuesta de la India de adoptar una meta voluntaria de neutralización de la degradación de las tierras que incluya la restauración de las tierras degradadas y el programa de aprovechamiento del legado que se ha anunciado para apoyar la cooperación Sur-Sur tras la conclusión de la Conferencia de las Partes.

Annex II

[English only]

Summary of the high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session

Ministerial round table 1: Land, climate and renewable energy

Chair	H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Co-Chair	H.E. Mr. Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Iceland
Speaker	Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme

1. Approximately 200 people actively participated in Round table 1: Land, climate and renewable energy. The discussions featured 42 interventions in total from state Parties, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.
2. The round table opened with welcoming remarks by H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, noting the impact of climate change and land degradation on communities everywhere and the challenges faced by small island developing States.
3. The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Achim Steiner, gave an inspiring speech focused on the interlinkages between land, climate and renewable energy. He noted that land is fundamentally linked to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is also fundamental to the development of people and particularly critical if we plan to mitigate the energy requirements of the poorest communities across the world. Renewables are at the forefront of the energy transition with solar and wind energy more compatible with sustainable land use. But renewable energy can also become a competitor for productive land if not managed carefully. Land is a precious resource, and though the specific tenure may vary, there is a need to recognize that land is “owned” by those who use it. The current ‘business as usual’ model is not enough. The UNDP Administrator asked several provocative questions: “Can we create the right kind of economies to deliver on the climate mitigation targets, land degradation targets and biodiversity targets at the same time? Can we construct the appropriate economic development model, policy instruments, and best practices that offer the right incentives to achieve the tangible benefits of sustainable land management?” Mr. Steiner suggested that options are indeed available, as well as scientifically doable and economically viable. However, we have reached a point where ambition and action are urgently needed to change the paradigm.
4. Mr. Steiner was followed by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Mr. Hoesung Lee, who reported on the findings of the recently approved special report on climate change and land. He emphasized that land as a mitigation tool has positive implications on all Sustainable Development Goals but to achieve these multiple benefits, ambitious climate action on land is required now. It would lead to opportunities but requires full international cooperation and commitment with great emphasis on environmental and social needs, ranging from the protection of biodiversity to social justice and equity.

5. The Co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, Iceland then moderated the round table discussion with 42 interventions from ministers and heads of delegation. The panel also welcomed the private sector, intergovernmental organizations and a representative of accredited civil society organizations.
6. The key message emanating from the discussions was that there is no Planet B.
7. Lands is increasingly exposed to the impact of climate change, droughts and flash floods and considerable damage can already be directly attributed to this. Vulnerability to climate change is a growing issue in many regions.
8. Many countries emphasized the cascade effect associated with the influence of both land degradation and climate change. For example, once land degradation starts a chain reaction of economic challenges, an incidence of drought may then trigger social unrest. Others emphasized the impact of land degradation on water availability which can affect both energy and food supply and eventually a reduction in the availability of safe drinking water. The result is higher costs and outbreaks of waterborne diseases. Bioenergy and biofuels were mentioned by many countries as a major factor in the solution, but only if carefully managed to prevent unintended impacts on the food supply and environment. While several countries mentioned the risks associated with bioenergy, they also said that they were starting to use renewables as an entry point to both address climate change and create an enabling environment to pursue restoration and rehabilitation initiatives. While many spoke of solar and wind power, it was emphasized that current renewables are dominated by hydro-power and several countries mentioned their progress with geothermal energy. Diversification of new energy sources to reduce reliance on conventional energy sources was viewed as essential.
9. Some highlighted the power of integrating clean energy and sustainable land management (SLM). Others pointed out that urbanization not focused on sustainability accelerates land degradation and reduces the resilience of both urban areas and surrounding rural land to climate change. All of the positive solutions begin with a combination of good policies and governance and full engagement of communities. A comment that resonated with many countries was that the path to solving land degradation, water quality and quantity issues, and food security starts with women.
10. Several countries made it clear that there needs to be a strategy for behavioural change based on resource reuse and greater exploitation of nature-based solutions which address both environmental and social challenges simultaneously. For example, we will need to transition our food systems away from industrialized agriculture and embrace agroecological solutions to keep food, energy and the environment in balance. A discussion on the importance of a circular economy broached sustainable consumption and better information about the land where food is grown.
11. States have developed action plans to address land degradation and climate change and set land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets and CO₂ emission reduction targets. There are considerable synergies in SLM, land restoration, climate mitigation and adaptation and social resilience. The solutions are nature-based with the ability to deliver on challenges faced by the earth and humanity.
12. LDN was viewed as a framework to deliver on potential synergies among the three Rio conventions and there was a great deal of discussion about the importance of pursuing synergies in a meaningful and practical way. It is important to ensure more effective collaboration and commitments to working together at global and national level. Many countries then commented on how important integrated land use planning and integrated landscape management would be to the success of LDN and the achievement of multiple benefits. On the ground, smart design could ensure optimized co-location of food, energy and nature while indigenous and local knowledge could assist in the identification of locally effective nature-based solutions. Good governance and incentives for good land stewardship are essential to the successful navigation of difficult trade-offs.
13. The representative of the Green Climate Fund pointed out that while land restoration is a powerful part of the solution to climate change, we must overcome the USD 300 billion

SLM financing gap. GCF proposed several innovative finance options for deliberation, including an equity fund for small- and medium-sized enterprises pursuing commercially viable SLM practices.

14. Parties noted the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services assessments and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, which recognized the role of the land-use sector as critical to getting land and climate right. The science on land and climate is improving steadily. However, knowledge management and capacity-building were mentioned numerous times. Several countries welcomed the enhancements to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Knowledge Hub (e.g. the Drought Tool Box) and the value of practices databases for SLM (e.g. World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies). Some countries talked about cooperation and harnessing the growing influence of South-South cooperation to ensure that science was translated to policy and action.

15. The Co-Chair closed the meeting and summarized the key messages.

16. He noted that the discussion sends a strong message to the Nature-Based Solutions work stream of the upcoming United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit (23 September 2019) where Parties are being asked to be practical and ambitious. Land management and restoration can deliver many of the solutions the world is looking for in terms of mitigation and adaptation and resilience-building.

17. As one Party eloquently put it, "It is up to the international community to rise up as one".

18. The UNCCD should be proactively engaged in promoting and helping Parties deliver on the potential of land for climate action. Together, we can promote opportunities that support the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the development of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into consideration the growing relevance of land-based solutions for climate action and biodiversity conservation and the mutually supportive implementation of the three Rio Conventions. Land restoration as a synergetic tool with multiple potential benefits should therefore be prioritized as a nature-based solution and receive higher levels of international financing. More emphasis is needed on synergies between the three Rio Conventions but with the impact of climate change set to hit, it is important to remember the challenge of water scarcity and abundance and the need to develop a circular economy. In particular, the joint development of land and renewable energy for the benefit of rural communities would be a strategic business case. Gender issues are crucial to SLM and must be given continuous attention at all levels, including in conversations about land, climate and renewable energy where the resource access issue is critical.

19. Ending on a high note, the co-Chair said that if we revive our spirits and get the work done, we can deliver on our ambitions and do much better because there is no Planet B.

Ministerial round table 2: Rural and urban communities – failing or flourishing together

Chair	H.E. Ms. Ana Cristina Quiros, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica
Co-Chair	H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Niger
Speaker	Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission

20. Approximately 70 people attended and actively participated in Round table two: Rural and urban communities – failing or flourishing together.

21. H.E. Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC), opened the discussions by highlighting (a) the alignment of the round table with Africa’s Agenda 2063 strategy; and (b) the fact that there is a great need to address gender imbalances related to the insecurity of land tenure. The African Union has a youth engagement initiative to create 11 million jobs by 2021, while its Rural Africa Task Force focuses on developing rural areas.

22. The Co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Niger, then moderated the round table discussion with 26 interventions from ministers and heads of delegation. The panel also welcomed the private sector, intergovernmental organizations, a Sustainable Development Goals advocate and a representative of accredited civil society organizations.

23. The key message emanating from the discussions was that rural and urban communities will stand or fall as one, so a joined-up approach is now critical. As one participant noted, “We all agree on what the problems are. They touch on the issues of land planning, land management, agriculture production, employment, capacity-building, rural identity and the preservation of natural resources.”

24. Ms. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chair of the Global Environment Facility, observed though that the international community is still operating in silos. The way we think about land-use planning should be considered together with natural ecosystem conservation. She highlighted the need to increase the linkages with the market and promote collaboration between the public and private sectors to bring together sustainable supply and value chains.

25. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, said via video message: “We need to transform the way we plan, build and manage our urban spaces, while ensuring that the rural areas are not left behind.” She proposed a joined-up approach towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and land degradation neutrality.

26. Mr. Ahmed Aziz Diallo, Mayor of Dori in Burkina Faso, emphasized that the degradation of soils in rural areas affects the whole of society, economy and lives, forcing communities to migrate in search of a means to survive.

27. Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Founder and President of Governance and Policies for Sustainable Development and former Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), warned that Africa will experience the biggest growth in urbanization of any continent in the coming years. Cities are increasingly vulnerable to climate change effects such as floods and droughts. As an architect, he believes that no cities can be resilient by themselves. Instead, he said, “we should talk about sustainability in cities and rural areas together and ensure shared planning”, and make sure to involve the most vulnerable.

28. Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and Executive Director of ICLEI South Asia, noted that urbanization has led to increased energy demands, migration, economic loss and high levels of stress on resources such as productive land and water. With a positive approach, he highlighted that cities are not only part of the problem but can also be an important part of the solution, including with the promotion of green jobs and technologies.

29. The H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba concurred and noted that “green jobs and holistic planning and management are essential”.

30. Almost all of the participants referred to linkages between high rural/urban income, opportunity and infrastructure disparities and migration. Some highlighted the need to focus on the most vulnerable, including youth and women. The importance of strengthening land tenure was consistently reiterated. Zimbabwe warned that if not properly managed, rural and urban areas will fail together. Several Parties highlighted that the same challenges relating to national resources management can also be applied at the transboundary level. The increasing competition over access to productive and land resources was a matter of concern between urban and rural communities alike.

31. The Co-Chair closed the meeting and the Chair summarized the key messages as follows.

32. Rural and urban communities need to act as partners and not competitors. This can only be achieved if there are opportunities in rural areas, especially for youth and women. In addition, fostering a circular economy system and an integrated approach to land-use planning are a part of the solution, and these will work best with the greater involvement of the private sector and local governments.

33. The challenges are accelerating. With that in mind, Mr. Ahmed Aziz Diallo confirmed “we are compelled to act with vigor and a sense of urgency”.

34. The UNCCD and its Parties should actively encourage local governments to adopt integrated land-use management and enhanced land governance to rehabilitate the natural resource base that makes cities sustainable, taking into consideration the New Urban Agenda, including by reducing rates of land consumption and soil sealing along with biodiversity and ecosystem loss.

Ministerial round table 3: Fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration

Chair	H.E. Mr. Nestor Bassiere, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso
Co-Chair	H.E. Mr. Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment of Fiji
Speaker	Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

35. Approximately 160 people actively participated in Round table 3: Fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration. The discussions were enriched by a total of 33 interventions from Parties, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

36. The Chair, H. E. Mr. Nestor Bassiere, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso, welcomed the distinguished representatives and opened the round table discussion. Nature is declining at an unprecedented rate with serious effects on human populations around the world. He noted the opportune timing of these discussions as the global community is moving towards the implementation of the land degradation neutrality targets, discussing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and designing the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) for maximum action and impact on the ground.

37. Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, delivered an inspirational keynote speech and put forth the analogy: “We are like a man living in a house built on wooden stilts, chipping away at this wood to fuel his fire. Chip for long enough, and the house will collapse.” Ecosystem restoration makes sense at every possible level; this entails sweeping shifts in the way we use and manage our land. She stressed the need to break out of the environment and development sphere and into boardrooms and other ministries. This means working with the agriculture, infrastructure and other sectors to help them become biodiversity-positive, land-improving and nature-enhancing.

38. The Co-Chair, H. E. Mr. Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment of Fiji, set the stage by elaborating what effective ecosystem restoration means to the livelihoods of the South Pacific nations. The rich biodiversity of the Fiji Islands and the ecosystems supporting it are now at risk. These ecosystems provide a great source of revenues for Fijian people and its economy. Indeed, Fiji’s main tourism attraction is its natural environment and pristine marine waters. Thus, ecosystem restoration is essential to Fijian livelihoods and Fiji stands with other Parties in fostering a global movement for ecosystem restoration.

39. The key message emanating from the discussions was that desertification and land degradation is a global responsibility, and that there is a need for partnerships and coordinated action at all levels, from local to national, and from regional to global.

40. We can no longer separate environmental problems from social problems. Land degradation is particularly acute in the drylands with serious impacts on the economies and well-being of the resident populations. Knowledge, science and technology should lead policy and action, followed by the sharing of experiences and lessons learned. A holistic and integrated approach is the most promising way of delivering livelihood benefits while at the same time ensuring the full range of the ecosystem services we need to survive.

41. The speakers highlighted a wide range of projects and programmes in their respective countries, such as sustainable land management, watershed management, and sand and dust storms source mitigation initiatives, as well as projects designed to create

green jobs and avoid forced migration. Many speakers emphasized the role of forests and trees and the need to establish a concrete action strategy linking the three Rio conventions to harness ecosystem restoration, green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions. Several speakers emphasized that gender equality and women's empowerment is a critical element in the success of restoration activities.

42. Food security is of paramount importance for most countries, and the loss of soil quality in some regions is alarming. Restoring the health and productivity of the land for food production is a top priority for many countries. Most reaffirmed their commitments to their land degradation neutrality targets and recognized that implementation of those targets on the ground has great potential for creating transformational change. Some acknowledged that some of the more successful restoration efforts are being led by local communities and municipalities, including indigenous peoples, and that community engagement cannot ignore property rights and tenure security. Continuing to build these capacities and scale up restoration efforts must come into sharper focus. The principles in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security were referenced by several speakers as essential to our efforts to combat land degradation.

43. All speakers noted that the conservation and sustainable management of land resources is less expensive than restoration and that we need national legal frameworks and regional and global cooperation to address the human-induced drivers of land degradation. There needs to be systemic change in the way we think about and manage our lands along with public-private partnerships to ensure sustained investments. This will require smart restoration targets that are implementable and measurable.

44. The Parties should welcome and embrace the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and commit to adopting an integrated, best-practice approach to land restoration based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge that offers hope to vulnerable communities.

45. There was a strong feeling in the round table that we all need to act together and engage together with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; this is the only way we will succeed and scale up restoration activities to the level that is demanded of us. The Chair and Co-Chair thanked the participants and closed the round table with their final remarks of hope: where there is sincere commitment and political will, there is a way to safeguard our ecosystems for future generations.

Interactive dialogue 1: A values-based approach to land stewardship

Chair	H.E. Mr. Ezechiel Joseph, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning Natural Resources and Co-operatives of Saint Lucia
Speakers	Sadhguru (Isha Foundation), Mr. Baaba Maal, Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Father Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam (Holy See)

46. With a range of different backgrounds and experience, the panel explored, in dialogue with Ministers, what drives people to become good stewards of the land.

47. With a rapidly growing population expected to reach more than 9.7 billion by 2050, societies must urgently grapple with the central moral question of how to protect our increasingly finite natural capital in the face of the limitless human desire to expand and consume. Our behaviours and patterns of consumption are putting immense pressure on global land resources. Parties agreed that humanity has a responsibility to find equitable solutions for the poorest in our societies while adopting a values-based approach to land stewardship, rooted in the respect for our precious natural capital.

48. The discussions paid particular attention to the role of indigenous communities. It was felt that they need to be recognized as the guardians of our global land resources, protecting 80% of biodiversity on Earth. If we are to stand a chance of arresting the degradation of our natural world, the implementation of the Convention can help the global community recognize, promote and harness indigenous communities' invaluable knowledge and intuitive connection with nature.

49. The moral imperative of championing a global restoration movement is not limited to governments, business or civil society organizations alone. Culture itself can be a key vector in inspiring action and delivering a transformative message that resonates with people across the globe. Senegalese musician Baaba Maal urged us all to use our respective platforms as global citizens to raise our voices to tackle the planetary emergency we are facing, recounting his own journey as a musician driven by a sense of deep personal responsibility. In order to inspire a revolution in the way we manage our global land resources, we can explore deep-rooted cultural norms to trigger behavioural change.

50. Finally, all world religions remind us in their sacred texts that land is 'holy'. The discussions explored how to build a broader dialogue between people of all faiths and creeds to inspire collective action in protecting our global lands. Religions of the world are working hand-in-hand with the scientific community to impact change, and this will be ever more crucial to create a harmonious future built on the strong foundation of healthy land for all.

51. Delegates noted that this dialogue was a departure from previous sessions, but the approach of engaging a wider group of motivated stakeholders, with a range of different backgrounds and experience, was positive and could evolve further in future.

Interactive dialogue 2: Healthy land – healthy people

Chair	H.E. Mr. Dennis Musuku Wanchinga, Minister of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection of Zambia
Speakers	H.E. Ms. Lorena Aguilar Revelo, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; Ambassador Howard Bamsey, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Water Partnership

52. With a range of different backgrounds and experience, Interactive dialogue 2 explored, in dialogue with Ministers, a variety of perspectives on how land and human health can be integrated. There were more than 200 participants, including Ministers of countries from various regions, heads of United Nations agencies, and representatives of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.

53. Participants discussed how healthy land is an essential part of our life support system. If the health and productivity of land decreases, human health will suffer. The negative impacts on health are disproportionately experienced by certain groups, especially those living in vulnerable conditions. Environmental risk factors associated with desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) include lack of food and water security, air and soil pollution, lack of sanitation and hygiene, exposure to hazardous chemicals, change in vector distribution, and climate-related disasters. These result in communicable and noncommunicable diseases, malnutrition, disability and mortality.

54. In the discussions, H.E. Ms. Lorena Aguilar Revelo, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, highlighted the importance of gender in addressing health issues. Gender equality and the collection of disaggregated data on the differentiated health impacts of land degradation and water scarcity should guide policy discussions and implementation.

55. Ambassador Howard Bamsey, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global Water Partnership, said “We can’t have healthy land and healthy life without healthy water.” He stressed that the vulnerability of water systems is also affecting the health of land. He shared his concern that the world is not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 because of long-term water scarcity for humans and ecosystems. Collaboration will be key, and the Global Water Partnership’s 3,000 partners across the world could be instrumental in this. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations highlighted soil pollution: without clean soils there can be no health. Soil pollution impacts food quality, security and human and ecosystem health.

56. The need for behavioural change was emphasized by many who noted the successful reduction in tobacco consumption as a good example of the role that raising awareness among consumers could play in bringing back the health of the land.

57. The key message is that humans should be at the centre of efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, as highlighted in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework. Certainly, populations are not equally vulnerable and gender inequality is an important factor. Ill health and sickness caused by land degradation and drought are the human face of the implementation of the Convention. Strategies that reduce DLDD would provide for better overall human health. At the same time, public health systems will need to adapt to a changing world. Many speakers agreed that women’s empowerment is a prerequisite for sustainable development as well as for the ‘healthy land, healthy people’ agenda. The vulnerability of our water supply and demand systems resulting from poor governance affect the health of land. Participants recommended strengthening broader water and soil partnership at all levels.

58. This interactive dialogue session provided critical insights and policy guidance on how to effectively proceed on land-related human health issues in the context of the

Convention. The session demonstrated that Parties to the Convention are united in a common goal to guarantee healthy and productive land to promote human health. Now is the time to plan for the future.

Interactive dialogue 3: Boosting sustainable value chains for land-based business

Chair	H.E. Ms. Patricia Appiagyei, Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ghana
Speakers	Mr. Bernard Giraud (Livelihoods Venture), Mr. Nick Salter (Aduna), Mr. Francesco La Camera (International Renewable Energy Agency), Mr. Anil Jain (Jain Irrigation Systems), Mr. Cai Mantang, (Elion Resources Group), Mr. Tony Siantonas (World Business Council for Sustainable Development)

59. With a range of different backgrounds and experience, Interactive dialogue 3 explored, in dialogue with Ministers, a variety of perspectives on ways to promote and strengthen sustainable value chains for land-based businesses.

60. The fruitful discussion stressed the need for global and local business leaders to play a transformational role in linking smallholder producers in dryland areas to lucrative local and international markets. Speakers highlighted the numerous challenges smallholder producers are facing and underscored the need to create an enabling environment fitting the national context, to strengthen technical capacities and mobilize incentive mechanisms for sustainable land management. To meet local and global market demand smallholder farmers will need to guarantee a reliable, high-quality supply. Such supply is often hindered by the lack of access to resources, including equipment and energy, as Mr. La Camera of the International Renewable Energy Agency highlighted.

61. The need for creating coalitions of stakeholders, including businesses, governments, research institutions and civil society organizations, was underlined by many as the key to creating shared value for all by encouraging businesses to build solutions and create the financial instruments that will bring the necessary resources to farmers.

62. Achieving sustainable development at scale is a major challenge that will require all stakeholders to focus on the long-term economic sustainability of value chains and on the engagement of major businesses. In the discussions, Mr. Salter from Aduna stressed the importance of not only working on the supply side, but also of engaging with consumers to build awareness and increase demand. This will help create new markets and transform existing value chains.

63. While participants pointed out the importance of technology to promote the development of value chains, Mr. Giraud from Livelihoods Venture also emphasized the need to invest in human capital, in particular in women and youth who represent the majority as well as the future in the production and transformation of farming and wild collection in the dryland areas.

64. This dialogue session provided critical insights as to how coalitions, flexibility and agility will be crucial to accelerate the sustainable transformation of supply chains and the creation of new markets that will provide economic opportunities for smallholder farmers while ensuring the restoration of severely degraded land. The session demonstrated that Parties are already making progress in promoting sustainable value chains, and that private sector engagement should continue in the future to create the tangible coalitions needed to achieve transformation in land-based sustainable value chains.