



## World Day to Combat Desertification 2014

### LAND FOR LIFE

#### How Sustainable Land Management Can Improve People's Livelihoods and Resilience

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Mechanism (GM) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) have the pleasure of inviting attendance at the celebrations of the World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) **on Tuesday 17 June 2014, from 18:30 to 19:30 hours** as a side event in the context of the 149<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council at FAO Headquarters **in the Red Room** (Building A, 1st floor).

This year, the main theme of the WDCD is "*Land Belongs to the Future – Let's Climate Proof it*" and focuses on ecosystem-based adaptation in order to: i) increase the attention given to land and soil within climate change adaptation; ii) mobilize support for sustainable land management (SLM); and iii) call for the inclusion of land and soil and their significance to food security into national climate change adaptation policies.

The side event will also be an opportunity to officially inaugurate the new Office of the GM of the UNCCD at FAO, which is hosting the GM Programme on "*Liaison – Land, Security and Resilience (LLSR)*".

The side event will highlight activities of FAO, UNCCD and the Governments of Italy and Kuwait to combat desertification, land degradation and drought and present the priorities of the newly established GM office at FAO.

#### Draft Agenda

Time	Content
18:30	<i>The contribution of sustainable natural resource management to combat desertification and land degradation</i> <b>Maria Helena Semedo</b> , Deputy Director-General for Natural Resources, FAO
18:40	<i>Land, security and resilience – three cornerstones for UNCCD implementation</i> Video message of <b>Monique Barbut</b> , Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and <b>Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist</b> , Director of Programmes/Officer in Charge, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
18:50	<i>Combatting desertification and land degradation in the Near East Region: Achievements and challenges</i> <b>Yousef Jhail</b> , Permanent Representative of Kuwait to FAO, Chair of the FAO's Near East Regional Group
19:00	<i>Fighting desertification, land degradation and droughts to improve people's livelihood – a priority for the Government of Italy</i> <b>Fabio Cassese</b> , Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy
19:10	<i>Facilitated discussion</i> <b>Moujahed Achouri</b> , Director, Land and Water Division, FAO