

## **UNCCD COP13 Side Event**

### **Global Land Outlook Launch of the First Edition**

#### **UNDP Comments**

---

Ladies and Gentlemen; A very good afternoon to you all!

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme, I would like to thank the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and her team for leading the preparation of the first edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO), an ambitious initiative that presents a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales.

UNDP recognizes that land degradation is a barrier to sustainable development. Current management practices in the land use sector are responsible for about 25 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, while around 1 billion people living in extreme poverty depend on degraded land for their livelihoods and subsistence.

By 2030, the demand for food, energy, and water is expected to increase by at least 50, 45 and 30 percent respectively as a result of population growth, increase in the global middle class and urbanization. These needs will not be met sustainably unless we conserve and restore the productivity of our land.

According to the State of Food Insecurity Report<sup>1</sup>, about 800 million people lacked sufficient nutritious food between 2014 and 2016. If hunger and food insecurity are to be overcome, an estimated 60% increase in agricultural productivity will be necessary by 2050.

In this context, a concerted global effort is underway to halt and reverse land degradation. Drawing on over 40 years of experience and its global network of Country Offices, UNDP is supporting this effort at the global, national and local levels. UNDP is an active partner of the coalition, led by the UNCCD, to support countries' preparedness to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030. UNDP is also a supporting partner of the Global Land Outlook, having provided technical and financial support for the preparation of the working papers, the analysis of good practices on scaling-up sustainable land management and restoration, and the publication of the final report.

Today, we are here to celebrate the official launch of the Global Land Outlook. UNDP welcomes this strategic publication which highlights the central importance of land quality to human well-being, provides scenarios for future challenges and opportunities, and presents a new and transformative vision for land management policy, planning and practice at global and national scales.

---

<sup>1</sup> FAO, IFAD and WFP (2015). The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015.

The evidence presented in this first edition of the GLO demonstrates that “informed and responsible decision-making, improved land management policies and practices, and simple changes in our everyday lives, can help to reverse the current worrying trends of land degradation”.

UNDP concurs with this position. We believe that a reversal of current trends of land degradation is indeed possible. We now have an improved understanding of the kinds of actions that can reverse a great deal of the damage done, including the implementation of an effective mix of measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation. Opportunities to manage land in a fundamentally new way are also emerging. In particular, land management options that sequester carbon can provide large benefits in the fight against climate change.

In conclusion, UNDP welcomes the Global Land Outlook as the new flagship publication of the Convention. We look forward to pursuing our engagement in this important work and supporting the implementation of its recommendations on the ground.  
Thank you for your attention!