

Introduction:

1 Good evening, Ladies and Gentleman, welcome to our side-event on Land degradation neutrality: some perspectives for action. The side-event is organized by ICON SLM (the International Consortium of Science and Knowledge Networks on Sustainable Land Management), CARI (the centre for international action and results), and DesertNet International (DNI).

2 Objectives of the side event: To discuss / produce recommendations and relevant questions for concrete and fair implementation of neutrality, Based on cross-cutting visions and experiences from various stakeholders, science and CSO in particular, and How community based initiatives contribute to national targets on land degradation neutrality?

3 Why we set such objectives?

As we know, combating desertification along with land degradation neutrality has been incorporated into the sustainable development goals (SDGs) since 2015. Goal 15 focuses on sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss which closely relating to "Life on Land".

But, we all are clearly aware that this goal has very strong relations to Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries, Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Furthermore, it still affects other goals indirectly, such as Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, and so on.

So, if we review the facts: As of 2008, land degradation affected 1.5 billion people globally, Due to drought and desertification 12 million hectares are lost each year (23 hectares per minute), where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown and 74 per cent of the poor are directly affected by land degradation globally, we cannot help to think about the future of human well-being and the future of world peace.

The COP12 of UNCCD took note of this integration of combating land degradation within 2030 Agenda and signatory countries committed to define a neutrality national target, involving consequently its operational implementation in countries. This side event aims at bringing new insights on the neutrality and its operationalization

4 We prepare 6 presentations in this side-event, 2 ICON SLM presentations by DNI (Mélanie Requier) and WOCAT (Hanspeter Lieneger) and 4 short reports based on two main international events in 2017: Global Soil Week workshop on neutrality (Berlin May 2017) (Mariam Akhtar Schuster and Nathalie Vanharen) and DesertifActions (Strasbourg, Jun 2017) (Wafa Essahli and Marion Albagnac (CARI). We also wish to know your comments and suggestions. Professor Pier Paolo Rogg will summarize this event.

The presentation :

◆ **Mélanie Requier** : from the concept to its operationalization, a few questions for reflection
Chair of DNI, ICON SLM.

◆ **Hanspeter Lieneger** : A scientific contribution, WOCAT tools for LDN (tbc)
Coordinator of WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies)

==> Both interventions could be articulated: some questions, some answer from science and networks

◆ **Mariam Akhtar Schuster**: the outputs of the Global Soil Week workshop on neutrality ; perspectives (from science)

Head of DNI secretariat, senior scientific advisor and coordinator of the German IPBES coordination office, member of the Science-policy Interface, UNCCD

◆ **Nathalie Vanharen**: the outputs of the Global Soil Week workshop on neutrality; perspectives (from civil society)

Nathalie van Haren is an agricultural engineer and has been working with Both ENDS since 2003. Her passion includes working together with civil society in the areas of ecologic sustainability and social justice, and tackling failed policies and voracious greed.

==> Both interventions could be articulated : some statements from the workshop, an answer/vision from civil society

◆ **Wafa Essahli**: the output of Désertif'Actions workshop on neutrality

Former Chair of DNI

◆ **Manon Albagnac**: feedback from the involvement of CSO within LDN target setting program (Niger, Burkina Faso) and short presentation of the work conducted by the GTD on a grid to analyse projects contributing to LDN.

CARI

Q&A with the audience, feedback on concrete implementation experience.

◆ **Pier Paolo Rogg**: Wrap-up

Secretary General of DNI, University of Sassari, Italy