



# UNCCD COP13 Side Event

## African Initiative for Combating Desertification

to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa  
- Towards Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals -

**Friday, 8 September 2017, 13:00-15:00,**  
**@Room MET-05, Ordos International Convention and Exhibition Center**

### Co-organizers

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Kenya  
Government of Senegal  
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)  
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

### Program

Moderator: **Mr. Richard Mwendandu**: Director, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya

Time	Description
12:30-13:00	<b>Registration</b>
13:00-13:10	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Speaker</b> Mr. Baidy BA, Director of Water, Forest, Hunting and Soil Conservation Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal
13:10-13:20	<b>Key Note Speech</b> <b>Speaker</b> Mr. Pradeep Monga, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD
13:20-13:30	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <b>Speaker</b> Mr. Takahiro Morita, Senior Deputy Director General, Global Environment Department, JICA
13:30-13:50	<b>AICD Updates</b> <b>Speaker</b> —Dr. Ebby Chagala, KEFRI —Mr. Baba BA, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal —Ms. Mari Miura, JICA
13:50-14:35	<b>Panel Discussion: Combating desertification to achieve the SDGs: Challenges and Opportunities</b> <b>Speaker</b> Panelists: —Dr. Haman Unusa, Cameroon —Dr. Abdelazim Mirghani Ibrahim, Sudan —Dr. Richard A. Byron-Cox, UNCCD —Dr. Richard Thomas, ICARDA
14:35-14:45	<b>Announcement of AICD Ordos Roadmap</b>
14:45-14:55	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <b>Speaker</b> Mr. Richard Mwendandu, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya
15:00	<b>End of the Side Event</b>

# Session Summary

## Background

Sub-Sahara African countries, particularly those in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa region, are faced with mounting development challenges including poverty and food insecurity. Desertification, land degradation and climate change have made the situation worse. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without addressing these daunting issues with strong partnership across the region.

It is in this context that the Government of Kenya, the Government of Senegal, JICA and UNCCD jointly launched the “African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa” or **AICD** at the TICAD VI in Nairobi in August 2016 in order to promote measures for combating desertification by the countries in the region. The initiative aims to strengthen resilience to climate change of partner countries by supporting their efforts to combat desertification through enhancing coordination, networking, knowledge-sharing, and improving access to finance. There have been significant progresses on the initiative so far with the ownership of the African countries and supports from the partner organizations. However, further efforts and partnership are required to accelerate their efforts to fight against desertification, poverty, climate change and instability in the world.

## Purposes

- To share the progress of the African Initiative and efforts of participating countries and supports from organizations for combating desertification
- To discuss the way forward to further promote partnership and measures to address desertification with a particular focus on the SDG 15.3 and other important goals
- To announce Ordos Declaration which aims to show further commitments and actions of African countries and supports from partners organizations, as well to call further partnership among stakeholders to combat desertification

## Key questions

- What progress has been made to achieve SDG 15.3 and other important goals and what challenges are partner countries facing?
- What are the opportunities the African Initiative provide to the Sahel and the Horn of Africa countries to address those challenges?
- How can the countries and development partners work better under the African Initiative towards achieving SDGs?

