

UNCCD CSO in CRIC15

Statement on Financing the implementation of the convention session

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

My name is Barış Karapınar from Turkey. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of civil society.

CSOs are committed to contributing to the development and implementation of the new strategy, driven by the SDG 15, and its ambition regarding achieving LDN. We want to see the UNCCD to cultivate synergies with the other conventions. After all, the conventions have been created to serve the people and to save and sustain ecosystems that sustain life.

Time is running out, and we need to mobilize substantial financial and human resources to achieve the 2030 target. Yet while financing large-scale projects, we need to make sure that human rights and land rights are secured. Any financial mechanism must involve local small landowners, land-users and local civil society. There are 500 million small-scale farmers around the world. Without their involvement and active participation, the strategy and the target will ultimately fail.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts made by the UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to access new financing streams, including private capital. We believe that LDN projects funded by private and public finance must adhere to the highest human, social and environmental standards.

We would like to see clear guidelines and safeguards. Any changes in land use will impact upon existing land use rights and practices. Therefore design of interventions must anticipate these changes and engage affected land users in co-creating a future that they embrace as an improvement. In this context it is vital that participatory and transparent governance and effective checks and balances must be embedded in financial management.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished delegates,

Let me conclude by emphasizing that new funds should priorities societies and ecosystems that are most exposed to the impacts of land degradation and hence that are most vulnerable. We must protect the interests of pastoralists, small-scale farmers, women, indigenous peoples and landless peasants who are directly or indirectly affected by LDN interventions, including funded projects.