



ARTICLE WRITING

**17 JUNE 2024**

# WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

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## Introduction

Desertification and drought are issues of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world, and that joint action by the international community is needed to address them, particularly in Africa. The United Nations General Assembly declared 17 June to be "World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought" by its [resolution A/RES/49/115](#) adopted in December 1994.

Desertification, land degradation, and drought are among the most severe environmental issues of our day, with up to 40% of the world's land area already deemed degraded. Healthy land supplies us with about 95% of our food, as well as clothing and shelter, employment and livelihoods, and protection from severe droughts, floods, and wildfires. At the same time, rising

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populations, combined with unsustainable production and consumption practices, drive demand for natural resources, placing undue strain on land to the point of deterioration. Desertification and drought are driving forced migration, with tens of millions of people at danger of relocation each year. Over one billion of the world's 8 billion people are under the age of 25 and live in developing nations, particularly in areas that rely heavily on land and natural resources for survival. Creating work possibilities for rural communities is a potential approach that allows young people to pursue eco-entrepreneurship while also scaling up excellent practices.

**2024 THEME : UNITED FOR LAND , OUR LEGACY , OUU FUTURE**

**Message of UN Secretary-General António Guterres**

***"Her Land. Her Rights: Advancing gender equality and land restoration goals"***

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states that "we are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations" . Specifically, SDG Goal 15: Life on Land expresses the determination of the United governments and SDG member governments to prevent and reverse land degradation The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed on 17 June each year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.

The day offers a chance to recognize that [land degradation neutrality](#) is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and cooperation at all levels.

**What is desertification?**

Desertification refers to the deterioration of land in arid, semi-arid, and dry sub humid environments. It is mostly caused by human activity and climate change. Desertification does not mean the growth of existing deserts. It arises because dryland ecosystems, which account for more than one-third of global land area, are especially sensitive to overexploitation and unsuitable land use. Poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing, and poor irrigation methods all have the potential to reduce agricultural production.

**CONCLUSION:**

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We rely on the land for our survival. Nonetheless, we treat it like dirt. Unsustainable farming erodes soil 100 times quicker than natural processes can replace it. Furthermore, up to 40% of our planet's land is currently degraded: Threatening food production; Threatening biodiversity. And exacerbating the climate problem. This disproportionately affects women and girls. They bear a disproportionate share of the burden of food insecurity, water shortages, and forced migration caused by our misuse of the land. Nonetheless, they have the least control.

*"Desertification and drought, which are a degradation of environmental health, contribute to the collapse of biodiversity and favour the appearance of zoonoses."*

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