

**Call for expression of interest**  
**High Level Meeting on the sidelines of 66<sup>th</sup> session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/65/160 on the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The resolution states how the General Assembly among other, decided to convene a one-day high-level meeting on the theme “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” on Tuesday, 20 September 2011, prior to the general debate of its sixty-sixth session.

Section (h) paragraph 11 refers to the involvement of the civil society organizations and the private sector and indicates that the President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, regarding the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the meeting. Two speakers will be able to address the meeting **if the time allows**.

In order to support the tasks entrusted to the President of the General Assembly the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) would like to call all civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD for an expression of interest in contributing to the High Level Meeting.

In this regard, the UNCCD Secretariat would highly appreciate to receive written proposal from interested organizations indicating what would be their contribution to the event. Proposals should be sent to [cso@unccd.int](mailto:cso@unccd.int) indicating in the subject of the message *General Assembly Desertification* by **COB 18 of August 2011**. The request should contain a proposal of maximum 300 words indicating what would be (a) the proposed involvement of the organization in the high-level meeting and (b) the specific input to its theme.

The requests received will be transmitted to the office of the President of the General Assembly for consideration and consultations as indicated in paragraph 11 (h) of the Resolution.

**Please bear in mind that no financial resources will be provided**

Additional information on the event is available on <http://gahlm.unccd.int>

**Resources:**

UN Convention to combat Desertification: [www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)

UN Decade for Deserts and to fight against desertification: <http://unddd.unccd.int>

UN General Assembly: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/meetings>

Resolution A/RES/65/16:

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/160&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/160&Lang=E)

Previous High Level Meetings: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/biodiversity.shtml>