



Eco newsletter has been published by Non-Governmental Groups at the major conferences since the Stockholm Environmental Conference in 1972. This issue is produced by groups attending the UNCCD COP 12 in Ankara, Turkey

**The CSO opening statement on Monday, October 12\***

I would like to welcome you all on behalf of TEMA Foundation, to Turkey, the homeland of the Anatolian people who love their soils with a deep passion. Since 1992 TEMA Foundation has effectively promoted sustainable land management in Turkey and ensured that the issue is addressed in public policy. In 2012 TEMA won the Land for Life Award for its efforts.

We are honoured to see you all here in our country for UNCCD COP 12 and to contribute as the local NGO focal point.

2015 is the international year of soil. The UN has drawn attention to the vital importance of the conservation of the soil, which is under

enormous pressure due to the increasing needs of the expanding world population and the persistence of economic models that exploit and pollute the natural resources. These unsustainable patterns of development only lead to more poverty and inequality, displacement, migration and civic disruption, with devastating impacts on the most vulnerable segments of the population specifically women and children.

This year we have witnessed the biggest migration flow in the World. It is estimated that there will be 200 to 350 million environmental refugees by 2050. Sustainable land management and land rehabilitation are more

crucial than ever for human well-being. Ensuring sound governance of land and prevention of land conflicts has become an imperative.

Because the livelihoods of so many are directly dependent on the quality and productivity of land and its resources, degradation of land is not only a menace to ecosystems and biodiversity, it is also a direct threat

to food security, sustainability, poverty alleviation, and to the political stability of entire regions of the world.

This September, 193 countries came together in New York to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 15 specifically

calls for the protection, restoration and sustainable management of land-based ecosystems. Target 15.3 envisages the achievement of a Land Degradation Neutral World by the year 2030.

As CSOs, we welcome the concept of LDN and the fact that soils have received the deserved focus among SDGs. However, we believe that it is important to sharpen the concept and clarify the thinking so that LDN can become a valued tool to advance the well-being of people and the health of ecosystems, and not one that could be used to undermine people’s tenure security and livelihoods, destabilise communities, or provide a license



to degrade. Questions of measurement of impacts, equity and governance must be addressed.

It is clear to all that additional financial resources are needed to achieve LDN, but any funding mechanism should allow communities to improve land management and not promote transfer of land to third parties.

Commercial and political pressure on land is increasing every day and foreign investment in land is a major threat to smallholder agriculture globally, especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Private public partnerships that lead to alienation of land from its traditional users will in effect be using public funds to impoverish the lives of land users. The FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure should be adhered to in all cases.

2015 is the year when a new climate deal will be decided in Paris, during the 21st COP of UNFCCC. The significance

### **COP 12 : Distribution des cartes et lignes rouges en lever de rideau! – Patrice Burger**

La séance d'ouverture de la COP12 le 12 octobre à Ankara a été comme toujours riche d'enseignements sur les points de vue – et on peut le regretter quelquefois l'absence de points de vue – des parties prenantes à la Convention. On peut par exemple être surpris par les vérités mille fois redites sur la désertification et la dégradation des terres, comme une sorte d'incantation. On peut aussi s'étonner du langage très implicite pour critiquer telle ou telle disposition ou manquement. Toutefois on aura compris dans le discours programme de Mme Barbut que les choses devaient changer en termes d'efficacité et d'efficience de la structuration en place, amis aussi en termes de champ couvert et de visibilité sur la scène internationale. Peut-être en termes d'orientation. Chacun aura senti un vent de changement . Le lien fait par Mme Barbut entre dégradation des terres, dégradation des écosystèmes, aggravation de la pauvreté et migrations jusqu'à l'instabilité internationale n'est pas nouveau en soi, mais il est porté comme un argument majeur pour agir vite, fort et durablement. Les propos tenus par Nicolas Hulot – invité spécial et représentant du Président de la République française - plaçant les enjeux au niveau de la survie de l'humanité a rappelé à chacun quelques vérités simples : « l'humanité souffre plus de ses excès de puissance que de ses faiblesses », « la solidarité n'est pas une option mais une

of sound land management to stabilising the climate is increasingly recognised in these negotiations. Not only does 95% of all our food come from the soil, but it is a massive carbon sink that regulates our climate.

As civil society, we kindly request from all the delegations here to make the decisions and processes as participatory as possible and ensuring that the voice of civil society contributes to shaping the decisions made by this COP.

Last but not least, it is important to remember that this convention will be implemented by the people. And it is our duty to help them embrace and appropriate this.

Thank you

*\* Delivered by Duygu Kutluay on behalf of all civil society organisations participating COP12*

condition », « la dégradation des terres et le changement climatique sont intrinsèquement liés et constituent l'ultime injustice pour les plus faibles » ... Toutefois, dans les interventions qui ont suivi des groupes régionaux les clivages sont assez rapidement apparus sur l'interprétation qu'il fallait donner aux paroles de Mme Barbut sur divers sujets tels que le concept de Neutralité en matière de dégradation des terres, de sa précision et de son financement, du rôle et de la place de la convention limitée ou non aux zones arides, semi-arides et sub-humides sèches, des propositions de modification des modalités de travail du CRIC et du CST, de la stratégie post 2018, du rôle et de la place des objectifs de développement durable dans la convention...Au-delà des positions et postures de principe, il semble toutefois que la prochaine échéance de la COP21 à Paris ne permettra pas de renvoyer les questions difficiles de COP 12 à demain. Dans le débat d'idées et la mise en avant des revendications contenues dans leur déclaration, il semble que les OSCs ont non seulement des propositions à faire valoir, mais comptent bien peser sur l'histoire et ne pas s'en remettre aux seules mains de représentants des gouvernements et aux lobbies des institutions internationales. Affaires à suivre !

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