



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF ICELAND

HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM

# A LAND-DEGRADATION NEUTRAL WORLD

– KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



Ministry of International Relations  
and Cooperation of Namibia

*Hotel Radisson BLU | Sholla 1 | 14 July 2015 | 15:30 – 18:00*

*Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, hosted by the Group of Friends on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) in cooperation with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat.*

## Why focus on land-degradation neutrality (LDN)?

Land degradation affects 2 billion hectares of land, affecting the livelihoods of millions.

Investment and capacity building in sustainable land management and land restoration, along with enhanced information for policy-makers, will be essential to achieving many of the SDGs as well as to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

LDN will contribute to achieving food and water security, alleviating poverty, halting loss in biodiversity, empowering women and promoting peace and stability.

LDN is an integral part of “the Future we want” from Rio+20, the soon-to-be adopted SDGs and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.



## Opening remarks

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland,  
H.E. Mr. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations  
and Cooperation of Namibia, H.E. Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

Representative of the Government of Qatar, TBC

## Moderator

Mr. Melchiade Bukuru,  
Chief, UNCCD Office,  
New York



## Expert panel

Mr. Simone Quatrini, Coordinator: Land, Private Finance and  
Investments Policy & Investment Analysis UNCCD Global Mechanism

Dr. Hafdis Hanna Aegisdottir, Director of UNU Land Restoration Training Programme

Mr. Mulugeta Sebhatleab Tesfay, Lecturer at Mekelle University, former fellow of the UNU LRT

Dr. Hans R. Herren, President and CEO of the Millennium Institute, President of Biovision

Ms. Alice Ruhweza, Regional Technical Advisor for Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Africa, UNDP



## The panel discussion will focus on

- The definition of land-degradation neutrality (LDN)
- The economics and cost-benefit analysis of LDN, why it pays to invest in it now
- Key policy measures for implementation
- Capacity building to restore and manage land
- Real world examples of how LDN can be achieved

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO NOTIFY OF  
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