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## Media Advisory

### Burkina Faso to host high-level meeting on greens jobs for youth

**Bonn/Ouagadougou - 31 May 2017.** International and local media are invited to cover the high-level symposium on sustainability, stability, and security in Africa hosted by H.E. President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré of Burkina Faso. H.E. President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, and H.E. President of Niger, Mahamadou Issoufou, and several ministers of environment, foreign affairs and interior from across Africa will participate in the event.

**When:** [15 June 2017](#)

**Where:** [Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso](#)

**What:** The Symposium, to be held on [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#), will address Africa's increasing problem with land degradation that is contributing to unemployment and distressed migration of rural youth. Ministers will explore the sustainability and security challenges as well as opportunities to bring stability and growth.

**Expected Outcome:** A call for action to create land-based jobs in the context of the 3S (Sustainability, Stability and Security) Initiative endorsed by Africa's Heads of State and Government in Marrakesh, Morocco, in November 2016.

During the occasion, the secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification will also announce the winners of the [Land for Life Award](#).

#### **Background**

[Globally, 20% of young people aged between 15 and 29 years are willing to migrate permanently to another country. Youth who work but live in poverty are the most inclined to migrate, with those from sub-Saharan Africa \(1 in every 4\) among the most willing. The region has the highest level \(70%\) of youth who work but live in poverty.](#) Africa's mostly rural population, which is growing rapidly, is facing unprecedented livelihood challenges due to the combined effects of degrading land, low levels of development and weather-related disasters. With their natural capital rapidly shrinking, young jobless men, in particular, face stark choices to manage household risk and support their families. More of them are searching for alternatives far from their home



communities. The challenges they face in the process amplify their potential exposure to extremist groups that capitalize on this sense of hopelessness.

President Roch Mark Christian Kabore of Burkina Faso is hosting the global observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification to move forward the vision of Africa's leaders to create jobs for young people that can address distressed migration where it is perceived as the only path to employment or a better life.

### **Educational materials**

A 27-minute documentary on West Africa's migrant crises, *The Re-discovery of Humanity: ecosystem restoration and migration* is available at no cost for television screening on 17 June 2017, in observance of the [World Day to Combat Desertification](#) (WDCD). Broadcasters interested in screening the film on a different date can [submit their request](#) to the UNCCD secretariat. Producers can add sub-titles for local viewing where needed. For publicity, a 3-minute trailer of the film is also available [here: http://bit.ly/2rIFWoL](http://bit.ly/2rIFWoL).

Detailed and background information about the observance of the 2017 World Day to Combat Desertification is available [here](#). Background information about the Land for Life Award is [here](#).

Inquiries from foreign media about the global observance or the Desertification Day should be sent to the [UNCCD press office](#) via this link: <http://www2.unccd.int/media/contact>.

Journalists based in Burkina Faso interested in covering the event should contact: Ms Hortense Evelyne YELEMOU, *Director of Communication and Ministerial Press, Ministry of Environment of Burkina Faso*, [yelemouhor@gmail.com](mailto:yelemouhor@gmail.com)

### **About UNCCD**

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the only legally binding international agreement on land issues. The Convention promotes good land stewardship. Its 196 Parties aim, through partnerships, to implement the Convention and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The end goal is to protect our land, from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide us all with food, water and energy. By sustainably managing land and striving to achieve land degradation neutrality, now and in the future, we will reduce the impact of climate change, avoid conflict over natural resources and help communities to thrive.