



STATEMENT OF

MR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

on the occasion of

DÉSERTIF' ACTIONS 2015
Forum international « Désertification et société civile »

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank you for this opportunity to address you today. I regret that I cannot be there in person to attend what promises to be a very interesting meeting.

I would like to congratulate the organizers and partners for this important initiative. Indeed, in the context of the climate agreement that should be reached in Paris later this year and the discussions on the sustainable development goals, it is crucial to increase awareness about the important role that sustainable land management can play in achieving the objectives of the three Rio Conventions, and also to increase efforts to scale up actions at the regional and national level. This event provides a great opportunity for a range of stakeholders to discuss ways to incorporate sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation into the development agenda, at the same time contributing to the fight against desertification and the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

As sister Rio Conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification have many areas of convergence, the most significant being the work to conserve, restore and sustainably manage land and water resources. In fact, the ten-year Strategic Plan and Framework for the UNCCD and the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets provide even stronger bases for implementing the synergies between the Rio Conventions at national level. I invite you to consider the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Target 15 which calls for the enhancement of the resilience of ecosystems and the restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification. Also relevant is Target 5 which aims to significantly reduce degradation and fragmentation of all natural habitats, and Target 7 which calls for areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry to be managed sustainably.

The conservation, effective management, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, including land and soils, are crucial to ensuring the maintenance of ecosystem services in times of climate variability and change. Many sustainable strategies, such as ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation to climate change, have the potential for achieving multiple benefits, including reducing vulnerability to disasters as called for by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Let us strive for more concerted actions by Governments, organizations, scientists as well as the general public, to ensure healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems and a sustainable future for all.

I wish you fruitful discussions and thank you for your kind attention.