



Land degradation is one of the planet's most pressing global challenges. A third of the world's land is degraded. At the end of the [13th session of the Conference of the Parties \(COP 13\) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) on 16 September in Ordos (China), 113 countries had agreed to specify concrete targets, with clear indicators, to reverse degradation.

"Some battles took place, but you took bold measures for our Convention. We have a new strategic framework and a new reporting cycle. We have a Drought Initiative. We have taken fundamental decisions on gender, capacity-building, migration and sand and dust storms," said Monique Barbut, UNCCD Executive Secretary.

The 196 country parties attending the 13th session of the Bonn-based United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) aimed to agree on a 12-year strategy to contain desertification, a threat for global food and water security.

The UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is regarded as the most comprehensive global

commitment to achieve [Land Degradation Neutrality \(LDN\)](#) in order to restore the productivity of vast swathes of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and to reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations.

Furthermore, 80 Ministers signed the Ordos Declaration urging countries to step up efforts on all fronts to tackle desertification, which is seen as one of the planet's most pressing global challenge. To this global challenge are directly linked three new and emerging issues, which were also addressed at the Conference: drought, sand and dust storms and migration.