

Strasbourg, 29 June 2017

Land & Climate: action is possible!

Gathered during two days at the Strasbourg University, the communities of actors combatting land degradation and climate change adopted this Wednesday 28 June 2017 a declaration to reaffirm their determination to put land at the heart of local actions and international agendas.

Désertif'actions: a successful gamble!

Unprecedented by its nature, this multi-actors meeting gave the opportunity for 200 participants from 25 countries to get together in order to develop a long-term dialogue between communities of actors fighting against land degradation and climate change.

A series of convergent points and possible synergies and cooperation have identified, thus drawing a roadmap of actions to launch on the ground and the political messages to bring to the next international conferences, and particularly the conference of parties of the United Nations Convention to combat desertification in Ordos (China) in September and the one on climate change in Bonn (Germany) in November.

Strengthening the trust and confidence between actors and supporting the existing solutions

In his message addressed to participants, French Minister on Ecological and Solidarity Transition M. Hulot clearly stated the challenges: "the international action on land restoration is the cornerstone in the fight against climate change". It is the time for action! Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification urged the participants of the summit at its opening denouncing that "Without urgent action on desertification, we will leave the poorest behind again and again"

After 2 days of discussion and 12 workshops, the conclusion is clear: there is a strong commitment from local communities to be more resilient" reminded by Sylvestre Tientore (Burkina Faso) from SPONG/RESAD at the closing plenary of DesertifActions. "Where yesterday there is despair, today there is genius".

"Solutions exist" recalls Patrice Burger, CARI Association Founder "especially on agriculture transition, intensive ecological solutions, which are waiting for a scale change". Reshaping collaboration of actors and strengthening trust and confidence are needed. This has been underlined by the majority of panelists and in particular, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Chad) from AFPAT who emphasized, "the necessity to better listen and take better into account the indigenous peoples and local communities"

The commitment from local government and non-state actors: at the heart of collective actions

Ronan Dantec, Senator, President of Climate Chance Association and UCLG spokesperson on Climate underlined that "without a territorial approach, we won't achieve our objectives". He is supported by Lauren Carter, representative of High Level Climate Champion Ms Hakima El Haité who indicated that there is a potential of public and private finance to be mobilized by local governments".

According to Mayor of Strasbourg and co-president of UCLG, Roland Ries, "local governments have an unique role on mobilization. Without regard to land and immediate actions on land, ecological transition won't be possible. In this context, the Strasbourg commitment falls within long-term.

This declaration is now open for endorsement. DesertifActions 2017 is an event organized by the CARI Association, Climate Chance Association and the City of Strasbourg in partnership with the UN Convention to combat desertification. All information on the Summit www.desertif-actions.fr

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