



1.0 Introduction

These are **briefing notes of the UNCCD CoP 14 Dissemination and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Dialogue** organized by Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries & Fisheries in collaboration with the Ministry of Water & Environment and the National Environment Management Authority. It was held on **12th November 2019 at Rider Hotel, Seeta** as a follow up event to mark the World Day to combat desertification 2019, earlier celebrated on 17th June 2019. The dialogue was organized under the theme, **'Let's Grow the Future Together.'**

Land Degradation Neutrality – refers to a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.

The dialogue involved active participation of Members of the Uganda delegation that participated in the UNCCD CoP 14 and key stakeholders in the Agriculture, Water & Environment sectors including both state and non-state actors (i.e. Civil Society Organizations – CSOs) at both national and local levels. The dialogue was organized under the framework of the project titled, **'Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Effective Implementation of Rio Conventions in Uganda.'** The project builds on the 2007 National Capacity needs Self-Assessment (NCSA) on implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Uganda. The project objective is to strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation and monitoring of Rio Conventions in Uganda. The Rio Conventions Project focuses on the **3 MEAs namely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).** The National Environment Management Authority is implementing the 4 year Global Environment Facility/United Nations Development Program funded project. The implementation involves joint collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries & Fisheries in collaboration with the Ministry of Water & Environment and other key stakeholders including: Local Governments (i.e. Kayunga, Buikwe, Wakiso, Jinja, Mukono) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (i.e. Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment; Environmental Alert; and Nature Uganda).

Thus, overall the dialogue provided opportunity for providing structured feedback and update to the stakeholders of what transpired in the UNCCD CoP 14, particularly the key outcomes in terms of decisions that require policy response and action through various initiatives being rolled at the national, local and community levels in the Agriculture, Water & Environment sectors. **The details in this respect are available in the attached summary reports and associated technical presentations made during the dialogue.**

Key actions were generated along the themes: Drought Policy Advocacy; Land Tenure; UNCCD Gender Action Plan; Land Degradation neutrality; Communication of information on Desertification, land degradation & drought – with the overall purpose of tapping into available opportunities with the UNCCD towards delivery of commitments in respect to climate change, biodiversity conservation and land degradation. A detailed report for the dialogue is being prepared by the organized. It will be disseminated once it's shared.



1.2 One key emerging issues from the dialogue among others *is the limited participation of the Non-state actors in the CoP 14, but also related strengthening of coordination between the state & non-state actors in the development and implementation of interventions targeted at delivery of the UNCCD commitments and outcomes at different scales.*

Civil Society Organization participation in the UNCCD CoP can be stepped up by getting more CSOs accredited. The process for accreditation is attached as separate **annex 1**.

The **UNCCD Focal Point, Mr. Stephen Muwaya, based at MAAIF** is available to support the interested CSOs to successfully conclude the accreditation process. I have copied-in Stephen for his information. *In this respect therefore, am encouraging the CSOs actively engaged in the agriculture, environment, energy and natural resources sectors to get interest and initiate the process for accreditation to the UNCCD to tap into the various opportunities it provides.*

As the CSOs also equally important is to think throu and reflect on the how the coordination among the CSOs, and also with Government can be enhanced towards effective implementation of the National commitments under the UNCCD at different scales. This should build on existing CSOs and Networks coordination mechanisms within the agriculture, water and environment sectors.

2.0 Key websites for further information:

- a) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) - <https://www.unccd.int/>
- b) UNCCD News - <https://www.unccd.int/latest-news-events>
- c) Annex 1 - UNCCD Accreditation process for Civil Society Organizations – <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/Information%20note.pdf>
- d) UNCCD Knowledge hub - <https://knowledge.unccd.int/>
- e) Rio Conventions project - <https://www.thegef.org/project/strengthening-institutional-capacity-effective-implementation-rio-conventions-uganda>