

ESCWA celebrates World Day to Combat Desertification 2016

Land Degradation Neutrality in the Arab Region – preparing for SDG implementation

Join the Web Conference

Monday, 20.06.2016
1pm-2.15pm Beirut time (UTC+02:00)

Please RSVP by Sunday, 19 June to
vontoggenburg@un.org to receive the draft Factsheet
and Web Conference link.

The Arab Region is particularly affected by and concerned with the issue of desertification and land degradation. More than 40% of the total Arab region are sensitive to land degradation and desertification.

Land degradation neutrality aims to maintain and increase the amount of healthy and productive land resources, in line with national development priorities. Land degradation neutrality has been emphasized in the process of negotiation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Responding to these concerns, The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia holds this Web Conference as part of the international celebrations to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought in June 2016. The Web Conference aims to raise awareness of the importance and urgency of addressing the problem of land degradation, as well as discussing the modalities for measuring land degradation and desertification as an indicator for land degradation neutrality.

The Web Conference will be conducted in English. Participants can join the Web Conference online from their computers. A microphone and speakers are necessary to take part in the discussions. **Please RSVP to vontoggenburg@un.org by Sunday, June 19 to receive the draft Factsheet and Web Conference link.**

Monday, 20 June 2016, 13.00—14.15 (UTC+02:00)	
13.00 – 13.25	Welcome by Mrs. Reem Nejdawi, UN ESCWA Summary of the ESCWA Factsheet <i>Land degradation neutrality in the Arab Region – preparing for SDG implementation</i> by Mr. Fidele Byiringiro and Mrs. Johanna von Toggenburg
13.25 – 13.35	Intervention by Mr. Talal Darwish, Director of Research, National Centre for Remote Sensing in Lebanon
13.35—13.45	Intervention by Ms. Sabine Sakr, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
13.45– 14.15	Discussion