

Press Invitation

What: **Launch of Africa-wide Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security**

Who: **Ministers of Environment of Africa**

When: **Monday, 14 November 2016, 17:00-20:30 hrs**

Where: **Conference Room 5**

This event is open to journalists accredited to COP22.

African Ministers attending the Climate Change Conference are expected to agree on a focused approach to address the growing threats to Africa's security, stability and sustainability (3S) linked to climate change, including but not limited to forced migration and displacement, conflicts between herders and farmers, youth radicalization and food and water security. The ministers are expected to adopt a declaration for action under the leadership of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Background

Africa's economic losses from disasters have grown steadily since the 1990s to an estimated annual average of US\$200 billion per year. 50 million smallholders account for 80% of all farms, manage most of the cultivated land, and in some countries, account for 90% of the agricultural produce. Droughts are becoming more frequent and intense. The El Nino drought of this year affected the food security of more than 30 million people. The heightened urgency to stem the growing tide of attendant challenges is evident from the many recent political commitments to action. The 3S initiative will give teeth to these commitments by specifying the measures to secure the productivity of the land, whose continued degradation is largely behind these crises. The 3S initiative is convened by the New Partnership for Africa's Development, with the leadership of Senegal, the current NEPAD Chair, and Morocco, the COP22 Presidency.

For interview requests or assistance on-site, contact: Ms. Louise Baker by email, lbaker@unccd.int or on roaming cell: +49 173 268 7172.

About the UNCCD

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is the sole legally binding international agreement on land issues. The Convention works, with its 195 Parties and other partners, to promote good land stewardship as many of them aim to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) through voluntary national targets. By achieving LDN, we will secure the health and productivity of the land, mitigate the effects of drought and make people and ecosystems more resilient to climate change.