

# LAND DEGRADATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION: CHALLENGES FOR THE EU AND AFRICA

**Tuesday, 28 June 2016**

**17:00-19:00**

**European Parliament**

**Room ASP 5G2**

**Rue de Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels**

*Co-organised by the chairs of the committees for Environment (ENVI) and Development (DEVE), the European Commission, and the Multinational Development Policy Dialogue Programme of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Brussels; with the collaboration of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) initiative.*

## **Context**

### **The land degradation – climate change – migration nexus**

Land degradation is a global concern with far-reaching implications ultimately affecting the ability of land to provide food and income for people. Globally, a large portion of the vulnerable human populations - the rural poor – live on degrading and less-favoured agricultural lands without market access, leading to increases in their overall poverty rate. This will have further impacts on the ongoing worldwide migration movement. By 2030 experts estimate a significant increase in demands for energy, food and water will further aggravate this situation. Being aware of these challenges the United Nations have given priority to combatting land degradation and aims at land degradation neutrality by 2030 (SDG 15.3). The EU is impacting land degradation through consumption and production processes outside its borders and is itself affected by land degradation (mainly due to soil erosion, soil contamination and soil sealing), with risks of worsening due to climate change. The questions we need to consider in this context are:

- How can the SDG on land degradation neutrality be implemented within the EU?
- What steps are needed to break the link between land degradation, climate change and migration?
- How can the EU and Africa enhance collaboration to address these issues?

## **Programme**

- 17:00      *Welcome remarks*  
**Giovanni LA VIA, MEP**, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
- 17:15      *Key-note address*  
**Daniel CALLEJA**, Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission
- 17:30      **Short film on ELD**

17:40 **Presentations by panelists**, moderated by **Mr. Eugenio AMBROSI**, *Regional Director of the International Organization of Migration (IOM), Brussels*

**Monique BARBUT**, *Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

- Nexus between land degradation and migration

**H.E. Commissioner N.N.**, *Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (tbc)*

- Climate Change, land degradation and migration from the African perspective

**Klaus RUDISCHHAUSER**, *Deputy Director-General, DG DEVCO, European Commission, Brussels (tbc)*

- Addressing land degradation, climate change and migration through EU development programmes

**Birgit GERHARDUS**, *Head of the Division for Rural development; Land rights and Forests, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany*

- Overview of the outcome of the Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) initiative

18:00 *Panel discussion followed by Q & A*

18:45 *Closing remarks*

**Linda McAVAN, MEP**, *Chair of the Committee on Development*

19:00 *Cocktail reception*