

NIGERIA

Madam Chairperson,

Nigeria supports the statement of the representative of Sudan on behalf of the G-77 and China. We commend the Panelists for the impressive and comprehensive presentation.

The global nature and impact of desertification, ^{and land degradation} ~~use~~ by ~~is~~ beyond question and doubt. ~~Addressing~~ desertification has direct correlation on how far we can go on poverty eradication, reversing global food crisis and hunger indeed meeting the targets of the millennium development Goals for most developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Desertification, ^{and land degradation} have direct linkage with restoration of all other eco-systems. In this regard, it has ~~close~~ complementary and synergistic relationship with Climate change, preservation of biodiversity, Reforestation and Afforestation, renewable energies, environmentally induced migration, ~~for~~ agriculture, rural development, etc. It is thereby imperative that the major environmental Convention must cooperate and coordinate efforts to address desertification and land-degradation.

Having enumerated the nature of impacts and inter-linkages and cross-cutting nature of ~~of~~ ~~land~~ desertification and land degradation, let me state frankly at the problem that never been a matter of lack of policy framework, but rather a persistent and consist lack of means of implementation, including financial, technical and technological know-how and capacity building. It was unfortunate that the global community deemed this subject matter of little consequence in 1992 and thereby the UNCCD was the only Rio Convention without a financial mechanism. It is disturbing that after years of pressure leading to making GEF a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, the focal ~~per~~ area of sustainable Land management is still the least in the allocation of finan

resources in each of the replenishment cycles to the extent that while Climate Change and Biodiversity are each receiving a billion US\$, Sustainable Land Management is allocated a third of the amount in the present 4th Replenishment Cycle. We got this far because of efforts key donors and very ^{the} commendable ^{and dynamic} leadership of the Chief Executive of the GEF, Madam Marie Babit. It is critical that this situation ~~should~~ be normalized in the forthcoming fifth replenishment cycle to substantially provide the same level of resources to ^{SLM} ~~GEF~~ like other focal areas.

And, to compliment the contribution of the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, the work of the Global Mechanism as a broker in mobilizing of funds should be streamlined and placed rightly within the leadership of the UNCCD secretariat, to prevent the present waste and ^{dissipation} energy resulting from duplication of services, parallel reporting and management challenges.

I thank you.