



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## **Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development 26 February 2009**

### **Desertification Session**

#### **Australian Delegation**

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Madam Chair.

Australia would like make some brief remarks to re-emphasise the role of UNCCD's strategic plan and framework in focusing actions to combat desertification and land degradation. The UNCCD is well placed to promote initiatives and develop policies to combat water scarcity and desertification through this approach.

Australia supports coordination and collaboration between nations to combat desertification and the integration of actions into national development strategies and action plans. Australia also supports coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to combat desertification and land degradation. The Lake Eyre Basin Agreement is an Australian example that showcases this approach, which involves governments, community, industry and scientific stakeholders.

Australia would also like to emphasise community-based natural resource management, capacity building and employment of traditional knowledge. Australia's Indigenous Protected Areas programme involves an agreement between traditional owners and the Australian Government to promote biodiversity and cultural resource conservation in areas of Indigenous-owned land or sea.

Thank you Madam Chair.