

# Agenda



**Launch Event - Group of Friends on  
Desertification, Land Degradation,  
and Drought - GoF-DLDD**



**Date: 17 February 2025**

**Time: 11h00 - 14h00**

**Venue: Sheikh Zayed Media  
Centre**

**FAO HQ - ROME (Italy)**

**In honor of the COP16 Presidency on soils: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to FAO**

**H.E. Mohammed Alghamdi**

**Opening Remarks: H.E. Fatimata Cheiffou - *Ambassador of the Republic of Niger to Italy and UN in Rome - Africa Regional Group Chairperson 2024***

**Mr. Qu DongYu - Director General - FAO - Opening of the roundtables and speech**

**Ms. Birguy Lamizana Diallo - *Chief Global Policy, Advocacy and Regional Cooperation* on behalf of **Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw - Executive Secretary- UNCCD****

**Dr. Juan Carlos Mendoza - *Director of Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division* - on behalf of **Dr. Alvaro Lario - IFAD President and UN-Water Chair -****

**Mr. Stanlake Samkange - *Director of Director of Multilateral and Programme Country Partnerships* - on behalf of **Mrs. Cindy McCain - Executive Director - WFP -****

**Dr. Ismahane Elouafi - *Executive Managing Director* - CGIAR - Presentation: Science for sustainability: CGIAR's contribution to building resilience in drylands. (virtually)**

**Prof. Maria Chiara Malaguti - *President* - UNIDROIT- Presentation: "Legal Nature of Verified Carbon Credits."**

**Ms. Aruna Francesca Maria Gujral - *Director General ICCROM* -**

**Dr. Lifeng Li - *Director of Land and Water Division* - FAO - Presentation "Restoration of Degraded Agricultural Lands: Urgency Co-benefits".**

**Dr. Stefanos Fotiou - *Director UN Food Systems Coordinator Hub and SDGs* - FAO - Presentation: "Linking Food Systems Transformation and Climate Action: The UN Convergence Initiative".**

**H.E. Tserendorj Narantungalag - *Ambassador of Mongolia to Italy and UN in Rome* - Message (*COP17 on Soils*)**

**H.E. Fatimata Cheiffou - Closing Remarks.**

**During the event, there will be a dedicated segment for interactions with participants.**

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**Zoom Link: <https://fao.zoom.us/j/98333284886> Password: 99748817**

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