

4 March 2015

*MAR - 4 2015
15-01852*

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

**Subject: Request for a video message on the occasion of
the Fifth Kubuqi International Desert Forum**

The Fifth Kubuqi International Desert Forum will be held on 28 and 29 July 2015 in Ordos, China. On this important occasion, I would like to request your consideration to provide a short-video message for the opening session. You kindly provided a similar message for the Fourth Forum held in August 2013, which was much appreciated by the Forum participants.

The Forum has been organized by the Elion Resources Group of China since 2007 in cooperation with the Ministry of Sciences and Technology, the State Forestry Administration and the People's Government of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. UNCCD has been supporting the Forum since 2011.

Under the theme, "Desert Eco-civilization and Jointly building of the Silk Roads," the Fifth Forum will focus on promoting exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, policy and institutional innovation, regional and international cooperation as well as private sector cooperation through market mechanism. Approximately 300 participants are expected to participate including Heads of States from countries affected by desertification, senior representatives from international organizations, scientists and entrepreneurs. A high-level official of the Chinese Government is expected to inaugurate the opening ceremony.

A number of important activities are undertaken to combat desertification in China, particularly in the area of Inner-Mongolia, which contribute to mitigating the effect of yellow sand storms around the region. Recently, Chinese private entrepreneurs jointly launched the Green Land Partnership Programme that envisages a total of 1.3 billion trees planted over 1.3 million hectares of land along the Silk Road in the next 10 years.

As the international community is shaping its vision towards the new Sustainable Development Goals, and in view of the International Year of Soils, I consider it an opportune moment to advocate for the significance of productive land and soil as the basic building blocks for our lives and economies at the Forum. I would very much look forward to your positive reply.

Sincerely Yours,

M. B.
Monique Barbut
Executive Secretary



Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General
United Nations



Fw: Letter from the UNCCD Executive Secretary Monique Barbut

SGCentral to: Hazel Foster

Sent by: Jill Anrilto

04/03/2015 11:11 AM

— Forwarded by Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO on 04/03/2015 10:58 AM —

From: Yukie Hori <YHori@unccd.int>
To: ferascu@un.org,
Cc: Melchiade Bukuru <bukuru@un.org>, Marie Paule Lorka Lavri <MLavri@unccd.int>
Date: 04/03/2015 10:29 AM
Subject: Letter from the UNCCD Executive Secretary Monique Barbut

Dear Ruxandra,

I am pleased to transmit the letter from the UNCCD Executive Secretary Monique Barbut to the Secretary-General, as attached. We look forward to receiving a positive consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you and with best regards,
Yukie

Yukie Hori, PhD
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