

DECLARATION

WORLD FUTURE COUNCIL CONFERENCE, EGYPT

Solutions for Land, Soils and Food in Africa

Text adopted on 24 April 2018, Cairo, Egypt

PREAMBLE

Under the leadership of the World Future Council (WFC), Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development - established by SEKEM Initiative - and all invited organisations and fellow scientists, we, the participants of the conference "Solutions for Land, Soil and Food in Africa", held on Tuesday, 24th of April 2018, at Cairo, Egypt, adopt and agree on the present declaration.

The World Future Council, in partnership with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, awarded exemplary policies that contributed to the protection of life and livelihoods in the dry-lands and helped to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal No.15. On 25th of September 2015, 193 countries came together to agree on the Agenda 2030. The SDG 15 calls for the protection, regeneration and sustainable management of land-based ecosystems. In doing so, target 15.3 specifically aims to achieve a land degradation neutral world by 2030.

We, the delegates of the conference, are calling for concerted actions and an international and trans-sectoral mobilization of all actors and institutions, in order to support global, regional, national and local initiatives and actions to achieve the targets defined in the United Nations Agenda 2030, the SDGs, and within the Paris Climate Agreement. We support policies that design sustainable and effective solutions - covering the social, cultural, economic and ecological dimension of sustainable development - to ensure that our children and grandchildren grow up in just societies and healthy environments, such as the GIZ initiative for "Agricultural Innovation for Income and Rural Development" and the "Green Climate Fund Initiative". In this context, and recognizing the interdependency of the complexity of ecosystems and their socioeconomic interrelations, the following principles should be considered by policymakers, business and concerned stakeholders:

Recommended Actions

- **Effective Sustainability Policies:** Align countries' policies and regulatory frameworks with the objectives set in the UN 2030 Agenda, emphasizing combating desertification, regenerating degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and striving to achieve a land degradation-neutral world in line with the Strategic Plan of UNCCD.
- **Education for Sustainable Development:** Support and create educational models, curricula and toolkits that emphasize the sustainable development agenda and strengthen the skills demanded for their practical implementations at all spatial and societal levels.
- **Sustainable Entrepreneurship:** Create a supporting environment - and even equal playing field based on True Cost Accounting - to enable and foster sustainable and social entrepreneurship, providing capacity building tools enhancing the development of sustainable business models with positive socioeconomic and ecological impact.
- **Adopting Sustainable Development and Innovation Initiatives:** To harness the potential of civil society, research institutions and new business models for the co-creation of innovative solutions for the challenges facing lands and soils needs to be unlocked. We need to work more with new initiatives in order to enable the design and implementation of unconventional solutions and empower both the civil societies and research bodies to have more impact.
- **Encourage Partnerships and Cooperation:** It is a necessity to create trans-sectoral alliances, in order to build and to strengthen the connectivity between local, regional and national best policies and good practices and to promote investments in sustainable infrastructures including digital, ecological, socio-economic ones, as well as the development and encouragement of social networks.