

H.E. Ahmet Davutoğlu
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
Vekaletler Caddesi Başbakanlık Merkez Bina
P.K. 06573; Kızılay, Ankara
Turkey

17 December 2014

Dear Prime Minister Davutoğlu,

Building on the momentum of the climate change negotiations at the UNFCCC COP20 in Lima this week, world leaders will soon turn their attention to 2015. Throughout the coming year, a number of crucial decisions will be taken. We note, in particular, an agreement on Sustainable Development Goals at the UN General Assembly [New York, September 2015] and the adoption of a climate agreement at the UNFCCC COP21 [Paris, December 2015].

In this regard, Turkey will play a pivotal role. Between these key events, Turkey is hosting both the 12th session of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [Ankara, October 2015] and the G20 [Antalya, November 2015]. Turkish vision and leadership at these events will be instrumental in securing momentum and ensuring all the agreements are meaningful and relevant for leaders in the public and private sectors. In this vein we write, as the respective heads of our organizations; the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to signal our support of Turkey in year ahead.

Within the Sustainable Development Goal process, the UNCCD is successfully making the case that we can reach a point of land degradation neutrality. This is when we are able to reverse the negative land degradation trends that breed instability and insecurity. We aim to ensure that the amount of healthy and productive land available for humanity remains stable or even increases. As you will appreciate, healthy and productive land is vital for food and water security and for economic growth and development. It is also increasingly recognized as key for efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to its worst impacts.

UNCCD Parties fully recognize that the private sector is perhaps the most important stakeholder in bringing about sustainable land management and the commitments necessary to address meaningful climate action. Through WBCSD's Action 2020 we have a number of significant business solutions aimed at addressing and achieving land degradation neutrality and land-based climate action. Companies such as Syngenta, Unilever, PepsiCo, DuPont and others are willing to commit time and resources over the course of the next year to addressing these challenges.

The UNCCD and WBCSD would therefore like to partner on the *Road to Ankara* & UNCCD's COP12 to ensure robust public-private sector collaboration. We seek and would welcome the support of the Government of Turkey in our efforts to ensure business engagement at the highest level, particularly during the UNCCD COP in Ankara. We believe it is fundamental to building on business engagement and CEO enthusiasm that high-level policymakers welcome their active participation in developing a 2015 agenda.

The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2015 is an opportune time to launch a WBCSD-UNCCD *Road to Ankara* alongside the office of the Prime Minister, and your respective ministries. To that end, our staff will follow-up separately to determine if a launch event, with your participation and support, could be feasible.

Please accept, Prime Minister, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Bakker



Monique Barbut

cc:

Deputy Prime Minister: Ali Babacan

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu

Minister of Development: Cevdet Yılmaz

Minister of Finance: Mehmet Şimşek

Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs: Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu

Ambassador of Turkey to Switzerland, Deputy Undersecretary for Economic Affairs & G20

Sherpa: Mehmet Tuğrul Gücük