



16 June 2015

Dear Madam,

It is with our great pleasure that we write to **invite you to attend the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP12 Sustainable Land Management Business Forum in Ankara, Turkey 20-21 October 2015.**

The Government of the Republic of Turkey through the Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs, together with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will organize the twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the UNCCD at the «Congressium Ankara - ATO International Convention and Exhibition Centre» in Ankara, Turkey on 12-23 October 2015.

As you know, every two years the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) hosts a Conference of the Parties, or COP, to advance issues related to land degradation, desertification, and promote the restoration of ecosystems in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

This year will mark the twelfth such meeting and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), UNCCD and Ministry of Forests & Water Affairs of Turkey are official collaborators to ensure robust and meaningful private sector participation during the COP12 Business Forum.

A draft agenda ([hyperlink](#)) is included herein and reflects both high-level representation, as well as interaction between the public and private sectors. The intent is for parties to put-forth prescriptive recommendations to solve land degradation issues, outlining appropriate means for collaboration and implementation at scale.

The outcomes of the COP12 feed into many multilateral process in 2015, like the SDG Post-2015 Summit in New York, and specifically goals related to combating climate change, land degradation neutrality and landscapes at risk. Similarly, there are strong links to the Turkish-hosted G20 – B20 in Antalya and the COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris.

During this crucial year for international cooperation, your role as a business leader on sustainability issues is both recognized and highly valued. We invite you to confirm WBCSD participation to Ms. Violaine Berger at berger@wbcSD.org and TOBB participation to Ms. Senem Yavas at senem.yavas@tobb.org.tr . We look forward to welcoming you in Ankara.

Kind regards,



**Peter
Bakker**

President
and CEO,
WBCSD



**M. Rifat
Hisarcıklođlu**

President,
TOBB



**Monique
Barbut**

Executive
Secretary,
UNCCD



**Prof. Dr. Veysel
Erođlu**

Minister,
Ministry of Forests &
Water Affairs, Turkey