

Ismail BELEN

Candidate in short list
for Executive Secretary
of
the United Nations Convention to Combat
Desertification
(UNCCD)

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Purpose and Background

- It's has been prepared to inform you about my candidacy for the Executive Secretary of UNCCD.
- **My name is at the table of the Secretary General of UN, HE Ban Ki-moon**, together with a few distinguished competitors.
- Decision 4/COP.1 provides that the **Executive Secretary will be appointed by the Secretary General** of the United Nations after consultation with the conference of the parties through its Bureau.
- I wish all the best for the others and I really thank to Mr. **Luc GNACADJA** for his term and leadership.

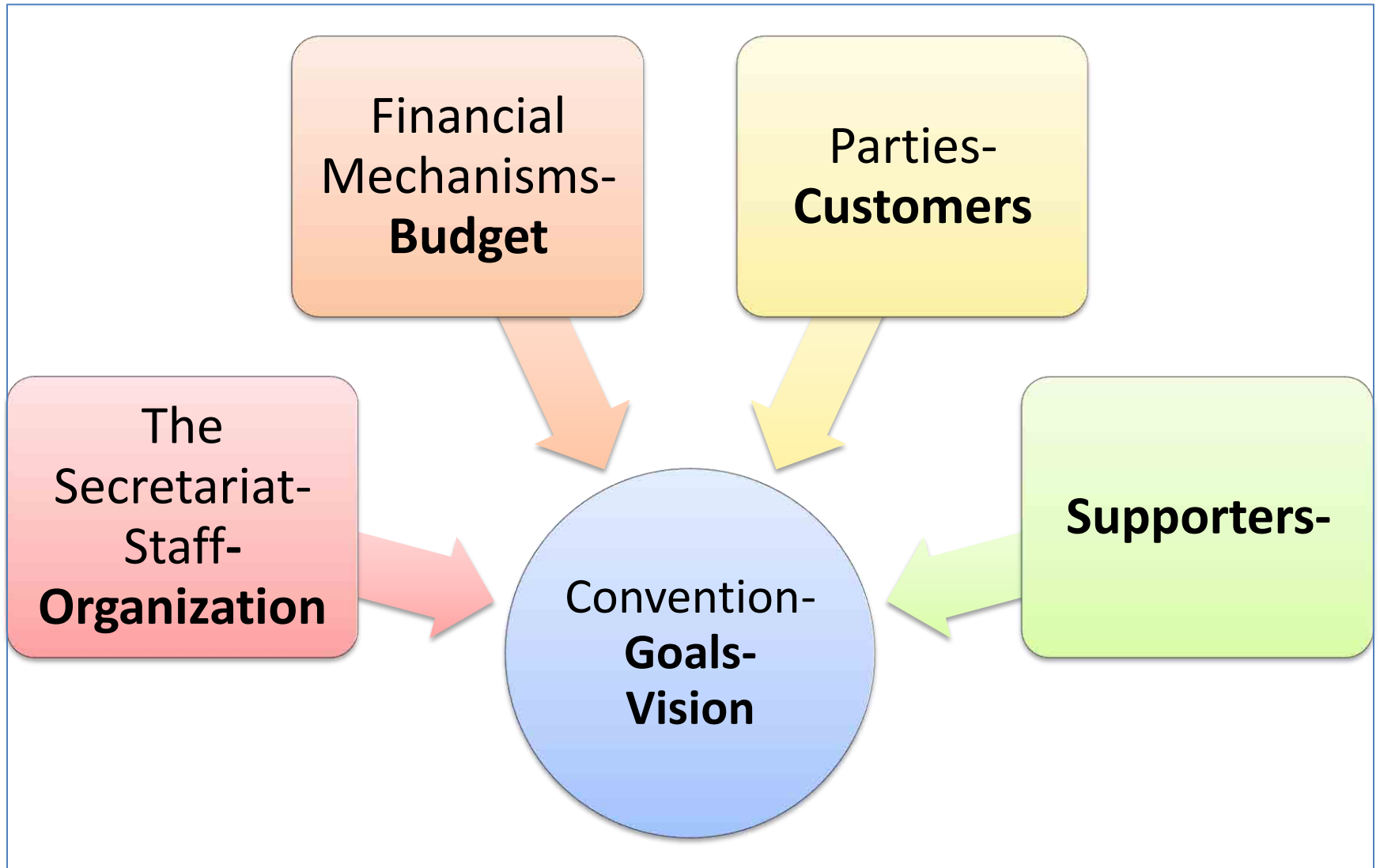
My general perception *on UNCCD-I- A unique tool for happiness*

- **Soil** is the basic of life. Desertification damages the soil.
- **Degraded soil** effects the quality of life, animal, plant.
- As a result, **they migrate to different areas without enough preparation, education and job.**
- Transported soils damages the life where they arrive.
- So, **“protect the soil where it is, improve the situation, use in best way, and restore the degraded area”.**
- **Make the people, animal, plant happy where they are.**
- Convention of Desertification is the unique tool for making the people happy where they are.
- **This is a journey of happiness.**

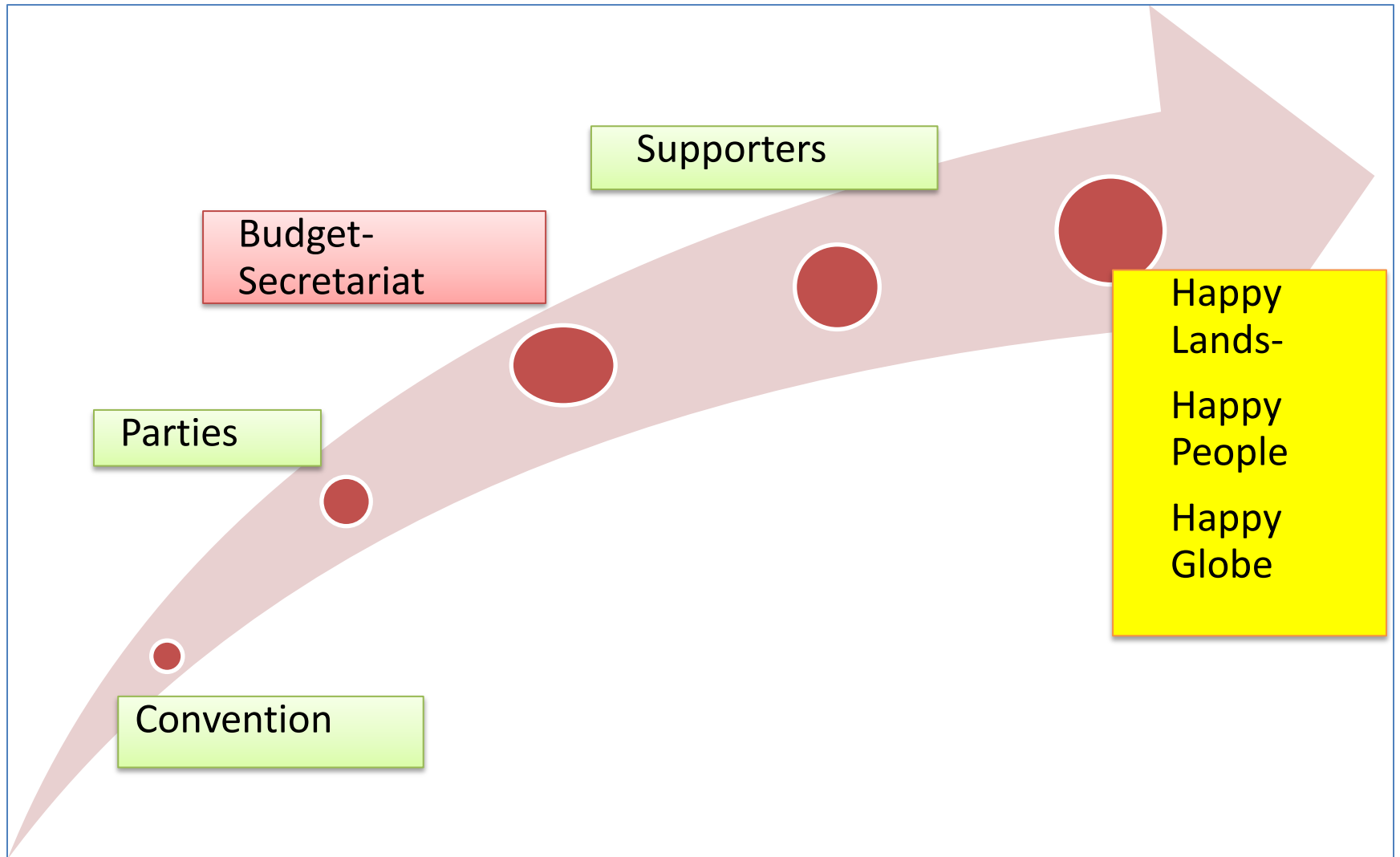
My general perception *on UNCCD-II*

- **In this journey; we should be together with the parties, supporters, shareholders.**
- If we follow the right way, if we train the people, if we use the right methods, then we are able;
 - To protect the soil,
 - To increase the plant and animal production,
 - To increase the food security,
 - To increase the quality of life
 - To protect the environment
 - To decrease the effect of climate change
 - To protect and improve the biodiversity
 - To support the development
- **As a result; we have happy people, happy animal and happy plant.**

My Plan- What we have!



UNCCD- Why we exist?



Who we are!

- **Goals- Strategy Documents:** Everything is said and settled.
- **Facilities:** Well enough (service building etc.)- Thanks to supporters
- **Secretariat-** Service Provider
- **Staff-** Needs to be supported-
- **Budget-**Needs to be improved-
- **Parties-**Our Customers- They reserved every attention
- **Supporters-**Partners in destiny- Move together

Plan on The Secretariat

- **Customer-oriented** service to parties. **We are “service provider”**
- We are part of one UN!
- **Support to Regional Offices and Initiatives**
- **Support to all the existing initiatives**
- **I have a dream on;**
 - **Staffs** and **National Focal Points** who are proud of being a part of UNCCD.
 - **Experts/Academicians** who are going to apply for Nobel Prices for theirs works, who are the most desired and paid ones for listening to.
 - **Government/NGO’s/Companies/Donor Organizations/ Film Makers/ Artist/ Newspapers/ TV Channels/Social Media** eager to support us both **financially, technically and politically.**

Plan on The Secretariat

- I will establish a special voluntary advisory group, from other organizations, from academicians, from media, from private sector to advise and **to protect me making mistakes!**
- Including my competitors for this interview and the former ES's.

Plan on Staff

- **Filling the vacancies.** Supporting the additional staff from parties, cso's, private sector, universities.
- The possible **closest cooperation** and collaboration.
- Supporting their education, improvements, **the quality of life.**
- Supporting their situation **in their own country.**

Staff and NFP's

- Close cooperation with National Focal Points, members of CST, members of CRIC. Update their information.
- Evaluate **performance measurement criteria's** collaboratively and implement together.
- **Enforcement** with necessary power.
- **Invite and support** for new ideas.

Resource mobilization plan-I

- There are trillions of dollars travelling in the world! **If someone has then we have!** We are the very important part of UN.
- For what reason we are the “stepsister” among RIO Conventions?
- The very basic question;
 - What you have to say and show!
 - What are the benefits for donors!
 - Which is the best way to reach them!

Budget-I

- **My plan (after recognizing and organizing for every country, every project, every single event)**
 - **Knock all the doors** for any resources: Finance, technique, logistic..
 - Evaluation and ensure of the **regular payments**, reach to responsible person, **direct contact!**
 - **Cost-saving**: Organize the meetings, projects together.
 - Working together with other RIO Conventions and organizations like UNEP, UNDP, FAO, World Bank, European Union, African Union.

Budget

- **Share, divide, ensure and persuade on responsibilities.**
- Sponsorship agreement with private companies and institutions (transport, reporting, consultation, publishing, organization of meetings)
- Establishment of a **new certification system** like carbon or forest certifications for “**land-degradation neutral**”.
- **Support** the scenarist, filmmakers, media, artist with scientific facts on land degradation and **invite them** to use this subject.

Parties

- **Customer-oriented service** to the Parties. *All requests from parties will be replied immediately.*
- Follow the “**party driven process**”. Share and explain all necessary items.
- Knowing the related people face to face. **Direct contact.**
- Dividing the subjects to the parties, supporters, companies, NGO's. Giving them responsibilities and **leadership for different areas.**
- **Visiting to Parties** regularly and frequently with special agenda.
- Respect to all believes, avoiding conflicting areas.

Supporters

- Under one umbrella, close cooperation, knowing each other.
- **Experts/Academicians** who are going to apply for Nobel Prizes for their works, who are the most desired and **paid ones for listening to.**
- Establishing a **unit specifically for supporters.**
- Defining performance criteria, sharing results with public/media.
- Eliminate the barriers.
- Finding new partners from private companies, improving the existence partnerships.

About Me-Country Experience

- I am a Forest Engineer, born *in a village* of Turkey.
- Currently I have been working at **General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion** as Deputy Director General.
- Prior to this, I worked as;
 - Deputy Director General of GD of Forestry,
 - **Chief of the Cabinet to the Ministry of Forestry and Environment,**
 - Head of Department,
 - Engineer and Forest Range at the Field.
- Starting at 1992, I have 22 years of experience in public sector.



International Experience

- **At present;**
 - I am the President of Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions(**Silva Mediterranea**), a technical statutory body of FAO, has 27 member countries from **Africa, Near East and Europe**.
 - **A member** of Advisory Committee of FORESTERRA Project (2012-2015) which aims to **reinforce the scientific coordination** and integration with Mediterranean-area countries and with countries from other Mediterranean Climate Areas (MCA) like, **Australia, South Africa, Chile and California**.
- I worked as National Focal Point of **UNCCD** in 2003.
- I worked as National Focal Point for **LULUCF of UNFCCC** in 2008-2010

International Experience

- **Chair of the steering committee** of “Capacity Building in SFM and Forest Fire Management in **Syria**” Project, 2010-2011
- Member of “**INC for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe**”, 2011
- **Vice Chair** of the **European Forestry Commission**, 2010-2011
- **Member** of the Steering Committee of EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds

International Experience

- Member of the “Adapting Forest Policy Conditions to Climate Change in the Mena Region Project” (**Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Syria, Lebanon and Turkey**), 2009-2011.
- Member of The ME Watershed Monitoring and Evaluation Project (**Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Turkey and the United States**) 2004



UN-FAO



UN-New York



Forest Europe

Relation with UNCCD

- In 2003, I worked as **National Focal Point** for a while and I attended to;
 - A Workshop for **Northern Mediterranean focal points**, Switzerland in 2003,
 - **UNCCD COP6** held in Cuba, 2003, together with the HE Minister.
- In **2011**, I started to work as ADG for Combating Desertification and Erosion. I am responsible for “**Department of Combating Desertification**”.
- In 2011,
 - We visited to the Secretariat of UNCCD in Bonn,
 - We attend to **UNCCD COP10**, held in South Korea.
- In **2012**, we prepared “Turkish National Strategy on Combating Desertification” with the line of UNCCD Ten-Year Strategy (2008-2018).

The Countries- Conferences

- I visited;
 - Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, South Africa **from Africa**,
 - Cyprus, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia **from Near East**,
 - Canada , the United States, Cuba **from America**,
 - Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Russia, South Korea **from Asia**,
 - **Nearly most of the countries from Europe**,
 - For study tours and meetings more than 50 times.
 - I accompanied several country teams when were in Turkey like Azerbaijan, Kirghizistan, Hungary, Tanzania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the USA, Algaria...
- I participated several congress like UNCCD COP, UNFCCC COP, UNFF, World Water Forum, European Ministerial Conference on Forest and others.



Niger



Senegal



Niger



Syria

Education

- Graduated from Forestry Faculty as a Forest Engineer,
- Two master degree; natural resources and public management.
- Currently I am having my Doctorate on Public Management in Turkey.
- I attended to Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) of Government's program for Senior Managers in Government, 2013.



Personality

- I like **writing and reading**.
- I believe the importance of **cultural diversity**.
- **Children and youths** are very important for my life!
- I believe **women sensitivity** and dedication in working life is very important.
- I like being a **member of a team**.
- I like working with **NGO's**.
- I like to be with **academicians**.
- I believe that **private sector** is the main factor for development.



Family Discussion!



We are the world!



Sport!



Team!

Family

- Family is at the center of my life!
- My parents are alive and live in a village of Turkey. Thanks them for everything.
- I got married with Ms. Züleyha Belen, a lawyer, in 1996. She is the one supports me with “no question”
- I have two sons. Furkan (17) keeps going his high school and plays guitar! Mustafa (10) is at first education. He is a fond of computer game and very good on the draw cartoons!



My mother and father



Furkan (my son)

2012/07/07 10:45

Final Words

- **Desertification** is a more real and proven threat not only for specific countries but for all of **them and for all kind of land and soil type.**
- We have the chance and way for solution.
- The UNCCD and Secretariat is a perfect platform under the UN Umbrella for these solutions. **This is journey of happiness.**
- I am ready and willing to do something for **myself, for my family, for my country and *for the globe.***

Final Words

- I **really thank to Former** Executive Secretaries, their staffs, parties, everyone joined this journey.
- I really **thank to God for creating and giving me the chance** of doing good things.
- I salute my family, my friends who are praying to make my job easy.

With my warmest regards.