

Ambassador

2013/14136816-TURKUNO DT/722579

31 July 2013

Excellency,

Please accept this endorsement and statement of support for Mr. Ismail Belen, Deputy Director General, Combating Desertification and Erosion, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, in his application for the position "Executive Director of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification".

Mr. Belen is a high-ranking official with an extensive experience not only in desertification and forests, but also in international relations and multi-lateral diplomacy. He has been leading preparation and implementation of many programs on combating desertification and land degradation at national and international levels.

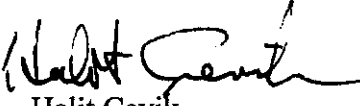
Having served as the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Environment and Forestry during the period 2005-2007, he has been holding office as the Deputy Director General for six years.

Mr. Belen has proven his dedication and commitment to addressing regional and global environmental issues. He is currently the elected President of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions. He occupied the position of the Vice Chair of the European Forestry Commission between 2010 and 2011.

Mr. Belen has an impressive academic background on forests and public administration as well.

Turkey, as one of the leading countries in combating desertification and erosion control, has been extending assistance to and sharing expertise with many countries in its wider region. In this respect, appointment of Mr. Belen as the Executive Director of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification would open new horizons to enhance cooperation between Turkey and the relevant organizations of the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Halit Çevik
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations
New York