

**Global Soil Week 2017 and its Policy  
Messages for the *2017 High-Level Political  
Forum* to review SDGs**

Dr. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster  
(Co-chair of the UNCCD-SPI)

# 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF): a thematic review of a subset of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Theme of the review: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world

## SDGs in Focus at 2017 HLPF:

**Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

**Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

**Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

**Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

**Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

**Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

**(SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals).**

**UNIVERSALITY & INCLUSION**  
**(„Leave No One Behind“)**



Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

# **Contributing via the Global Soil Week (May 2017, Berlin/Germany) to the 2017 *High-Level Political Forum***

An international multi-stakeholder community (up to 300 experts) reviewed the subset of Sustainable Development Goals to be discussed at the *High-Level Political Forum* through **a soil and land lens for eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world!**

UNCCD-SPI contributed substantially to the discussions at the Global Soil Week.

Cornerstones for discussions at the Global Soil Week:

- Adopt an approach framed by the 2030 Agenda principles of Universality and Inclusion.
- Highlight gaps, synergies and progress in the implementation process.
- Empower different actors to share their priorities on the SDG implementation, thus raising accountability and awareness of the 2030 Agenda.

**At the Global Soil Week 2017, linkage was created between sustainable soil and land management and governance and the six SDGs up for the thematic Review by the HLPF in 2017!**

# Land and Soils to Eradicate Poverty and Promote Prosperity in a Changing World - 5 Key Messages:

1. Increase investments in sustainable land management and responsible governance.
2. Make the entire production chain sustainable and change consumption patterns which have an impact on land degradation both locally and in other parts of the world.
3. Enhance spatial planning and adopt territorial approaches to address the rural-urban continuum in an integrated way that contributes to food security and the sustainable and the integrated management of natural resources.
4. Improve land rights and land tenure, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
5. Build a bridge between SDG 2 (Zero hunger) and SDG 15 (life on land) to ensure food security through avoiding, reducing and reversing soil and land degradation to achieve SDG target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality.



Full wording of each key message see:  
[http://globalsoilweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/170705\\_GSW-KeyMes\\_EN.pdf](http://globalsoilweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/170705_GSW-KeyMes_EN.pdf)

# The role of scientific networks, and research in the implementation process of the SDGs

Science and research needs for the implementation of the aspirational SDG target 15.3: „*By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world*“ would include:



- What are the linkages between LDN and land tenure?
- How to improve acceptance of LDN implementation?
- How can LDN be efficiently taken up in national policies, laws, and regulations?
- What are the questions that arise on financing LDN?
- How to ensure continuous monitoring of trends and progress?

Scientists support communication through environmental education in southern Africa. Photo courtesy: U. Schmiedel

# Important elements that could/should frame the scientific review of the implementation of the SDGs and in addressing research gaps:

- The implementation of the universal 2030 Agenda requires an **integrated and coherent approach**.
- **Interlinkages and synergies between SDGs** should be identified and used, in order to reduce competition for resources, and increase the efficiency of scientific support.
- Existing national development programmes and land use planning initiatives as well as other **national realities should be taken into account**. Because of national realities no *silver bullet* exists for implementation.
- **Interlinkages between national levels and up to the global level should be ensured**. Striving to achieve land degradation neutrality is after all a global target.

**Thank you!**