

PASTORALISM AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS



UNCCD
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United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification
LAND & PEOPLE DAY



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION



August 26, 2026



4.30-6.00 P.M. (UTC+7)



Blue Zone - Room MET-23



Climate change is intensifying droughts and land degradation across Africa's drylands, threatening ecosystems and the livelihoods of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. **As one of the most effective strategies for adapting to climate variability, pastoralism plays a crucial role in building resilience**, yet pastoral communities continue to face increasing climate risks and limited access to climate information and early warning systems.

Earth Observation (EO) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) offer new opportunities to improve drought monitoring, rangeland management and anticipatory action. Unlocking their full potential, however, requires stronger partnerships, inclusive governance and responsible data use.

Jointly organised by the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)**, the **African Union Commission (AUC)** and the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**, this side event will bring together policymakers, researchers, development partners and African stakeholders to explore how innovative digital technologies can support locally led, gender-responsive solutions for resilient pastoral livelihoods and sustainable dryland ecosystems.

INTRO

- Ms. **Giovanna Piccarretta**, Italian Ambassador in Mongolia)
- Mr. **Harsen Nyambe Nyambe**, Director, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy AUC

PANELIST

- Mr. **Marco Riccardo Rusconi**, Director of Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)
- Ms. **Silvia Puca**, Senior Expert in Earth observation and satellite technologies for disaster risk management, Italian Civil Protection Department
- Mr. **Soumana Djibo**, leading Expert in pastoralism and drought risk data and information, AGRHYMET
- Ms. **Amina Sori Maiga**, Founder of the company "Zouma"; member of Niger's Federation of Milk Producers (FERNIPROLAIT)
- Mr. **Animesh Kumar**, Head of UNDRR Office in Bonn
- Representative of **African Union Commission**

Moderator: Ms. **Nora Berrahmouni**, Deputy Director, Land and Water Division; Lead Technical Officer FAO