



**Statement by Dr. Christian Mersmann
Managing Director, Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD**

Delivered by Ms. Elsie Attafuah-Combey

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Honorable Deputy Minister, Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Her Excellency
Ana Paula Chichava

Distinguished Ambassador of CPLP, Her/His Excellency Alda Santos

Distinguished Governor from the State of CEARA´ in Brazil

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Representatives of the Government of Portugal

Representatives of the Secretariat of the CPLP

Distinguished Delegates from CPLP Countries

Representatives of bilateral and multilateral development partners

Representatives of the civil society and business community

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to address this Regional Steering Committee Meeting of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries' (CPLP).

First and foremost, I wish to extend my warmest appreciation to the Government of the Mozambique for the warm hospitality and for hosting this meeting in this beautiful country. Furthermore, I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our partners in the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA), the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the CPLP Secretariat and the Government of Portugal for our joint co-operation in support of this Initiative.

Today, we are gathered in here to enhance co-operation and partnership amongst CPLP countries and their development partners to address the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in particular and to promote broad Sustainable Land Management.



Indeed, this South-to-South cooperation and triangular partnership is an excellent way of harnessing knowledge and promoting the exchange of experiences amongst different countries, with a view to strengthening country capacities to address the UNCCD and Sustainable Land Management.

The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD attaches great importance to this partnership because of the potential to **position land as a vital resource** to achieving poverty alleviation, promoting wealth creation and sustainable human, economic and social development in all countries. Indeed, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report confirms that, any progress achieved in addressing the goals of poverty and hunger eradication, and environmental protection is unlikely to be sustained if most of the ecosystem services on which humanity relies continue to be degraded. This calls for special attention to be paid to the issue. I am therefore happy to say that this meeting is an important milestone in our joint efforts to promote partnership and co-operation around the UNCCD.

Distinguished delegated, ladies and gentlemen

As you may already know, the Global Mechanism was established to promote actions leading to the mobilization of financial resources and investments for UNCCD implementation. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to briefly highlight the Global Mechanism's support to this CPLP Initiative.

I am pleased to say that the Global Mechanism has provided technical, financial and strategic advisory services to this Initiative since its inception. For example, the Global Mechanism has participated in CPLP consultations including in Nairobi, Madrid, Brazil, Lisbon, Buenos Aires and now here in Maputo. In addition, the Global Mechanism has contributed to the strategic documents including the TCP project. Furthermore, the Global Mechanism co-funded and co-organized a knowledge exchange and capacity enhancement workshop on developing integrated financing strategy (DIFS), in Lisbon, in June 2009.

Distinguished delegated, ladies and gentlemen

In light of the above-mentioned, I would like **to reiterate our political commitment** to the CPLP programme as a whole and to share the Global Mechanism's vision and strategic role **within the future implementation of the CPLP programme** in four key areas:



- First, **the Global Mechanism proposes to play a leadership role in supporting and managing the development of Integrated Financing Strategies for Sustainable Land Management** within the context of this programme. The Integrated Financing Strategies is a tool developed by the Global Mechanism to facilitate substantial and sustainable flow of financial resources through innovative blending and application of various financing sources and instruments to finance investments into Sustainable Land Management. As part of this, the Global Mechanism sees the possibility of co-financing programmes and initiatives under the CPLP Initiative at country level whenever possible.
- Second, we look forward to **supporting the development and submission of joint proposals to development partners to support the Integrated Financing Strategies under the CPLP Programme**. This will ensure effective coordination and alignment between the CPLP programme as a whole and the Global Mechanism's support to countries; as well as the strategic formulation and implementation of the Integrated Financing Strategies.
- Third, as a major partner to this CPLP Initiative, the Global Mechanism welcomes an opportunity **to see its role and contribution reflected and recognized in programme implementation arrangements of this CPLP programme (for example, the final programme document, management committee, and coordination mechanisms** amongst others. This will ensure the strategic positioning and visibility of the Global Mechanism as a key partner in this programme.
- Fourth, we look forward to building **stronger linkages between the CPLP programme and strategic initiatives** of the Global Mechanism including those on climate change and land, Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation (FIELD), GM's broader South-to-South co-operation (e.g. SolArid) programme as a vehicle to share lessons and experiences, and the observatory on Sustainable Land Management Investments currently under development by the Global Mechanism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I now want to turn to the future and the key steps we must take starting from this meeting. Whilst acknowledging the very important and catalytic role of TCP project, the outcomes of this meeting should lead to the development of long-term programmatic approaches and investment frameworks to address the magnitude of the sustainable land management challenges we face. This would require



strong political will and country ownership of the process; strategic partnership-building and dialogue with all key stakeholders, and building on the complementarities, and core competencies comparative advantage of partners in order to optimise the shared but differentiated roles and responsibilities each one of the partners brings.

Let me conclude by saying that the Global Mechanism stands ready to continue to support this CPLP Initiative through effective resource mobilization and strategic partnership building for the UNCCD as well as the exchange of experiences.

I wish you pleasant deliberations and look forward to learning about the fruitful outcomes of the meeting.

Thank you.