

**COP-12**  
**ÖzOrman-İş Trade Union**  
**Final Declaration**  
13 October 2015/Ankara

In respect of the COP 12 Parties Convention, we, the representatives of the trade unions and civil society organisations gathered at this Meeting entitled as “**Trade unions and CSO’s’ function in Combating Desertification**”, have agreed upon presenting the following matters to the world public opinion and in turn, putting forth such as a proposition for the review and approval of the General Assembly of COP 12.

- 1- First of all, we extend our gratitude to Secretary General of UNCCD which has organized this convention, the General Directorate of Combatting Desertification and Erosion of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs which has made the preparations of the convention for and on behalf of the Republic of Turkey, and ÖzOrman-İş Trade Union which has organized this Meeting.
- 2- Desertification is a universal issue. Combatting with such an issue cannot be achieved through mere involvement of the governments but also the substantial and effective community involvement is required.
- 3- For the purpose of ensuring community involvement in combatting desertification, CSO’s, UNCCD and managements, especially trade unions which constitute an active bridge between the community and the managements, and which are the representatives of the wide community sections must be involved in all decision making and execution process.
- 4- Concerned trade unions and CSO’s must benefit from the international funds and public resources to fulfil their responsibilities and functions.
- 5- In order to establish an overall social awareness in regards to combatting desertification, all governments must allocate widespread education programs.
- 6- There is a direct relation between the land degradation and poverty worldwide. In order to change such degradation and reverse the process, the rural development is an indispensable and inevitable requirement. It is necessary to carry into effect the policies and applications which will improve the economic status of the poor farmers, unemployed people, and the workers of agricultural and forestation.
- 7- One important basis of combatting desertification is employment. Employment of sufficient number of workers who will carry on such combat must be preferred as a **sustainable development policy**.
- 8- Conventional “cost/profit” equations should not be considered for the investments made in the soil, forests, water and air. Combatting desertification must be implemented together with a “**social support programme**”.
- 9- There is also a direct relation between the land degradation and the ownership. Therefore, the land degradation issue must be addressed for each country on the basis of countries own ownership relations.
- 10- In this regard, the inheritance regulations preventing the fragmentation of agricultural lands and related regulations in legislation must be taken into consideration and evaluated along with the protection of optimum land size so as to satisfy the welfare of those who make a living on agriculture.
- 11- Legal and incentive systems based on “**production**” instead of “**profit**” must be prioritized in land use. Measures must be taken to prevent the use of agricultural lands beyond production purposes.

- 12- Every community on this earth has a viewpoint in its traditional culture and creed to consider the relation between the nature and human as a whole. Modern social structures have caused deterioration in such traditional values. In the combat against the destruction of the nature, such traditional values must be reinforced and made functional through the support of culture and art.
- 13- A new understanding of life and universe based upon human and labour must be created a new social system and economy, and the relation between environment and human must be rearranged.