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G20 GLOBAL
LAND INITIATIVE

Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians G-CAP

Bonn, 21-25 August 2023



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“Great initiative! I will recommend it for every parliamentarians, especially those chairing relevant committees such as gender, environment, agriculture, and local government.”

– Workshop participant

Overview

The annual Global Changemaker Academy (G- CAP) was a five-day leadership academy for parliamentarians from around the globe, organized by the G20 Land Initiative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), at the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany, from 21- 25 August 2023.

The G-CAP provided an exclusive opportunity for dialogue and learning among parliamentarians from around the world to engage with the issues of land conservation, maintenance and restoration. The workshop was attended by 29 parliamentarians from 24 countries.

Over five days, participants were exposed to thought leadership in the land restoration and conservation agenda. Expert inputs included master classes by renowned land experts and senior leadership from the United Nations.

An immersive learning field visit to the city of Eschweiler and the neighbouring open cast mine provided first-hand exposure to a real- life case of eco-social transformation. The programme was bolstered by leadership labs and workshops on engaging different stakeholders to coherent policies across various areas and levels of governance and unparalleled networking opportunities with peers from around the world.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- **Leadership Empowerment:** Empower parliamentarians with leadership skills and knowledge in land conservation, maintenance, and restoration.
- **Global Collaboration:** Foster international collaboration among parliamentarians to address land-related challenges.
- **Expertise Development:** Build expertise in land restoration through exposure to thought leadership and best practices.
- **Inspire Transformation:** Showcase real-life eco-social transformation examples and inspire similar initiatives in participants' regions.
- **Policy Cohesion:** Equip parliamentarians to create coherent policies for land conservation aligned with global and local goals.
- **Land Ambassadors for G20 GLI:** Cultivate parliamentarians as advocates for the G20 Global Land Initiative, promoting its objectives and initiatives.
- **Cohort Formation:** Facilitate the formation of a global cohort of parliamentarians committed to sustainable land management and conservation.

The agenda for the workshop is attached in the annexure.

"Exceptional speakers, engaging, and deeply knowledgeable. Their presentations were delivered with expertise and supported by extensive research – an excellent overall experience."

- Workshop participant

Workshop Participation



Geographical Distribution of Registrants

A total of 135 people from 43 countries registered, with the highest number coming from Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria and, India respectively.

135
Registrants

43
Countries

Top 5 Countries

Uganda

Zambia

Nigeria

India

Geographical Distribution of Parliamentarians



The workshop was attended by 29 parliamentarians from 24 countries including Gambia, Sweden, India, Suriname, etc.



Gender of Participants



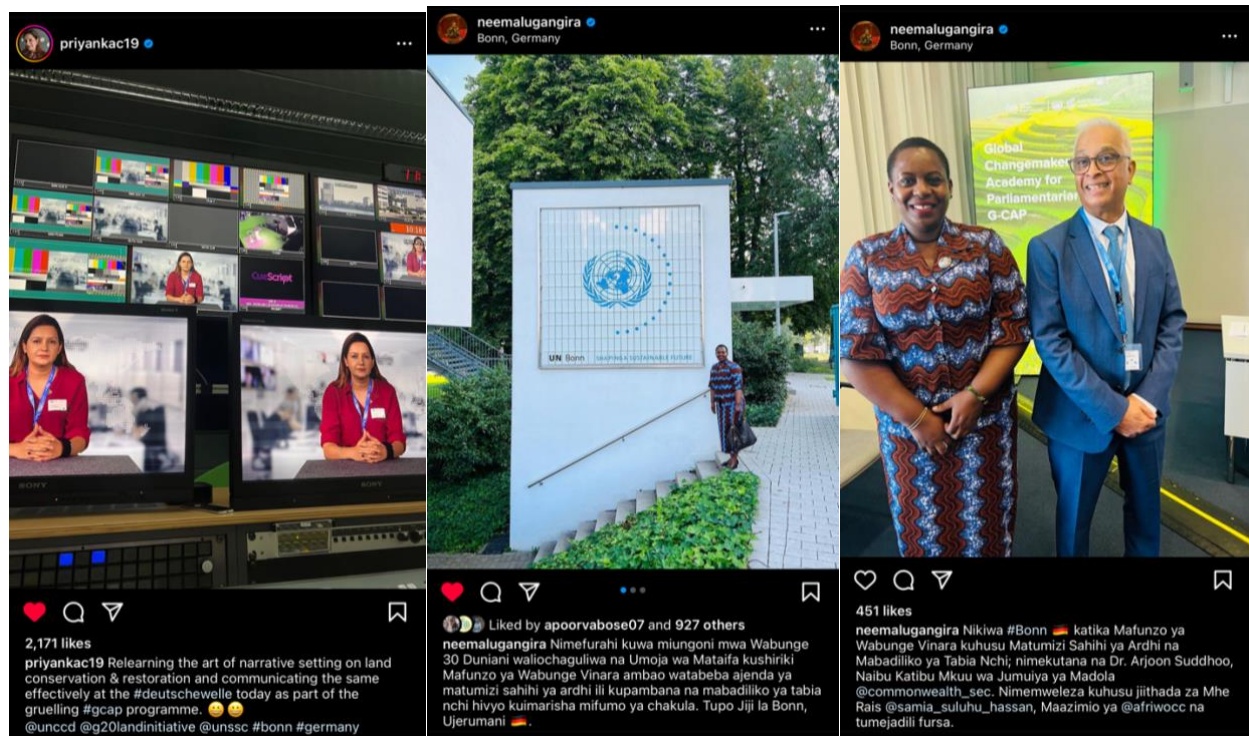
The gender distribution of the participants was approximately 51% male and 49% female, reflecting a nearly equal representation of both genders.



Female, 49% Male, 51%

Social Media Reach

The section on social media reach highlights the substantial impact created by high-profile speakers and parliamentarian participants. These influential individuals, who collectively boast a substantial following of **14,097,929** across various social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook, actively engaged with event-related content. They not only shared materials from the G20 Global Land Initiative's official social media channels but also generated original posts about the event. This extensive reach significantly enhanced the event's visibility, effectively disseminating its message to a vast and diverse online audience.



Key Messages from Speakers

Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD

"Humanity is already active on 70% of all the land area. One hectare in every four hectares is severely degraded. We need to feed, clothe, build our homes and cities within a shrinking space with an expanding population. We need to anticipate future change. Land is life!"

Andrea Meza, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD

"In the face of desertification, land degradation and drought, our commitment to sustainable development is tested. These challenges threaten not only our progress but our very existence. The UNCCD and the other Rio Conventions on climate change and biodiversity stand as beacons of collaboration, guiding us towards a future where the earth's vitality and humanity's survival harmoniously coexist."

Musonda Mumba, Secretary General, The Convention on Wetlands

"Nature stands as the basis of our foundation. And the ripple effect of land degradation is more than losing food and fish. It is about insurgency, conflict, migration... Looking beyond 2030, planetary health is very important. This is the loop that we need to close."

Patrick Van Weerelt, Head Of Office, UNSSC

"Sustainability is intricate and demands collaboration from diverse stakeholders at every level. It's a blend of politics and technology. National leaders have a rare power to craft enduring policies amidst fleeting politics. While land degradation and climate change vary globally, shared challenges unite us more than they divide."

Dr. Arjun Sudhoo, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat

"Like a rubic's cube, land degradation is not a uni-disciplinary problem. The solution, too, is not uni-disciplinary. Both are multidisciplinary. Youth, women and private sector partners are needed. We also need digitization and space technology, including satellites and remote sensing. We know the problem, and we also know the solution. The question is how we can move rapidly."

Dr Ian Brettell, Biodiversity Expert, ETH Zurich

"Why does biodiversity matter? It's the key to unlocking nature's potential in mitigating climate change. Through tools like Restor and SEED, developed by the Crowther Lab, we're fostering connection and transparency in the global environmental movement. The case studies from Restor provide specific examples of how nature-based solutions can catalyze ecosystem recovery."

Shashi Tharoor, Member of the Indian Parliament, Author, Former Under-Secretary of the United Nations

"Parliamentarians are there to give the voice to the voiceless. Their job enables them to raise issues in both the formal forums as well as through process of interacting with people of authority."

Professor Iyenemi Kakulu, Rivers State University, Nigeria

"Empowering women's land rights through equitable policies is not just a matter of justice, but a cornerstone for sustainable development and inclusive progress."

Carlos Alvarado Quesada, Former President of Costa Rica

"Society should pay for the services nature provides. Costa Rica demonstrates that deforestation can be reversed and be made profitable... get used to being alone when you want to change the world"

Annex I. Workshop Agenda

Global Changemaker Academy for Parliamentarians
 August 21-25, 2023
 Bonn, Germany



Provisional Agenda

Masterclass / Lecture
 Activity / Workshop
 Field visit/ Dinner
 Context setting/ reflection

Monday, 21 August 2023	Tuesday, 22 August 2023	Wednesday, 23 August 2023	Thursday, 24 August 2023	Friday, 25 August 2023
9:00 Registration and Welcome UNSSC & UNCCD	8:00 – 18:00 Field Visit to Eschweiler: Open Cast Mine and Surroundings	9:00 Impressions from Field Visit UNSSC	8:45 Welcome to Deutsche Welle UNSSC/DW	9:00 Reflection Session UNSSC
10:00 – 10:45 Keynote address on Land Management and Restoration Dr Arjoon Suddhoo Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat		9:30 – 11:00 Masterclass Land and Multilateralism Dr Shashi Tharoor Member of Parliament, India	9:30 – 11:10 Communications and Advocacy Lab 1 Gallagher, Merrifield and Deutsche Welle	9:30 – 10:45 Masterclass Building Political Support H.E. Carlos Alvarado Quesada 48th President of Costa Rica
10:45 – 11:00 - Coffee Break		11:00 – 11:15 - Coffee Break	11:10 – 11:25 - Coffee Break	10:45 – 11:00 - Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:45 Situating Land Restoration and Management within Rio Conventions Andrea Meza Murillo Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD		11:15 – 12:30 Masterclass Gender and Land Professor Iyenemi Ibimina Kakulu Rivers State University, Nigeria	11:25-13:05 Communications and Advocacy Lab 2 Gallagher, Merrifield and Deutsche Welle	11:00-11:45 UNFCCC Briefing
11:45 – 12:30 Rules of Engagement and Context Setting UNSSC		12:30 – 14:00 - Lunch	13:05 – 14:00 – Lunch	11:45 – 12:30 Land Agenda Future Pathways Muralee Thummarukudy Director, G20 Global Land Initiative
12:30 – 14:00 - Lunch		14:00 – 15:30 Workshop Innovative Nature-based Solutions Dr Ian Brettell and Leland Werden Biodiversity Experts, ETH Zurich	14:00 – 15:40 Communications and Advocacy Lab 3 Gallagher, Merrifield and Deutsche Welle	12:30 – 13:30 - Lunch
14:00 – 15:15 Workshop Land Restoration and Conservation Agenda Dr Nick Brown Botanist and Principal of Linacre College, Oxford		15:30 – 15:45 - Coffee Break	15:40 – 15:55 - Coffee Break	13:30 – 14:30 Commitments and Way Forward UNSSC
15:15 – 15:30 - Coffee Break		15:45 – 16:45 Masterclass Youth Advocacy and Civil Society Anali Bustos Co-Chair, Generation Restoration Youth Hub	15:55 – 17:35 Communications and Advocacy Lab 4 Gallagher, Merrifield and Deutsche Welle	14:30 – 15:00 Closing UNSSC & UNCCD
15:30 – 16:15: Masterclass Land Restoration and Conservation Agenda Dr Nick Brown		18:00: Dinner at Petersberg	17:35 – 18:30 Wrap-Up and Feedback Deutsche Welle	
16:15 – 17:15 Lecture on Wetland Restoration Dr Musonda Mumba Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands			19:30: Rhine Cruise	
18:15: Reception at Town Hall				