

## 5. UNCCD

*Q: The organization refers to itself as an affiliated organization of UNCCD. Explain the structural relationship with UNCCD, the purposes and objectives of UNCCD in this context.*

United Nations Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification

FGI has been accredited to the UNCCD since 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1996, by UN General assembly resolution vote A/AC.241/9ADD.12 of the member states (annex 2) FGI has actively participated in the formative period of the UNCCD primary preparative period in Geneva before it moved to Bonn, where the main office is located today. Thus FGI is accredited to the UNCCD (annex 1/1-1/2).

The purpose and the objectives of the UNCCD is well explained in its convention. One could visit its web site: [www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)

UNCCD defined desertification in the following terms :

*Desertification is land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.*

Desertification affects about one sixth of the world's population, 70 per cent of all dry lands, amounting to 3.6 billion hectares, and one quarter of the total land area of the world. The most obvious impact of desertification, in addition to widespread poverty, is the degradation of 3.3 billion hectares of the total area of rangeland, constituting 73 per cent of the rangeland with a low potential for human and animal carrying capacity; decline in soil fertility and soil structure on about 47 per cent of the dry land areas constituting marginal rain fed cropland; and the degradation of irrigated cropland, amounting to 30 per cent of the dry land areas with a high population density and agricultural potential.

## 6. "Guardian of the Waters"

*Q: The organization claims that it is the Guardian of the waters. What does the organization mean by "Guardian of the Waters"? What Guardianship ole has the organization played up to now ? Please provide the project*