

D e a r   S i r s

The Russian delegation along with the previous speakers shares the common concern over the DSS problems in the NEA region and considers it a crucial issue for all the countries of the region with similar climatic conditions.

The Russian Federation this year joined the International Convention on Desertification Control and participated in the recent Conference of the Parties in Havana as the party to the Convention.

Desertification and degradation of land is a vital problem for the Russian Federation either.

On its territory there are 40 administrative units – Subjects of Federation (out of 89 in total) with the arid and semiarid ecosystems threatened with the desertification processes.

The most critical situation is in the Kalmykyia (close to the Caspian Sea) where the dust storms result in a catastrophic degradation of land every year. There are also vast territories vulnerable to soil degradation in the Altai and Buryatiya.

The Russian Far East regions are located close to disaster regions of China and Mongolia. So it is important to prevent the possible damage to ecosystems and health of the inhabitants from the transboundary transfer of sands as it occurred last year in the vicinity of Vladivostok city

On this reason the Russian Federation has a commitment to undertake measures to meet obligations of the Convention to a full extent. Now Russia is engaged in development of the National Plan of Actions addressed to the issues covered with the aforementioned Convention.

The discussed problem is highly relevant to the Convention objectives and its activities. The Russian Federation is interested in the implementation and results of the ABD-GEF project for monitoring and control of dust and sandstorms in NEA and would like to express its commitment to contribute to this project with account of its scientific and technical potential.