

**SIDE EVENT**  
**SEPTEMBER 6 TH 17.50 – 19.15**  
World Conservation Congress  
Marseille  
Parc Chanot  
French Pavillon, auditorium

## **” ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE”**

### **OPENING SESSION: Reiterate political commitments**

Mariem Bekaye, Minister for environment and sustainable development  
**Mauritania, Presidency of the Panafrican agency for the Great Green Wall**

Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Europe and foreign affairs  
**France**

Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary  
**United Nations Convention to combat desertification (UNCCD)**

Ali Bety, High Commissioner for the 3N initiative  
**Niger**

### **SESSION 1: Strengthen the participation of civil society**

Patrice Burger, President  
**CARI association (Centre d'Actions et de Réalisations Internationales)**

Sylvestre Tiemtoré, Coordinator  
**SPONG (Permanent Secretariat of NGOs in Burkina Faso)**

## **SESSION 2: Mobilize research to enhance the implementation of the GGW**

Jean-Luc Chotte  
President, **French scientific committee on desertification (CSFD)**  
Researcher, **French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)**

Astou Camara, Researcher  
**Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA)**

## **SESSION 3: Materialize the commitment of financial partners**

Jyotsna Puri, Director of Environment, Climate, Gender, Youth, Nutrition and Social Inclusion Division  
**IFAD**

Simeon Ehui, Regional Director, Sustainable Development, West and Central Africa  
**World Bank Group**

Remy Rioux, Director General  
**French development agency (AFD)**

## **SESSION 4: Discussion**

**Moderation:** *Philippe Lacoste, Director for sustainable development, Ministry of Europe and foreign affairs, France*