The 2006 International Year of Deserts and Desertification (IYDD) is an opportunity to focus on desertification issues within the global environmental agenda. Over the course of the year, the international community will review the scientific, social, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of efforts underway to combat desertification. This conference will build on other key IYDD initiatives and will highlight the policy underpinnings that are necessary to enable successful strategies in dryland communities. UN and international agencies have joined forces to organize this event in a concerted effort to open the policy debate to a broad spectrum of participants, including national and local stakeholders, academics, researchers, government officials, policymakers, civil society and community representatives.

**Conference Focus:**
- Improved policy focus on desertification, mobilization of resources and capacity
- New initiatives to mainstream desertification issues into national and international policy processes
- Improved knowledge management initiatives
- Improved political viability, design and implementation of national-level initiatives
- Interlinkages between desertification, climate change, biodiversity and other global environmental issues

For more information: United Nations University - International Network on Water, Environment & Health (UNU-INWEH)
Web: www.inweh.unu.edu; Email: conference@inweh.unu.edu

**Conference hosted by:**
Ministry of Land Planning and Environment
People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria