

Summary of the CSO Panel Meeting (2nd April 2020)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel had its last meeting on Thursday 2 April 2020.

Mr. Noel Oettle, CSO Observer on the Science-Policy Interface (SPI), presented its report on the first meeting of the SPI. The panel members shared their ideas and discussed the best way to channel the input of the CSOs to the work of the SPI. All members of the panel emphasized collaborative work with SPI using various tools and requested Noel to prepare a summary on the work done to be shared with all the accredited CSOs.

The panel discussed about the preparation of the work program which should focus at the global level. If any region would like to have a specific regional focus or target that could be developed by the members and could be attached as an annex to the work program. Moreover, the members emphasized the importance to include some components in the working program, such as communication, the engagement of CSOs, capacity building, and the need for increasing the engagement between Intergovernmental Organizations and NGOs among others. The panel agreed to finalize their work program by the 16th of April.

Furthermore, the Secretariat suggested that the current panel members get in contact with the previous members of their region to facilitate the handover and ensure smooth collaboration. All panel members agreed to check the contact information of their constituencies to circulate information to all the CSOs and keep everybody engaged.

The Secretariat informed the panel members on the selection process for the alternate CSO representative to the SPI. The Secretariat indicated the need to consider two aspects in the selection process of the SPI alternate, which is gender and geographical balance. The panel agreed to ensure those requirements and therefore the member should be a female from either Asia or Eastern European Group. The Secretariat emphasized that the candidates should come from organizations that are accredited and informed the panel that the call for nominations will be shared officially by the Secretariat next week.

The panel requested to have the participation of the CSO representatives at the IWG dealing with drought attending a future meeting to get a briefing on the work carried out by the group.

The next meeting of the CSO Panel on the work plan will be held on the 16th of April at 15:00 (Germany time), using Zoom. Nahid Naghizadeh will be chairing the meeting.