Welcome to the first Newsletter of the new CSO panel,

We believe on the power of communication. This newsletter would be one of our tools to inform and keep up-to-date our partners and constituencies on the activities that we will be undertaken following the mandate of the Conference of the Parties.

We look forward to stay in touch with you not only through this newsletter but also other means that you think are necessary. Please do not hesitate to share your publications, activities and posts.

Your CSO panel
Csopanel@unccd.int

On this first issue we would like to present you who we are, what is our organization doing and what we would like to do in the forthcoming months. Stay tuned!!

*Tcharbuahbokengo NFINN (Cameroon)* is the Director-General (Co-Founder) of the Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Development and Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR). In the CSO panel, NFINN will strive to address to increase synergies with Country Parties on national priorities and for the involvement of CSOs in the Convention activities, to co-ordinate effectively relevant stakeholders and countries to suggest an additional emphasis on concrete activities on the ground, and to raise the consciousness of people on researches and innovative approaches in dealing with the challenges occurred by Desertification and Climate Change.

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**Nahid Naghizadeh (Iran)** works at CENESTA since 1994 as the social facilitator, project manager, and research associate. In the CSO panel, Nahid will strengthen the communication and support the CSOs for her region, including indigenous peoples, nomadic pastoralists, local communities, women, and youth through assisting and encouraging the accredited CSOs of the region for higher communication and interaction with their national focal points, try to raise awareness of the CSOs at every possible level on Land Degradation Neutrality and national target setting of the LDN, and to encourage CSOs for sharing their success stories, experiences and lessons learned in combating desertification for creating a common learning process.

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**Manon Albagnac (France)** works as a project officer in CARI since 2016. Albagnac has supported the member organizations of the Working Group on Desertification (GTD) and the Sahel Desertification Network (ReSaD) in mobilizing civil society, in France and in the Sahel, to build and carry out joint advocacy on issues related to the combat against desertification. In the CSO panel, Manon will aim to increase the voice of citizens and institutions on Land Degradation, to encourage collective, well-organized and concerted participation of legitimate stakeholder in the negotiations, to make these negotiations process understandable and accessible for all stakeholders, and to promote the active participation of parties in these negotiations.

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**Pablo Andres Motta Delgado (Colombia)** works as Projects Director in Mision Verde Amazonia for five years and manages a project related to productive reconversion of traditional livestock production. In the CSO panel, Pablo Andres aims to promote the flow of information between organizations of Latin América and the Caribbean, to contribute to periodical meetings for strengthen the Latin América Network for the exchange of information and the construction of a joint vision and a regional program that strengthens the development of activities that contribute to the fight against desertification and the inclusion of gender mainstreaming in the activities of different organizations.

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**Sabina Gasimova (Azerbaijan)** is currently a Senior Project Coordinator at IDEA (International Dialogue for Environmental Action). Throughout her work at IDEA, Sabina has gained considerable experience in conducting advocacy activities in the field of environmental protection and sustainability, effectively engaging with a variety of local and international counterparts. In the CSO panel, Sabina will strive to address actively promoting coordination between parties, to encourage knowledge exchange among CSO’s, and to improve the relationship and their capacity to engage with governments and other stakeholders in the activities of environmental governance.

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