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**COMMUNICATION TO THE CSOs ELECTION SPI ALTERNATE  
15 JUNE 2020**

Dear CSO representatives,

I have the pleasure to inform you on the process for the election of the alternate CSO member of the Science – Policy interface that will accompany Mr. Noel Oettle (EMG – South Africa) during the present biennium and will become fully fledged alternate afterwards to ensure the continuity.

The secretariat launched the elections giving the 11<sup>th</sup> of May as the deadline for the submission of candidatures indicating the preference to ensure gender balance and geographical rotation. By the given deadline 3 candidatures were received (one of them did not provide all the required documents)

The CSO panel supported the work of the secretariat reviewing the candidatures and given the low number of interested CSO representatives requested the secretariat to extend the deadline until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June so as to allow more applicants to submit their candidature.

By the second deadline additional 5 candidatures were received (one of them didn't submit all the required documents). At this point in time there were 8 candidatures received (2 not valid). Out of the 6 valid ones 2 were female and 4 were male. 4 from Asia, 1 from Africa and 1 from GRULAC. When analyzing the valid candidates experience, expertise and the terms of reference of the SPI, the CSO panel found out that 3 of the candidates were fulfilling the necessary requirements. During the discussion, the Secretariat re-stated, in line with the adopted Gender Action Plan, that given that the current representative of the CSOs observer to the SPI is male, the alternate should be female to ensure parity and balance.

Taking all this into consideration Ms. Jiajia Luo, from the China Green Foundation, was the most suitable candidate since ensured the expertise and the additional requirements necessary for an equitable representation of the CSOs at the SPI.

We would like to thank the candidates for their interest in representing the CSOs in the bodies of the Convention and wish Ms. Jiajia Luo all the best for her work ahead.

Best regards,

Marcos