

Summary of the CSO Panel Meeting (14th May)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel had its fourth meeting on Thursday 14 May 2020.

In this meeting, the Panel members more specifically discussed the following topics; the finalization of the CSO Panel work plan for 2020-2021, elections for the SPI alternate, UNCCD-FAO process on VGGT and LDN and the evaluation of panel thoughts and actions on the effects of the COVID 19.

The panel agree to invite the focal point of the Youth Caucus for Desertification and Land Group in the next meeting of the CSO panel to strengthen the collaboration between both bodies.

Given the low number of candidatures received for the SPI CSO Observer alternate, the panel agreed to organize a special meeting to discuss the candidatures and the election process to be held on 18th of May.

The Secretariat informed on the preparation of the technical guide with FAO (decision 26/COP14) which will include the organization an expert and multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives from countries, land tenure practitioners, government officials, experts, and civil society to compile information that will be used in the preparation process.

Furthermore, the Panel agreed that sharing the experiences in the newsletters is a good way to raise awareness about civil society organizations during the COVID 19 process. The aim of the questions, which have been sent to constituencies, is to encourage its constituencies to share their stories with them during these difficult times. The panel also look at the 'New Social Contract with Nature' which reconsiders the relation between human beings and nature and environmental challenges.

Moreover, the Secretariat informed the panel members that the potential dates for the next CRIC will be at the end of November in Bonn. However, the situation is still depending on COVID19. Any changing information will be shared with the panel members by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat informed that they are finalizing a program for the Desertification and Drought Day which includes a 1-hour broadcast by the counterpart in the Republic of Korea, music, videos, from key stakeholders, an event on the land and climate nexus for the cities, events by youth, and land ambassadors. The panel would like to encourage all the CSOs to organize events to mark June 17 Desertification and Drought Day.

Panel members will have more discussion on how to strengthen and improve the communication strategies among CSOs at the regional level in a practical way and based on their developed plan of work. Panel members also renewed that the importance of the physical meeting with old panel members is quite important for new CSO panel members to understand and sustain the work of the panel.

The next meeting of the CSO Panel will be held on the 11th of June at 15:00 (Germany time), using Teams. Pablo Andres Motta Delgado will be chairing the meeting.