

Summary of the CSO Panel Meeting (8th June)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel had its fifth meeting on 8th June 2020.

In this meeting, the Panel members more specifically discussed the following topics: Election of the SPI alternate, the organization of the activities for the Desertification and Drought day, the available resources for the work of the panel, the ideas for the preparation of the June issue of the CSO panel newsletter and the feedback on the website.

The panel was informed on the process for the election of the alternate member of the science-policy interface representing the CSOs. The panel agreed to discuss in the future with previous panels and members of the SPI to come up with agreed terms of reference for the next elections which will take into consideration several factors including the gender balance and parity in the application process.

The secretariat briefed the members on the options to organize a physical meeting with the new and previous panel, pending on the COVID pandemic situation. The secretariat also informed that all the accredited CSOs will be invited to attend the forthcoming CRIC however, the financial support will be only received by a small amount, depending on the availability of funds.

The program for DDD was shared with the panel and the secretariat agreed to send a communication in the 3 working languages through the Google Group. Marioldy Sanchez Santivañez will be speaking on behalf of the CSOs at the event organized with FAO on land tenure for June 17th. Each one of the members shared information on the activities to be organized for June 17. The full information is available on <https://www.unccd.int/actions/17-june-desertification-and-drought-day/2020-desertification-and-drought-day>

The Panel agreed including experiences on COVID19 and on Land Degradation issue on June 2020 Newsletter. It was also agreed include content from Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean regions in the newsletter. The newsletter will contain information on the updates from the SPI and stories on COVID19