



Summary of the 10th Meeting of the UNCCD CSO Panel (26 January 2021)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel held its 10th meeting virtually on 26th January 2021.

The meeting included discussion of following topics: CSO program implementation, Great Green Wall Initiative (GGW), upcoming CRIC session, next LDN Fund board meeting, 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, high level dialogue for WDDD June 17th, UNCCD and FAO consultation, CSO website and newsletter and GLO preparation.

The 26th meeting of the CSO Panel started off by exchanging updates on ongoing contributions and activities of each panel member:

The WEOG region is planning to present France's new international strategic guidelines at an upcoming event and conducting two new studies, one to analyze how SLM projects in drylands incorporate territorial approaches and another on how CSOs in Sahel include land tenure issues in their projects to combat desertification. The studies are due to be released end of June. It was informed that the One Planet Summit, organized by France, announced 14 billion euros as a support to implementation of the GGW in 11 Sahara-Sahelian countries. It was also stated that CSOs were not invited to the Summit and that the GGW accelerator shall be managed by UNCCD Secretariat.

The CEE region shared news about the work on a new and first of-its-kind mobile application enabling the reporting of water leaks in public places.

Asia region had participated in various international and national online meetings and plans to meet with local CSOs to introduce the work of the UNCCD and the process for accreditation.

Representative of the African region was elected as a focal point for Africa and Middle East at the international climate fund.

LAC shared news on new field projects.

Further, the Panel discussed preparation for the next 19th session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) to be held online on 15-19 March 2021. Members of the Panel identified actions needed to gather positions and statements from CSOs and prepare them for efficient participation, distributed tasks among each other and addressed Secretariat for other preparational matters. It was noted that regional consultations would start around 15th of February until early March. CSO Panel could be participating as observer at each regional meeting (currently under consideration by the regional group).

Regarding the UNCCD and FAO consultation, the 1st draft of the publication is under finalization and there will be a possibility for peer review. CSOs could be mobilized to participate.

Next CSO Newsletter was agreed to focus on CRIC 19 event.