



Summary of the 11th Meeting of the UNCCD CSO Panel (26 January 2021)

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel had its eleventh meeting on Tuesday 26 January 2021.

This meeting allowed the Panel members to get organized for preparation of CSOs participation to the UNCCD CRIC19 that is to take place from 15 to 19 March 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CRIC 19 will take place online.

With these extraordinary conditions, the CSO panel is faced with the challenges to ensure that CSOs accredited to the UNCCD be able to conduct a collective preparation, and that CSOs participation to the online CRIC be as well considered by the Parties, as in normal conditions.

The CSO Panel members then agreed to familiarize with CRIC preparatory documents in order to popularize them among the constituencies. They also agreed to organize an online meeting allowing CSOs collective preparation for CRIC. They finally reviewed the agenda of CRIC to identify the sessions when CSOs will be given the floor for a statement.

Regarding the CRIC preparation, the secretariat also shared the following information:

- The official documents for the CRIC19 are online in all UN languages;
- CRIC will be 15-19 March and run for two hours every day (between from 12.30 to 2.30 PM CET);
- There will be regional meetings held prior to the CRIC from mid-February to beginning of March, the Secretariat requested to the regional chairs that CSO panel members be able to attend these meetings as observer.

The CSO panel members finally agreed on scheduling several meetings dedicated to CRIC preparation in February and early March.

The CSO panel members also agreed on the following matters:

- Appointment of two members of the CSO panel to attend the LDN fund strategic board meetings;
- Appointment of a member of the CSO panel to give a pre-recorded speech for the celebration 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention.