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## **Summary of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNCCD CSO Panel (8 February 2021)**

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Panel held its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The meeting mainly focused on the preparation for the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). Upon the request of the Secretariat, the chairs agreed that the members of the CSOs Panel will be able to attend the regional consultations, provided that the chair and the Parties agree on the different agenda items. Dates for regional consultations have been shared with the Panel. The CSO panel agreed to review the official documents prepared by the Secretariat prior to CRIC and share important messages and information with CSOs and points to be included in the official statements/interventions on behalf of the CSOs. It was agreed to divide the review of the official documents among the CSO panel members and each to provide a short synthesis report on relevant information to the CSOs and give the basis for the CSO statements. The synthesis reports on the panelists' insights of the official documents would then be shared with the regional CSOs that would be able to provide feedback. CSOs will also have the opportunity to present a statement on each agenda item during the CRIC. It was suggested to have small groups of CSOs to prepare the six statements on the basis of the synthesis reports and identify CSOs for presenting statements.

To better prepare CSOs for CRIC19, the preparatory meeting was set up for them to be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to present the CRIC agenda and provide feedback on draft CSO statements. The Secretariat agreed to provide technical support to arrange the meeting.

The next CSO newsletter will be focused on CRIC with information on the CSO online meeting, agenda, and synthesis reports.

The technical guide external review will be held in March, where CSOs will be asked to share their consolidated comments on the draft.

Two designated panel members attended the next Land Degradation Neutrality Fund Board Meeting, where some CSO concerns were raised with respect to timber plantations in Africa. More information will soon be shared in the meeting report via CSO website.