



CALL FOR A CSO OBSERVER TO THE UNCCD SCIENCE–POLICY INTERFACE (SPI)

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is herewith inviting representatives of the Civil Society Organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to nominate candidates to become observer to the Science–Policy Interface (SPI).

The candidate will be elected by the accredited CSOs. The elected person will act as alternate of the current CSO observer to the SPI (Manon Albagnac, Association CARI, France, WEOG) until the end of 2026 and will become the fully-fledge CSO observer for the biennium 2027 – 2028.

Following [decision 20/COP.16](#), UNCCD Parties established a standing SPI to ensure the delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice, in a manner that is equitable and transparent, to support the implementation of the Convention, building on the mandate outlined in decisions outlined in decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.13 and refined in decisions 19/COP.14 and 19/COP.15. The 2025-2026 biennium marks a transition to a new functioning of the SPI mandated by Parties in and substantive work on the objectives and coordination activities outlined in the [work programme of the SPI](#). Over the biennium, the SPI will take on scientific leadership of the 3rd edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO3). The SPI will continue to collaborate with other intergovernmental scientific bodies and panels, and provide advice on the procedures being developed for future SPI deliverables in the future potentially including the development of fast-track assessment products. In this way, the SPI will help us transform the latest scientific breakthroughs into a compelling, evidence-based narrative that supports global action on sustainable land and water management and building resilience to drought.

Service on the SPI, which is voluntary, provides the people on the SPI the opportunity to help policy makers address critical bottlenecks in achieving the mission of the Convention. And through this service, future global policy development will be grounded upon a solid scientific foundation.

The terms of reference, work programme, current members and the publications of the SPI are available here: <https://www.unccd.int/science/overview>

The CSO observer to the SPI

The CSO observer to the SPI is expected to:

- Uphold and implement the principles and procedures of the SPI as described in the SPI Terms of Reference and associated [governance documents](#).
- Maintain the highest standards of scientific and technical excellence, professionalism and collegiality.
- Communicate in a clear and balanced way about what the SPI produces, including uncertainties, without compromising accuracy.
- Contribute to the work programme of the SPI.
- Join the meetings of the SPI.
- Regularly connect with the CSOs accredited to the UNCCD to share updates on the work of the SPI and to collect input from the CSO community to feed into the SPI.
- Regularly meet with the CSO panel to discuss the work of the SPI.
- Share relevant initiatives, ideas and perspectives of CSOs with the SPI members.



- Contribute actively to the popularization, communication and dissemination of the SPI work, the SPI products and SPI official events.

The call for candidature among the accredited CSO is open:
from **11th July 2025** until **28th July 2025 at 24:00 CEST**.

Requirements for nominated candidates

Candidates fulfilling the competence requirements listed below are invited to apply as CSO observer to the SPI:

1. Experience with DLDD issues;
2. Experience in cooperation with policy relevant knowledge organizations, please note that experience in science-policy interfaces and/or international negotiations is an asset;
3. Knowledge of the procedures of the UNCCD;
4. Experience in translating evidence-based knowledge and science to civil society organizations;
5. Experience in translating local and indigenous knowledge to knowledge organizations;
6. Experience in communicating, promoting and incorporating local, indigenous, and scientific knowledge and best practices into policy development processes;
7. Experience in synthesizing and transferring complex information for non-specialists;
8. Be fluent in English (the working language of the SPI is English only);
9. Have full access to email and web-based information and communication systems in order to ensure participation in SPI activities conducted electronically;
10. The nominee has back-up of her/his/their employer to commit the time and effort necessary to contribute to the work of the SPI.

Only nominations by accredited CSOs will be considered. The nominations will be assessed against these criteria by the CSO panel in selecting candidates for election of the CSO observer to the SPI.

How to nominate/ to be nominated

The nominating CSO and the nominated candidate shall:

- Complete and submit the nomination form to cso@unccd.int;
- Submit a copy of the English curriculum vitae (two pages maximum) of the nominated candidate;
- Present nomination letter (not longer than 500 words) from the nominating accredited civil society organization that is presenting and supporting the candidature, and which includes a description of the nominating CSO on its mandate, scope and governing structure with reference to documentation available on its website;
- Present a letter of the employer of the nominated candidate that is indicating commitment to free up time and effort necessary to contribute to the work of the SPI

From nomination to election

The applications submitted in response to this call before the deadline will be reviewed by the UNCCD CSO Panel taking into account the requirements as listed in this call.

After the consideration of the CSO Panel, the election process will be opened among the accredited CSOs to identify the most suitable nominated candidate as an (alternate) CSO observer to the SPI.

The election will be opened from 11th July to 28th July 2025.

The UNCCD secretariat will announce the election via the UNCCD CSO Google Group and the UNCCD website.

The information that will be shared for the election is the following: the nomination form and the nomination letter of the nominating accredited CSO (the CV of the nominated candidate and the letter of the employer of the nominated candidate are only for reference of the CSO panel)