



**EXTENSION
NEW DEADLINE
3rd JUNE 2020**

**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 apply to become observer to the Science–Policy Interface (SPI).

The elected person will act as alternate of the current CSO observer to the SPI (Noel Oettle, Environment Monitoring Group, South Africa) until the end of 2021 and will become the fully-fledge CSO observer for the biennium 2022 – 2023. **Based on the principle of geographical rotation and gender balance, female candidatures from Asian and Eastern and European Regions are welcomed.**

In accordance with decision 23/COP.11, paragraph 1, the COP decided to establish an SPI to facilitate a two-way science–policy dialogue and ensure delivery of policy-relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD).

The mandate of the SPI is to facilitate a two-way science-policy dialogue and ensure the delivery of policy relevant information, knowledge and advice on desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD). The SPI pursues this through work programmes agreed by the UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP). It is collaborative by design and thus cooperates with other intergovernmental panels and bodies and seeks synergies among the global environmental conventions. The SPI ultimately transforms scientific advice into a policy-relevant format for consideration in the decision-making process of the UNCCD COP every two years.

The terms of reference of the SPI as adopted are available here
http://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/SPI%20Terms%20of%20Reference_FINAL_07112017.pdf

According to the ToR, in addition to contributing to the science-policy work of the SPI, the CSO observer to the SPI serve a unique and vital role in:

- identifying knowledge requirements CSOs, and through them, land users, with particular attention to the most vulnerable;
- ensuring that the SPI is regularly and fully apprised of developments that are relevant to the science-policy realm with respect to CSOs and that should be considered in the work of the SPI;
- contributing to disseminate and encourage the uptake of the outputs of the SPI work;
- mobilizing scientific and technical expertise to contribute to the implementation of the SPI work programme and to participate in the peer review of SPI reports, as appropriate.



The call for candidature among the accredited CSO opens on **April 27th, 2020** and will end on **June 3rd, 2020**.

Members and observers of the SPI have the responsibility to:

1. Uphold and implement the principles and procedures of the SPI as described in the attached SPI Terms of Reference;
2. Contribute directly to delivering the work programme of the SPI as agreed by the UNCCD COP for each biennium through the provision of timely, clear and well-defined thematic guidance developed from:
 - a. scientific assessment (e.g., systematic review, analysis, synthesis and communication of vital scientific knowledge and evidence);
 - b. translation of science into accessible knowledge and policy-relevant recommendations;
 - c. production of technical reports, and deriving from those, science-policy briefs as well as manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed literature;
 - d. contribution to and cooperation with other international scientific panels and bodies dealing with DLDD issues in order to develop synergies and avoid duplication of efforts;
 - e. peer-review of scientific and technical results produced by other international scientific panels and bodies as well as UNCCD science-based communications (in adherence to the procedures developed by those bodies);
3. Communicate in a clear and balanced way about what the SPI produces, including uncertainties, without compromising accuracy;
4. Communicate how the SPI works, in a credible, transparent, balanced and authoritative manner;
5. Maintain the highest standards of scientific and technical excellence, professionalism and collegiality; and
6. Ensure scientific exchange with scientists from their regions and/or domains on SPI activities.

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

- Complete and submit the application form to cso@unccd.int;
- Submit a copy of their English curriculum vitae (four pages maximum);
- Provide a description of the organization's mandate, scope and governing structure with reference to documentation available on its website;
- Present a nomination letter from the accredited civil society organization that is presenting and supporting the candidature;

The applications submitted in response to this call before the deadline will be reviewed by the UNCCD CSO Panel taking into account the requirements and criteria for selection listed below. After the consideration of the CSO Panel, the election process will be opened among the accredited CSOs to identify the most suitable applicant to participate in the SPI as CSO observer.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be taken into account by the CSO panel in selecting candidates for election of the CSO observer to the SPI. The nominee should have:

1. Experience with DLDD issues;
2. Experience in cooperation with research based organisations



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3. Knowledge of the debates and procedures of the UNCCD; Science-policy and international negotiation experience is an asset.
 4. Experience in interacting with scientists and translate scientific debates to civil society organisations
 5. Experience with cooperation within multidisciplinary teams
 6. Experience in communicating, and promoting state of the art science, technology, best practices and/or local knowledge into policy development processes and in synthesizing information for non-specialists;
 7. Be fluent in English (the working language of the SPI is English only); and
 8. Have full access to email and web-based information and communication systems in order to ensure participation in SPI activities conducted electronically.
 9. The nominee has back-up of the employer which is an accredited organization to the UNCCD, to commit the time and effort necessary to contribute to the work of the SPI.