



## **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 (Marioldy Sanchez, AIDER, Peru) until the end of 2019 and will become the fully-fledge CSO observer for the biennium 2020 – 2021. Since the current member is from GRULAC, the candidatures for alternate should come from other regional groups

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).

According to the mandate of the SPI, it is expected to:

- Establish the approach to deliver each task assigned to it by the Committee on Science and Technology (CST);
- Analyze, synthesize and translate relevant scientific findings and recommendations from DLDD-related scientific conferences, including upcoming UNCCD scientific conferences, the roster of independent experts, as well as from relevant stakeholders and networks into proposals to be considered by the CST for the consideration of the COP;
- Interact with existing scientific mechanisms, in particular the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils and other new and existing scientific networks and platforms; and
- Assist the Bureau of the CST in organizing the UNCCD scientific conferences and assessing their results.

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](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 **March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018** and will end on **April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 24:00 CET**.

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](mailto: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
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.