

Management response:

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the CSO participation in the UNCCD

Overview

The evaluation report concerning the effectiveness of the CSO participation in the UNCCD provides a structured, evidence-based overview of civil society involvement in the intergovernmental UNCCD process – what kind of organisations are involved, what do they expect by their participation and how have the evolving CSO participation facilities supported their work. It uses plenty of direct feedback from CSOs and other stakeholders which, although coming from a limited number (65) of respondents, offers valuable material for future considerations on the CSO participation in the UNCCD.

The UNCCD secretariat welcomes the evaluation recommendations as practical ideas for improvements that are largely in line with the resource availability and working modalities under the UNCCD. Most of the suggested action is for the accredited CSOs to consider and, should they so decide, implement, and consequently this management response is limited to the part of the recommendations that concerns the work of the secretariat.

The secretariat particularly appreciates the finding that the CSO panel members rate highly the service provision of the secretariat, including the organisation of the panel meetings, financial assistance as well as support to the functioning of the panel.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: An operational guideline or terms of reference, including a time-bound strategic plan, for CSO participation in the UNCCD and the functioning of the CSO panel should be developed.

Management response: Accepted. Should the accredited CSOs decide to take the recommended action, the secretariat will be prepared to assist in the preparation of the operational guideline or terms of reference, including a time-bound strategic plan.

Recommendation 2: A UNCCD CSO communication plan should be developed.

Management response: Accepted. Should the accredited CSOs decide to take the recommended action, the secretariat will be prepared to assist in the preparation of the UNCCD CSO communication plan.

Recommendation 3: The UNCCD secretariat should continue to support effective participation of accredited CSOs in the UNCCD process at the global, regional and national levels, paying particular attention on: 1) actively engaging new CSOs to become involved in the UNCCD, so as to broaden the substantive basis and influence of the UNCCD CSO community; and, 2) facilitating follow-up of CSO activities to deepen the impact.

Management response: Accepted. The secretariat will continue to engage new CSOs and support the follow-up to CSO activities.