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Convention to Combat Desertification

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Agenda item 7 (a)

Procedural matters

Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 5/COP.9, 5/COP.10, 5/COP.11 and 5/COP.12,

Stressing the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted),

Welcoming the work¹ of the Civil Society Organization Panel and the importance of its continuation,

Also welcoming the outcomes and recommendations of the independent evaluation² of the effectiveness of Convention support for civil society organization participation,

1. *Encourages* those Parties with no or few civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties to promote the involvement of their organizations in the Convention process at the national level for the implementation of the Convention, and at the international level to ensure more balanced participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;


¹ Document ICCD/COP(13)/15.

² <www2.unccd.int/about-us/evaluation-office>.

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2. *Invites* Parties to consider the recommendations made by the Civil Society Organization Panel,³ regarding land rights;
3. *Encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, and *invites* international and financial organizations, civil society organizations and private sector institutions to consider contributing to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund of the Convention with the aim of ensuring wider participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the Convention, as well as the work undertaken by the Civil Society Organization Panel;
4. *Also encourages* the Civil Society Organization Panel to consider the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework (to be adopted) and topics under the Conferences of the Parties when designing its programme of work for 2018–2019;
5. *Further encourages* the Civil Society Organization Panel to review its working modalities with a view to enhancing its effectiveness in the Convention processes;
6. *Requests* the Civil Society Organization Panel, through the secretariat, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on its activities during the forthcoming biennium;
7. *Also requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Civil Society Organization Panel, and subject to the availability of resources, to take the necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the independent evaluation;
8. *Further requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the renewal of the membership of the Civil Society Organization Panel for two years in January 2018;
9. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

³ Civil Society Organizations Panel: Land Rights for Sustainable Life on Land
<www2.unccd.int/publications/civil-society-organizations-cso-panel-land-rights-sustainable-life-land>.