

## Decision 5/COP.12

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

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

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

*Stressing* the importance of the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their involvement in the implementation of the UNCCD and The Strategy,

*Recognizing* the work of the Civil Society Organization Panel (CSO Panel) in facilitating CSO involvement as stated in document ICCD/COP(12)/3 and *stressing* the importance of its continuation,

1. *Encourages* those Parties which have no or few CSOs accredited to the Conference of the Parties to promote and support the involvement of CSOs in the UNCCD process at the international level in order to ensure more participation of CSOs from all regions in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
2. *Requests* the secretariat and the CSO Panel to make proposals to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties on ways to support the work of the Panel and expand its membership;
3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the elections to the CSO Panel in January 2016;
4. *Invites* Parties, international and financial organizations, and CSOs and private sector institutions to consider contributing substantially and promptly to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund of the Convention with the aim of ensuring wider participation of CSOs in UNCCD meetings and processes, and to support the work of the CSO Panel;
5. *Encourages* CSOs to increase the synergies and interlinkages among the CSO communities and networks dedicated to the three Rio conventions;
6. *Requests* the CSO Panel, through the secretariat, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on the implementation of its tasks during the forthcoming biennium;
7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

*12<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
23 October 2015*