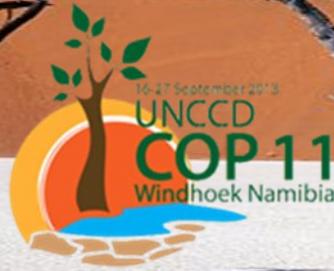


Eco - newsletter



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CSOs' Call to the Parties

The representatives of the CSOs, pastoralists, hunter-gatherers, farmers, fisher-folks and communities from all regions of the world, are calling on the Parties to the Convention to:

Increase the CSOs involvement in national coordinating bodies to facilitate their participation in the process of alignment of NAPs. The alignment should be participatory and inclusive of all stakeholders, including CSOs, taking into account decentralization and local governance.

Increase support to all CSOs to be represented at decision making processes including



Ms Victoria H. (from Namibia) delivering the speech on behalf of CSOs

attendance to UNCCD international meetings. We call for more commitment resources to the setting up of a Special Fund for supporting CSOs participation.

Facilitate CSOs involvement in the reporting process, for instance by adapting templates for the PRAIS portals.

The number of accredited CSOs has decreased in an unacceptable range from 800 to 200. We request the National Focal Points of the UNCCD to play their role, increase awareness and support CSOs in their efforts.

Access to financial and other resources for CSOs to enable them carry out implementation activities of the convention.

Address the drivers such as land grabbing, agribusiness, mining, etc. that are militating against communities' activities to combat desertification and land degradation.

Regarding the incorporation of the private sector and corporations in the implementation of the UNCCD, there is need for strong participatory environmental impact assessment as a criterion. This is because CSOs have many unsuccessful results in the past and

present by the private sector activities in our communities in relation to sustainable land management.

Parties' Call to Parties

The Global Environmental Fund is under a process of replenishment. Considering that land water and natural resources in dry-lands are key for any implementation of the mandate of the GEF in support of the Rio convention, we request the GEF council to propose and decide a significant increase of the window dedicated to land degradation and ensure CSOs' involvement in the implementation of GEF.

For this current session COP, there is need for parties to move the convention beyond a political agreement and bring land degradation to the forefront of national policy. Parties must build on the lessons learned from the five years implementation period and make the UNCCD an effective tool to deliver on critical policy issues at the nexus of food-energy and

water security, as well as the eradication of extreme poverty in the context of sustainable development.

There is also need for parties to give guidance on further strengthening the scientific base of the convention and a target setting approach. The parties must also guide the process of monitoring action programs at local, national, regional and international levels.

Progress has been made in advocacy efforts as part of the Convention Strategy to promote the urgent necessity of tackling Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought. Therefore, this COP should contribute to solidifying the enhanced awareness as well as strengthening the role of the UNCCD in support of increased action in affected areas. This COP should also deliver on how to strengthen the scientific advice to the UNCCD in a cost effective and focussed way. Parties are also expected to critically review policies and structures to ensure that the convention adequately tackle and deliver maximum impact on DLDD issues.

A paradigm shift within the UNCCD process has arrived for setting baselines and targets and mobilization of all stakeholders for the enhanced implementation of the convention. The target setting approach is expected to yield lasting solutions to desertification and land degradation. Therefore Parties are called to make ambitious and challenging, but achievable targets for the implementation of the convention.



Funds and decisions

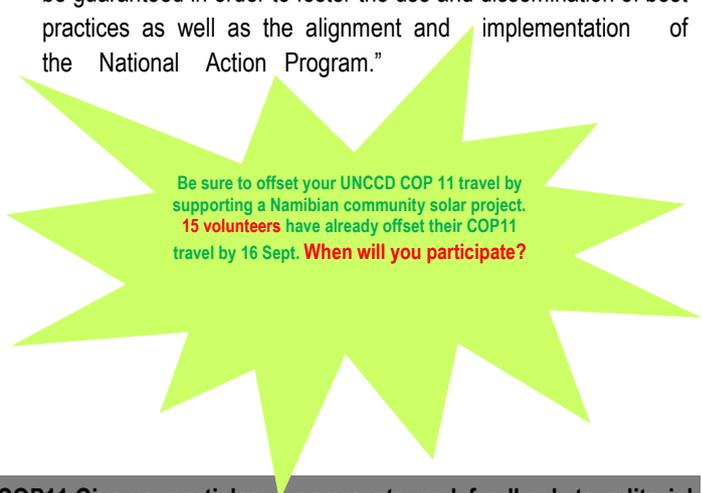
The decisions taken by the COP are not always supported by corresponding financial commitments. This is the case for all decision based on "voluntary contributions", and for the special fund, which includes support of the participation of NGOs.

Is this process credible for effective participation?

the UNCCD.

Indeed, as the African group has mentioned in their statement "the critical level in reaching in 2014 the rate of 80% in term of alignment of National Action Program is compromised due to the low commitment of financial partners to support developing countries. Although this is understandable, we still feel the Africa region should make a strong call, to their political authorities, for budgetary allocation for the implementation of NAPs. We call on the Africa delegates to enhance the lobbying for political will as well as in-country mobilization/commitment of financial resources to the implementation of the UNCCD.

CSO agree with the Latina America and Caribbean regions that it must be highlighted that "developing countries need technical capacity building and financial support in order to boost implementation and reporting. Predictable and appropriate resources should be guaranteed in order to foster the use and dissemination of best practices as well as the alignment and implementation of the National Action Program."



Behind the words
 ...reaction on the opening statements by some CSO members

After having heard all these nice statements during the official opening session yesterday, CSOs remain vigilant and will keep in mind that beyond the words, what the communities need on the ground are actions. Affected countries need concrete actions to address the challenges of DLDD. Communities are anticipating the adoption and implementation of strong policies and strategies which will have direct and positive impact on their livelihoods.

We appreciate and support the call by the Executive Secretary, of UNCCD, to move the convention and process beyond a political agreement to a practical policy tool to deliver results on the ground.