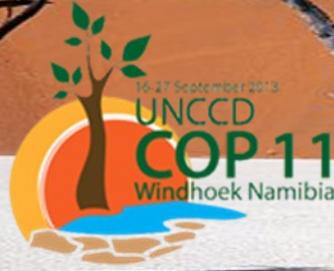


Eco - newsletter



20
SEPTEMBER
ISSUE 5

Eco-newsletter has been published by Non-Governmental Groups at major conferences since the Stockholm Environmental Conference in 1972. This issue is produced by groups attending the UNCCD COP 11 in Windhoek, Namibia

All delegates are invited!!!

Tous les délégués sont invites!!!

Todos os delegados são convidados!!!

Todos los delegados son invitados!!!

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...How involved are CSOs in the implementation of the UNCCD? ...Are CSOs doing enough to combat DLDD? ...Are CSOs mobilizing enough resources and how? ...What resources are CSOs mobilizing at national and international level? ...How are CSOs developing partnerships and networks in UNCCD implementation?

CSOs are inviting all the Delegates and Parties of the Convention to an Opening Dialogue Session (ODS) convened under the theme "Mobilization of resources to support the implementation of the UNCCD through building effective partnerships between national and international actors". The Open Dialogue Session is designed not only to provide answers to the above questions, but also to engage the delegates with respect to the theme. The Open Dialogue Session will be held in the Plenary Hall at 10:00am. To generate discussion, presentations will be done by the following speakers:

Ms Marioldy Sanchez from the Association for Research and Integral Development (AIDER), Peru. Title of the presentation:

Building partnerships between CSOs and local Communities: challenges to avoid degradation of the dry forests of Peru.

Ms Fatima Ahmed from Zenab for Women Development Organization (ZWD), Sudan. Title of the presentation: *Empowerment women for better land management.*

Mr Sung-gil Lee from Future Forest, South Korea. Title of the presentation: *Cooperation to combat yellow dust storms and desertification in Northeast Asia.*

Mr Christian Houdus from Eau Vive/GDT/RESAD, France. Title of the presentation: *The future we*

need.

Mr. Jean Marc Sinnasamy from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) will also be on the panel. The discussions will be facilitated by **Mr Burger Patrice**, Executive Director of CARI.

CSOs calls for an inclusive communication strategy

CSOs attending the UNCCD COP11 have called on Parties not to leave behind local communities in their awareness raising, communication

and education activities with regards to the Land Degradation Neutral World and Land degradation. They further pointed that achieving a land degradation neutral world cannot be attained without a clear communication strategy for local communities whose daily lives depend on the land. The CSOs made the following recommends:

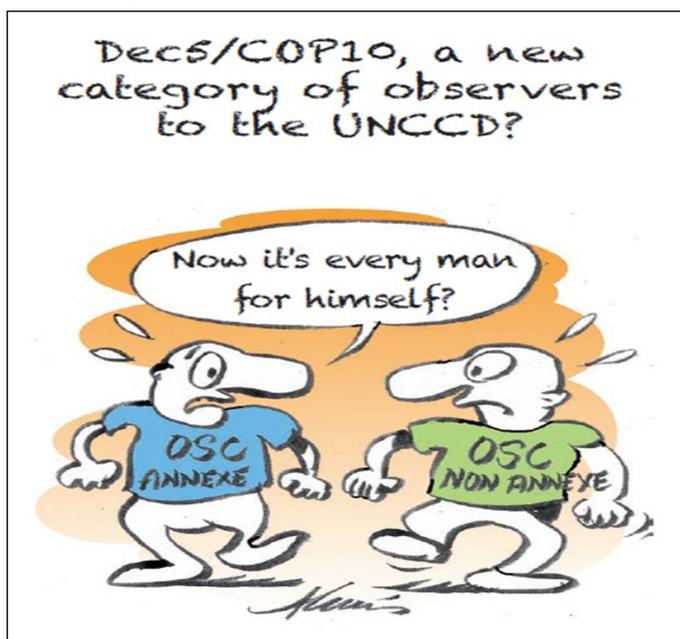
Awareness raising, communication and education activities should not be limited to UNCCD meetings and events and high profile meetings alone. These activities should be extended to local and rural communities. CSOs and the youth should be included.

The awareness rising, materials should be translated into local community languages in order to enhance the effective understanding of the community people and their buy-in of the LDNW concept and programmes.

The awareness rising, communication and education activities should be designed in a way that allows the local people to contribute their inputs and perspectives into how the Land degradation Neutral World could be achieved.

CSOs call for the cancellation of Decision 5 of COP10

As CSOs, we want to improve the civil society participation in and engagement with the UNCCD. Therefore we would like to point out that the criteria for the procedure of accreditation of CSO observers to the conference are good.



The CSOs in UNCCD all have observer status. Yet the decisions 5 of the UNCCD COP10 introduced a differentiation between the rights of observers according to the annex that they are associated with. **CSOs calls for the cancelation of this inequality**

They are encouraging CSO involvement and participation. In addition, we think that the selection panel that consists of the UNCCD secretariat and members of CSOs contributes to the transparency and democracy we all stand for.

Therefore, COP9-decision 5 that was made in Buenos Aires was a first improvement for CSO involvement. However, in Korea during COP10, decision 5 was adopted. It was decided that only CSOs from the ANNEX countries could be part of the selection panel. This implies that not ALL the UN regions are being covered within the selection panel AND it creates differentiation between CSOs. We regret this, as there has never been any distinction being made between CSOs within the UNCCD.

We therefore support the conclusion 5.d of document ICCD/COP11/4: to include 2 representatives of the secretariat and 5 representatives of organizations from countries of EACH regional and interest group of the United Nations.

CSOs call for additional Criteria for Private Sector

During the Committee of the Whole meeting on 19th Sept 2013, CSOs raised some concerns about the procedures for the accreditation of business and industry entities to the conference of the parties of the UNCCD, chapter 3 of document ICCD/COP 11/4.

CSOs feel that the current criteria for accreditation are too general and loose. Therefore CSOs are submitting to the distinguished Parties to have two additional criteria for Private Sector accreditation – i.e., sustainability and monitoring criteria.

For sustainability, CSOs would like to suggest this additional criteria to apply to the private sector as well as private sector associations that are requesting for accreditation. This criteria reflects the spirit of the convention and the 10 years strategic objectives of the UNCCD such as:

1. To improve the living conditions of affected populations.
2. To improve the condition of affected ecosystems

For the monitoring criteria, CSOs would like to suggest for regular monitoring mechanism for business and industry entities, for example a yearly report on their contribution to the above mentioned strategic objectives of the UNCCD 10 years strategy.