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## CSO proposal to the Changwon Initiative

CSOs attending COP10 made a proposal to the Changwon Initiative as follows;

### Page 4

IV. 2. Mobilizing additional resources and facilitating partnership arrangement

(Addendum) iii. Engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Taking into account operational objective 1 of the Strategy, and recalling its outcome 1.3, CSOs have a key role to play in the Changwon Initiative.

### Page 8

Component II

(Addendum) 3. Engagement of Civil Society Organizations

In the context of the Changwon Initiative, increased awareness raising, advocacy and education are required in

order to give the DLDD higher international profile. Through this, the global CSOs alliance could contribute in catalyzing partnerships into the DLDD. It is important to note that CSOs expressed their strong support for the establishment of the Global CSO Alliance.

### Page 10

Component III

Land for Life Award

2. The effectiveness of the CCS depends on its ability ... to major global challenges. (Addendum) The Global CSO Alliance would contribute to identifying best practices for awards. Furthermore, the CSOs are in a good position to popularize the "Land for Life Award" scheme among stakeholders, especially of the grassroots level.

*When there is no longer snow,  
the children will make a man of grass,*

*When there is no longer grass,  
the children will make a man of mud,*

*When there is no longer mud,  
the children will make a man of stone,*

*When there is no longer stone,  
the shadow of a man's ashes  
will be reflected in the sky-*

*And there will be no children then.*

*Grigore Vieru (Moldavian poet)*

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Dialogue Session will be held in the plenary hall from 3pm to 6pm on Wed. Oct 19<sup>th</sup>
- CSO's press conference at 6:30 pm in CSO Meeting Room (MET-08)

## IN THIS ISSUE

1 CSO proposal to the Changwon Initiative

2 CSO Statement in the HLS of COP10

## CSO Statement in the HLS of COP10

Oct 18, 2011

CSOs made the following statement at the end of HLS;

Distinguished World Leaders attending COP10,

We, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) attending the COP10 welcome you to this High-Level Segment to find ways and means of addressing desertification, land degradation and drought for the improvement of the living conditions of people from affected areas. The fight against poverty cannot succeed without priority given to drylands, land governance, investment in family farming systems, financing climate change adaptation and providing better food safety and sovereignty.

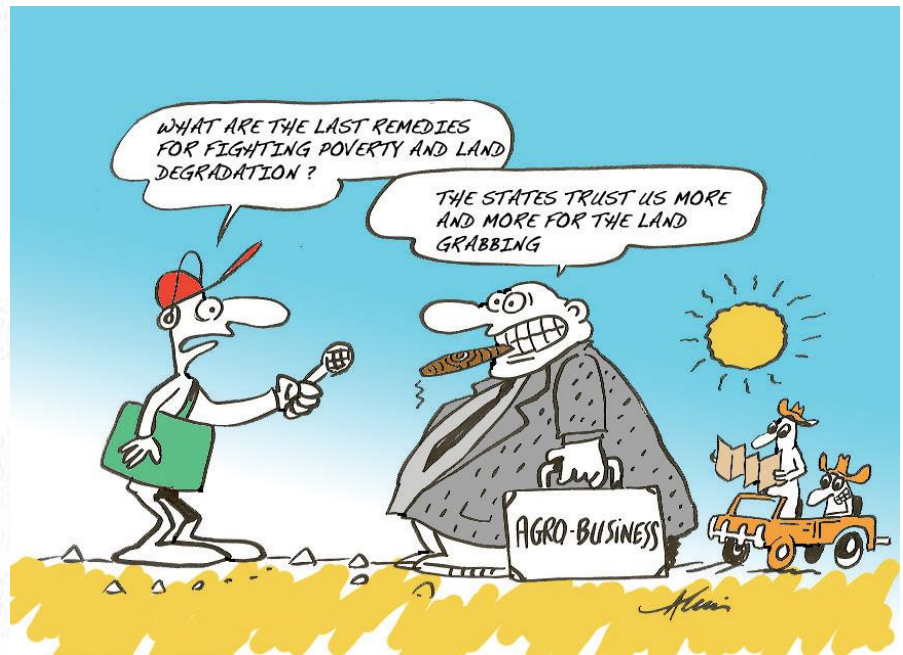
In their opening statement to the COP-10 last week, CSOs expressed their concern about the slow nature of implementation of actions at the grassroots level.

CSOs have advocated that unless they are fully taken on board in the process of the UNCCD, effective combating of desertification for poverty eradication would remain elusive.

Partnership in the UNCCD process is an obvious need for the realization of the aspirations of the communities to eradicate hunger and poverty. Essentially, we all know the complexity of challenges in addressing DLDD and this can be met only by action of all the major stakeholders acting together in partnership and linking it with biodiversity conservation and climate change to promote synergies.

CSOs, by their action in the UNCCD process so far, have established their relevance to grassroots achievement of combating land degradation and thus can engage effectively with Parties in designing of development strategies and innovative including local and traditional technologies targeted towards achieving the objectives of UNCCD at all levels.

Distinguished Leaders, CSOs have also noted their diminishing participation in the UNCCD process year after year since the Convention was initiated. This development undermines the spirit of the Convention. We therefore call for an increased participation of



**Land grabbing has become a global problem that ruins any prospect of sustainable development on their own land for the poor, who lose their homes and territories. This especially so in so-called marginal land. Land grabbing and the system of awarding land use contracts to large users, coupled with long-distance transport and the export of agricultural products are creating new frontiers of inequality that will increase the number of excluded people in poverty especially in drylands**

CSOs and communities representatives in the process of UNCCD at all levels in order to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and legitimacy of partnership in the process of implementation of the UNCCD.

It is an acknowledged fact that DLDD have become a pervasive problem in affected ecosystems. However, the worst impact of it is experienced by the poor people. The solution lies in mainstreaming SLM into national development policies and practices.

CSOs request the world leaders to support strengthening the knowledge base of SLM through improved scientific input in order to enhance effective decision making on DLDD.

Distinguished Leaders, CSOs have taken an initiative here in COP10 to forge an alliance in this Convention to develop and establish a platform amongst their constituencies for the exchange of experiences, technologies and better approaches on DLDD. The alliance is also expected to emerge as a formidable entity for meaningful partnership and dialogue with the stakeholders of the UNCCD process.

CSOs present in this Conference of Parties request the World Leaders to

extend all possible support to the Changwon Initiative in which we as CSOs expect to play a key role by building a global alliance on desertification and land degradation.

Thank You.



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