

UNCCD CSO in CRIC15

Statement on Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group

Mr. Chair.

I would to thank you on behalf of CSOs, for providing opportunity to present our position regarding Initial findings from the Intergovernmental Working Group to the plenary.

The outcome of the IWG work only partially responded to the high expectations of the CSOs. We are concerned that the key suggestions of the CSO panel were not fully reflected in the new strategy, especially those related to the lands rights, indigenous peoples, gender mainstreaming and LDN. Since the establishment of the UNCCD, CSOs have been engaged in the implementation of the convention on the ground, we are disappointed that CSOs are not particularly mentioned in the new strategy proposal. CSOs have a clear role in the implementation of the Convention and this must be reflected in the proposal.

The efforts of Parties undertaken as part of the LDN target setting program provided clear signals that countries want LDN initiative to move forward. We do believe that LDN must be promoted with increased country ownership and accountability to the Convention. We think that new Strategic Framework of the Convention should recognize LDN as a driving force for the achievement of the SDG 15 and its targets, particularly 15.3, which is not adequately described in the draft Strategy.

LDN as an ultimate goal should be promoted with sound environmental and social safeguards.

We are of the view that synergies with the other Rio conventions are not adequately articulated in the draft strategy of the UNCCD We therefore propose that innovative and effective strategies for achieving synergic outcomes should be reflected in the draft.

The UNCCD was established to serve the people. The new strategy of the Convention should respond the needs and expectations of all relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and women. CSOs are strongly committed to providing our contribution in the work of the IWG. The format of the IWG must make provision for the inclusion of CSO representatives.

Thank you!