Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My name is Marioldy Sanchez from Peru and I am speaking on behalf the Civil Society Organizations. We would like to welcome the efforts of Parties, the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism to undertake the LDN target setting program and congratulate the work of the SPI providing us with a scientifically-sound basis for LDN.

Since the inception of the UNCCD, CSOs have been engaged in a host of activities at the ground. We aim to contribute to the design and implementation of LDN through sharing the experiences and knowledge of indigenous peoples, local communities and women, for the development of transformative projects and processes with a bottom-up approach.

We would like to propose the establishment of an institutionalized dialogue mechanism at the national level between the UNCCD focal points and CSOs. This mechanism will also allow the focal points to organize the participation of CSOs in the LDN national working groups in an inclusive, legitimate and transparent manner.

Mr. Chair,
LDN brings to the Parties new challenges and opportunities. We, the CSOs, would like to see LDN being part of the political agenda of the Convention. We are committed to work together to build on lessons learned and validated experiences from the ground.