

# D'a Désertif' Actions

2026



6<sup>eme</sup> édition

## Report of Day 3 Working Group

*Sopiko Babalashvili – The UNCCD CSO Panel*

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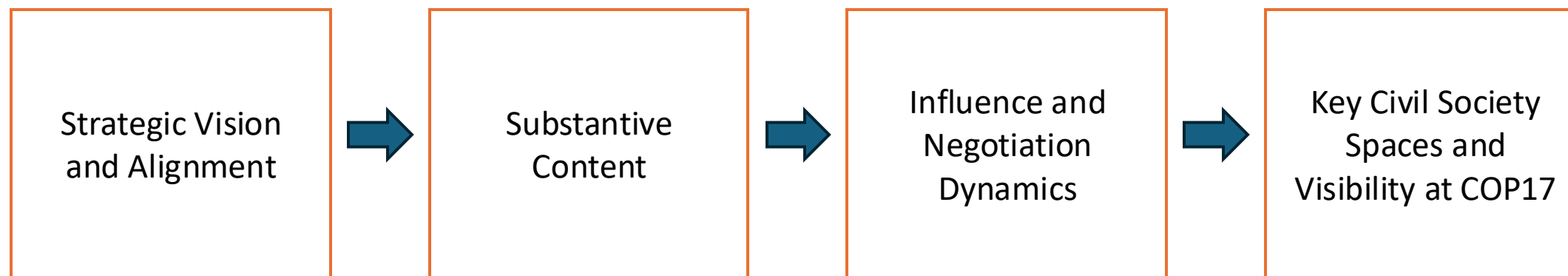


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# Roadmap Toward COP17



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# Strategic Vision and Alignment

## *New UNCCD Strategy (Post-2030)*

- *The UNCCD convention must be inclusive and encourage national adoption and adaptation.*
- *Improve representation of civil society in decision-making and negotiation spaces.*
- *Reformulate, simplify, or merge certain objectives to clarify the meaning behind them.*
- *Encourage a bottom-up approach.*



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# Substantive Content

## *Avoiding, Reducing, and Reversing Land and Soil Degradation of Agricultural Lands*

- Prioritizing prevention over restoration is essential, as it is more cost-effective, faster to implement, and technically less complex.
- Ensure policy coherence across sectors: restoration efforts must not be undermined by parallel activities that degrade land. Strengthening alignment between environmental and agricultural policies and fostering dialogue between ministries at national and local levels is essential.
- Enhance the generation and dissemination of knowledge on land and soil conditions, and use this information to inform land-use planning at both national and local levels.

## *Negotiations on Pastoralism*

- Rangeland restoration should focus on the balance between people, plants, and livestock, and allow for the natural regeneration of Rangelands where possible, ensuring landscape integrity and vegetation diversity.
- Rights to mobility are a form of land rights for pastoralists.
- A civil society group should be established alongside the UNCCD Rangeland Flagship Initiative to ensure accountability.



# Influence and Negotiations Dynamics

## *Influence of the European Union Negotiators*

- *Prioritize early participation and involvement in decision-making to influence future evolutions.*
- *Continue strategic dialogues between civil society and the EU for respective advocacy strategies.*
- *Provide evidence on issues that are at stake in the policy-making areas.*

## *Influence of African Negotiators*

- *Adopt a global framework to shift from crisis management of drought to risk and resilience management: establish a more integrated, anticipatory, and well-funded system.*
- *Support African negotiators and lessons learned on drought, agroecology, and other negotiation issues. Civil society must be involved in national COP preparation processes and in the implementation of UNCCD decisions.*



# Influence and Negotiation Dynamics

## *Local Authorities' Involvement in the UNCCD Negotiations*

- *Ensure recognition of local authorities as frontline actors in combating desertification, as they possess in-depth knowledge and expertise of their territories.*
- *Provide adequate financial, human, and technological resources to Local Authorities to effectively address desertification, land degradation, and droughts.*
- *Propose the coordination of the Mayor's Day at COP17 by UCLG.*



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# Key Civil Society Spaces at COP17 and Visibility

## Opening Statement of COP17

- *For the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, pastoral and agro-pastoral issues should be integrated into the CSO opening statement, particularly by recognizing mobility as a key adaptation strategy for pastoralists.*
- *CSOs should emphasize the drought issue to advance the progress on the decision.*
- *Parties should be encouraged to facilitate, increase, and localize direct access for CSOs and local authorities to climate and drought financing.*

## Statement on Drought

- *In developing knowledge, policy guidelines, tools, and approaches to combat droughts, the Convention must place greater emphasis on agricultural droughts, which claim the most victims.*
- *Policy and financial instruments aimed at improving the effectiveness of drought management at national and global levels must promote the transformation of agro-ecosystems by applying the principles of agroecology and placing the soil-water-agriculture nexus at the heart of these ambitions.*
- *Governance frameworks involving local stakeholders, farmers and pastoralists, and vulnerable groups must be empowered at the local level to develop drought adaptation strategies that take local specificities into account.*



# Key Civil Society Spaces at COP17 and Visibility

## **Open Dialogue Sessions (ODS)**

- *Rethinking strategies to ensure the securitization of pastoralism and equitable use of natural resources among all groups.*
- *Build stronger alliances among the pastoralist organizations across the countries to advance joint advocacy*
- *Drought-resilient strategies must be scientifically informed, culturally and socially acceptable, aligned with traditional knowledge, and inclusive to all.*
- *Engage with National Focal Points actively before and during COP17.*

## **Mobilization of Media around the COP17**

- *Produce accessible, analytical, and synthesis content (articles, reports, interviews).*
- *Translate scientific data into content that is accessible and understandable for the general public.*
- *Highlight the concrete impacts of desertification through field-based testimonies.*
- *Mobilize a network of specialized journalists, opinion leaders, and content creators.*



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**For drought-resilient territories:  
let's act from now on!**

*From 25 to 28 March 2026 in Djerba (Tunisia)*

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