



Date: 28 September 2017
Ref.: MM/ERPA/acredcso
cc: RB/LB/GGL

Subject: Accreditation of your organization as observer to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Dear Mr. Himanshukumar Natvarlal Banker,

We are pleased to inform you that the thirteenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP 13) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) decided to grant observer status to your organization, following the recommendation made by the UNCCD secretariat. This accreditation is valid for all sessions of the COP and its Subsidiary Bodies.

As an accredited observer, your organization will automatically receive an official invitation to attend the sessions of the COP and its Subsidiary Bodies. The official document ICCD/COP(13)/17 (http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-09/ICCD_COP%2813%29_17-1714932E.pdf) contains a listing of the civil society organizations (CSO) that were accredited, including yours.

You are kindly requested to keep the UNCCD secretariat informed of any changes affecting your organization and/or any activities of relevance undertaken as part of the Convention process. Ongoing and updated information on the Convention process can be found on the UNCCD's website: <http://www.unccd.int>.

Furthermore, paragraph 2 decision 5/COP.10 states that "the civil society organizations accredited to the COP shall submit a report to the secretariat, with a copy to the national focal point, every five years on their activities and on contributions made to the implementation of the Convention". Please be reminded that the observer status will be withdrawn if your organization fails to comply with this obligation.

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Mr. Himanshukumar Natvarlal Banker
VIKALP
Vejalpur, Ahmedabad 380051 India

Email: vikalpahd@gmail.com



Should you wish to indicate your status with the UNCCD on your letterhead, please use the following wording: "CSO with accredited status with the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD". The UNCCD logo may not be used for stationery use, or for any printed materials describing your organization. If you would like to use the UNCCD logo for any specific event or activity, you are kindly advised to send a request to cso@unccd.int describing the purpose of the same.

I would highly recommend that you visit the section of the UNCCD website devoted to the civil society organizations <http://www2.unccd.int/convention/civil-society-organizations> where you can find updated information relevant to the CSOs working in the implementation of the UNCCD. You can also follow us on Twitter: @UNCCDcso and find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/unccd.cso>

We look forward to a productive and rewarding collaboration with your organization and its representatives.

Yours sincerely,

Marcos Montoiro
NGO and Civil society liaison officer

