

50th GEF Council Meeting and CSO Consultation

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- **Agenda Item no. 5 - GEF Corporate Scorecard & Results-Based Management Action Plan:** The [GEF Corporate Scorecard](#) is a new tool to update the Council on the GEF's progress. It includes information on, among other things, the contributions of GEF projects to the "generation of global environmental benefits", e.g., "maintain[ing] globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society" as well as information on gender and stakeholder involvement. The CSO-Network recommended that more information be provided on the tool's development and that indicators be further developed and disaggregated, including those related to gender and civil society involvement. The Council welcomed the scorecard and requested that it continue to be provided to Council.
- **Agenda Item no. 6 - Monitoring Agency Compliance with GEF Policies on Environmental and Social Safeguards, Gender, and Fiduciary Standards:** GEF [Agencies](#) are responsible for assisting governments and NGOs in developing, implementing, and managing GEF projects. With regard to monitoring Agencies' compliance with GEF's environmental, social and financial policies, the Secretariat [recommended](#) maintaining current procedures, requiring Agency reporting on policy changes, and adding an independent expert review of that reporting. The GEF CSO network welcomed this recommendation (the strongest of three presented options) and requested that the Secretariat present implementation modalities. The Network also recommend that, among other things, the GEF revisit the question of periodic Agency re-accreditation, or periodic confirmation of continuing accreditation; Agencies share with the GEF Secretariat outcomes of any complaints that constitute noncompliance with GEF policies and safeguards; and GEF establish and enforce compliance or accountability measures. The Council agreed that there is need for periodic self and third party-assessment of Agency compliance, with reporting on self-assessment to take place each replenishment cycle, beginning with the final year of GEF-7. The Council requested that the Secretariat further report on this at the October 2016 Council meeting, including implementation modalities.
- **Agenda Item 7. Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency: [Establishment of a Trust Fund and Programming Directions](#):** In accordance with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the GEF aims to establish a trust fund for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) as soon as possible. At the GEF Council Meeting, Canada, the UK and the US re-iterated their pledges to this fund. Others, including Germany, Italy and Japan, said that they intend to make pledges in the future. The CSO-Network requested, among other things, a clear definition of transparency and more clarity on the applicability of the fund for LDCs and SIDS. The Council approved the proposed arrangements for establishing the fund, inviting the World Bank to act as the Trustee.
- **Agenda Item 13. [Evaluation of the GEF CSO Network and Management Response](#):** The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) presented results of its CSO-Network evaluation. It concluded that the Network plays a relevant role and delivers results, but that Network activities are distant from the country level where GEF projects are operationalized. It found that a contemporary vision is needed for the Network and that, while Network governance has improved, challenges remain and there is need to develop clear rules of engagement between the Network and the Secretariat. The CSO-Network welcomed the evaluation and agreed with most of the results. The Network acknowledged the challenges at the country level and the lack of resources to address these. The Network presented a draft Action Plan addressing the IEO recommendations. Council agreed to

establish an ad-hoc working group of Members who will, in consultation with stakeholders, develop an updated vision for the GEF – civil society relationship, as well as a plan to achieve it. This group will report back at the first 2017 Council meeting. The Council also encouraged the Network to establish a working group comprised of CSO stakeholders to engage with the Council Working Group on this updated vision and the related questions of the Network's governance.

- **Agenda Item 16. GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY17:** The Secretariat presented an update of the [GEF Business Plan for GEF-6 and FY17 budget](#) covering expenses of the Secretariat, STAP and Trustee. The CSO-Network thanked the GEF for the allocation of 50,000 dollars per year. To ensure an operational Network, including in light of the IEO recommendations, the Network also requested an additional contribution of two special budget lines, for a total of at least 2% of the Secretariat Budget: one for Indigenous Peoples' engagement and another one for CSO Network partnership and engagement. The Council approved the FY17 GEF Trust Fund corporate budget and US\$31,000 administrative budget for the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF). The Council requested that the Secretariat present a combined FY18 corporate budget and business plan in Spring 2017.
- **Agenda Item 17. Work Program:** The GEF [Work Program](#), which includes about 38 projects, was provisionally approved by the Council at its 50th meeting. While covering a wide range of environmental issues, the Work Program has a strong emphasis on biodiversity and natural resource management with a particular focus on Africa. The CSO-Network recommendations focused on, among other things, the need for CSOs' and Indigenous Peoples' full, effective, and empowered participation at all phases, including project development; the need for clear information on project accountability and grievance mechanisms, including to ensure that commitments to CSO and Indigenous Peoples' participation are followed through; and the importance of project compliance with the GEF Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. The Network also recommended that the Work Program as a whole, and individual projects wherever possible, include appropriate recognition of and support for land and territories governed by indigenous peoples and local communities, including but not limited to Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs). Such support is consistent with GEF's programmatic focus on resilience, integration, and securing the global commons, and as a form of collective action and non-market-based approach to mobilizing resources to achieve the CBD and other conventions. This support should be in line with the self-determined priorities and plans of indigenous peoples and local communities themselves.