



GEF CSO Network Statement

Agenda Item 8

Country Support Programme Implementation

47th GEF Council Meeting, Washington DC, USA

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the proposed Country Support Programme Implementation for GEF 6. We support the proposed changes that aim to provide targeted support to recipient countries to increase national capacity and stakeholder engagement and ownership of GEF activities. CSOs are very happy with the organization of ECWs in GEF 5 especially the effective engagement of CSOs in these meetings.

In GEF 6 we hope CSOs will be instrumental to help set priorities for GEF resources in the recipient countries through their informed participation in the National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NPFE), GEF National Dialogues and Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs).

In November 2010, the GEF Council agreed (*GEF/C.39/10/Rev.1*) to undertake actions to enhance the engagement of CSOs in operations of the GEF. Specifically, the GEF Council made the decision that Operational Focal Points (OFPs) will be required to include in the CSP work program, at least one meeting a year with the CSOs that are members of the GEF CSO Network in the country concerned. However, this Council decision is not reflected in the proposed CSP Implementation document.

We are concerned about the lack of engagement of a number of GEF focal points in CSP activities. Some GEF recipient countries do not fully utilize CSP mechanisms. This results in limited civil society contributions in the programming, implementation and evaluation of the national portfolio and weak country ownership of GEF programmes.

We believe that the GEF needs to be more effective in promoting the mechanisms of CSP to enhance the partnership with CSOs and other stakeholders at both national and regional levels. We encourage the inclusion of specific modalities on CSO engagement to meet GEF targets for GEF 6 and beyond in the CSP implementation document.

Thus, GEF CSO Network puts forward the following recommendations to the CSP Implementation document:

- **Recommendation 1:** include a clear reference and commitment to the GEF Council decision (*GEF/C.39/10/Rev.1*) requiring OFPs to organize at least one

meeting a year with the CSOs.

- **Recommendation 2:** strongly encourage countries to undertake NPFE in a fully participatory way and use these meetings to make decisions on country allocation.
- **Recommendation 3:** We request that all ECW meetings in GEF 6 include a specific agenda item related to engagement of civil society. We hope that funding continues to be provided through the ECW mechanism for back-to-back preparatory/follow-up CSO meetings to be organized at the time of each ECW meeting. We would like to propose that funding be allocated to support 2 civil society representatives per country, instead of just 1, as proposed now.
- **Recommendation 4.** When planning for the GEF National Dialogues, the GEF Secretariat will work in close coordination with the GEF OPFs, GEF Partner Agencies, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Recommendation 5.** GEF Introduction Seminars involve GEF Agency staff, Convention Secretariat staff, new GEF Focal Points and relevant stakeholders, including CSOs.