



GEF CSO Network Statement
47th GEF Council Meeting, Washington DC, USA

Progress Report on the Pilot Accreditation of GEF Project Agencies
and
Agency progress on meeting Minimum Standards on Environmental
and Social Safeguards and Gender Mainstreaming

The GEF CSO Network has supported from the beginning the concept of the broadening of the GEF partnership. We are happy to see that three out of the four agencies which have been fully accredited are CSOs.

Having said this – we are concerned that the time for the pilot phase of accreditation has taken a very long time and suggest that the root causes are assessed in the proposed evaluation so that any further round can be more expedited.

The new GEF agencies represent a step in the right direction in diversifying and increasing the scope of actions through which the GEF can generate its desired impact;

While on this agenda item, we would like to touch on the related issue of the GEF Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards and Gender mainstreaming as reported in paper GEF/C.47/Inf.04.

The Network acknowledges the significant progress that agencies have demonstrated since their policies were assessed two years ago; We note from the paper that the existing GEF agencies are only expected to all have the policies in place to meet the minimum standards at the end of 2014. This is too late. However new policies are only effective if they are fully implemented.

The GEF CSO Network expresses its concerns and also recommends that:

- It is essential that the GEF agencies allocate sufficient resources and staff, as well as carry out the necessary capacity building for the adequate implementation of the policies. From paper to proper implementation there is a need to invest in the process to make it a reality;
- We suggest that OPS6 Include an assessment of the progress by the existing ten agencies in fully implementing their new policies.

- Finally we note that the World Bank is undergoing a process of developing new policies, we express our concern why the bank has not been evaluated. Furthermore, in the current safeguard revision process that the World Bank is developing, serious concerns have been expressed by indigenous peoples. Their concerns must be adequately addressed, respecting existing international standards especially the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;