

SUMMARY

GEF Council - CSO Consultation Meeting – 4 June 2012

Preston Auditorium, World Bank, Washington DC

A GEF Council-CSO consultation was organized on 4 June 2012 prior to the 42nd GEF Council and was attended by more than 100 participants encompassing representatives from civil society, GEF Council members, GEF Agencies and GEF Secretariat. The highlights of the main discussions and panels are summarized below:

CSO Dialogue with Monique Barbut, GEF CEO

Moderator : Faizal Parish, Central Focal Point, GEF NGO Network

In her opening remarks and subsequent dialogue, Monique Barbut expressed her satisfaction over the good CSO engagement in GEF-related processes, including the GEF-related conventions. She emphasised that GEF recognises CSO participation and that the implementation of GEF programmes and replenishment negotiations has gained from CSO engagement. She pointed out that in GEF5 strengthening of country of ownership has opened initial opportunities for CSO input in designing country portfolios and greater opportunities for engagement. She listed the pilot GEF initiative which will allow for accreditation of up to five CSOs as GEF Project Agencies. In addition, she listed other platforms for CSO engagement, including the 13 ECW workshops organised so far; the CSO Consultations prior to the GEF Council Meetings; and the funding opportunity for CSO which includes SGP financing as well as medium and full sized projects. As this was her last Council meeting as the GEF CEO, she expressed her hope that GEF-CSO partnership will continue to be strengthened. She also urged CSOs to continue their efforts for the sake of the planet and future generations and also urged the GEF NGO Network to revitalize it by broadening the membership base so it becomes more inclusive of other community based organizations.

In the dialogue, a range of issues including the new GEF guidelines on engagement with Indigenous Peoples, global financing for environment, GEF visibility and direction for GEF6 were discussed. The GEF NGO Network expressed their thanks for the significant support from the CEO for CSO engagement.

SESSION 1 : CSOs and Indigenous Peoples Engagement in GEF

Panel 1 : GEF Public Involvement Policy and GEF Principles & Guidelines for engagement with Indigenous Peoples

Moderator : Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, AFPAT/IP Task Force

Panel : Faizal Parish, Central Focal point, GEF NGO Network, Gustavo Fonseca, GEF Secretariat; Saro Legborsi Pyagbara, MOSOP/IP Task Force, Anton Hilber, GEF Alternate Council Member (Switzerland).

This panel discussed the GEF Public Involvement Policy and the new GEF Principles and Guidelines for engagement with Indigenous Peoples in GEF projects and processes. The Central Focal Point representative gave a short background on the GEF Public Involvement Policy and outlined the Network's proposal for the development for a new guideline for public involvement. This was followed with a presentation by the GEF Secretariat on the outline of the GEF Principles and Guidelines for engagement with Indigenous Peoples which had been developed with financial support from the Swiss government, drawing on an issues paper developed by an Indigenous peoples Task Force and after consultations with relevant stakeholders in the various regions. The GEF Secretariat

representative reiterated that the guidelines are not a final document and although the GEF Sec recognised that there are still gaps in the paper, it is a great advance and a good basis for the work with indigenous peoples. The Indigenous Peoples (IP) representative, Saro Pyagbara expressed the support for the GEF guidelines as a first step by the GEF Secretariat to address this key issue – but raised IP's concerns that the stated principles were too narrow and various areas need to be advanced further. The need to enhance the emphasis on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and quickly establish the proposed mechanisms were highlighted. The Alternate Council Member from Switzerland commended the guidelines and pointed out that it should be an evolving document and that further work should be done in the preparation for GEF6. In addition, he gave his support for the establishment of the IP Advisory Group.

SESSION 2 : Road to Rio+20

Panel 2 : Expectations and Implications of Rio+20

Moderator : Essam Nada, RAED/RFP North Africa GEF NGO Network

Panel: **Maryam Niamir-Fuller**, UNEP; **Tanveer Arif**, SCOPE/RFP South Asia GEF NGO Network; **Robert Bakiika**, Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility, Uganda.

This panel discussed the expectations as well as the implications of Rio+20 from the perspective of UNEP and the CSOs. In her presentation, Maryam Niamir-Fuller gave an outline of UNEP's plan and expectation for Rio+20. Tanveer Arif highlighted CSOs' views on the green economy and zero land degradation. He echoed the call by many countries for a land degradation neutral world with a sustainable development target of "zero-net land degradation". He also pointed out the close relationship between green economy and sustainable land management. Robert Bakiika made a critical assessment of the negotiations of Rio +20 and highlighted the role and expectations of GEF in the financing mechanism and put forward his recommendations for a successful Rio implementation. Before closing the session, the moderator, Essam Nada also shared his views on climate-induced social displacement, its impact on the socio economic development in North Africa and West Asia and shared views on the role of CSOs in achieving green economy.

SESSION 3 : REVIEW OF GEF PROGRESS AND FINANCING NEEDS

Panel 3 : Fifth Overall Performance Study (OPS5)

Moderator : Dirk Joldersma, RFP North America GEF NGO Network

By : **Rob D. van den Berg**, GEF Evaluation office

Rob van den Berg gave an overview of the proposed Terms of Reference and schedule of work of the Fifth Overall performance study (OPS5) of GEF as well as the options for civil society engagement in it. Proposals were made from the floor to further enhance the role of CSOs in the OPS5 process and also to assess in more detail the effectiveness of GEF policies related to CSOs and the impact of the RAF and STAR on CSO led projects.

Panel 4a : Financing Needs for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Moderator: **Samuel Dotse**, HATOF/RFP West and Central Africa, GEF NGO Network

CBD panel : **Guenter Mitlacher**, Member of the CBD Expert Group/RFP Europe GEF NGO Network; **Ravi Sharma**, CBD Secretariat; **Mark Zimsky**, GEF Secretariat; **Stefan Schwager**, Representative from the Swiss Government

The panel reviewed the progress of the CBD process to determine the financing needs for the Implementation of the CBD including indicative funding targets through GEF. Ravi Sharma gave a presentation on the objective and scope of the GEF6 financial need assessment exercise for CBD, the methodology used and its justification. Guenter

Mitlacher presented the preliminary output of the GEF6 funding needs for CBD, including the targets and the estimates. Stefan Schwager highlighted the importance of funding for biodiversity and recognised the challenges in coming up with the costing for biodiversity. The CBD financing discussion was closed with an overview from the Mark Zimsky on the role and involvement the GEF Secretariat has in the assessment process. Further input to the process from CSOs and countries was welcomed.

Panel 4b : Financing Options for the Mercury Process

Moderator: Samuel Dotse, HATOF/RFP West and Central Africa, GEF NGO Network

Panel : Fernando Lugris, Chair of Mercury Programme Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC); Ibrahima Sow, GEF Secretariat; Jack Weinberg, IPEN.

In this panel, Fernando Lugris gave the roadmap, the mechanism and function of the INC and the outcomes in the mercury negotiation process. From the GEF Secretariat, Ibrahima Sow gave a short overview on the guiding principles and possible modalities for the financial mechanism for mercury. He highlighted the two proposed financing modalities; the GEF modalities or new modalities and gave the comparative advantage of the former over the latter. He also presented a GEF intervention on mercury-related activities, the GEF5 mercury strategy (the operational and administrative models). Jack Weinberg gave an overview of mercury pollution sources and impacts and the justification for a global, legally-binding mercury treaty.

Summary and closing

In his closing remarks, Faizal Parish, Central Focal Point of the GEF NGO Network commended the mind-provoking dialogue session which he hoped had stimulated thinking for the future on how to address key challenges including the generation of sufficient funds for future expansion of GEF activities and avoiding fragmentation of financial mechanisms to maintain cohesion. The need to focus on an integrated approach and multifocal category in work program in GEF6 was also highlighted. On the IP guidelines, although there is a key concern that the guidelines lack emphasis on FPIC, there were positive views on the recognition of IPs and the proposed new mechanisms, including the establishment of the IP advisory group and financial mechanism. The Rio+20 discussions pointed out the hopes and realistic approaches for multi-stakeholders participation in achieving the goals. It also raised some scepticism on the raised standards and thresholds. The discussion on OPS5 made everyone recognize the need to document the achievements in GEF 5 and introduce further enhancements in the GEF6 negotiations in 2013. On the financing requirements for CBD, he commended the CBD on the big step taken and the major efforts involved. As the preliminary targeted requirement for GEF6 CBD financing is much higher than the current level, he stressed the importance to lobby GEF donor countries for greater support. He commended the CBD which has set a good precedent with the CSO participation in the Expert Group. He highlighted the importance of the discussion on mercury as it gave an opportunity for CSO's input into the INC's work and indicated openness for ongoing CSO's engagement. He emphasised the need for a strong treaty and adequate resources to address the global mercury problems. He concluded by encouraging active input of CSOs into the 42nd council deliberations and the future work of the GEF.

Copies of the presentations are available on the website of the GEF-NGO Network: www.gefngo.org