

Statement of Constituency

Chairperson

Madam Monique Barbut

Ministers

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of our Constituency including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, I would like to thank GEF Secretariat and Government of Uruguay for inviting us to this auspicious gathering and extending excellent hospitality to host this event.

Our constituency appreciates efficient reforms of GEF Secretariat and encouraging contribution of donors for GEF-5 replenishment. We commend the fifth replenishment and hope for greater assistance in future.

As per our experience with GEF during past few years, GEF has not only contributed towards Environmental Improvement but it has also made a visible difference in domains of poverty alleviation, jobs creation, gender empowerment and rural uplift of communities.

In case of our constituency, GEF Agencies have played prominent role in implementation of GEF Programme from global to the grass root level and remain a major source of co-financing to GEF interventions. They have contributed in forging partnerships with respective governments, NGOs and departments. There is a need for agencies to have coordination among

themselves for the joint ventures, to avoid duplication of efforts and efficient use of resources.

Proposed System for Transparent Allocation of Resources seems to match well with the needs and requirements of stakeholders and we expect it to add to transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in programme implementation. Although STAR has proposed to reduce number of steps involved in Project Cycle yet it could be lowered further and project approval process further streamlined.

Constituency level meetings and workshops provide a better way to interact and share the lessons learnt, the new system may further facilitate in building mechanism for inter-constituency coordination and partnerships to have joint projects and to share and replicate success stories and best practices among the constituency countries.

The constituency feels a pressing need for strengthening the role and capacity of GEF Focal Points. Their involvement in GEF Projects may be ensured from concept inception to Project closure and they may be provided with the country level institutional support, in order to disseminate appropriate methodologies and procedures to concerned stakeholders, to help coordinate national activities and to look after their respective tasks. Also GEF Secretariat may come up with additional capacity building opportunities at country level and incentives for high performing country programmes.

GEF may provide countries the analysis of comparative advantages of GEF agencies at country level. It may also ensure country specific predictability

and availability of GEF resources and explore mechanism for enhancing country-driven GEF projects. GEF may ensure level playing field to carryout country portfolio evaluations for improvements, to further strengthen monitoring and evaluation and to favour result based management of GEF resources.

In order to have a collective impact of GEF interventions on world's environment, there is a need to retain a genuine focus on community needs and finding out further creative ways to link GEF priorities with local development priorities. While allocating funds consideration may also be given to vulnerability index reflecting country's circumstances, level of associated risks and physical impacts.

The GEF may catalyze demonstration projects for possible replication, especially through private sector involvement and use of environment friendly and energy efficient technologies. GEF activities should be more country-driven and based on national priorities. There should be clear guidelines for cooperation with the Private sector and a strong monitoring and evaluation mechanism at country level is essential. A wider range of executing agencies should participate in country level implementation of GEF Programme.

The constituency aims to effectively use available GEF resources and will seek possible means of availing maximum co-financing for GEF interventions. Although the available resources hardly match the needs, yet it can cause a big change if effectively used.

We look forward to the fruitful outcomes of this GEF Assembly.

I would also like to present a written statement to the Assembly on behalf of Pakistan, which may be posted on the Assembly's website.

Thank you.