



GEF NGO Network

Statement on Agenda item 13 Streamlining the Project cycle

GEF Council, 14 November 2012

Streamlining of project cycle is not only needed for being commensurate with the new fee structure, but also to increase transparency and efficiency of the process for all involved stakeholders. Nevertheless the claim for reducing the transaction costs can also be counterproductive. As example, the expected cost savings should not be taken as an argument for deleting the facilitation services and the time needed in this phase. Quality has a price if we give value to quality.

We acknowledge the evolving nature of the GEF – from what used to be a painstaking exercise of a 6-year turnaround for between the concept and the approval of the full document to the current 18 month target.

The CSO community welcomes the eight measures proposed in paragraph 10 of the document.

We welcome the proposal to increase the ceiling for the Medium Sized projects to \$2 million. However we would also like to highlight that the MSP modality was initially introduced to provide opportunities for CSOs to access GEF resources. However in recent years the proportion of MSPs allocated to CSOs has seriously declines. We hope that this trend will be reversed despite the increase in the budget ceiling.

Secondly we would like to highlight the importance of Civil society stakeholders in the Project cycle especially in the conceptualization and design as well as implementation and monitoring. We would therefore like to request that in the next stage of streamlining that clear guidelines are issued on the mechanisms for engagement of civil society in line with the GEF public involvement policy.

Thirdly, we are concerned that the proposal to streamline the project templates may inadvertently lead to removal of key elements related to civil society engagement – in particular Section B5 of the PIF on stakeholder engagement. We do however believe that improved guidance for the completion and review of this section could further enhance quality of PIF design.

Finally we believe that the Pre-PIF stage is important in the project cycle. However, there needs to be guidance on the role of the Agencies and the GEF focal point to integrate high level, multi-stakeholder consultation in the preparation of the PIF. We believe that this will reduce problems later in the project cycle and also save costs.

We however look forward to the next June council review on the status of streamlining measures. In this regard, the CSOs community is also ready to contribute to the discussions on additional improvements as highlighted in paragraph 13.

Madame chair, during the Council –CSO consultations earlier this week you have mentioned that you Plan to change GEF procedures to enhance CSO engagement. Similarly the CSOs are ready to provide input to enhancing the project cycle mechanisms.