



GEF NGO Network

Statement on Agenda item 15 Financial projections for GEF 5 programming Options

GEF Council, 13 November 2012

Dear Madam CEO,

1. The GEF NGO Network is extremely concerned about the financial shortfall that necessitates this agenda item. On behalf of our members, we call on all GEF member states to honour their obligations to the GEF and make their payments in full, in line with their pledges, as well as pay their arrears. Additional voluntary contributions are also welcomed. We also urge those countries that have placed restrictions on their paid-in contributions to release those funds and not compound the difficulties caused by others.

2. Regarding the proposed reallocation, the critical criterion for this decision is the one that is central to the GEF's mandate – how will the decision impact the ability of GEF recipients to deliver global environmental benefits?

3. Based on this criterion we strongly support for the GEF Secretariat's 3rd option which will allow SIDS and LDC countries the opportunity to deliver on their global responsibilities. We believe that as both a matter of ethics and principle as well as a pragmatic response to the severe capacity constraints they face, these countries should not see their resource allocations diminished.

4. We recognize that the third scenario requires, most critically, the support of large recipient countries. We call on their flexibility to support this scenario in this crucial phase of GEF-5.

5. Whatever scenario is adopted we ask that the allocation for capacity building and stakeholder engagement through the corporate programme on CSP and capacity building be maintained as high as possible. These funds are critical for enhancing the engagement of stakeholders through ECW meetings and national dialogues as well as supporting cross cutting capacity building for facilitating convention synergy and implementation of national capacity building strategies. In addition, any change in country allocations does not lead to any reduction of the already agreed STAR allocations to support the SGP which have been given by countries but are yet to be presented to the Council.