



GEF-NGO Network Statement during 44th GEF Council Meeting

On Pilot accreditation of GEF Project Agencies 18 June 2013

The broadening of GEF agencies has been adopted by the Council as a major step to increase GEF delivery efficiency. In addition, by the proposed accrediting of civil society organizations, the GEF is enhancing its potential ability to further mainstream civil society within GEF operations and programmes.

We believe that accrediting CSOs as well national and regional organizations as GEF project agencies is important to give countries more options to choose appropriate agencies that can assist them in delivering effectively at national and regional levels. We hope that this will further strengthen the GEF Network.

We do have some concerns about the long time it has taken for the panel to do its work so far. We believe that it is now important to speed up in order to complete the entire accreditation process before the end of GEF 5.

Finally as expressed at the previous council, the GEF NGO Network would like to highlight that, as decided by the Council, social and environmental safeguards and gender mainstreaming constitute an important element of the accreditation process. We are happy to hear that consultants have recently been appointed to undertake a similar review all GEF existing GEF Agencies in relation to the Environmental and Social Safeguards and Gender Policy. We hope that all existing GEF agencies will be required to comply with these policies before the start of GEF6.