



GEF CSO Network Statement
Agenda item 5: GEF 2020 Strategy
46th GEF Council Meeting, Cancun, Mexico

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the significant changes in GEF 2020 strategy. Having a medium to long term strategy is a great advantage and opportunity for GEF partners.

Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are an essential and critical part of the GEF's operating model, through which it has been able to achieve impacts and global benefits on the ground, for the protection and conservation of the global environment, the promotion of sustainable development, social equity and innovation. Therefore, these partnerships should be strengthened and consolidated as an institutional cornerstone for the GEF 2020 Strategy.

At this stage we would like to highlight some specific issues.

We appreciate and support the methodology to addressing key drivers balanced with an integrated approach to achieve strategic directions for the best longer term. We hope that The 2020 strategy will create a great opportunity to achieve the Aichi Targets as well as other convention guidance such as the zero land degradation target of UNCCD and RIO+20 goals in partnership with CSO's.

Regarding our role as civil society we feel that the GEF 2020 Strategy needs to be more specific on the way forward in enhancing the partnership with CSOs. The Strategy should provide specific modalities on CSO engagement in meeting GEF targets for GEF 6 and beyond.

We are concerned that the current draft of the Strategy gives inadequate consideration on this issue. For example In paragraph 32 on choosing the right influencing models - we think that the role of CSOs could be more clearly articulated and innovative results from CSO projects highlighted. With regard to para 37 – the current text implies that in future, GEF will mainly engage CSOs in regards to knowledge development and research rather than our current role on promoting effective engagement of society as a whole as well as indigenous and local communities. The GEF CSO Network therefore strongly request that the CSO network is engaged in the finalization of this document to address more specific and integrated partnership with CSO.