

Statement of Pakistan

Pakistan an under developed country is striving to accelerate its economic growth and catch up with the pace of the fast growing economies of the region. The economic growth is accompanied by unsustainable production and consumption pattern, which not only poses significant threats on resources consumption but also increases stress on environment. Pakistan is facing serious environmental issues especially in form of water scarcity, energy crisis, air and water pollution and depletion of natural resources. According to estimates, our environmental debt burden in country is 6 percent to GDP.

GEF has been a major donor to environmental projects in Pakistan. It has opened new vistas of development with more opportunities while for economic growth adding to capacity building of national stakeholders. GEF has also made valuable contributions in developing projects based on local needs and requirements. It has also helped us improving livelihood of local communities, creating job opportunities and of course addressing the need of environmental protection through its projects and Small Grants Programme. The GEF SGP in Pakistan is progressing very well and gained national and international recognition due to its successful implementation.

We are in the process of harmonizing and aligning external funding with national priorities and strategies. GEF support is therefore, relevant to both national development plans and priorities, in addition to conventions and GEF mandate, to achieve increased country ownership of GEF interventions.

Keeping in view changing requirements of countries, there is a dire need to

focus on policies and guidelines of GEF in STAR during GEF-5, by simplifying the GEF procedures and minimizing project cycle in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of GEF interventions.

Collaboration of GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies especially UNDP has facilitated to streamline GEF programme implementation and decision making processes within the country. In addition to provide co-financing to GEF interventions, UNDP has also provided assistance to build an institutional setup for GEF operations in Federal Ministry of Environment and resulted into successful implementation of GEF program, in Pakistan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank GEF CEO and her team in addition to its agencies, our valued development partners for their contributions and efforts in enabling us to achieve our common goal of environmental improvement.

Being an active member of international community, we plan and execute the programme with a view to have effective and sustainable use of GEF resources in our country. I hope that our efforts will ensure renewed commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the vision of GEF and its partners for the betterment of global environment.

Thank you.