

GEF Council, 5-8 December 2006

## **UNESCO STATEMENT**

UNESCO wishes, first of all, to thank GEF for the invitation to be present at the Council as an observer. UNESCO, likewise, expresses its deep appreciation for GEF's work towards a sustainable planet, an objective that UNESCO shares.

The intergovernmental scientific programmes of UNESCO, representing the "S" in UNESCO – next to the "E" of Education and the "C" of Culture – cover freshwater ecosystems, the oceans and the ecohydrological sciences and generate policy and action oriented science. These programmes have been collaborating with GEF over the past few years. This partnership is expanding through working closely with STAP and the GEF Evaluation Office.

The International Hydrological Programme, with its 164 National Committees, is extremely proud and pleased of providing advice on the importance of groundwater, an aspect highlighted in the statement by the Chair of STAP.

In the process of collaborating with GEF Implementation Agencies, UNESCO has already developed a country-owned pipeline of projects by leveraging bilateral funds for possible financing from GEF in the 4<sup>th</sup> Replenishment.

UNESCO is looking forward to the expanding opportunities at GEF for collaborating agencies.

Thank you very much.

[The statement was delivered by J. Alberto Tejada-Guibert, Deputy Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO on 05 December 2006]