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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE UPDATED VISION TO ENHANCE ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. In November 2017, at its 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the GEF Council approved an Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF<sup>1</sup>. This Updated Vision was prepared by an Ad-Hoc Working Group of interested Council members, at the request of Council and in response to the evaluation of the GEF Network of Civil Society Organizations (the Network) by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)<sup>2</sup>. The Updated vision was extensively consulted with civil society and other GEF partners.

2. In the same Council decision, the Council requested the GEF Secretariat to present a progress report on the implementation of the Updated Vision as an information paper at the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting in 2018.

3. This document presents a summary of activities and steps led by the Secretariat to support the implementation of the Updated Vision, in relation to the following elements:

- (a) Participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in the 54<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and GEF Assembly.
- (b) Engagement of CSOs and IPLC in the GEF Consultations with CSOs and 55<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in December 2018.
- (c) Dissemination of information and outreach to CSOs and IPLC.
- (d) Coordination with the GEF CSO Network (the Network), the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG).

4. In addition, this paper presents the plans for GEF-7 to continue supporting the implementation of the Updated Vision, particularly through activities of the Country Support Program (CSP) and the GEF Council and Consultations with Civil Society.

## BACKGROUND

5. The Updated Vision approved by Council includes an updated set of objectives and principles to provide an overall guide to engagement with civil society. The updated Vision Statement is the following:

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<sup>1</sup> [GEF/C.53/10/Rev.01, Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF.](#)

<sup>2</sup> GEF Independent Evaluation Office: *Evaluation of the GEF Civil Society Organization Network*, May 2016. The Updated Vision was developed to ensure full effectiveness in civil society engagement with the GEF, and to address some issues and gaps that had been identified. At the operational level, it focused in particular on certain elements of this engagement, including CSO engagement during GEF Council meetings.

- (a) “The overarching objective of engagement between the GEF and civil society is to achieve greater results and impact through improving its collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs).
- (b) In this context, the primary role of civil society within the GEF Partnership is to contribute to, as appropriate, the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GEF programs and projects, through (amongst others) engagement in projects on the ground, building awareness of the GEF in local communities, dissemination of information about the GEF to stakeholders, engagement with recipient country governments and participation with Council members.
- (c) In addition, civil society plays an advisory role for the GEF Council on institutional policies and guidelines and helps formulate strategies effectively. To this end, the CSO Network plays a key role in advocacy and outreach to civil society at the global level, by supporting the dissemination of information about the GEF as well as contributing to policy and strategy development. “

6. At an operational level, the approved Updated Vision focuses particularly on enhanced engagement of civil society during GEF Council meetings and Consultations, the GEF Assembly, in the Country Support Program and certain other activities led by the Secretariat, including the development of policies and thematic working groups. The Updated Vision complements other key dimensions of civil society engagement with GEF, including in GEF programming (covered under other policies and guidelines).

7. The Updated Vision lays out clear guidelines for the GEF Secretariat to conduct the selection of civil society representatives in the Consultations and GEF Council meetings as well as the structure of those Consultations.

8. In this regard, the document states that “the GEF secretariat will be responsible for the selection of sponsored CSOs for Council consultations and meetings to ensure that CSO representatives are sharing the voices of CSOs from the field, while maintaining robust engagement on policy issues. This selection will be done in a transparent manner, based on clear criteria and in consultation with the CSO Network, Operational Focal Points (OFPs), the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group.”<sup>3</sup>

9. In addition, the Updated Vision states that the Consultations between the GEF Council and CSOs be more structured than in their current form. More specifically, the Council will invite CSOs to present on specific topics – chosen by the Council, with input from CSOs and the GEF Secretariat – intended to highlight the experiences of local CSOs during project implementation

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<sup>3</sup> Updated Vision: [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN\\_GEF.C.53.10.Rev\\_.01\\_CS0\\_Vision\\_0.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.53.10.Rev_.01_CS0_Vision_0.pdf)

while also seeking to align with the Council Meeting Agenda. The specific topics will be selected by Council “around 6 months (or one meeting) before each Consultation Meeting as appropriate.”

## **PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPDATED VISION**

### **Engagement of CSOs and IPLC at the Sixth GEF Assembly and 54<sup>th</sup> Council**

#### *Organization of the Civil Society Forum at the Sixth GEF Assembly*

10. A number of steps were taken to achieve enhanced CSO and IPLC engagement at the GEF Sixth Assembly and 54<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, in line with the Updated Vision. Following its approval in November 2017, and with the purpose of organizing the Civil Society Forum and discussing the engagement of civil society (CSOs) and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in the GEF Assembly, the GEF Secretariat assembled a multistakeholder group comprised by representatives of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG), the GEF CSO Network (CSO Network), the GEF Secretariat, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), and the GEF Gender Partnership (GGP). In parallel, the GEF Secretariat invited GEF Agencies to join these efforts to organize the Forum, which resulted in the active engagement of IUCN as a member of the organizing group.

11. This collaborative process, facilitated by the GEF Secretariat, was launched at an in-person meeting in the margins of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting in November 2017 and it was followed by periodic teleconferences held until mid-June of 2018.

12. During these discussions, the organizing group agreed on the program for the Civil Society Forum to be held at the Sixth GEF Assembly in Danang, Vietnam on June 26, 2018, and different tasks were distributed amongst the members to advance in the organization of the Forum. The Forum was envisaged as an opportunity for civil society and IPLC to share experiences, learn and contribute to the Civil Society Call for Action to be presented to the Assembly Plenary.

#### *Process of Selection of CSOs and IPLC for Sixth GEF Assembly and 54<sup>th</sup> Council*

13. The GEF Secretariat also took several steps to implement the transparent selection process of CSOs and IPLC to be financed to participate in the Sixth GEF Assembly and the 54<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, as set out in the Updated Vision. These included the following:

**(a) Consultation on Selection Criteria for sponsored CSOs and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) to attend the Assembly**

Based on the general criteria contained in the approved Updated Vision, the Secretariat proposed more detailed criteria to select the CSOs and IPLC that would be sponsored to participate in the Civil Society Forum and the GEF Assembly. These criteria were consulted on and agreed upon by teleconference and email with the CSO Network, IPAG and the SGP. The final

criteria were disseminated and included in the call for applications that was launched by email and on the GEF website at the beginning of March 2018.

**(b) Establishment of Comprehensive List**

As per the Updated Vision, the Secretariat contacted OFPs, the CSO Network, the IPAG and the SGP, as well as Agencies and other partners, to request names and organizations that would be the basis to establish a comprehensive list of CSOs from which to draw those to be sponsored to attend the Council meetings.

The Secretariat received a number of responses with suggested names and organizations and also identified CSOs who had participated or applied to participate in earlier GEF meetings and events. On this basis, the Secretariat established a comprehensive list of over 2,000 CSOs.

**(c) Call for Applications**

The Secretariat sent a “call for applications” to all of those CSOs listed on the comprehensive list, and subsequent reminders. In addition, the call for applications was posted on the [GEF website](#) for public dissemination and in the World Bank’s monthly Civil Society newsletter. The [selection criteria](#) for both the Assembly and Council were included in this call for applications, and applicants were requested to describe briefly how they met these criteria. The GEF Secretariat received 341 applications within the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline set for sponsored potential participants.

**(d) Review of Applications**

The Secretariat carefully reviewed the applications based on the guidance set out in the Updated Vision and the approved criteria. Based on this review, the Secretariat developed a list of 44 potential CSO participants for the GEF Assembly.

The results of this review included consideration of geographic representativeness, country diversity, gender equality, representation of indigenous peoples, as well as SGP engagement, attendance rotation and budget constraints.

In addition, the Secretariat applied the agreed criteria for the selection of sponsored CSOs for the Assembly: Demonstrated relations to other GEF civil society organizations and networks of civil society; Demonstrated knowledge and information on local, national, regional and/or global environmental issues; Proven experience executing GEF projects, or projects similar to those the GEF funds or expert contribution to the themes of the CSO Forum; Assembly panels, side events or exhibits; and Representation of Small Grants Programme grantees.

The preliminary list was sent to the Network and other partners for information and comment, as per the Updated Vision.

Several comments were received that added additional perspectives and highlighted proposed adjustments. In this light, the Secretariat reviewed anew the responses provided by the 341 applicants to determine their score. The Secretariat also considered again the balancing factors set out in the Vision of geographic representation, country diversity, gender, indigenous peoples, SGP engagement, and attendance rotation; all while maintaining cost within budget constraints.

As a result of the comments and review mentioned above, an amended list of 49 CSOs was selected to be sponsored to participate in the 54<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, Civil Society Forum and GEF Assembly.

#### *Participation of Civil Society in the 54<sup>th</sup> GEF Council and Selection of Topic Areas for the 55th*

14. Another key element of the Updated Vision is to enable civil society to participate in a new manner at GEF Council meetings, during the course of discussions rather than at the end. This new mandate was applied in the 54<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting, where CSOs were given the floor upon request. This allowed CSO representatives to intervene and offer their views on the different agenda items and participate more actively in the discussions amongst Council members.

15. In addition, as called for in the Updated Vision, the Council approved that roughly half day of the Consultations to be held on the day prior to the 55th Council meeting would be devoted to the topic of *Connecting Environmental Impact and Gender Equality*. The CSO Network and IPAG had been previously consulted regarding this topic. Participation and Engagement in the Civil Society Forum at the Sixth GEF Assembly

16. The Civil Society Forum took place on June 26th, 2018 preceding the Sixth Assembly of the GEF in Da Nang, Viet Nam. The agreed theme of the Forum was *Partnerships for Transformative Change: Civil Society's Contribution to Transforming Systems to Safeguard the Future of Our Planet*.

17. Over 120 CSOs and IPLC and other participants (governments, agencies and private sector) participated in the plenary and breakout sessions of the Forum to discuss the crucial role that civil society plays in positively influencing the future of the global environment and contributing to the implementation of GEF-7. The Forum showcased experiences and projects from around the world that contribute to foster partnerships amongst the different sectors of the GEF's member countries.

18. With support from IUCN, the Forum included a session on *Stories of Systems Transformation: Collective Harvest of Lessons Learned*, where 18 CSOs and IPLC made a pitch about their projects and engaged attendees in breakout groups to showcase the "real" story

behind successful examples of systems change including interventions that have engaged different stakeholders from civil society and IPLC, governments and the private sector at local, national or regional levels.

19. Since then, IUCN has invited the storytellers to contribute with their stories and provide details to inspire other CSOs, agencies, governments and practitioners through the PANORAMA Solutions platform<sup>4</sup>, where a new portal on business engagement for CSOs is being established as part of the IUCN's BioBiz Exchange.

20. As a result of the Forum, the CSOs presented a Call for Action to the plenary of the GEF Assembly. More information on the Forum including the final agenda and the Call for Action can be found on the GEF Assembly's website.<sup>5</sup>

### **Engagement of CSOs and IPLC in Consultations and at the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting**

#### *Building the Agenda for Consultations with Civil Society*

21. Following Council's approval on the topic, the GEF Secretariat prepared a draft concept note and corresponding agenda around *Connecting Environmental Impact and Gender Equality* to be addressed by civil society and Council members at the CSO Consultations preceding the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting<sup>6</sup>.

22. The draft was circulated to the members of the Coordination Committee of the CSO Network and to the Chair of IPAG as well as to the SGP Central Programme Management Team and GEF Gender Partnership. Comments were received by email and the CSO Network proposed an agenda for the morning sessions of the Consultations.

23. The GEF Secretariat facilitated two teleconferences where the agenda for Consultations was discussed and received subsequent inputs to the Consultations Agenda via email. The final agenda is included in Annex 3.

24. The Consultations session dedicated to Gender aims to provide Council with the opportunity to engage with civil society organizations and women groups to discuss the interconnected drivers for unsustainability, exclusion and inequality. The dialogue will feature a discussion with civil society about lessons learned from projects and programs and opportunities to connect global environmental impact and gender equality.

25. The dialogue will focus on concrete entry points to improve women's access to land, water and productive assets and decision-making, and to ensure opportunities for women and

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<sup>4</sup> <https://panorama.solutions/en/solution/add>

<sup>5</sup> <https://assembly.thegef.org/assembly/civil-society-organizations>

<sup>6</sup> This concept note can be found in Annex 2.



men to equally participate in, contribute to, and benefit from environmental projects and programs.

### *Process of Selection of CSOs and IPLC for 55<sup>th</sup> Council and Consultations*

26. Following the Council mandate and based on the experience with the implementation of the selection process for the Sixth GEF Assembly and 54<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the GEF Secretariat conducted the following steps to ensure a transparent selection process of CSOs and IPLC to be financed to participate in the 55<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, as follows:

**(a) Dissemination of Selection Criteria for sponsored CSOs and IPLC**

The general criteria for selection of CSOs and IPLC to be sponsored and self-funded as contained in the approved Updated Vision, were posted on the GEF website and disseminated in the call for applications (see below).

**(b) Establishment of Comprehensive List**

With the purpose of ensuring adequate representation as mandated by the Updated Vision, the GEF Secretariat continued expanding the list of potential participants to be sponsored with input from GEF Agencies, Operational Focal Points, Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group, the CSO Network, and National Coordinators of the SGP via their Central Program Management Team (CPMT).

The request for inputs was focused on names and email addresses of civil society and IPLC contacts which have participated in GEF or similar projects that can contribute with their experiences on *Gender Equality* as well as other civil society experts in this field.

The expanded list (or database) includes the individual addresses of the 500+ members of the CSO Network (as provided by the CSO Network's Secretariat), the project contacts received from GEF Agencies, OFPs and SGP's National Coordinators, as well as a large number of indigenous peoples and CSOs who have participated in activities organized by the Secretariat at the global, national and regional levels, such as Expanded Constituency Workshops, past GEF Council meetings and past GEF Assemblies.

**(c) Call for Applications**

The GEF Secretariat sent a *call for applications* for participation in Consultations and the 55th GEF Council to this comprehensive list of over 2,500 CSOs and IPLC via direct email, and it was also promoted on the GEF's website and social media (twitter).

The selection criteria were included in this call for applications, and applicants were requested to describe briefly how they met these

criteria. The GEF Secretariat received 344 applications within the October 20<sup>th</sup> deadline set for sponsored potential participants.

**(d) Review of Applications**

The GEF Secretariat carefully reviewed all the applications based on the guidance set out in the Updated Vision and the approved criteria. On this occasion, one of the additional selection criterion, was expertise and relevance of applicants in the topic of Gender Equality. As a result of the review and analysis of each applicant's responses, the Secretariat developed a list of twenty (20) potential CSO to be sponsored to participate in the Consultations and 55<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. In addition to the criteria, this number took into consideration attendance rotation and budget constraints. This preliminary list was sent to the Network's governance for information and comment, as per the Updated Vision.

The Secretariat took into consideration the comments and suggestions received from the Network and assessed them against the criteria. A revised and final list of twenty CSOs and IPLC was completed. The list is included as Annex 4.

Members of IPAG will be having a separate meeting and hence will be sponsored through a separate budget line.

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT, CONSULTATION AND OUTREACH TO CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Enhancing CSOs' knowledge of the GEF**

27. The GEF Secretariat has actively disseminated information about the GEF amongst civil society organizations and has encouraged them to enroll in the two on-line courses on the GEF and on Gender Equality<sup>7</sup>.

**Dissemination of Information and Communications**

28. The GEF Secretariat has continued disseminating information about relevant activities to the civil society and Indigenous Peoples community, through a specialized landing page on the GEF's website ([www.thegef.org/partners/csos](http://www.thegef.org/partners/csos) ). This page contains information on GEF activities with CSOs, the GEF SGP, and opportunities to engage with the GEF. It also provides a

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.thegef.org/content/e-course-introduction-global-environment-facility-gef>

<http://www.thegef.org/content/open-online-course-gender-and-environment>

description of the GEF's Conflict Resolution services and a link to the relevant page. Finally, it includes the selection criteria for CSOs and IPLC to participate in GEF Council meetings.

29. The call for applications to participate in the Council and Assembly as well as the CSO Consultations are disseminated to the comprehensive list of 2,500 CSOs and IPLC on the Secretariat's database, including the members of the Network.

30. Finally, the Secretariat responds to all queries addressed to the GEF civil society email account ([gefcivilsociety@thegef.org](mailto:gefcivilsociety@thegef.org)) and conducts teleconferences with members of the CSO Network on specific topics.

### **Consultations with Civil Society on draft GEF Policies and Guidelines**

31. Since the approval of the Updated Vision, the Secretariat continued to actively engage civil society and indigenous peoples in participatory consultations regarding the drafting of key policies and guidelines as follows:

**(a) Guidelines for the Implementation of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement:**

As part of the consultative and participatory process initiated in 2015 with the Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement (WG), the GEF Secretariat has led the drafting and consultations of the proposed Guidelines for the Implementation of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement. At different stages of the drafting process, the Guidelines have been consulted with the WG, and with the broader civil society and other stakeholders via an in-person meeting during the GEF Assembly as well as by a call for comments posted on the GEF website.

**(b) Guidance to Advance Gender Equality in GEF Projects and Programs**

GEF Council approved a new GEF [Policy on Gender Equality](#) in November 2017. The Policy was developed through a robust consultative process including Agencies, and the GEF Gender Partnership comprising gender focal points from Agencies and secretariats of the MEAs, and representatives from the GEF CSO Network and the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group. In addition, consultation with civil society was conducted by a call for comments on the GEF website. With the objective to support the effective implementation of the Policy, the GEF developed a guidance document, which was approved in June 2018. This Guidance document is organized around the GEF project cycle and provides detail on the practical steps and required actions to implement the principles and mandatory requirements specified in the Policy. The development of the guidance document followed a similar robust consultation process engaging Agencies, the GEF Gender Partnership and civil society representatives.

**(c) Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards**

In February 2018, the GEF Secretariat invited Council members, alternates and advisors; focal points in recipient countries; as well as representatives of Agencies, Convention Secretariats, civil society, and the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group to join a multi-stakeholder Working Group on Environmental and Social Safeguards. During March and April of 2018, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Working Group and Agencies, carried out an analysis of the possible gap areas in the current policy, and the evolution of environmental and social policies across the GEF Partnership. In June of 2018, a first draft of the updated policy was circulated to the Working Group, and an in-person consultation with interested stakeholders was held in connection with the Sixth GEF Assembly in Da Nang, Viet Nam. In August 2018, the Secretariat developed a revised draft policy, responding to the comments received from stakeholders. This draft was consulted with civil society and other stakeholders via email, GEF website and two teleconferences targeted at civil society representatives listed on the Secretariat's database.

**NEXT STEPS**

**CSO Participation in activities of the Country Support Program**

32. The GEF Secretariat will continue engaging members of civil society organizations and indigenous groups in the activities of the Country Support Programme, particularly the Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECWs).

33. The GEF Secretariat is planning to conduct a half-day session with civil society and indigenous peoples during the ECWs. The agenda is still under preparation, but it can be anticipated that the session will aim at engaging CSOs from GEF projects and programs and SGP grantees, as well as provide the space for a productive dialogue with other stakeholders, such as Agencies and Operational Focal Points.

**CSO Participation in Council and GEF- CSO Consultations**

34. The GEF Secretariat will continue implementing a transparent selection process of CSOs and IPLC to be sponsored to participate in future Council meetings and Consultations, based on the approved criteria and the mandate of the Updated Vision.

35. Thus, the Secretariat will engage more actively with GEF Agencies, OFPs and the GEF SGP as well as other partners, to grow its database of civil society and Indigenous Peoples working in GEF projects or other similar projects and programs. In this manner, the Secretariat will continue disseminating the call for applications to participate in Council meetings and GEF Consultations with CSOs to the contacts listed on the database.

36. As part of the plans to strengthen participation of new CSOs and indigenous peoples in GEF Council and CSO Consultations, the GEF Secretariat will engage the selected participants in upstream conversations via teleconference prior to their arrival in Washington DC as well as in the preparatory meeting on the day before the Consultations. This aims at allowing new participants to acquire a better understanding of the Council process and to engage with Council members during the Consultations in a more effective manner.

## **ANNEX 1: CRITERIA FOR CSO PARTICIPATION DURING COUNCIL MEETINGS AND GEF ASSEMBLY**

The Updated Vision<sup>8</sup> approved by Council included the following criteria to guide the GEF Secretariat in the process of selecting CSOs to be invited to participate in Council meetings and Consultations.

1. At every meeting, except the first meeting following the endorsement of this document's recommendations, half of the CSOs invited to attend should have attended a GEF Council Meeting in the past. This will help build knowledge of the GEF's governance process that can then inform CSOs interventions and presentations during the meetings.
2. Basic criteria for selection of regional CSO representatives for participation at Council meetings are:
  - (a) member of a well-established not-for-profit, non-governmental organization (CSO);
  - (b) CSO's alignment with the GEF's mission;
  - (c) experience with GEF projects, or projects similar to those the GEF funds;
  - (d) demonstrated relations to other Networks of CSOs or coordination capacity with other civil society organizations at the regional level;
  - (e) general knowledge of the GEF's work, past and present
3. Basic criteria for selection of local CSO representatives for participation at Council meetings are:
  - (a) member of a well-established not-for-profit, non-governmental organization (CSO);
  - (b) CSO's alignment with the GEF's mission
  - (c) demonstrated relations to other Networks of CSOs or coordination capacity at the local or national level
  - (d) experience engaging with or implementing GEF projects at the local or national level
  - (e) desire to engage more actively in GEF projects in their country
4. Additional criteria may be considered depending on the topics of the consultations and the agenda of the Council meeting.

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<sup>8</sup> Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF.

The additional criteria followed by the GEF Secretariat for selecting CSOs and IPLC to be sponsored to participate in the Sixth GEF Assembly the applicant's potential contribution to the Civil Society Forum's agenda.

The additional criteria followed by the GEF Secretariat for selecting CSOs and IPLC to be sponsored to participate in the 55<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and Consultations (December 17-20, 2018) included expertise and experience on the issue of Gender Equality.

## **ANNEX 2: CONCEPT NOTE ON GENDER FOR THE CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **Connecting environmental impact and gender equality**

#### **Summary**

This dialogue is hosted by civil society organizations and organized in collaboration with the CSO Network, the GEF Small Grants Programme, GEF Agencies, the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Gender Partnership. It aims to provide Council with the opportunity to engage with civil society organizations and women groups to discuss the interconnected drivers for unsustainability, exclusion and inequality. The dialogue will feature a discussion with civil society about lessons learned from projects and programs and opportunities to connect global environmental impact and gender equality.

#### **Background**

The need to address gender inequality has been on the global development agenda for over 40 years. Governments around the world have made legally binding commitments to respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights. Building on these commitments, the 2030 Agenda, including its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognize the interlinkages between gender equality and the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and call for integrated solutions. At its 53rd meeting in 2017, the GEF Council adopted a new Policy on Gender Equality.

This policy responds to the increased attention to gender equality and women's empowerment by the parties to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements that the GEF serves. As such, it introduces new principles and requirements to mainstream gender in the design and, implementation and evaluation of GEF programs and projects. The policy further marks a distinct passive-to-active shift in GEF's approach to gender mainstreaming, from a gender aware "do no harm" approach to a gender responsive "do good" approach. By explicitly recognizing that efforts to combat environmental degradation and those to address gender inequality can be mutually supportive, the policy aims to help the GEF to work with its partners to catalyze action and projects that address gender gaps and promote gender equality.

As the new Policy entered into force on July 1, 2018, this dialogue aims to provide opportunities for CSOs, Council members and other GEF partners to discuss challenges, experiences and best practices across the GEF partnership connecting global environmental impact and gender equality. The dialog further seeks to be forward looking, reflecting on opportunities for GEF-7 and beyond.



## Objective

The objective of the dialogue is to share challenges and good practices, as well as to explore some concrete opportunities on how CSOs support gender-responsive projects and programs and provide recommendations for GEF-7 implementation.

The dialogue will focus on concrete entry points to improve women's access to land, water and productive assets and decision-making, and to ensure opportunities for women and men to equally participate in, contribute to, and benefit from environmental projects and programs. As such, the discussion is expected to focus on the following issues:

- Efforts by the CSOs to address gender equality in environmental policies, programs and projects;
- Implementation of the GEF's new approach to gender in GEF's programs and projects;
- GEF Agencies approaches and successful examples of practical actions and good practices for mainstreaming gender in GEF programs and projects;
- Challenges, best practices and emerging opportunities to promote gender equality to enhance environmental action and results.

## Format and Organization

The dialogue is scheduled for 3 hours and it will be organized as a panel discussion among representatives from CSOs, GEF Agencies, expert organizations and Countries, where the moderator promotes discussions by asking the discussants 2- 3 questions (built around a set of pre-agreed questions elaborated and agreed with each discussant prior to the dialogue).

14.00-17.00	<b>SESSION 4: Connecting Environmental Impact and Gender Equality</b>
	<p>The dialogue will feature a discussion with civil society about challenges and good practices, as well as lessons learned and opportunities to connect global environmental impact and gender equality in projects and programs.</p> <p><b>Co-Moderators:</b> Council member (Canada invited TBC) and CSO/Indigenous Peoples -IP/ Women's Group (TBD)</p> <p>Keynote address: Globally recognized Gender Expert/Organizations (TBD)</p> <p><b>Discussants</b></p> <p>Gabriella Richardson-Temm - GEF Secretariat, Local CSOs, including Indigenous Peoples' and Women's organizations working on projects addressing Gender equality and women's empowerment (TB Selected from pool of participants)</p>

## ANNEX 3: AGENDA FOR THE 55<sup>TH</sup> CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
08.00 – 09.00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
09.00- 10.00	<b>SESSION 1: CSO Dialogue with GEF CEO</b> <b>Victor Kawanga</b> , Chair of GEF-CSO Network, and <b>Tracy Ogbonna</b> (WEP- Nigeria) <b>Naoko Ishii</b> , GEF CEO and Chairperson
10.00- 12.30	<b>SESSION 2: Civil Society participation in GEF-7</b> <b>Session 2 A: Implementation of the Updated Vision on Civil Society</b> The panel will discuss the scopes and opportunities after one year of implementation. Co-moderators: Nana Janashia (CENN), Patricia Turpin (Environment Tobago) Invited Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fiu Mataese Elisara</b> - CSO Network</li> <li>• <b>Pilar Barrera Rey</b> – GEF Secretariat</li> <li>• <b>Edna Kaptoyo</b> (TBC) - Indigenous People’s Representative</li> <li>• <b>Jos Buys</b> (TBC) Belgium Council Member</li> <li>• <b>Herve Lefeuvre</b> (TBC) WWF-US - GEF Agency</li> </ul> <b>Session 2 B: Evolving Role of CSOs in GEF-7</b> <b>Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for CSOs engagement in GEF 7 - <b>GEF Secretariat representative</b> (TBC) / <b>Syda Naigaga- CSO Network</b></li> <li>• CSOs under the SGP Strategy for GEF 7, <b>Yoko Watanabe</b> – SGP</li> <li>• Expectations on CSO engagement in GEF 7, <b>Council Member</b> (TBD)</li> <li>• Building CSO-Private Sector Partnership in harnessing global environmental benefits - <b>representative of private sector</b> (TBD)</li> </ul>
12.30-14.00	<b>Lunch (MC Atrium of World Bank)</b>
14.00-17.00	<b>SESSION 4: Connecting Environmental Impact and Gender Equality</b> Following GEF’s increased ambition to address gender equality, the GEF Council, at 54 <sup>th</sup> meeting, requested a CSO consultation on gender. The session will serve as an opportunity for the GEF Council to consult with civil society organizations and wom groups about concrete opportunities on how CSOs best can support gender-responsiv projects and programs and to identify recommendations for GEF-7 implementation.  The dialogue will feature a discussion with civil society about challenges and good practices, as well as lessons learned and opportunities to connect global environment impact and gender equality in projects and programs. Co-Moderators: Anar Mamdani, Canada’s Alternate Council (invited TBC) and <b>CSO/Indigenous Peoples -IP/ Women’s Group</b> (TBC) Keynote address: <b>Globally recognized Gender Expert/Organizations</b> (TBC) Discussants <b>Gabriella Richardson-Temm</b> - GEF Secretariat, <b>Local CSOs</b> , including Indigenous Peoples’ and Women’s organizations working on projects addressing Gender equality and women’s empowerment (To be selected from confirmed participants)
17.00-17.30	<b>SUMMARY AND CLOSING</b> <b>Victor Kawanga</b> , Chair of GEF-CSO Network and a <b>CSO/IP</b> (TBC)
18.00 – 20.00	<b>RECEPTION (hosted by the GEF Secretariat) – MC Atrium</b>

**ANNEX 4: LIST OF SELECTED SPONSORED CSOs AND IPLC FOR THE 55<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL AND CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

Name	Last Name	Organization	Country	Gender	Type of organization
Nguavese Tracy	Ogbonna	Women Environmental Programme (WEP)	Nigeria	Female	Regional CSO
Fiu	Elisara	Ole Siosioaga Society Incorporated (OLSSI)	Samoa	Male	Local CSO
Patricia	Turpin	Environment Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Female	Local CSO
Sydah	Naigaga	Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility (EMLI)	Uganda	Female	Local CSO
Victor	Kawanga	HUZA-GEF CSO Network	Zambia	Male	Local CSO
Nana	Janashia	CENN	Georgia	Female	Regional CSO
MUQDAD	AMEEN	Together to Protect Human & Environment Association	Iraq	Male	Local CSO
Olga	Volkova	Belorussian Public Association "Ecological Initiative"	Belarus	Female	Regional CSO
Viviana Elsa	Figueroa	Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network	Argentina	Female	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
Damchae	Dem	Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs (BAOWE)	Bhutan	Female	Local CSO
Chibeze	Ezekiel	Strategic Youth Network for Development	Ghana	Male	Local CSO
Ana Francisca	Perez Conguache	SOCIA DE LA RED DE MUJERES INDIGENAS Y PUNTO FOCAL EN GUATEMALA	Guatemala	Female	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
Chiranjeet	Chatterjee	South Asian Forum for Environment	India	Male	Regional CSO
Zeinab	Almomany	Specific Union for Farmer Women and Sakhra Ladies cooperative	Jordan	Female	Regional CSO
Edna	Kaptoyo	International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests	Kenya	Female	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
Anooradah	Pooran	Director	Mauritius	Female	Local CSO
Caroline	Usikpedo-Omoniye	Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development	Nigeria	Female	Local CSO

Stephen	GARNETT	Environmental Foundation for Africa	Sierra Leone	Male	Local CSO
Margriet Joan	van der Bosch	Vereniging van Inheemse Dorps hoofden in Suriname (VIDS)	Suriname	Female	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
THABIT	KITAMU	Tanzania Gender and Sustainable Energy Network (TANGSEN)	Tanzania	Male	Local CSO