

5th GEF Assembly, Cancun, 28-29 May 2014

Statement from Germany delivered by

Mr. Frank Fass-Metz

Council Member for Germany

Mr. President,

Madam CEO Dr. Naoko Ishii,

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations and

Representatives of Agencies and Civil Society

I would like to thank the Government of Mexico for hosting the 5 GEF Assembly here in Cancún and the people of Mexico for their warm hospitality.

We are celebrating the 5 GEF Assembly and more than 20 years of an institution that catalyze global action for the Global Environment. The GEF is financial mechanism to the Global environment conventions established by the international community to address global environmental challenges through joint action. The GEF provides international support to developing countries to implement their commitments assumed under the Global environment conventions. The clear focus on global environment benefits ensures the added value of the GEF to the international system and distinguishes the GEF from development institutions. We call for preserving this focus and ensuring at the same time that support provided by the GEF catalyzes development co-benefits.

The GEF needs to be an innovator and driver for action to preserve the global environment. In this regard the GEF continuously has to adapt to an evolving multilateral landscape of financial institution. With the GCF becoming ready to start operations in climate finance very soon the GEF as well as the GCF will need develop their specific comparative advantages to ensure that both institutions give added value to the international system to finance climate action.

The last 20 years we have witnessed many success stories in development and poverty eradication. However challenges to the global environment continue to put at risk the stability of climate and the health of ecosystems as well as sustainable development at large. If we are not able to address these challenges the consequences of environmental degradation will threaten our common future. Particularly poor and vulnerable people face the greatest risks for their livelihood. The GEF can and should catalyze global action to reduce these risks.

With this background we are happy to see for the 6th replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund a record replenishment volume. We congratulate Dr. Naoko Ishii, the GEF CEO, and Mr. Joachim von Amsberg, Vice-President from the World Bank, for this success story.

Germany congratulates and applauds in particular our host country Mexico for the best practice example to double their contribution to the GEF. We also welcome the increasing number of recipient contributors for their commitment to the global environment and their increased contributions to the GEF. We encourage more recipient contributors to follow these examples.

Germany continues to be a strong supporter for the GEF and has increased its contribution to a record high of 350 Mio. € for GEF 6. With this level Germany is proud to maintain its contribution as the 3rd largest contributor - despite a challenging economic and fiscal environment in our country and competing demands from parallel replenishment processes for other multilateral funds.

The GEF has evolved over time and at this assembly we can welcome a new convention – the Minamata Convention to address environmental challenges of mercury pollution - to the GEF family. We welcome and support this development as well as the corresponding additions to the GEF instrument.

For the coming years throughout GEF 6 and beyond Germany supports the increased focus on allocating GEF resources to the less developed countries. We also welcome the initiative of our CEO Dr. Ishii and congratulate her for that innovation to better focus the GEF on drivers for environmental degradation inter alia through integrated approaches. We welcome the understanding that these integrated approaches will be implemented through the well-established operational modalities, ensuring country ownership and accountability towards the environmental conventions. This

innovation speaks to the character of the GEF as an innovator and a learning institution.

However, challenges remain and need continued attention by the full GEF family. We see room to make more progress

- To strengthen country ownership,
- To enhance impact on drivers of environmental degradation including through improved results management,
- To mainstream environmental sustainability in national development and secure sustainability of results, and thus ensuring accountability towards conventions,
- To improve the operational efficiency,
- To strengthening learning and knowledge management as well as stakeholder engagement and in particular civil society organizations.

We call for continuous improvement of the GEF and commit Germany's support - not only in financial terms - to the GEF family and our CEO Dr. Naoko Ishii.

Thank you Mr. President