



## **Approved Selection Criteria for CSOs and IPLC to Participate in 6<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly and 54<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting**

### **1. CSO Representation at Council Consultations and Meetings <sup>1</sup>**

As per the decision **approved by Council** in November 2017 contained in the paper entitled: [Updated Vision to Enhance the Civil Society Engagement with the GEF](#), “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 (IPAG) and the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) to establish a comprehensive list of CSOs from which to draw those to be sponsored to attend the Council Meetings...” <sup>2</sup>.

The approved [Updated Vision document](#) contains basic criteria for the selection of civil society and IPLC representatives to be sponsored to attend any future Council meetings.

The 54<sup>th</sup> GEF Council meeting will take place in Viet Nam on June 24-26, 2018. Since the Council will be followed by the Civil Society Forum of the Sixth GEF Assembly, on that occasion, there will not be any CSO Consultations preceding the Council meeting.

Therefore, sponsored-participants selected to observe and attend the 54<sup>th</sup> Council will continue on to participate in the Civil Society Forum and GEF Assembly and related events (June 26-June 30). The criteria for selecting sponsored participants for Council can be found in the Council-approved document and reproduced below.

(From Approved Council Document: [Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF](#))

1. CSO participation at Council Meetings will focus on sharing the voices of communities and other stakeholders in the field, while still maintaining robust engagement on policy

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN\\_GEF.C.53.10.Rev..01\\_CS\\_O\\_Vision\\_0.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.53.10.Rev..01_CS_O_Vision_0.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Paragraphs 49 to 57.



issues. For this reason, Council will invite two groups of CSOs to its biannual meetings: 1) regional CSO representatives and 2) local CSOs with expertise in a technical or geographic area, as per Council recommendations during the previous meeting. It is expected that, together, these representatives will possess knowledge of the GEF as well as project specific insights that will add value to Council consultations and discussions.

2. 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 (IPAG) and the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) to establish a comprehensive list of CSOs from which to draw those to be sponsored to attend the Council Meetings. The Working Group suggests that two groups of CSOs will be sponsored to attend the biannual Council Meetings: regional CSO representatives and local CSOs with experience in a technical or geographical area. In addition, other CSOs, including international NGOs whose work is of relevance to the GEF, are welcome to attend the meetings as self-sponsored participants.
3. The selection from meeting to meeting will aim to (i) include those CSOs presenting on the selected topic for the CSO consultation; (ii) track, to the extent possible, the Council Meeting Agenda; (iii) enable a healthy rotation of CSO representation that balances the needs of inclusion, expertise and opportunities for in-depth discussions with participants; (iv) foster engagement by local and national-level CSOs, as recommended in the IEO evaluation. The CSOs invited should be able to provide input to the GEF Council in relevant areas where the perspectives from CSOs are most valuable regarding programming, project execution and policy formulation.
4. The number of sponsored CSOs invited to each Council Meeting will be a streamlined number of individuals, depending on the agenda and budget. The Secretariat will strive for a balanced representation of local and regional CSO at each Council Meeting, and appropriate representation from women's and Indigenous Peoples groups. Other CSOs, including international NGOs, will be welcome to attend the Consultations and present on the topics as appropriate as well as observe the Council meetings as self-sponsored participants.
5. 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.
6. 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
7. 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
8. Additional criteria may be considered depending on the topics of the consultations and the agenda of the Council meeting.
9. Before the selection, the Secretariat will circulate the potential participants to the CSO Network for information and comment related to relevance or expertise. Based on this process, the Secretariat will select the sponsored CSOs to participate in the Council meeting. Self-funded CSOs will continue to be welcome to attend the CSO consultations and GEF Council Meetings.

## **2. Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities Participation in the Sixth GEF Assembly**

Regarding the participation of civil society in the GEF Assembly, the following is the approved guidance:

“The GEF Secretariat will continue to sponsor a civil society forum during the GEF Assembly which will gather civil society organizations, private sector, GEF agencies, Council members and other stakeholders to discuss issues of special interest to civil society in the context of the



global environment and the future of the GEF. **The civil society forum will be co-organized by the GEF Secretariat, the GEF CSO Network, the GEF Small Grants Programme and other relevant stakeholders.** In addition, the GEF will sponsor a limited number of CSOs engaged in GEF programs and projects to participate in the Assembly to exchange lessons learned and share best practices with other stakeholders, agencies and governments."<sup>3</sup>

The Civil Society Forum and GEF Assembly (June 26-June 30) will be an opportunity for civil society and IPLC to share experiences, learn and contribute to the Civil Society Call for Action. The approved criteria for sponsored participants follows the guidelines and basic criteria approved by Council as described in Annex 1, and they have been consulted and agreed with the members of the Civil Society Forum organizing team. These criteria can be found below.

The following are the criteria for selecting civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities to be sponsored to participate in the Civil Society Forum and Sixth GEF Assembly:

***Minimum Requirements:***

All sponsored participants must be:

- An employee or member of a registered not-for-profit, non-governmental organization (CSO), indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) or women's organization from a GEF's developing country;
- An individual of an organization working on issues relevant to the GEF's mission of safeguarding the global environment.

***Selection criteria:***

The following criteria will guide the selection of sponsored CSOs/Participant:

- 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;
- Geographic representation and balance (regions of the GEF).
- Gender balance in participation of women and men and youth.
- Representation of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Representation of Small Grants Programme grantees.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid. Page 15 paragraph 66. Note that the underlining and bold formats are used here to highlight certain aspects of the approved Council document.



Each of this criterion will be weighed equally. Prospective sponsored civil society and IPLC participant meeting most of the criteria will be selected **up to the maximum number** established by the available budget.