



GEF CSO Network

Statement on Agenda 04 : [GEF-8 Midterm Review on Performance of Full Flexibility](#)

69th GEF Council, June 2025

The GEF CSO Network, supports the GEF 8 Mid-term Review on Performance of Full Flexibility. Although the review has shown that a relatively small amount of resources (3%) have been transferred between Focal Areas at this stage - it is likely to increase by the end of GEF 8.

We believe that this flexibility is very important especially to countries which have relatively small allocations including SIDS and LDCs. In addition, it has helped enhance the level of resources for Land Degradation which has the smallest amount of STAR allocation - but has a major financing gap to meet UNCCD and Sustainable Development Goals targets.

We note that while biodiversity represents the largest net flow among all the focal areas, the transfer of resources to other focal areas only accounted for 0.7% of the total biodiversity STAR allocation. This, of course, can be contributed by the fact the Biodiversity Focal Area has the largest STAR allocation.

The Rio Markers confirm that focal area-specific resources provide multiple benefits across all programming areas. This highlights the effectiveness of the integrated approach that has been embedded in GEF-8 programming.

We believe that the Whole of society Approach is also important in fostering Multiple benefits across GEF Focal areas which can also enhance long term sustainability. We therefore recommend that governments and the international community put more emphasis on the “Whole of Society Approach” to ensure more women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are also involved in the policy formulation and implementation of GEF projects and programs.

GEF CSO Network, would like to thank the GEF CEO, GEF Manager and the Council Members for their positive recommendation for support to GEF CSO NETWORK management and administration systems including website development, membership and database management as well outreach and communication as well as the theory of change.

With these few remarks I thank you.