



GEF CSO Network

Statement on Agenda 12 : [FY 2026 Work Program and Budget of the Independent Evaluation Office](#)

69th GEF Council, June 2025

We welcome the FY 2026 Work Program and Budget of the Independent Evaluation Office. From the perspective of the GEF CSO Network, the work of the GEF IEO is very important to give a clear review of GEF's work and achievements and guide on necessary enhancements.

We note the various ongoing and planned assessments many of which will contribute to the Eighth Overall Performance Study of the GEF (GEF 8).

The ongoing evaluation to prepare an updated assessment of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) will be important to generate additional lessons learned to support the further enhancement of the SGP in the coming years. The GEF CSO Network is looking forward to contributing to this important assessment.

In our view, the SGP is one of the most important mechanisms to channel GEF resources directly to civil society, Indigenous Peoples Women and Youth. Moving forward to GEF 9, We are calling for a doubling of the resources to SGP to enable effective scaling-up of the SGP. Without the effective engagement and direct support to Civil Society, GEF will not reach its vision for a Whole of Society Approach.

With regards to the other assessments underway and planned for the coming year - we strongly encourage IEO to take a multi-stakeholder and participatory approach to distill experience and lessons learned to contribute to GEFs vision, goals, and plans in GEF 9.

The GEF CSO Network (GCN) looks forward to being actively involved with the IEO in its work. We are committed to supporting the IEO to engage CSOs in the assessment of GEF projects

Participation of CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth in the work of GEF is essential for GEF to reach its goals. Let us work together to make this happen.