



GEF CSO Network

Statement on Agenda 04 : [Report of the Chairperson of the STAP](#)

70th GEF Council Meeting, December 2025

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the comprehensive report presented by the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) and strongly supports the actions taken since the last council aimed at supporting enhancement of social inclusion including the new STAP brief on ***Strengthening GEF support for Indigenous Peoples*** and its new information note on ***Social resilience for system transformation***.

We support the following STAP recommendations:

- Bridge scientific and technical knowledge systems to promote mutual learning and incorporate Indigenous perspectives in projects and programs.
- Reinforce Indigenous rights and control of the free, prior, and informed consent process and protocols to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are involved in initiatives affecting them on their own terms.
- Recognize and strengthen Indigenous Peoples' role in GEF governance, as has been called for by some MEAs that the GEF supports.
- Co-design projects and programs with Indigenous Peoples to advance Indigenous Peoples' guardianship and secure GEBs.
- Expand fit-for-purpose finance to enable Indigenous Peoples to move from vision to implementation

We support the recommended measures on social resilience especially:

- Embedding the principle of social resilience into project design, theories of change, and implementation strategies.
- Strengthening partnerships with local anchor institutions, such as civil society organizations, cooperatives, Indigenous governance structures, faith-based groups, schools, and health centres, drawing on lessons from the GEF Small Grants Program.
- Advancing women's empowerment and investing in local leadership, including through leadership and business development training for women and young people.
- Integrating community well-being and care into adaptation and resilience investments, for example, by supporting scalable community approaches.
- Enhancing monitoring, learning, and communication on social resilience by capturing best practices and communicating successful community transformations to inspire hope and replication.

These measures are a key part of the implementation of a Whole of Society Approach and need to be incorporated into the GEF 9 Programming directions.

We would like to ask both STAP and GEFSEC on how these recommendations could be integrated into the planning, papers and implementation for GEF 9.