



GEF CSO Network

Statement on Agenda 05 : [Conventions Executive Secretaries Panel / Relations with Conventions & Other International Institutions](#) 70th GEF Council Meeting, December 2025

The GEF CSO Network comprises many member organizations which represent indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth. Members have participated for many years in engaging with and supporting the implementation of environmental conventions and strengthening national and international sustainability.

We welcome the statements by the different GEF-Related Conventions as well as the GEF Council paper on relations with Conventions and other international institutions.

We highlight the following points.

1. We recognise the active efforts being made by the GEF to address the decisions of GEF-related conventions in terms of using a whole of society approach to achieve the convention targets .
2. It is imperative to increase multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder participation in the implementation of GEF related conventions including relevant practices, processes and projects from the environmental, social, financial and cultural point of view.
3. For this reason, the GEF CSO Network encourages more action at all levels to strengthen engagement of CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth in compliance with the guidance of the conventions and other international institutions related to the GEF. We also encourage GEF to enhance its engagement with civil society, youth and IPLC Stakeholder groups linked to each convention to further promote synergy between n convention processes.
4. The Network urges the GEF Secretariat to place greater emphasis on establishing appropriate structures and mechanisms for effective empowerment of civil society.
5. We propose that GEF in future should enhance its mechanisms to link with civil society groups associated with the GEF related conventions and develop over the next 5 years a multilevel and multi-actor engagement mechanism that facilitates reaching true consensus among the various parties involved.
6. In the long-term it is not just about achieving targets to allocate a proportion of funds to civil society, it is about setting clear prioritisation mechanisms and enhancing execution, monitoring and evaluation as well. Without fundamental change we will continue business as usual and not prevent continuing environmental degradation.