



**GEF CSO Network**

**Statement on Agenda 08 :[Report of the Chairperson of the STAP](#)**

**71st GEF Council Meeting, May 2026**

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the Report of the Chairperson of the STAP. We strongly commend the work of the STAP over the past year to give strategic guidance for GEF's work and the GEF-9 Replenishment Process

We acknowledge the STAP report for the GEF Assembly - but note with concern that some important gaps remain to put initial STAP recommendations for GEF 9 into practice, including:

- Developing an overarching GEF-9 theory of change linking pathways to systems transformation goals and articulating the contributing roles of Integrated Programs and focal areas
- Fostering more deliberate investment in innovation, with proactive identification of key barriers to scaling
- Advancing the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth in project co-design, governance, monitoring, and accountability .
- Complementing blended finance with strategies that shift regulation, corporate behaviour, and financial flows towards nature-positive outcomes

We strongly encourage action by GEF to address these recommendations in a timely manner.

We note the proposal by STAP to deepen engagement in the future with various parties, including the GEF CSO Network. We look forward to exploring options to enhance our work together.

Last but not least, we wish to congratulate Dr Rosina Bierbaum for her excellent work during her term as Chair of STAP. We will miss her in the future, but hope she will somehow remain as a member of the GEF Family.