



GEF CSO Network

Statement on Agenda 09 :[Relations with Conventions and Other International Institutions](#)

71th GEF Council Meeting, May 2026

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the statements by the representatives of the conventions and agreements related to GEF. We are very happy to hear the strategic guidance by different representatives of the Conventions including the need for synergies and integrated approaches. There are two key elements of GEF 9 replenishment where we would appreciate further feedback. a) GEF has adopted a Whole of Society Approach. How should this be implemented to ensure the effective engagement of all stakeholders including CSOs, IPLC, Women and youth; b) GEF has adopted a target for 20% of GEF9 resources to flow to IPLCs. How can this be integrated into and draw upon convention guidance?

With regards to presented document C.71/07, and GEF's continued engagement with the Conventions. We have three points.

First, on finance to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Under agenda 2, we set out what the 20 percent target needs: a clear definition of actions by IPLCs, and tracking from project approval through implementation. In paragraph 22, this report notes the GBFF guidelines for tracking that finance. We welcome them. The method should count only the money for activities that CSOs and IPLCs lead, execute, or control, not projects that merely name or consult them.

Here, we echo the statement presented by the IPAG. These guidelines need to be finalised and adapted for use under the GEF trust fund, recognising that there may need to be some differences in approaches. The support for IPLC should also be reported in the Corporate Scorecard under Objective 4.p of the GEF-9 Policy Directions (Annex II). The GBFF shows that tracking can be done - we need to ensure that we swiftly set up tracking across the whole GEF Trust Fund.

Second, on disbursement. We want to highlight what Germany has said before. In paragraph 20, SBI-6 noted delays in releasing funds for national strategies and national reports. It asked the GEF, with UNDP and UNEP, to report back to SBI-7 in August. We ask the GEF and its Agencies to clear these delays, so the work on national strategies and reports can proceed.

Third, on BBNJ, and chemicals and waste. In paragraphs 11 to 13, the report sets out new chemicals and waste targets in the Integrated Programs, and early support for the BBNJ



GEF CSO Network

Statement on Agenda 09 :[Relations with Conventions and Other International Institutions](#)

71th GEF Council Meeting, May 2026

Agreement. We welcome both. We want to remind the Agencies to build CSO and IPLC engagement into the design of these programs, and do not leave it in the consultation language alone.

Further, we strongly support Sweden and France and others, in the need to break the silos and align in with conventions along with coordination with other vertical funds.