

Statement by:
Ahmad Rajabi Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before
SBI plenary, 4 June 4, 2014
On Agenda item 4(a)

Mr. Chairman,

I have few points on item 4(a) as follows:

My country has always aimed to effectively use available GEF resources and sought possible means of availing maximum co-financing for GEF interventions. The allocated resources have always been considered in my country as a package to accelerate the delivery of environmental benefits. While I appreciate the efforts done by the GEF Secretariat and contribution of donors for GEF-6 replenishment want to use this opportunity to share some views.

We know that the difficulties of old allocation system RAF led to the establishment of System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) which has helped to meet the needs and requirements of stakeholders and enhanced transparency and effectiveness. However one might say STAR has proved powerless to prevent some irregularities and non-transparencies. As a matter of principle, this system should not tolerate the interests of some would damage the interests of all and negatively impact the partnership as a whole. My delegation while appreciating the advantages of STAR, believes that this system should function in a way to make the GEF more transparent, accountable, equitable and accessible day after day. Taking the global essence of the environmental problems into account, the core concern is this: if the GEF doesn't work for all today, in the end it will work for none.

The GEF as highlighted in the Instrument, operates as a mechanism of the conventions. We must keep it in mind that it exists to fulfill the mandate received from these conventions. In this framework, my delegation takes note of the efforts made so far for the preparation of the GEF 2020 draft strategy and setting the goal for the GEF to become a champion of the environment in 2020. We are of the view that the most sustainable way to achieve such a goal is to stick to the mandate and to enhance the credibility of the GEF by increasing country ownership and further improving the efficiency, transparency and accountability.

In this context, communication between GEF, implementing agencies and beneficiary countries is key to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the GEF. Lack of communication and reluctance to share information will lead to misunderstandings and distrust which must be prevented. In case of my country, we think it is necessary that the GEF Secretariat, Agencies especially UNDP and UNEP and the Government enhance coordination and collaboration to open up the project cycle and facilitate implementation of the projects within the country.

Thank you