**Provision of Financial and Technical Support**

**SBI 42**

**Agenda Item 4b**

**Global Environment Facility**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to make this intervention on agenda item 4b –Provision of Financial and Technical Support.

Mr. Chairman, the document FCCC/SBI/2015/INF.7 provides information on the status of biennial update reports in non-annex 1 parties. Excellent progress continues to be made on the support for biennial update reports. Since the compilation of this report, two additional parties, Gabon and Sudan, have had proposals for biennial update reports approved by the GEF Secretariat.

Biennial update reports play a significant role for parties to fulfill their convention obligations. Recognizing this importance, the GEF has put measures in place to ensure that parties do not have to use their GEF country allocations to prepare these reports. Additional resources have been set aside for the countries for this purpose.

Furthermore, to provide technical support for parties, the GEF continues to support the Global Support Program for National Communications and Biennial Update Reports. This program is now under implementation through UNDP and UNEP. This program is also providing additional capacity support for the preparations of the intended nationally determined contributions (iNDCs).

Mr. Chairman, parties can combine their proposed national communications and biennial update report proposals into one project package. For most cases, these proposals are expedited for approval by the GEF. If there are any problems or difficulties, parties are encouraged to contact the GEF secretariat or GEF agency staff for the clarifications and technical assistance.

Mr. Chairman, we would like to reassure parties that the GEF will continue to provide resources as a priority for these convention obligations. We recognize the high importance of these activities for the Convention process, and the key role they play in enhancing capacities in parties and providing the needed data to inform future climate initiatives and investments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.