

**Statement of Constituency of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**On the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly**  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Constituency of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to express appreciation to the GEF Secretariat and Government of Mexico for inviting us to this auspicious Assembly and extending excellent hospitality to host this event.

Iran as a country that strives to meet a range of environmental challenges, has been quite supportive of the role and function of the GEF as a main financial mechanism of the environmental conventions in last two decades.

My constituency 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. My constituency while appreciating the efforts done by the GEF Secretariat and contribution of donors for GEF-6 replenishment wants 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 constituency 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 constituency 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 constituency, 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.

Last but not least, we would like to support the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) which has had a good progress in Iran and gained national and international recognition due to its successful implementation.

Thank you