

GEF Assembly: Gender Side Event

Towards Gender Equality

Date: 27 May 2014

Time: 5:45pm-7:15pm

Venue: Room 4, Tulum, Moon Palace, Cancun

1) Background and Objective

Mainstreaming gender through GEF programs and projects presents opportunities for further enhancing project value as well as advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. The GEF has a long history of investing in local actions and social inclusion to achieve global environmental objectives. The GEF is committed to further engage in and systematically address gender mainstreaming during GEF-6, based on the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, which was adopted by the GEF Council in May 2011. The GEF aims to achieve global environmental benefits and sustainable development by addressing issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment. The GEF recognizes that gender equality is an important goal in the context of projects that it finances, because it advances both the GEF's goals for attaining global environmental benefits and the goals of gender equality and equity, and social inclusion.

The side event is aimed to inform GEF's policies on gender mainstreaming, achievements so far, and discuss and identify how we could build on these lessons and experiences, and replicate and upscale them moving forward. The discussion will be reflected in the development and implementation of the GEF Gender Action Plan. The highlight of the side event is the panel of GEF Agency representatives, who would share best practices, lessons, and experiences on related policies and projects. .

2) Draft Agenda:

5:45 – 6:00 PM Opening Remark: Launch of the GEF Video and Publication on Gender (10 minutes)

6:00 - 6:10 PM Overview on GEF Gender Policy and Approach
by Yoko Watanabe, Program Manager, GEFSEC

6:10 - 6:20 PM OPS5 Gender Assessment
by Anna Birgitta Viggh, Senior Evaluation Officer, GEF Independent Evaluation Office)

6:20 - 7:00 PM Panel to Highlight Gender related Policies, Projects, and Leveraging Opportunities

Topics: (Each GEF Agency will have about total 5 minutes)

- Gender Policy/Strategy and application to relevant projects (EBRD and FAO),
- Sharing Experiences from the Field (IFAD and UNEP)
- Results and Impact Evaluation on Gender Equality (UNDP and World Bank)
- Leveraging Opportunities with CSOs, Communities, and others (AfDB)
- Future direction and Contribution by the Agencies (all Agencies)

Speakers:

- Rachel Aron, Principal Social Development Specialist, African Development Bank

- Marta Simonetti, Principal Manager, EBRD (tbd)
- Barbara Cooney, GEF Executive Coordinator, FAO
- Sheila Mwanundu, Senior Technical Advisor, IFAD
- Nancy Bennet, Results Management Advisor, UNDP
- Brennan Van Dyke, GEF Executive Coordinator, UNEP (Tbd)
- Siv Tokle, Senior Operations Officer, World Bank

Moderator: Yoko Watanabe, GEFSEC.

7:00 - 7:15 PM Discussion and Q & A