

## **Twenty-fifth Meeting of the GEF Council**

Washington DC, 6 June 2005

### **Statement by Mr. Kui-Nang Mak on behalf of the CSD Secretariat**

It is my pleasure to once more attend the GEF Council meeting, and for the first time to address this Council, on behalf of the secretariat of the CSD. Ms. JoAnne DiSano, who was regrettably unable to personally attend this meeting and address this Council again, expressed her sincere apologies and best wishes for the success of this Council.

First of all, I wish to commend the GEF secretariat and the Council members for their increased support to the work of the CSD. A brief look at the history of interaction and collaboration between the CSD and the GEF demonstrates a positive trend towards a strengthened collaboration over time, particularly since the WSSD process began. The GEF has been participating much more proactively in the deliberations of the post-WSSD CSD sessions. We are also delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the GEF Council and share with you the policy decisions taken by the CSD.

In fact, the new focus of the CSD, as reformed by the Heads of States in the Johannesburg Summit, is on “implementation” rather than mere “norm-setting”, which does require us to strengthen our collaboration with the entities created basically as “means of implementation”. It goes without saying that GEF is a significant entity in this respect. Therefore, we strongly believe that our mutual efforts aimed at strengthening collaboration with GEF are a step in the right direction.

We take note with interest the stocktaking of the ongoing talks between the two secretariats in the GEF Secretariat document “GEF/C.25/3”. We are confident that the identified areas for mutual collaboration would help enhance synergies and coherence and thus could take us forward towards the ultimate objective of “integrating” GEF activities in national sustainable development strategies.

The latest session of CSD, held one and a half month prior to this Council meeting, was the Policy Session of the first implementation cycle of the post-WSSD CSD. As most of you are aware, the main themes for that cycle were water, sanitation and human settlements. The CSD-13 took some policy decisions to expedite implementation of the JPOI goals and targets on safe drinking water, basic sanitation and improving the lives of slum dwellers. These are targets that are closely linked to MDG goals. Therefore, the policy decision taken by CSD-13 will make a very pertinent contribution to the September Summit.

The second implementation cycle of the CSD during 2006-2007 will address such main themes as energy, climate change, air pollution/atmosphere and industrial development. We in the secretariat of the CSD have already begun the preparations for this cycle. Several events, including workshops, seminars, Regional Implementation Meetings etc are being organized.

We have invited all agencies and entities, including the GEF, to provide their inputs to us, particularly on case studies and best practices and lessons learned on the main themes, as CSD-14 will be the Review Session where the progress achieved in and the constraints and barriers to implementation of the targets and goals contained in the JPOI, Agenda 21 and other major UN documents will be identified.

The initial indications show a greater interest by all major stakeholders, ranging from Governments to UN agencies and other entities to civil society, in the themes of the upcoming CSD cycle. This will undoubtedly make this cycle a more challenging one, particularly given the economic and social aspects of these issues. However, we are confident that, building on the agreed provisions and targets contained in the JPOI and the Modes Operandi defined in CSD-11 decision, the CSD should be able to make this cycle a real success.

We are of the view that these themes are directly relevant to the operations and focal areas of GEF. GEF has already funded numerous climate change related projects as well projects in the multi-focal areas, including in the areas of energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energies, transport, land degradation, water resources management, many of which enjoyed large amounts of co-financing leveraged from other sources. Thus, there is every reason to expect an active involvement of GEF in the deliberations of the upcoming CSD cycle. We, for our part, reiterate our willingness and preparedness to collaborate closely with GEF secretariat and the Council members to ensure an active engagement and participation by the GEF family in the deliberations of the CSD.

I wish a successful outcome for this Council meeting, and I'll be delighted to answer any questions that Council members might have about the CSD process.

Thank You