

HIGH LEVEL ROUNDTABLES

On Wednesday, 30 August 2006, three high-level roundtables were held in the morning on: market-based mechanisms for financing global environmental conventions; climate change mitigation and adaptation; and identifying national priorities and allocating resources to enhance results at the country level. Each roundtable was made up of invited ministers, other heads of government delegations, heads of GEF partner agencies and senior representatives of the GEF NGO network and the private sector. **The following report briefly outlines the NGO interventions to this gathering.**

MARKET-BASED MECHANISMS FOR FINANCING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS:

Co-Chairs Thomas Kolly, Switzerland, and Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director

The NGO Network stated that they have been supportive to GEF Secretariat efforts on establishing criteria on market mechanisms for financing global environmental conventions.

The network sees the market mechanisms as important tools to scale up private-public alliances that should take into account NGOs and CBOs actions on the ground and not exclusively those operational areas with high profitability revenues for the private sector.

To be effective the market mechanisms in financing environmental activities should have:

- Clear regulatory guidelines including legal provisions for protecting private investments
- Pursue development goals as the best instrument to fight poverty and social exclusion
- Effect property rights and recognize traditional knowledge
- Ensure equitable benefit sharing
- Produce gender sensitive policies and make certain that there is gender equity
- Move for community engagement at all stages of programme/project formulation and implementation to impact on their lives.

CLIMATE CHANGE: MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION:

The roundtable was co-chaired by Elizabeth Thompson, Minister of Energy and Environment of Barbados, and Corrado Clini, Director General, Italy's Ministry of Environment and Territory.

The GEF NGO Network represented by Djimingue Nanasta made comments highlighting the following key points:

- Although adaptation is very much linked to mitigation, it has been lagging behind in funding for a very long time and time was ripe for the GEF to take it up especially in developing countries and more precisely in small islands and sub-Saharan countries that concentrate about 15 of the poorest countries in the world. In this process there is a need to relate adaptation to development;
- Adaptation efforts and actions should be inclusive and take into account the needs and concerns of local communities;
- There is a need to raise awareness among local populations so that they could better participate in building their resilience;

- The need to take into account local knowledge and local know-how when conducting projects as was demonstrated through the NGO Forum;
- The need to channel financial resources towards local communities and ensure their active participation in the process.

IDENTIFYING NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATING RESOURCES TO ENHANCE RESULTS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL:

The roundtable was co-chaired by Roger Ehrhardt, Canadian International Development Agency, and Li Yong, China's Vice Minister of Finance.

An NGO representative Andras Kroplopp raised the issue of public consultations regarding the RAF. He also expressed concern that countries might perceive individual RAF allocations as entitlements, *which would impact adversely on project implementation and future replenishments*. He pointed to the importance of streamlining relationships between the GEF and conventions; developing a special programme for SIDS; and involving NGOs in the RAF's mid-term review.