



**Global Environment Facility**

GEF/C.17/2  
April 6, 2001

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GEF Council  
May 9-11, 2001  
Agenda Item 3

## ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

**AGENDA ITEM 1.**

**OPENING OF THE MEETING**

*(CEO chairs)*

1. The meeting will be opened by Mohamed T. El-Ashry, CEO/Chairperson of the Facility.

**AGENDA ITEM 2.**

**ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON**

*(CEO chairs)*

2. In accordance with paragraph 18 of the Instrument, a Chairperson will be elected from among the Members of the Council. Paragraph 18 provides that the position of elected Chairperson shall alternate from one meeting to another between recipient and non-recipient Council Members. The elected Chairperson at the previous Council meeting was Ms. Susanne Jacobsson, the Member representing Estonia, Finland and Sweden.
3. Consistent with paragraph 18 of the Instrument, the elected Chairperson is expected to chair the Council meeting during discussions on agenda item 3, "Adoption of the agenda"; agenda item 5, "Statement by the Chair of STAP"; agenda items 6(a) and 6(b) under "Relations with Conventions"; agenda item 9, "Monitoring and Evaluation"; and agenda item 12, "GEF FY02 Corporate Budget."
4. The elected Chairperson and the CEO will jointly chair the Council meeting during discussions on agenda item 15, "Other Business," and agenda item 16, "Joint Summary of the Chairs."
5. The CEO/Chairperson of the Facility will chair the Council meeting during discussions on the other items on the agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 3.**

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

*(Elected Chairperson chairs)*

6. A provisional agenda for consideration by the Council has been circulated to all Council Members as document GEF/C.17/1. *The Council is invited to **adopt** its agenda for the meeting.*

**AGENDA ITEM 4.**

**REPORT ON DELIBERATIONS FOR REPLENISHMENT OF THE GEF TRUST FUND**

*(CEO Chairs)*

7. Further to the decision of the Council at its meeting in May 2000, the Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, in cooperation with the CEO/Chairman of the GEF, initiated discussions on the replenishment of the Trust Fund by convening a planning meeting for the negotiations of the third replenishment in November 2000. As provided for in the schedule for negotiations agreed at the planning meeting, a meeting will be convened on May 7, 2001, to discuss the replenishment. *The CEO will make an oral presentation to the Council on the deliberations of that meeting.*

**AGENDA ITEM 5.**

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF STAP**

*(Elected Chairperson chairs)*

8. The Chair of STAP has been invited to make a general statement to the Council on the work of STAP. An opportunity will be provided for Council Members to address questions to the Chair of STAP.

**AGENDA ITEM 6.**

**RELATIONS WITH CONVENTIONS**

- (a) *Statements on behalf of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention to Combat Desertification*

*(Elected Chairperson chairs)*

9. In accordance with paragraph 11 of the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council, a representative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and a representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be invited to make a general introductory statement to the Council. The representative of the Convention to Combat Desertification will also be invited to make a general statement. An opportunity will be provided after each statement for Council Members to address questions to the representative.

(b) *Council review of relations with conventions  
(Elected Chairperson chairs)*

10. Document GEF/C.17/3 reports on developments of interest to the GEF within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other international agreements. *The Council is invited to **review** and **comment** upon the report.*

(c) *Initial guidelines for enabling activities for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.  
(CEO Chairs)*

11. The 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an “International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants” (POPs) met from December 4-9, 2000, in Johannesburg, South Africa, and concluded negotiations for a POPs Convention. The Convention will be adopted and opened for signature at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries scheduled for May 22-23, 2001, in Stockholm.

12. Article 14 of the Convention designates the Global Environment Facility (GEF), on an interim basis and until the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, as the “principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism.” The GEF Council, at its meeting in November 2000, decided that “should the GEF be the financial mechanism for the legal agreement it would be willing to initiate early action with regard to the proposed enabling activities with existing resources.”

13. Document GEF/C.17/4 sets forth initial guidelines for an early response by the GEF to assist eligible developing countries to implement the Convention. The main focus of the GEF’s assistance at this initial stage is the preparation of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the Convention and first reporting obligations.

14. *The Council is invited to **review** the document with a view to **approving** the initial guidelines, in particular (a) the*

*country eligibility criteria; (b) eligible activities and sequencing; and (c) expedited procedures for processing proposals for GEF assistance.*

- (d) *Options to enhance GEF support in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the CCD (CEO chairs)*

- 15. At its meeting in November 2000, Council requested the CEO "... to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the GEF in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, taking into account the third replenishment, and to report to the Council at its meeting in May 2001." Document GEF/C.17/5 presents two options for enhancing GEF support. *The Council is requested to **review and comment** on the two options with a view to **determining** the next steps to be followed in strengthening GEF support for activities that address the objectives of the Convention to Combat Desertification.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7.**

#### **RESULTS OF THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE** *(CEO chairs)*

- 16. In May 1999, the GEF Council approved the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) as a strategic partnership between the GEF Secretariat and UNDP for the preparation of a comprehensive approach for developing the capacities needed at the country level to meet the challenges of global environmental action.
- 17. The CDI was launched in December 1999 as an 18 month consultative, planning process and implemented in two phases: 1) assessment of capacity building needs at a broad level, and activities of the GEF and other multilateral/ bilateral organizations in the field of capacity building, and 2) formulation of elements of strategic collaboration for multi-party action, and a GEF-specific framework of action to meet capacity building needs in a comprehensive manner.

18. The strategic elements and framework for GEF support for capacity building for global environmental action is presented in Document GEF/C.17/6. *The Council is invited to **review** the strategic elements and framework with a view to **approving** them to guide a more focused, strategic approach to capacity building for the global environment. The Council is also invited to **approve** the extension of the Strategic Partnership for an additional 18 months to ensure the completion of operational planning and initial technical support, together with a prompt start and effective implementation of the framework by recipient countries, GEF's Implementing and executing agencies, and other interested partners.*

**AGENDA ITEM 8.**

**WORK PROGRAM**

*(CEO chairs)*

19. Document GEF/C.17/7, *Work Program Submitted for Council Approval*, (this document includes a cover note together with project proposals), contains the proposed work program comprised of project proposals that have been developed by Implementing and executing agencies, reviewed by the GEF Operations Committee (GEFOP), and recommended by the CEO for Council approval. The Secretariat has prepared an introductory note to the proposed work program in which it reports on policy and programming issues associated with it. *The Council is invited to **review** the proposed work program with a view to **approving** it for further development.*

**AGENDA ITEM 9.**

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

*(Elected Chairperson chairs)*

20. The Council has before it a number of documents prepared under the monitoring and evaluation work program of the GEF. Document GEF/C.17/8, *2000 Project Implementation Review*, presents the results of the annual project implementation review. Documents GEF/C.17/Inf.4 to GEF/C.17/Inf.6 present the results of program studies in the focal areas of biodiversity, climate change and international waters. Document GEF/C.17/Inf.7 is the *GEF Land Degradation Linkage Study*. Document GEF/C.17/Inf.8 is a

progress report on *Action to Implement the Recommendations of the Study of GEF's Overall Performance and the Policy Recommendations for the Second Replenishment Period*, which provides the Council with information on the actions that have been taken to respond to those recommendations. Document GEF/C.17/Inf.9 is a report on the progress that has been achieved to date in preparing the Second Study of GEF's Overall Performance. *The Council is invited to **review** and **comment** upon these documents, including their conclusions and recommendations, and to **take note** of the actions that the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies have undertaken to respond to the recommendations of the Study of GEF's Overall Performance.*

**AGENDA ITEM 10.**

**CEO NOTE ON GEF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*(CEO chairs)*

21. At its fifty-fifth session, the U.N. General Assembly agreed to organize the 10-year review of progress in the implementation of UNCED as the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Summit will be hosted by South Africa, September 2-12, 2002. The GEF, its contributions to the implementation of the outcome of UNCED, and its third replenishment were specifically referenced in the General Assembly Resolution. The GEF and other international organizations were invited to participate fully in the 10-year review "in order to reflect their experiences and lessons learned as well as to provide ideas and proposals for the way forward for further implementation of Agenda 21 in relevant areas."
22. At its meeting in December 1999, the GEF Council requested the CEO/Chairman to reflect upon, and to consult with interested parties, on how the GEF could make a substantial contribution to the process as well as the events connected with the 2002 review.
23. Document GEF/C.17/9 presents for Council consideration the CEO's thoughts and proposals on how the GEF can contribute substantively to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its preparations. *The Council is invited to **review** the*

*note and to **exchange views** on how the GEF may best participate in the Summit and its preparations. The Council is invited to consider the proposed budget to cover the costs of this special initiative with a view to **approving** it.*

**AGENDA ITEM 11.**

**SECOND GEF ASSEMBLY**

*(CEO chairs)*

24. During its meeting in May 2000, the Council considered the timing of the second GEF Assembly and agreed, “that the Assembly should be linked with the completion of replenishment discussions and that it would therefore be important for the forthcoming GEF Assembly to be held after the completion of negotiations for the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.”
25. The Council also welcomed with appreciation and accepted the kind offer of the Government of China to host the second GEF Assembly in Beijing from October 16-18, 2002.
26. The GEF Secretariat has followed up on the decision of the Council and the generous offer of the Government of China by initiating preliminary discussions with the host government on the organization of the Assembly. Document GEF/C.17/10 informs the Council of the initial conclusions of those discussions and the steps that the Secretariat will be taking to continue the organization of the second Assembly during the next two fiscal years. The note also addresses the documents to be prepared for the Assembly as well as its organization of work. A budget presents the resources that will be needed to cover the costs of the activities that are to be undertaken during FY02 and FY03. *The Council is invited to **review and comment** on the note and to **approve** the resources that will be needed to cover the costs of the activities that are to be undertaken during FY02 and to **take note** of the costs of convening the Assembly in FY03.*

**AGENDA ITEM 12.**

**GEF FY02 CORPORATE BUDGET**

*(Elected Chairperson chairs)*



27. The proposed Corporate Budget for FY02 is presented in document GEF/C.17/11. *The Council is invited to **review** the proposed budget with a view to **approving** it.*

**AGENDA ITEM 13.**

**MECHANISMS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXPEDITING  
DISBURSEMENTS OF GEF FUNDS TO SMALL PROJECTS**  
*(CEO chairs)*

28. At its meeting in November 2000, the Council called upon the Implementing Agencies to ensure that the GEF has the capacity and agility to manage small projects, including enabling activities, and to ensure that disbursement of funds for such projects can be achieved in an efficient and timely manner. The Council also requested the Implementing Agencies to provide a report to the Council on the mechanisms and arrangements through which they can expedite the disbursement of GEF funds for small projects. Document GEF/C.17/12 is the report of the Implementing Agencies on this issue. *The Council is invited to **review and comment** on the report.*

**AGENDA ITEM 14.**

**CRITERIA FOR THE EXPANSION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXECUTING  
AGENCIES**  
*(Elected Chairperson chairs)*

29. In May 1999, the GEF Council reviewed document GEF/C.13/3, *Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies*, and approved the proposed approach for the participation of four Regional Development Banks in preparing and executing GEF projects, and for their access to PDF-B resources. These organizations are the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Inter-American Development Bank. In May 2000, the Council reviewed document GEF/C.15/4, *Review of Progress in Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies*, and approved the same expansion of opportunities for the United Nations Food

and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as executing agencies, given their specific expertise in new emerging areas for GEF activities.

30. The Council indicated that, before further expanding opportunities to additional organizations, it should first agree on more detailed criteria based on GEF business needs and then consider the proposed agency on that basis. Document GEF/C.17/13, *Criteria for the Expansion of Opportunities for Executing Agencies*, proposes such criteria and recommends that the Council agree to designate the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) as an agency that may benefit from expanded opportunities.
31. *The Council is invited to **review** document GEF/C.17/13 with a view to **approving** the criteria proposed for the selection of executing agencies that may take advantage of the expanded opportunities as well as the selection of the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) as an executing agency that may benefit from such opportunities.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

*(Jointly chaired)*

32. Members and the Chairpersons may raise any other business under this agenda item. *In particular, the Council's attention is drawn to the information papers before it.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 16.**

#### **JOINT SUMMARY OF THE CHAIRS**

*(Jointly chaired)*

33. The elected Chairperson and the CEO/Chairperson will present a joint summary of the conclusions of the meeting. Decisions approved by the Council during the meeting will be included in the Chairs' joint summary.

## PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

### ***Wednesday, May 9, 2001***

#### *Morning session*

09:30 - 10:30	Agenda Item 1 Agenda Item 2 Agenda Item 3 Agenda Item 4	Opening of the Meeting Election of a Chairperson Adoption of agenda Report on replenishment of GEF Trust Fund
10:30 - 11:00	Agenda Item 5	Statement by the Chair of STAP
11:00 - 1:00	Agenda Item 6	Relations with conventions

#### *Afternoon session*

2:30 - 4:00	Agenda Item 6	Relations with Convention (Cont'd)
4:00 - 6:00	Agenda Item 7	Results of the Capacity Development Initiative

### ***Thursday, May 10, 2001***

#### *Morning session*

9:30 - 11:30	Agenda Item 8	Work program
11:30 - 1:00	Agenda Item 9	Monitoring and evaluation

#### *Afternoon session*

#### *(Executive Session for Agenda Item 12)*

2:30 - 3:30	Agenda Item 10	CEO note on GEF activities related to the World Summit
3:30 - 4:30	Agenda Item 11	Second GEF Assembly
4:30 - 6:00	Agenda Item 12	FY02 corporate budget

***Friday, May 11, 2001***

*Morning session*

9:30 - 10:30	Agenda Item 13	Mechanisms and arrangements for expediting disbursements of GEF funds for small projects
10:30 - 11:30	Agenda Item 14	Expanded opportunities for executing agencies
11:30 - 12:30	Agenda Item 15	Other business

*Afternoon*

1:00 - 3:00		Briefing on the Second Study of GEF's Overall Performance <sup>1</sup>
4:00 - 5:30	Agenda Item 16	Joint Summary of the Chairs

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<sup>1</sup> A briefing will be presented by members of the team undertaking the Second Study of GEF's Overall Performance. Box lunches will be provided in lieu of lunch in the Main Complex.