



Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.17/3
April 5, 2001

GEF Council
May 9-11, 2001
Agenda Item 6

RELATIONS WITH CONVENTIONS

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.17/3, *Relations with Conventions*, takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international agreements and GEF action taken to respond to the decisions of the Conferences of the Parties.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
I. Convention on Biological Diversity	1
Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice	1
GEF Related Issues	2
Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.....	2
II. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	3
Sixth session of the Conference of the Parties	3
Guidance to the GEF	4
Subsidiary Body for Implementation.....	4
National Communications.....	4
III. UN Convention to Combat Desertification.....	5
IV. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	6
V. Information on other International Environmental Conventions	7
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar)	7
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	8
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).....	8
Annex A.....	A1
Annex B.....	B1

INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on developments of interest to the GEF within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that have occurred since the GEF Council meeting in November 2000. The document also includes reporting on the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the completion of the negotiations on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. As requested by the Council at its meeting in May 2000, information is also provided on the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

I. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice

2. The sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity took place in Montreal, Canada, on March 12-16, 2001. Key issues addressed by the meeting included invasive alien species, scientific assessments, the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), climate change and biodiversity, and migratory species and cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). It also included reports from the ad hoc expert groups on inland water ecosystems and marine/coastal issues. The GEF organized two events during the meeting: a briefing on the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) and a presentation and dialogue with members of the team preparing the second Study of GEF's Overall Performance.

3. The issue of invasive alien species was the main point of discussion. The meeting recognized the importance of alien species and its impact on biological diversity and urged immediate action especially in geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems, such as small island states. Discussions focused on integrated approaches, including prevention, early detection, eradication, mitigation of effects and options for future work. The meeting also considered guiding principles (guidelines) for the prevention, introduction, and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species. The text prepared by SBSTTA will be presented for consideration at the next Conference of the Parties.

4. SBSTTA agreed to initiate assessments on forest biological diversity; rapid assessment methods for biodiversity of inland water ecosystems (in cooperation with the Ramsar convention); marine and coastal biological diversity; impacts of invasive alien species; and interlinkages between biological diversity and climate changes. It also invited the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to integrate into its work climate change and biodiversity, inland water biodiversity, including its uses and threats, further aspects of marine and coastal biodiversity and further aspects of forest biodiversity

5. The meeting endorsed a draft work program for the Global Taxonomy Initiative to be considered at the next Conference of the Parties. The SBSTTA recommendation urged the promotion

of the implementation of the program of work, encouraged the establishment of global, regional, and subregional networks and partnerships to support its implementation, requested capacity development at the national and regional levels, and requested the GEF to support these networks.

6. The SBSTTA recommendation on climate change and biodiversity emphasizes the need to take prompt action to address climate change as a major cause of biodiversity loss which is already evident, in particular in coral bleaching and its associated socio-economic consequences. It emphasized that climate change mitigation measures may also impact biodiversity. It stressed the need for adaptation measures to ensure long-term integrity of ecosystems, species and ecological processes, while recognizing that overall emission reductions is the main and most important measure to address climate change. The recommendation includes a draft terms of reference for consideration by the Conference of the Parties for a pilot assessment of the interlinkages between climate change and biological diversity.

7. The meeting had extensive discussions seeking the integration of migratory species in the program of work under the Convention. The meeting invited the Convention jointly with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to develop for consideration by the Conference of the Parties a joint work program, including priority areas for action, time frames, key actors, mechanisms, and financial considerations. (See paragraph 31 below)

GEF Related Issues

8. During the deliberations of SBSTTA, there were frequent requests for GEF assistance. Similar language appeared in recommendations requesting the Conference of the Parties to: "consider the need for arrangements to provide financial resources in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention for activities ... and capacity building giving priority attention to ... developing countries and countries with economies in transition, paying particular attention to the need of the least developed countries and small island developing states...". Based on the Parties' decision IV/26, para 13, taken at their fourth meeting, the Secretariat requested the Chair to defer all issues on financial matters to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

9. In November, 2000, the Council approved the *GEF's Initial Strategy for Assisting Countries to Prepare for the Entry into Force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, and requested the GEF Secretariat to inform the Intergovernmental Committee of the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP) of the strategy and the efforts that are underway through the GEF to build the capacity of countries to address the objectives of the Protocol. It also asked that the strategy be kept under review so as to incorporate relevant decisions of the ICCP.

10. The first meeting of the ICCP was held in Montpellier, France, from December 11 - 15, 2000. The GEF's initial strategy was presented to the participants, both formally during the meeting, and

informally during a side event. The GEF/ UNEP project on 'Development of National Biosafety Frameworks' (the umbrella project) approved by Council last November, was also presented.

11. The GEF's initial strategy and the umbrella project were both appreciated and welcomed by the participants, with a call to implement both expeditiously. The ICCP's recommendations in this regard are in Annex A (in particular, please see item 4.2 on Capacity Building). GEF proposed action on this decision is as follows:

- (a) With regard to capacity building for establishment of the biosafety clearing house, the GEF will follow closely the activities to be undertaken by the Convention's Secretariat in pursuance of ICCP recommendations on the biosafety clearing house which should contribute to an identification of country needs for participation. It should be possible to include within the scope of the umbrella project any initial assistance required to facilitate participation in the biosafety clearing house;
- (b) Additional support for the development of regional centers of training, clearing house, risk assessment and risk management, and legal advice can be provided during follow-up capacity building activities subsequent to the assistance to be received through the umbrella project. It is expected that a request for GEF to finance such assistance is likely to be included at the appropriate time (i.e., after the entry into force of the protocol) in the guidance to the GEF to be provided through the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;
- (c) Regional workshops are to be organized through the umbrella projects; and
- (d) The GEF Secretariat is providing financial assistance to support developing country participation in a workshop to be held in June 2001 on complementarities and synergies in financial support for the creation and implementation of national biosafety frameworks.

II. UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Sixth session of the Conference of the Parties

12. The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-6) and the thirteenth session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB-13) took place in the Hague, Netherlands, from November 13 - 25, 2000. One of the principal aims of COP 6 was to reach agreement on the implementation details of the Kyoto Protocol. Despite the promising atmosphere at the outset of negotiations, countries were unable to reach agreement on key issues at the end of the two weeks, and the talks were suspended. Decision 1/CP.6 on the suspension of the negotiations is included in Annex B.

13. COP-6 is scheduled to resume in Bonn from July 16 - 27, 2001. Key issues that must still be addressed at the resumed talks include a package of financial support and technology transfer to help developing countries contribute to global action on climate change, including measures for adapting to climate change impacts; the establishment of an international emissions trading system and a “clean development mechanism”; the extent to which targets should be achieved through domestic action (vs. emissions trading and CDM); the rules for counting emissions reductions from carbon sinks, such as forests and farmland; and a compliance regime.

Guidance to the GEF

14. Since the sixth session of the COP is to be resumed, it has yet to conclude consideration of its decisions. The negotiating text of a decision presenting additional guidance to the financial mechanism, FCCC/CP/2000/CRP8, is included in Annex B. Many sections of this draft decision are still in square brackets, indicating that agreement has yet to be reached on these sections. In brief, the main points still under discussion concern:

- (a) strengthening the implementation of Stage II adaptation activities;
- (b) establishment of pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation can be translated into projects and integrated into national policy and sustainable development planning;
- (c) building capacity for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters related to climate change; and
- (d) strengthening and establishment of early warning systems.

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

15. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) met at the Hague from November 13-18, 2000. The SBI took note of the information provided by the GEF regarding the details of its financial support, namely disbursement dates of funds for enabling activities for the preparation of initial national communications by non-Annex I Parties. The SBI requested GEF to continue providing information on the effective availability of funds for enabling activities. The SBI also noted the report of the GEF to the Conference of the Parties on the review of the implementation of commitments and of other provisions of the Convention. It took note of GEF’s report on the review of its climate change enabling activities and encouraged GEF to develop a more strategic and long-term approach to funding of enabling activities, streamlining and shortening the approval process for enabling activities.

National Communications

16. By its decision 8/ CP.5, the fifth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC initiated a process for review of the guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications by non-Annex I

Parties, with the aim of improving them by the seventh session of the COP, scheduled for 2001. Until then, it was agreed that the existing guidelines would remain in effect for all initial national communications. In May, 2000, the GEF Council approved the continuation of financial support for second national communications, using the existing guidelines. To date, only one country has requested (and been provided) support specifically for the preparation of a second national communication. Other countries have preferred to await the revised guidelines from COP 7, and sought GEF support for other capacity building measures in accordance with the Parties' decisions.

17. By the same decision, the Parties also established a Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) from non-Annex I Parties with the objective of improving national communications from non-Annex I Parties. The terms of reference of the CGE mandate it to make recommendations, *inter alia*, for improving the guidelines for national communications from non-Annex I Parties. It is expected that the CGE's recommendations will contribute significantly to the revision of the guidelines for national communications from non-Annex I Parties, should COP 7 arrive at a decision on the subject.

III. UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

18. The fourth session of the Conference of the Parties was held in Bonn, December 11-22, 2000. The Parties approved a decision on collaboration with the GEF which:

- (a) welcomes the on-going collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD and the involvement of the Global Mechanism;
- (b) takes note of the GEF Council's decision requesting 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 CCD;
- (c) invites all Parties to the Convention to support the GEF, including as appropriate through its Council and the pursuit of negotiations in the Assembly of the GEF so as to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the GEF in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the Convention taking into account the third replenishment; and
- (d) requests the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD to report to the fifth session of the Conference on the follow up to the GEF Council decision.

19. The GEF participation at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties included an address to the Parties from the CEO, an exhibit on GEF activities in the area of land degradation, a workshop on GEF's work in drylands, a briefing on the Capacity Development Initiative and a stakeholder workshop on the initiative on land and water in Africa.

IV. THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

20. The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for an “International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on certain Persistent Organic Pollutants” (POPs) met in Johannesburg, December 4-9 2000, 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.

21. The GEF has been designated in the Convention as the “principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism” on an interim basis (Article Kbis of the Convention).

22. The objective of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is to protect human health and the environment from POPs. The Convention is global in scope and multimedia in coverage. Parties are obligated to take measures to reduce or eliminate releases of the POPs covered by the Convention, which focuses initially on twelve chemicals that can basically be grouped into three categories as follows:

- (a) pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenze (also an industrial chemical and unintended byproduct), mirex and toxaphene;
- (b) industrial chemicals: PCBs (also unintended by-products); and
- (c) unintended byproducts: dioxins and furans.

23. The Convention includes a procedure for adding additional POPs to the coverage of the Convention in order to respond to new threats that will be identified in the future.

24. It is recognized that many Parties will need technical and financial assistance in order to implement the Convention’s provisions. For this reason, the Convention mandates:

- (a) cooperation to provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of Parties to implement the Convention.
- (b) developed countries to provide new and additional resources to developing countries and countries with economy in transition Parties to help them to develop and strengthen their capacity to implement the Convention; and establishes a financial mechanism to be defined by the Conference of the Parties to provide/facilitate the delivery of these resources; and
- (c) the establishment of interim financial arrangements (that is until the Conference of the Parties defines the mechanism) -- the principal entity of which is to be the Global Environment Facility which is to fulfill this function through operational measures related specifically to POPs.

25. UNEP is to provide the secretariat for the Stockholm Convention on POPs.

V. INFORMATION ON OTHER INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS

26. At its meeting in November 2000, the Council encouraged the Secretariat to enhance its cooperation with other international environmental conventions, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)¹.

27. GEF activities in support of the objectives of these conventions, all of which are concerned with biodiversity and protection of species and ecosystems, has been through synergy of their objectives at the national and regional levels with those of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Almost all the GEF operational programs, in particular those in the areas of biodiversity and international waters, directly or indirectly support the objectives of these conventions. A number of GEF-financed country-driven projects directly contribute to national implementation of the conventions. Recent developments of these conventions of direct interest to the GEF are as follows.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar)

28. The Ramsar Bureau is assisting, as an International Service Provider or as a member of the Steering Committee, in the development and/or implementation of a number of GEF-funded projects related to wetland conservation and sustainable use. These include projects in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the African-Eurasian Flyways, the Lake Chad Basin, Mediterranean wetlands and the Prespa Lakes (Albania, Greece and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

29. The Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar have jointly launched the River Basin Initiative (RBI) on integrating biological diversity, wetland and river basin management. The RBI will help establish a global network to share information and link and support activities and projects that demonstrate the principles and practice of integrated water resources management including wetland and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. It will operate through links with a wide variety of partner organizations from national to international scale, and will showcase good practice and lessons learnt from basin management projects and programs throughout the world. The RBI is being developed on behalf of the two Conventions by the Global Environment Centre, Malaysia. The GEF Secretariat has been invited to participate in the Steering Committee of the Initiative. For more information, see the Convention's website, www.ramsar.org.

¹ See paragraph 11, *Joint Summary of Chairs, GEF Council meeting November 1-3, 2000*.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

30. No updated information has been received from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

31. A closer collaboration between CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity was recommended by the CBD/SBSTTA to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Specifically, SBSTTA recommended that:

- (a) the Conference of the Parties identifies CMS as the lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species over their entire range;
- (b) the Conference of the Parties generate guidance to integrate migratory species into biodiversity strategies and action plans and the future program of work of the Convention;
- (c) the Conference of the Parties address the need for necessary financial resources to support capacity-building and specific projects at incorporating the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and their habitats; and
- (d) the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with the CMS, develop for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting a joint work program for the Conventions which would be implemented at all levels.

ANNEX A

EXCERPT FROM THE REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY ON THE WORK OF ITS FIRST MEETING

UNEP/CBD/ICCP/1/9

ITEM 4.2 CAPACITY BUILDING

1. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to ensure a rapid implementation of the GEF initial strategy for assisting countries to prepare for the ratification, entry into force and implementation of the Protocol, and to support capacity building for the establishment of the biosafety clearing-house in a flexible manner, and to provide additional support for the development of regional centres for training, Clearing-House, risk assessment and risk management and legal advice;
2. *Urges* GEF and other donor agencies and governments to support regional and inter-regional capacity building workshops and preparatory meetings, in cooperation with relevant international, regional, subregional organizations;
3. *Urges* the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its capacity as an implementing agency of the financial mechanism to expedite the implementation of the project entitled “Development of National Biosafety Frameworks” in a flexible manner, having regard to the comments made by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol at its first meeting, and to support the implementation of national biosafety frameworks;
4. *Invites* UNEP, in collaboration with the GEF, other donors and the Secretariat, to convene a workshop in June 2001 on financial support for the creation and implementation of national biosafety frameworks with a view to maximizing complementarities and synergies between various initiatives of bilateral, regional and multilateral funding institutions, including relevant non-biosafety initiatives;
5. *Invites* UNEP in collaboration with the Secretariat to convene an open-ended expert meeting, subject to the availability of financial resources, back to back with the workshop referred to in the previous paragraph and to further develop proposals on the implementation of capacity building provisions of the Protocol for consideration by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol at its second meeting and in this regard welcomes the offer of Cuba to host the workshop;
6. *Invites* Parties and Governments as well as non-governmental, private-sector and scientific organizations to submit information regarding capacity-building needs, priorities and existing initiatives as well as suggestions on capacity building for the implementation of the Protocol to the

Secretariat before March 2001. In this regard, the Secretariat shall develop a questionnaire to facilitate the submission of information;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile information received from Parties and Governments, United Nations agencies, UNEP and GEF and non-governmental, private-sector and scientific organizations and to report to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its second meeting;

8. *Urges* developed countries to provide voluntary contributions to support capacity building activities specified above.

ANNEX B

Decision 1/CP.6

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol,

Further recalling its decision 1/CP.4, entitled "The Buenos Aires Plan of Action", and decision 1/CP.5,

Having made progress in considering all issues under the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, on the basis of the work of its Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and its Subsidiary Body for Implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the informal note by the President dated 23 November 2000 annexed to this decision as an element of political guidance to the completion of work on the negotiating texts forwarded to the Conference;¹
2. *Invites* Parties to submit views thereon by 15 January 2001, and requests the secretariat to compile these submissions in a miscellaneous document;
3. *Decides* to suspend its sixth session and requests its President to seek advice on the desirability of resuming that session in May/June 2001 in order to complete work on those texts and adopt a comprehensive and balanced package of decisions on all issues covered by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;
4. *Requests* its President to make proposals for the further development and consideration of those texts at a resumed session and to seek the necessary advice beforehand in a transparent manner;
5. *Urges* all Parties to intensify political consultations among themselves and explore areas of common ground that would enable the successful conclusion of negotiations at a resumed session on all issues covered by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

*9th plenary Meeting
25 November 2000*

¹ Texts forwarded to the Conference by its subsidiary bodies on 18 November 2000 and those contained in the notes by the President dated 24 and 25 November 2000.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Sixth session

The Hague, 13-25 November 2000

Agenda item 4

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS
AND OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION**

Financial mechanism

Note by the President

This text has been prepared under the authority of the President of COP 6 to facilitate future work. It is based on the text forwarded to the COP by the SBI at the second part of its thirteenth session (FCCC/SBI/2000/CRP.16/Rev.1), as well as on informal consultations and recommendations from the chairman of the SBI, assisted by the co-chairs of the relevant contact groups.

The COP is invited to take note of this text, recognizing that the text forwarded to the COP by the SBI contained in document FCCC/SBI/2000/CRP.16/Rev.1 also remains on the table.

Draft decision -/CP.6

Additional guidance to an operating entity of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 11/CP.1, 10/CP.2, 11/CP.2, 12/CP.2, 2/CP.4, 8/CP.5 and 10/CP.5,

Noting the extension of funding through the expedited procedures of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for countries to address capacity-building needs identified in decision 2/CP.4 enabling Parties to maintain and enhance relevant national capacities and for the preparation of second national communications,

Noting also the launching of the GEF Country Dialogue Workshops, which have been designed to strengthen national coordination and capacity-building and to promote awareness-raising, and the results of the first phase of the GEF Capacity Development Initiative, a strategic partnership between

the GEF Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, which were forwarded to Parties in accordance with decision 10/CP.5,

1. *Decides* that, in accordance with Articles 4.3, 4.5 and 11.1 of the Convention, the GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism, should provide financial resources to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them, to:

[Strengthen the implementation of country-driven stage II adaptation activities that build upon work done at the national level and in the context of national communications [and] [or] of in-depth national studies in particularly vulnerable countries and regions identified in stage I activities, and especially in countries vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters];

or

(a) [Strengthen, in particularly vulnerable countries and regions identified in stage I activities and especially countries vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters, the implementation of country-driven stage II adaptation activities, further to decision 2/CP.4, paragraph 1 (a), that build upon work done at the national level, either in the context of national communications or of in-depth national studies.]

(b) [Establish pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation planning and assessment can be practically translated into projects that will provide real benefits, and may be integrated into national policy and sustainable development planning, on the basis of information provided in the national communications from non-Annex I Parties, and [/or] other relevant sources, and of the staged approach endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in its decision 11/CP.1;]²

(c) Support the continuation of the “country-team” approach, which enhances the collection, management, archiving, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data on climate change issues and increases national commitment to the implementation of the objective of the Convention;

(d) Enhance the capacity of their subregional and/or regional information networks to enable such networks to serve as repositories of climate change related information on vulnerability and adaptation assessments and geographic information systems;

(e) Improve climate change related data collection (e.g. local emission and regional factors) and information-gathering, as well as the analysis, interpretation and dissemination of these data to national policy makers and other end-users;

(f) Strengthen and where necessary establish:

(i) National, subregional or regional databases on climate change;

² Text agreed by Articles 4.8/4.9 and 3.14 group; but the chapeau to that text has not been agreed to by that group.

- (ii) Subregional and/or regional climate change related institutions and “centres of excellence”, to enable these institutions and centres to provide a supportive framework, including for information retrieval and technical support;
- (g) Develop and implement, as appropriate, prioritized projects identified in their national communications;
- (h) Undertake more in-depth public awareness and education activities and community involvement and participation in climate change issues;
- (i) [Build the capacity, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters related to climate change, including contingency planning in particular, for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events;]³
- (j) [Strengthen existing and, where needed, establish early warning systems for extreme weather events in an integrated and interdisciplinary manner to assist developing country Parties, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change;]⁴
- (k) Support the continuation of GEF related programmes which assist Parties that are at various stages of preparing and/or completing their initial national communications;

Invites the GEF to:

- (l) Continue its efforts to minimize the time between the approval of project concepts, the development and approval of the related projects, and the disbursement of funds by its implementing/executing agencies to the recipient countries of those projects;
- (m) Further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparations simpler, more transparent and country-driven. In this regard, the project cycles of its implementing/executing agencies should be coordinated with the GEF project cycle;
- (n) Urge its implementing/executing agencies to be more responsive to requests for GEF assistance from developing country Parties for climate change related project activities aimed at implementing the guidance of the Conference of the Parties;
- (o) Further encourage the use of national and regional experts and/or consultants to enhance project development and implementation; in this regard, it should make its list of national and regional experts and/or consultants publicly available;
- (p) Give consideration to measures to increase opportunities available to developing country Parties for accessing GEF funds for climate change activities aimed at implementing the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, including a review of the adequacy of the number of implementing/executing agencies available to deliver GEF programmes and projects;

³ Text agreed by Article 4.8/4.9 group; but the chapeau to that text has not been agreed to by that group.

⁴ Text agreed by Article 4.8/4.9 group; but the chapeau to that text has not been agreed to by that group.

2. *Urges* the GEF to adopt a streamlined and expedited approach in financing activities within the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (non-Annex I Parties) contained in decision -/CP.6;

3. *Requests* the GEF to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session the specific steps it has taken to implement the provisions of this decision and to include information on its implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (non-Annex I Parties) contained in decision -/CP.6;

[*Requests* the GEF to continue to provide financing where appropriate and, consistent with both the guidance of the Conference of the Parties and the mandate of the GEF, to implement [support the implementation of] the capacity-building framework annexed to decision -/CP.6 and to further support, enhance and implement the capacity-building activities of the GEF in accordance with this framework.]