

61st GEF Council Meeting
December 06 – 09, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 02

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda Item 01.

Opening of the Meeting

1. The meeting will be opened by Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO/Chairperson of the Facility.
2. Council will recall that Mette Møglestue, Council member for the Constituency of Norway, Denmark, Latvia and Lithuania, has been designated as Elected Chairperson for the year 2021 by a decision adopted on April 22, 2021.

Agenda Item 02.

Adoption of the Agenda

3. The *Provisional Agenda* has been issued as document GEF/C.61/01/Rev.01, for consideration by the Council.
4. The Council is invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

Agenda Item 03.

The GEF Monitoring Report 2021

5. Document GEF/C.61/03, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2021*, appraises the progress made by the portfolio of projects under implementation with financing from the GEF Trust Fund over the past year. The Monitoring Report presents the results of the GEF partnership's efforts to strengthen its portfolio and make projects and programs more effective. It also details the contribution made by GEF-financed activities to global environmental benefits. The report also continues to provide an overview of the size and distribution of the portfolio of projects under implementation. It covers the period from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.
6. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed GEF/C.61/03, The GEF Monitoring Report 2021, welcomes the report, its use of the Portfolio Scorecard tracking effectiveness and efficiency, and the ongoing progress in reporting on results. The Council requests Agencies, through engagement with the Secretariat, to ensure the timely and quality delivery of Mid-Term Reviews as a tool to enhance implementation progress.*

Agenda Item 04.

UNDP third-party review of compliance with GEF minimum fiduciary standards

7. Document GEF/C.61/04, *UNDP third-party review of compliance with GEF minimum fiduciary standards*, presents to Council the final Report of the independent Third-Party Review of compliance by UNDP with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards, per decision of GEF Council at its 59th Session in December 2020.

8. Draft decision: *The Council takes note of the Independent Third-Party Review of UNDP and decides to:*
- i. urge UNDP to continue to implement actions required to come into full compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards*
 - ii. request UNDP to present a time-bound Action Plan to address the gaps identified by the Review, to be presented by March 31, 2022 for inter-sessional distribution to Council*
 - iii. request UNDP to continue to provide monthly reports to the Secretariat on implementation of all actions under its Management Action Plan and the Secretariat to continue to provide updates to Council based on these reports until the end of FY22; Council would review this requirement at its C.62 in June 2022*
 - iv. request that the Secretariat coordinate a subsequent independent review during GEF-8, to be initiated within 12 months of C.61 (i.e. before December 2022).*

Agenda Item 05.

Follow up of UNDP related decisions from the 59th Council meeting

9. The GEF Secretariat and UNDP will each provide an oral report on actions taken, under their respective responsibilities, in response to Council decisions related to UNDP approved at the 59th Council Meeting in December 2020.

Executive Session.

10. An Executive Session has been scheduled as first item on Tuesday morning to continue the conversation on UNDP related issues in a confidential manner. Council will be invited to pose questions or make comments as appropriate.

Agenda Item 06.

The share of GEF financing in agencies' portfolios

11. Document GEF/C.61/05, *The share of GEF financing in agencies' portfolios*, provides information to Council on the relative levels of GEF financing in each GEF Agency's overall operations. It is the second such annual report, responding to Council's request for Agency reporting and Secretariat monitoring of this topic and a report on progress and lessons learned at C.61
12. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed document, GEF/C.61/05, the Share of GEF Financing in Agencies' Portfolios, takes note of the report and decides that:*
- a. in light of the lessons learned and reported data, additional measures are not warranted at this time*

b. the Secretariat should continue to monitor this issue and submit a recommendation to Council if it is determined that additional measures are warranted in the future.

Agenda Item 07.

Work Program for GEF Trust Fund

13. Document GEF/C.61/06, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, outlines important aspects of the proposed Work Program, including programming trends in the GEF resources relative to focal area strategies and objectives, distribution by regions and GEF Agencies, and highlights of innovative elements inherent in the programs and projects. The Council is requested to review and approve the Work Program for the total resources requested.
14. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.61/06, Work Program for GEF Trust Fund, approves the Work Program comprising 25 projects and 1 program, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 7, 2022.*

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$190.7 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), Program Framework Documents (PFDs), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity: [See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

With respect to the PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the final child project documents fully incorporating and addressing the Council's and STAP reviews shall be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.

In light of the recent audit report by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) of UNDP GEF Management, all projects included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP shall be circulated by email for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval. This shall take place as actions of the Management Action Plan that address the OAI recommendations are being implemented, and as the independent, risk-based third-party review of compliance by UNDP with the GEF Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards is being completed. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the external audit and the UNDP management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to the Council during the 4-week review period.

Agenda Item 08.

Report of the Chairperson of the STAP

15. The Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will be invited to make a statement to the Council on the work of the Panel. A written report of the Chairperson can be found in document GEF/STAP/C.61/Inf.01, Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel. An opportunity will be provided for Council Members to comment on the report, address questions to the Chairperson, and provide guidance to the Panel, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 09.

Working Toward A Greener Global Recovery - Executive Summary of OPS7

16. Document GEF/E/C.61/01, *Working Toward A Greener Global Recovery - Executive Summary of OPS7*, provides solid evaluative evidence drawn from 34 separate evaluations conducted since OPS6 to inform the negotiations for the eighth replenishment of the GEF. It also draws on the terminal evaluation reviews of 1,806 completed GEF projects and covers the entire GEF portfolio of 4,786 approved projects from the pilot phase through June 15, 2021. The OPS7 report is organized along three themes: what works in the GEF, how things work in the GEF, and why things work in the GEF.
17. A management response will be presented by the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 10.

Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

18. Consideration of this item will begin with a conversation with the Executive Secretaries of the MEAs that the GEF serves as financial mechanism.

19. Document GEF/C.61/07, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol).
20. Draft Decision: *The Council, having considered document GEF/C.61/07, Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions, welcomes the report and requests the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.*

Agenda Item 11.

Assessment of the pilot on adjusted co-chairing arrangements

21. Document GEF/C.61/09, *Assessment of the pilot on adjusted co-chairing arrangements*, presents to Council the background on the one-year pilot on co-chairing arrangements. It also recalls the role of the Working Group on Governance and a list of elected chairs since 1994.
22. Draft Decision: *The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.61/09, recalls its decisions 22/2020 and 23/2020 and requests the Working Group on Governance to submit its assessment of the pilot co-chairing arrangement and options for the future, and recommendations as may be necessary, as requested in these decisions, at its 62nd meeting.*

Agenda Item 12.

Note on the organization of the Seventh GEF Assembly

23. Document GEF/C.61/09, *Note on the organization of the Seventh GEF Assembly*, presents Council with an update on the organization of the GEF 7th Assembly. It explains the basis for Council to approve a Special Initiative that will authorize the Secretariat to incur expenses that will arise as soon as specific arrangements for the Assembly can begin.
24. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed the Note on the Organization of the Seventh GEF Assembly (GEF/C.61/09), approves \$1.7 million for the Special Initiative to fund the Organization of the Seventh Assembly.*

Agenda Item 13.

Report of the Selection and Review Committee (Executive Session)

25. The Selection and Review Committee will present its report to the Council for consideration and appropriate decision.

Agenda Item 14.

Other Business

26. Members and the Chairs may raise any other business under this agenda item.

Agenda Item 15.

Joint Summary of the Co-Chairs

27. The CEO/Chairperson will present a summary of the decisions approved during the meeting.

Agenda Item 16.

Celebration: GEF 30th Anniversary

28. A video prepared by the Communications team will be presented. This will be followed by statements from Council Members that so request.