



# Global Environment Facility

## Summary of Document GEF/C.27/3

### Note on the Organization of the Third GEF Assembly

#### Recommended Council Decision

The Council expresses its sincere appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of South Africa to host the Third GEF Assembly and agrees that the Assembly and associated meetings will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from August 27 - September 1, 2006.

The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to work with the Government of South Africa to make the necessary preparations for the organization of the Assembly. The Council recognizes that the Secretariat will include in its proposal for the FY07 corporate budget to be considered by the Council in June 2006 a proposed budget for the Assembly to be included in the budget as a special initiative.

The Council requests the Secretariat to circulate for Council approval by mail the provisional agenda for the Assembly, taking into account comments made at the Council meeting.

#### TIMING AND LOCATION OF THE ASSEMBLY

1. The GEF Assembly is held every three to four years, after the completion of replenishment negotiations for the GEF Trust Fund. The Government of South Africa has indicated an interest in hosting the meeting. Subsequent discussions between the GEF Secretariat and the Government of South Africa identified Cape Town as a suitable venue for the Assembly, to be held from August 27 to September 1, 2006.

2. Hosting the GEF Assembly in South Africa is important for the following reasons:

- (a) To raise awareness of global environment issues in Africa
- (b) To showcase South Africa's efforts to preserve its environment
- (c) To increase involvement by NGOs and other participants from the region
- (d) To illustrate GEF's commitment to Africa
- (e) So that GEF member governments might visit GEF projects in the area

Holding the Assembly in a developing country presents an opportunity to enhance the GEF's outreach to recipient countries and to underscore the GEF's importance to them.

3. The Government of South Africa is politically committed and willing to finance a portion of the costs involved in hosting the Assembly, and every effort will be made to ensure that it is organized as cost-effectively as possible. With this goal in mind, host Government costs have been estimated at approximately \$US 1.15 million, of which the Government of South Africa will be able to contribute approximately US\$ 600,000 in cash and in-kind contributions. Other donors are thus invited by the Secretariat to contribute to defraying the remaining costs.

#### **ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE AND STRUCTURE**

4. The Assembly will be preceded by and NGO consultation on August 27, 2006, and a Council meeting on August 28, 2006, where the documentation prepared for the Assembly will be reviewed, and any additional recommendations and proposals to be presented to the Assembly will be agreed upon. Field trips to visit GEF projects will be organized for September 1. The Assembly itself will combine plenary meetings, constituency meetings, workshops, panel presentations, exhibitions, and smaller information discussions.

6. Each delegation will be invited to submit to the Secretariat, for circulation to all delegations, a written statement of its views on the items on the agenda. Ministers and other heads of delegations will be invited to make 5-minute oral presentations of their country's views on August 29, 2005. Heads of delegation will meet for a roundtable the morning of August 31.

7. The Chair and two Vice-Chairs, each elected by the Assembly, will prepare for endorsement by the Assembly a statement of its conclusions, to be based on the views expressed by the delegations in their statements. These conclusions will take into account the recommendations of the Council on the future development of the GEF and other studies reviewed at the Assembly meeting.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. It is proposed that the Council agree that any shortfall in funding for the Assembly that may occur if bilateral donors do not make contributions to meet the shortfall of the host government costs be covered by an increased contribution to the GEF Trust Fund.

9. A provisional agenda for the third Assembly is annexed to document GEF/C.27.3, which the Council is invited to comment on with a view to approving a revised agenda by mail before the end of 2005.

10. The FY07 budget for costs to be assumed by the GEF for the Assembly is estimated at US\$ 2,163,970. These estimates will be kept under review during the FY06 preparations, and a proposed budget will be submitted for final Council approval at its meeting in June 2006.