



May 26, 2010

**Chair's Summary of the Fourth GEF Assembly  
Punta del Este, Uruguay  
May 25-26, 2010**

*Agenda Item 1. Opening Ceremony*

*a) Welcoming Address by the Host Government*

1. H.E. Danilo Astori, Acting President of the Republic of Uruguay, the host Government for the Assembly, provided the welcoming address to open the meeting.

*b) Behind the Numbers*

2. On behalf of the GEF Secretariat, the CEO presented a film, “*Behind the Numbers*,” to showcase the GEF projects and capture highlights of two decades of work of the GEF partnership.

*Agenda Item 2. Election of the Chair*

3. The Assembly elected H. E. Sra. Graciela Muslera, Minister of Housing, Land Management and Environment for the Republic of Uruguay, as its Chair.

*Agenda Item 3. Election of the Vice-Chairs*

4. The Assembly elected Dr. Bruno Oberle, Secretary of State and Director of the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment, Switzerland, and H.E. Abdul Rahman Al-Eryani, Minister, Ministry of Water and Environment, Yemen, as its Vice-Chairs.

*Agenda Item 4. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work*

5. The Assembly approved the provisional agenda circulated as document GEF/A.4/1/Rev.1. The Assembly approved the organization of work proposed in the Provisional Annotated Agenda, GEF/A.4/2.

*Agenda Item 5. Statement by the CEO/Chairperson of the GEF*

6. The CEO/Chairperson of the GEF addressed the plenary with a summary of the achievements of the CEO's 5-point Sustainability Compact of GEF-4, focusing on strategy, innovation, equity, transparency, and efficiency. Furthermore, she noted that efforts have been continued to streamline the project cycle, to implement the results-based management system, to improve the resource allocation system through the introduction of a System for the Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), to develop closer working relationships with the conventions, to strengthen the partnership with stakeholders,

and to institute rapid reforms in all areas of the GEF operations aimed at achieving a more efficient and effective institution. She expressed appreciation for the trust and commitment of the donors as evinced through the unprecedented replenishment for GEF-5 and committed to an early implementation of the GEF-5 policy changes and programming, focusing on three priorities – improving efficiency, being more responsive to convention guidance, and strengthening country ownership

*Agenda Item 6                      Statements by the Heads of the GEF Agencies*

7.        The Assembly heard statements by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Mrs. Rebeca Gynspan, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen, Director of Sustainable Development for the Africa Region, World Bank, and Ms. Wendy Watson-Wright, Assistant Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

*Agenda Item 7.                      Statements by the Heads of the Convention Secretariats*

8.        The Assembly heard statements by Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Dr. Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

*Agenda Item 8                      Statements on Behalf of GEF Constituencies*

9.        The Assembly heard statements from representatives of the GEF Constituencies as well as ministers other than those speaking on behalf of a constituency.

10.      In delivering the statement representing its constituencies, the representative from the constituency of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, informed the Assembly of the interest of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in hosting the next GEF Assembly.

Highlights of the statements are noted below.

*GEF-5 Replenishment*

11.      Participants welcomed the generous GEF 5 replenishment and the recommended policy changes addressing the incremental costs of achieving global environmental benefits. The dynamic leadership of the GEF CEO in this context was appreciated widely.

12.      Participants expressed deep and broad support for all the GEF focal areas, and many noted specific opportunities for the GEF to address particular environmental concerns in their countries and regions. Many countries underscored that global environmental challenges are enormous and outstrip the resources available under GEF-5.

*Country Ownership*

13.      Participants applauded GEF steps towards greater country ownership. Participants noted the importance of country involvement in GEF programming, equitable provision of access to GEF resources, linking GEF programming with national development priorities and building of national capacity for all

countries to effectively participate in the GEF. There was broad support for direct access to GEF resources.

#### *GEF Effectiveness and Efficiency*

14. Many countries recognized the GEF's catalytic role in developing and implementing innovative environmental projects. Many statements encouraged the GEF to accelerate the streamlining of the project cycle, while noting the progress that has been made. The value of a robust results-based management system at the GEF was underscored. Participants reaffirmed the value of the Small Grants Program and encouraged enhanced engagement with the private sector.

#### *The GEF Partnership*

15. Some Participants welcome the expansion of the GEF network; however, network expansion should add value and efficiency. The importance of synergies among the GEF Agencies was emphasized. Participants amplified support for the GEF's role as a financial mechanism of the conventions. Many statements noted the importance of the involvement of civil society in GEF activities. Participants welcomed current and future South-South cooperation and exchange of experiences.

#### *Special Statement by the Host Government*

16. H.E. the President of the Republic of Uruguay, Jose Mujica, delivered a special address to the plenary. He underscored the importance of sustainability of our planet, which he recognized as a common but differentiated responsibility. No one can solve these environment challenges alone. It is, therefore, crucial to educate everyone on this mandate of humankind and to link this to respect for the environment. He also expressed gratitude for the role of science, and on what research has brought to light on the secrets of nature and its crucial task to explore the unknown. He repeated the concern about the many things that need to be done to reach the objective of having sustainable resources and the importance of everyone working together.

#### *Agenda Item 9 Statement by a Representative of the Civil Society Organizations*

17. The Assembly heard a statement by a representative of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) on behalf of the CSO community.

#### *Agenda Item 10 High Level Roundtables*

18. Ministers and other Heads of Delegation participated in six roundtable discussions with the following two themes: (i) *Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the GEF* and (ii) *Enhancing Country Ownership*. Four roundtables were conducted in English and one roundtable each in French and Spanish.

#### *Round Table 1(French) Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the GEF and Enhancing Country Ownership*

Moderator Ms. Laure Noualhat, Liberation

Speaker	Mr. Salifou Sawadogo, Minister of Environment et du cadre de vie, Burkina Faso
Speaker	Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD
<i>Round Table 2(English)</i>	<i>Enhancing Country Ownership</i>
Moderator	Mr. Tetsuji Ida, Kyodo News
Speaker	Ms. Beth Urbanas, GEF Council Member, USA
Speaker	Mr. Faumuina Tiatia Liuga, Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology, Samoa
Speaker	Mr. Kande K. Yumkella, Director General, UNIDO
<i>Round Table 3(English)</i>	<i>Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the GEF</i>
Moderator	Ms. Joydeep Gupta, Internews Network
Speaker	Ms. Deborah Fulton, Head of Delegation/GEF Council Member, Australia
Speaker	Mr. Yannick Glemarec, GEF Executive Coordinator, UNDP
<i>Round Table 4(English)</i>	<i>Enhancing Country Ownership</i>
Moderator	Ms. Luci Liuyi, Phoenix TV
Speaker	Ms. Lea Kai, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon
Speaker	Ambassador Lebohang Nts'inyi, Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture, Kingdom of Lesotho
Speaker	Dr. Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
<i>Round Table 5(English)</i>	<i>Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the GEF</i>
Moderator	Ms. Lisa Friedman, Climate Wire
Speaker	Mr. Bhuvan Karki, Under Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Nepal
Speaker	Ms. Siv Tokle, Sr. Operations Officer, World Bank
<i>Round Table 6(Spanish)</i>	<i>Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the GEF and Enhancing Country Ownership</i>

Modertor	Mr. Juan Sader Hernandez, Radio Sarandi
Moderator	Mr. Joaquin Costanzo, Interpress News Service
Speaker	Ms. Graciela Muslera, Minister of Housing, Land Planning and Environment, Uruguay
Speaker	Mr. Hector Mallarin, Inter-American Development Bank

*Agenda Item 11            Report on GEF Membership*

19. There was no consensus on the inclusion of Kosovo as a Participant of the GEF in document GEF/A.4/5/Rev.2, *Report on GEF Membership*. The delegations of Serbia, the Russian Federation, Cuba, Chile, Algeria, Romania, China, Egypt, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Indonesia opposed the inclusion of Kosovo as a Participant of the GEF. The views of some of these Participants are appended to this Chair's Summary.

*Agenda Item 12            Report on Credentials*

20. The Bureau presented its report on credentials to the plenary.

*Agenda Item 13            Report on the GEF Trust Fund*

21. The Assembly took note of the Trustee Report, *GEF-4 Funding Retrospective* (GEF/A.4/6).

*Agenda Item 14            Report on the Fifth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund*

22. The Assembly took note of the *Summary of Negotiations of the Fifth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund* (GEF/ A.4/7).

*Agenda Item 15            Proposed Amendments to the Instrument*

23. The Assembly reviewed two separate amendments to the Instrument proposed by the Council (document GEF/A.4/9). The Assembly approved the first proposed amendment to paragraph 21 of the Instrument concerning the GEF CEO Appointment and Term, i.e., "The CEO shall be appointed to serve for four years on a full time basis by the Council. The CEO may be reappointed by the Council for one additional four year term."

24. The Assembly also approved the second proposed amendment to paragraph 6 of the Instrument and agreed that a new sub-paragraph (b) be inserted in paragraph 6 and that the present paragraph 6 be re-numbered as 6(a) with the new paragraph 6 (b) to read as follows: "The GEF shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD), pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2(b), and article 21 of the Convention. The Council shall consider and approve arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD and among countries with respect to affected countries, particularly Africa".

*Agenda Item 16            Statement by the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel*

25. The Assembly welcomed the STAP report on the work it carried out during GEF-4 which was included in the report presented to the Assembly, *Report of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to*

*the Fourth GEF Assembly, (GEF/A.4/3). Some countries objected to inclusion of the Copenhagen Accord in this document.*

*Agenda Item 17                      Statement by the GEF Office of Evaluation*

26.        The Assembly welcomed the document, *Fourth Overall Performance Study of the GEF (OPS4)* (GEF/A.4/4) and noted the findings and recommendations of OPS4 and other evaluation reports prepared during GEF-4 and requested the Council, on the basis of reports prepared by the GEF Evaluation Office, to keep under review the continuing evolution of GEF operations.

*Agenda item 18.                      Summary of the High-Level Roundtable Discussions*

27.        The Vice-Chair of the Assembly presented a summary of the roundtable discussions in the plenary as presented in GEF/A.4/CRP.1/Rev.1.

*Agenda Item19                      Presentation of the Chair's Summary*

28.        The Chair, after consultation with the Bureau, presented her summary to the plenary meeting of the Assembly.

29.        In presenting the summary, the Chair noted the varied associated meetings and side events that had been organized in conjunction with the Assembly and confirmed that the results of those meetings submitted to the Secretariat will be posted on the GEF website as part of the record of the Assembly and associated meetings.

*Agenda Item 20                      Closing of the Assembly*

30.        The CEO and Chairperson of the Facility and the Chair of the Assembly made closing remarks to the Assembly. Per requests from speakers at the Assembly, some written statements provided to the Assembly are posted on the Assembly website, [www.theGEF.org/Assembly](http://www.theGEF.org/Assembly).

*Tribute to the Government of the Republic of Uruguay*

31.        The Assembly expressed its deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Uruguay for hosting the Assembly and for their generosity, hospitality and arrangements extended to all Participants.

## **Appendix 1: Decision of the Assembly**

*The Fourth GEF Assembly,*

*Recalling* paragraph 34 of the *Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility,*

*Having considered* the recommendations of the GEF Council for proposed amendments to the Instrument,

1. Approves by consensus the following amendment to the Instrument:

The Assembly reviewed two separate amendments to the Instrument proposed by the Council (document GEF/A.4/9). The Assembly approved the first proposed amendment to paragraph 21 of the Instrument concerning the GEF CEO Appointment and Term, i.e., “The CEO shall be appointed to serve for four years on a full time basis by the Council. The CEO may be reappointed by the Council for one additional four year term.”

The Assembly also approved the second proposed amendment to paragraph 6 of the Instrument and agreed that a new sub-paragraph (b) be inserted in paragraph 6 and that the present paragraph 6 be re-numbered as 6(a) with the new paragraph 6 (b) reads as follows: “The GEF shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD), pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2(b), and article 21 of the Convention. The Council shall consider and approve arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD and among countries with respect to affected countries, particularly Africa”.

2. Invites the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to submit this amendment to the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee and to request that they adopt the amendment in accordance with their respective rules and procedural requirements
3. Invites the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to inform all Participants of the effectiveness of the amendment once the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee have approved it.

## **Appendix 2: Statements on Agenda Item 11**

This Appendix includes the views of countries that had provided written statements to the Secretariat regarding agenda item 11, *Report on GEF Membership*.



## **Statement by the Delegation of Serbia**

### **DECLARATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA with respect to the purported participation of the so-called "Republic of Kosovo" in the Global Environment Facility - GEF**

The Republic of Serbia declares that the act of notification of participation in the Global Environment Facility by the representatives of the so-called "Republic of Kosovo" is in violation of international law and in particular United Nations Security Council resolution 1244. Consequently, it is null and void and without any legal effect.

The Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija is part of the Republic of Serbia currently under United Nations administration pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

## **Statement by the Delegation of Cuba**

# **MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA Y MEDIO AMBIENTE**



## **Dirección de Colaboración Internacional**

**Intervenciones del Jefe de la Delegación Cubana asociado al tema 11 de la agenda de la Asamblea (Informe de la Composición del GEF-documento GEF/A.4/5/Rev.2).**

- Cuba apoya la declaración del representante de Serbia. Nuestro país se opone a que una provincia de Serbia, sea incorporada al listado de países miembros del GEF y que se le conceda tratamiento de Estado. Ello contraviene el Derecho Internacional, en particular la Resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas. Según procedimiento vigente este tipo de acción es ilegal, por tanto solicitamos que Kosovo sea retirado del listado.
- De igual forma consideramos que este tipo de procedimiento contraviene lo establecido en el artículo 7 del Instrumento Constitutivo del GEF y al propio Reglamento de la Asamblea en el que se faculta sólo a los Estados a depositar un instrumento de participación y obtener el status de participante.

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## **Statement by the Delegation of Algeria**

"L'Algérie partage les préoccupations et les questionnements légitimement exprimées par la Serbie, ainsi que des pays comme le Brésil et notamment la lecture qu'on voudrait faire de l'article 7 de l'Instrument relatif aux conditions d'éligibilité pour faire partie du FEM. IL est clair à cet égard que seul un ÉTAT au sens des Nations Unies peut postuler et intégrer le Fonds. Une simple adhésion à une institution de Brenton Woods, pourrait-elle suffire et être au dessus des décisions du Conseil de Sécurité et critères des Nations Unies? Aussi il serait plus indiqué de ne pas inscrire cette proposition dans les discussions et projets de décisions de notre présente Assemblée Générale et éviter de créer un grave précédent au sein du FEM. Nous estimons qu'il serait plus approprié d'avoir un avis officiel des services juridiques compétents des Nations Unies sur la définition juridique internationale en vigueur d'un "ETAT". Nous appuyons, de ce fait, la position exprimée par la Serbie et les autres pays qui nous ont précédé dans les débats".

### **Statement by the Delegation of Romania**

“Romania takes note of Kosovo’s membership in the Global Environment Facility, but it reiterates that Romania did not recognize the “Republic of Kosovo” as a State. The admission of the “Republic of Kosovo” to the Global Environmental Facility, alongside Romania, is without prejudice to our position vis-à-vis the status of Kosovo and does not presume in anyway the recognition by Romania of the statehood of the “Republic of Kosovo”.

## **Statement by the Delegation of Argentina**

“1. La Republica Argentina se opone a la incorporacion de Kosovo como participante del FMAM.

La República Argentina avala la plena vigencia de la Resolución 1244 del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas, la cual votó a favor en 1999 cuando era miembro no permanente de dicho órgano, por lo que no reconoce la declaración unilateral de independencia por parte del Parlamento de Kosovo del 17 de febrero de 2008.

La Resolución 1244 contiene elementos a los que la Argentina adhiere de manera irrestricta, en particular el principio de integridad territorial y la solución de controversias mediante un acuerdo negociado y mutuamente aceptado por las partes involucradas.

En tal sentido, la República Argentina afirma la importancia del respeto de los principios de soberanía e integridad territorial de la República de Serbia como base para encaminar una solución política en la región, de acuerdo con lo prescripto por la citada Resolución del Consejo de Seguridad y señala que un arreglo sustentable para Kosovo debe ser el resultado de un acuerdo negociado y mutuamente aceptado por las partes involucradas.

2. En este sentido, en el marco de la solicitud de opinión consultiva presentada por la Asamblea General de la ONU ante la Corte Internacional de Justicia (resolución 63/3) el 8 de octubre de 2008 sobre la conformidad con el derecho internacional de la declaración unilateral de independencia de las instituciones provisionales de la administración autónoma de Kosovo, la Argentina realizó dos presentaciones escritas, los días 17 de abril y 17 de julio de 2009, y una presentación oral el 2 de diciembre de 2009, en las que se pronunció en el sentido de considerar tal declaración no conforme con el derecho internacional”.

### **Statement by the Delegation of Brazil**

“Brazil supports the territorial integrity of Serbia. It is the position of Brazil that Kosovo, not being a State member of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies, does not fulfill the conditions for participation in the GEF, as defined in paragraph 7 of the “Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environmental Facility”.

Brazil emphasizes that the Assembly, under paragraph 14 (c) of the Instrument, has the responsibility of keeping under review the membership of the Facility. Lack of consensus in the Assembly, therefore, does not allow for the proposed participation of Kosovo.

Brazil recalls that the status of Kosovo is a political issue under consideration of the United Nations Security Council. The GEF should not take a position on the issue before this consideration is completed. Brazil also recalls that the legality of Kosovo’s declaration of independence is being analyzed by the International Court of Justice”.

### **Statement by the Delegation of Indonesia**

“We would like to reiterate that the Government of Indonesia has not recognized the independence of Kosovo and as such it is difficult for us to accept Kosovo as a member of the GEF.

We are aware that Kosovo has been accepted as a member of IBRD, IDA and the IFC, which are parts of the UN Specialized Agency. If Article 7 of the Instrument - through the legal opinion of the World Bank legal advisors and the UN legal advisors - may allow for the participation of Kosovo, we would like to emphasize that the participation of Kosovo should not be seen as endorsement by the Facility of the political independence status of Kosovo”.