

## **Statement of the Czech Republic**

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The Czech Republic is pleased to participate at the Fourth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility. I take this opportunity to express a highest appreciation to the GEF Secretariat and Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay for the hosting of the Fourth GEF Assembly.

The Czech Republic has been an active member of the GEF since its inception and from 2005 it became a new reliable and predictable donor. The Czech Republic is a respected Party to the major multilateral environmental agreements, in particular to those to which the GEF serves as financial mechanism. The contribution of the Czech Republic constantly provided to the GEF replenishments is 4 million SDR. The amount is not huge; nevertheless it still exceeds four times the contribution level assigned to the Czech Republic by tenth replenishment of resources to the International Development Association and is provided through expedited payment one-shot cash contribution. The Czech Republic is satisfied with the level of proposed GEF fifth replenishment that is reflecting not only the highest priorities of promoting sustainable development and of the environment protection but also a positive attitude of individual donor countries to solving of major global, regional and national environmental issues.

The Czech Republic thereby represents its priority in global environmental issues and welcomes the design of the GEF-5 to which implementation wishes to contribute. The Czech Republic fully acknowledges the policy recommendations for the GEF-5 replenishment to the GEF Trust Fund, which set forth basic themes in this replenishment reform. It is the enhancement of country ownership and improvement of effectiveness and efficiency. The Czech Republic agrees with the proposed division of resources, reflecting the countries' preferences to support solution of global environmental issues, especially in these areas: climate change, biological diversity, land degradation, international waters, ozone depletion, persistent organic pollutants and focusing on sustainable forest management cross-cutting area too.

The Czech Republic considers as very crucial step forward the GEF decision to establish a separate window for chemicals to react positively to several important international processes. Such a window could tackle matters covered by many instruments and create a synergetic approach to sound chemicals management as, e.g. WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the UNEP and of the Conferences of the Parties to the relevant agreements decision call for it. There are already discussions on chemicals underway within the current cycle of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development that will culminate by the political decisions in May 2011.

The Czech Republic, taking into account the current economic, financial, social and environmental situations of the world with its limits and challenges, supports application of integrated approach with using maximum possibilities of efficient multiple affect of allocated resources – result based approach.

The preparation process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 with two major themes: “A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” and “Institutional framework for sustainable development” offers an unique opportunity for the GEF to prove that is an efficient global instrument in environmental pillar of sustainable development that can operate in synergy with other financial institutions operating in other two pillars. This integrated approach is unambiguously one of key elements to a safer world and could be regarded as a possible pathway to promotion of economic growth.

The Czech Republic is fully aware of the importance to deal with environmental issues and as a developed country we will seek the best way to scale up the financial assistance. The Czech Republic, as a Party to more than 40 regional and global multilateral agreements to protect the environment and promote sustainable development, is doing its best to assist to their implementation in developing countries and in the countries with economies in transition to prove its commitment to the principle of common but differentiated responsibility for the state of global environment.

The Czech Republic, member of the UN, OECD and of the European Union, is reliable contributor to the mandatory as well as voluntary funds and initiatives operating under the individual MEAs and international sustainable development and environmental multilateral organizations (more than 5 million US Dollars annually).

The Czech Republic through its official development assistance (ODA) program fully supports the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) where Goal 7: “To Ensure Environmental Sustainability” closely interlinked with other goals represents a huge challenge for international community as well as for national governments and all stakeholders.

The Czech ODA recognizes as its crosscutting priority environment protection and climate change. Just in these days the Government of the Czech Republic after months of internal consultation among governmental institutions, discussion with major stakeholders (civil organizations, business community, academia etc.) and reflecting the interest and ownership of affected developing countries and countries with economies in transition adopted new Concept Paper of the Czech Development Cooperation for the period 2010 – 2017.

The Czech Republic, new EU member state, OECD member but not yet of the OECD DAC, is committed to the MDGs, to the Paris and Accra agenda and is willing gradually to increase the volume of its ODA. The Czech ODA represented 0.12 % GNI in 2009 with volume of almost 240 million USD. The share of sustainable development and environmental related development projects was almost 90 % of the overall development projects budget.

The Czech Republic is convinced that international environmental community should increase its efforts to fulfill Millennium Development Goals until 2015. The GEF is a very appropriate tool for contributing to this plan. That is what the GEF stands for. That is the reason the Czech Republic entirely encourages its overall activities. In the course of last years, the global environment has deteriorated significantly by desertification, land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, if mention only some them. The bio-capacity of the Earth ecosystems is under real danger that could have negative impact on development, poverty eradication efforts, economic growth as well as on social equity, peace and security.