



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.53/12  
November 2, 2017

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53<sup>rd</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
November 28 – 30, 2017  
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 15

**RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.53/12, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document 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 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

Highlights reported include:

- (a) CBD: Updates on the engagement with the CBD on the GEF replenishment; on ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports.
- (b) UNFCCC: Updates on the engagement with the UNFCCC on the GEF replenishment; on the GEF Secretariat's participation in other UNFCCC meetings and events; on ratification and progress on National Communications and Biennial Update Reports; and an annex with GEF's responses to 22<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions and SBI 45 and 46 Conclusions.
- (c) UNCCD: Summary of outcomes of the UNCCD COP 13 in Ordos, China including updates on the amended Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the GEF Council and on the GEF Secretariat's participation in COP 13.
- (d) Stockholm Convention and Montreal Protocol: Updates on COP 13 to the Basel Convention, COP 8 to the Rotterdam Convention and COP 8 to the Stockholm Convention; on ratifications, national reporting, and on related meetings and events for the Stockholm Convention and the Montreal Protocol.
- (e) Minamata Convention: Updates on the first COP to the Minamata Convention; follow-up action resulting from the seventh Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC 7) and support provided by the GEF in support of Minamata enabling activities.
- (f) International Waters: Updates on the multi-state cooperation framework; the first UN Ocean Conference; on the Budapest Water Summit; on the Our Oceans Conference; on the UNECE Water Convention; on the World Water Week 2017; and on collaboration with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- (g) GEF Secretariat engagements with the Convention secretariats in the GEF 7 replenishment process and activities to facilitate synergies in implementing MEAs towards sustainable development.

- (h) A summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions, the Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Green Climate Fund.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The report also provides an update on the engagement of the Convention secretariats in the GEF 7 replenishment process, and information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The document covers the period of April to October 2017. This report also includes information on activities relating to the International Waters focal area that have taken place since the 51<sup>st</sup> GEF Council, covering the period from October 2016 to October 2017.

## **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

2. Consultations for the GEF 7 replenishment continued during this reporting period with engagement of the CBD Secretariat. The GEF Secretariat maintained an ongoing dialogue with the CBD Secretariat about the GEF 7 Programming Directions document, and in particular the biodiversity focal area strategy, and how both respond to the Four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period of 2018 to 2022, agreed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to CBD, held in December 2016,.

3. Regarding the GEF 7 replenishment process, the GEF Secretariat engaged in consultations with the CBD Secretariat to reflect CBD priorities and COP guidance in the proposed GEF programming directions and policy as follows:

- (a) The GEF Secretariat shared an advanced draft of the proposed GEF 7 Programming Directions with the CBD Secretariat over the summer period and received feedback from the CBD Secretariat during an informal discussion on the replenishment among the GEF Secretariat and Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) secretariats on August 28, 2017.
- (b) The CBD Secretariat personnel took part in the second GEF 7 replenishment meeting, held on October 3-5, 2017, and associated bilateral discussion at the margins of the meeting.

## **Ratifications and Accessions**

4. The number of Parties under the CBD remains unchanged at 196 since the last Council meeting. Detailed information can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>.

5. The number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety increased to 171, thanks to the addition of Kuwait. The list of signatories and ratifications may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=1>.

6. The total number of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession have increased to 104, since the last Council meeting, for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including new ratifications received from Japan, Kuwait, Portugal, Republic of Korea, as well as Chad, Ecuador, Lebanon, Zimbabwe. The list of signatories and ratifications for the Nagoya Protocol may be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml#tab=2>.

7. Three additional ratifications have been received since the last Council meeting, including Cuba, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Detailed information may be found at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/#tab=1>. In accordance with Article 18, the Protocol will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the 40th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The 40th instrument of accession was received from the Democratic Republic of the Congo on October 4, 2017.

### **National Reporting**

8. Since the last Council meeting, the CBD Secretariat has received five new national reports from Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Tuvalu, Central African Republic, and Marshall Islands, making a total of 188 fifth national reports received as of October 24, 2017. The list of submissions received can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/>.

### **UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **Update Summary**

9. The GEF report to the 23<sup>th</sup> UNFCCC COP, approved by the GEF Council through decision by mail, was submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat on August 3, 2017.<sup>1</sup> The report summarizes support provided to countries through the GEF Trust Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), as well as the Trust Fund for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). The report contains guidance to the GEF received from the COP and GEF responses, also summarized in the annex to this document.

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<sup>1</sup> The report is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/report-gef-23rd-session-cop-unfccc>

10. Regarding the GEF 7 replenishment process, the GEF Secretariat engaged in consultations with the UNFCCC Secretariat to reflect climate change priorities and COP guidance in the proposed GEF programming directions and policy as follows:

- (a) The GEF Secretariat shared an advanced draft of the proposed GEF 7 Programming Directions with the UNFCCC Secretariat over the summer period and received feedback from the UNFCCC Secretariat during an informal discussion on the replenishment among the GEF Secretariat and MEA secretariats on August 28, 2017.
- (b) The UNFCCC Secretariat personnel took part in the second GEF 7 replenishment meeting, held on October 3-5, 2017, and associated bilateral discussion at the margins of the meeting.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

11. As of October 25, 2017, there are 197 Parties to the Convention. On November 4, 2016 the Paris Agreement entered into force. By October 25, 2017, 195 Parties have signed and 169 Parties ratified the agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at: [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9444.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9444.php).

### **National Reporting and Contributions**

12. The following is the total number of national communications submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of October 25, 2017:

- (a) Initial national communications: **151**
- (b) Second national communications: **130**
- (c) Third national communications: **41**
- (d) Fourth national communications: **2**
- (e) Fifth national communications: **1**

13. Full details of reports submitted are available on the UNFCCC website at: [http://unfccc.int/national\\_reports/non-annex\\_i\\_natcom/submitted\\_natcom/items/653.php](http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/653.php).

14. A total of 38 first Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and nine second BURs from non-Annex I countries has been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as of October 25, 2017. Full details are available at: [http://unfccc.int/national\\_reports/non-annex\\_i\\_natcom/reporting\\_on\\_climate\\_change/items/8722.php](http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/reporting_on_climate_change/items/8722.php).

## **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

15. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat has engaged closely with the UNFCCC Secretariat in the GEF 7 replenishment process.

16. The GEF Secretariat also arranged for a representative of the Secretariat of the GCF to observe the second GEF 7 replenishment meeting held on October 3-5, 2017. This was in response to a request from the GCF Secretariat, to help facilitate the preparations for the GCF replenishment process in the future.

17. The GEF Secretariat also participated in the following meetings and provided updates on GEF programming, responses to COP guidance, review of the Financial Mechanism, thematic programming, and capacity building among other topics:

- (a) Forty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 46), the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 46), and the third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-3) on May 8-18, 2017 in Bonn, Germany;
- (b) Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) Asia regional training workshop on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) on June 13-16, 2017 in Manila, Philippines;
- (c) LEG regional training workshop on NAPs for the Pacific Region on July 10-13, 2017 in Nadi, Fiji;
- (d) GCF Structured Dialogue for the Pacific on July 18-21, 2017 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.
- (e) Thirty-second meeting of the LEG on August 8-10, 2017 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti;
- (f) Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) Forum on climate-resilient infrastructure on September 6-7, 2017 in Rabat, Morocco;
- (g) Sixteenth meeting of the SCF on September 18-21, 2017 in Bonn, Germany; and
- (h) LEG regional training workshop on NAPs for Francophone Africa on September 25-27, 2017 in Rabat, Morocco.

## **UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION**

### **Update Summary**

18. The thirteenth COP to the UNCCD convened in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China, from 6-16 September 2017. Approximately 1,200 participants gathered for the COP, which adopted 37 decisions, including on agenda items related to desertification, land degradation and drought, the target to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN), and how to align the UNCCD's goals and parties' action programmes with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

19. The UNCCD's two subsidiary bodies, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), also convened in parallel to the COP. The CST negotiated six decisions for COP consideration, including cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies, improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface, and promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. The CRIC also negotiated six decisions for COP consideration, regarding, *inter alia*: development and implementation of strategies through national action programmes to achieve the objectives of the Convention in light of target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention, collaboration with the Global Environment Facility<sup>2</sup>; and improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the COP. The specific decisions of relevance to the GEF and responses are summarized in the annex to this document.

20. In addition to adopting the CST and CRIC decisions, the COP deliberated on, and adopted key decisions on: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its implications for the UNCCD; the future strategic framework of the Convention<sup>3</sup>; effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional levels; and linking scientific knowledge with decision making. Through these decisions, the COP: endorsed the scientific conceptual framework for LDN and calls upon parties pursuing LDN to consider guidance from this framework; invites parties to identify case studies on LDN implementation to be included in a synthesis to COP 14; and requests the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface to use the synthesis to report on lessons learned and collaborate with other scientific bodies. The COP also adopted the "Amended Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility"<sup>4</sup>.

21. Furthermore, the Conference witnessed the launch of the first global private sector fund dedicated to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Known as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund), it aims to be a source of transformative capital bringing together public and private investors to fund projects to restore degraded lands, which come with environment, economic and social benefits. The GEF announced its support to the LDN Fund, through a medium-sized project (MSP) "support for the LDN Fund by providing resources for technical assistance and de-risking" and affirmed its commitment to continue working with partners to operationalize the LDN Fund.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www2.unccd.int/official-documents/cric16-l-documents/iccdcric16l4>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-09/copL-18.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-09/ICCD\\_COP%2813%29\\_L.11-1715994E.pdf](http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-09/ICCD_COP%2813%29_L.11-1715994E.pdf)

22. During the opening session of the high-level segment (HLS) on September 11-12, 2017, the GEF CEO delivered a statement<sup>5</sup> reiterating continued support to the Convention and implementation of the LDN framework.

23. The GEF Secretariat participated in HLS panels, organized a field trip for GEF Council members and partners with the Chinese Government, convened a GEF day in the Rio Conventions Pavilion with multiple workshops and dialogues, held two official side events, and participated in Contact Groups on GEF-relevant negotiations based on requests. Several bilaterals were held at the margins. The Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) also participated in two of GEF's events and field trip.

24. Within the context of the GEF 7 replenishment process, the GEF CEO and the UNCCD Executive Secretary held a bilateral to discuss how the GEF aims to address the UNCCD agenda. GEF and UNCCD staff continued to consult multiple times on the replenishment in order to reflect UNCCD priorities and LDN in the proposed GEF programming.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

25. As of October 25, 2017, the UNCCD was ratified or acceded by 196 countries. Canada has acceded the Convention on December 21, 2016 and therefore re-joined as Party on March 21, 2017.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

26. The GEF Secretariat had several consultations with the UNCCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism, and Mirova to envisage an immediate and longer term GEF support to the LDN Fund. These meetings took place in Washington, DC on June 13, 2017, in Paris on June 23, 2017, and in the margins of the UNCCD COP 13 in Ordos, in addition to a meeting with WWF as GEF Agency. Based on these consultations, the MSP to support the technical assistance facility of the LDN Fund was developed and announced at the COP.

## **STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

### **Update Summary**

27. The GEF Secretariat participated in the thirteenth meeting of COP to the Basel Convention (BC COP 13), the eighth COP to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP 8) and the eighth COP to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP 8) which were held back to back from April 24, 2017 to May 5, 2017. The meetings also featured a high-level segment held on the

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<sup>5</sup><http://www.thegef.org/documents/statement-gef-ceo-united-nations-conference-combat-desertification-thirteenth-session>

afternoon of Thursday, May 4, 2017, and the morning of Friday, May 5, 2017 at which the GEF CEO participated in the opening ceremony and subsequent discussions.

28. The COP has transmitted to the GEF its guidance on program priorities for the GEF 7 period, the needs assessment and the report of the Fourth Review of the Financial Mechanism as inputs into the GEF 7 replenishment negotiations. The specific guidance to the GEF and responses are summarized in the annex to this document.

29. The GEF Secretariat and the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Secretariat engaged in regular consultations to solicit perspectives of the Chemicals-related Conventions and to discuss ways to address COP guidance and emerging chemicals priorities in the GEF 7 replenishment process, as summarized further in the following section.

### **Ratifications and Accessions**

30. During the reporting period, no additional countries joined the Stockholm Convention. The total number of ratifications amounts to 181 as of October 2017. The status of ratifications can be retrieved from the Stockholm Convention website:

<http://chm.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/tabid/252/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

### **National Reporting**

31. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the date on which this Convention enters into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of October 2017, the status of submission of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and the NIP Updates are as follows:

| <b><i>NIP Phase</i></b>         | <b><i>Number of Parties that have submitted</i></b> |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Initial NIP                     | 165   |
| NIP Update for COP 4 amendments | 51  |
| NIP Update for COP 5 amendments | 45  |
| NIP Update for COP 6 amendments | 21  |
| NIP Update for COP 7 amendments | 8   |

32. The NIPs submitted online can be retrieved from the Stockholm Convention website: <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Overview/tabid/565/Default.aspx>.

## **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

33. GEF and Stockholm Convention staff engaged in various consultations for the GEF 7 replenishment reflect the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in future GEF programming, as summarized below:

34. The GEF CEO and the Executive Secretary held a bilateral dialogue on the margins of the 2017 COPs, to exchange views on the vision for GEF 7 and how the GEF 7 chemicals agenda and COP guidance may be addressed through cross-cutting and focused programs.

- (a) The GEF Secretariat shared an advanced draft of the proposed GEF 7 Programming Directions with the BRS Secretariat over the summer period and received feedback from the BRS Secretariat during an informal discussion on the replenishment among the GEF Secretariat and MEA secretariats on August 28, 2017.
- (b) The GEF Secretariat and the Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions and his team met on the margins of the first COP to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to discuss overall coordination, the GEF 7 programming directions that was presented at the 2nd GEF 7 replenishment meeting and preparations for the 53rd GEF Council meeting.
- (c) The CBD Secretariat personnel took part in the second GEF 7 replenishment meeting, held on October 3-5, 2017, and associated bilateral discussion at the margins of the meeting.

35. The SC COP 8 deliberated on several documents of relevance to the GEF 7 replenishment to develop guidance to the GEF, including the following:

- (a) Second Effectiveness Evaluation of the Convention;
- (b) Fourth Review of the Financial Mechanism and the assessment of funding needs for the period 2018 to 2022 for the implementation of the Convention;
- (c) Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and the GEF and elements of guidance of relevance from the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions.

36. The Effectiveness Evaluation concluded that while the Convention is reducing the original twelve POPs, there is danger of Parties not being able to meet the PCB reduction targets due to continued widespread use of PCB and the slow pace of phase out. The evaluation also concluded that action on legacy POPs needs to be increased. The report further showed an increase in the emission of unintentionally produced POPs. Various recommendations from the evaluation were considered as inputs to guidance provided to the GEF.

37. The assessment of funding needs for the period 2018 to 2022 concluded that US\$4,373,233,324 is required from the financial mechanism to meet the obligations of developing country Parties and Parties with Economies in Transition.

38. The Fourth Review of the Financial Mechanism provided several recommendations to strengthen the effectiveness of the mechanism including strengthening of the monitoring evaluation of the focal area.

## **MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY**

### **Update Summary**

39. In support of countries in ratifying the Minamata Convention, and to take early action the GEF has provided funding to 108 countries to conduct their Minamata Initial Assessments and funding to 31 countries to conduct their ASGM National Action Plan as at October 31, 2017 in accordance with the guidelines approved by the 45<sup>th</sup> GEF Council.<sup>6</sup>

40. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat engaged closely with the Minamata Convention ad Interim Secretariat for the GEF 7 replenishment negotiations and consultations and preparations for the First Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

41. The Minamata Convention entered force on August 16, 2017 and COP 1 was held in Geneva, Switzerland from September 24 to 29, 2017.

42. The COP also considered guidance to the GEF, which was agreed by the COP. The first guidance addresses overall strategies, policies, programme priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources, and includes an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support from the GEF. Guidance to the GEF and responses are summarized in the annex to this document.

43. The first COP had a mandate to agree on arrangements to give effect to the operative paragraphs that speak to the GEF's role in the Financial Mechanism. The COP was unable to agree on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of the GEF and the COP of the Minamata Convention that was considered by the 51<sup>st</sup> GEF Council. The COP has deferred the decision on the Memorandum of Understanding to COP 2, to be held in November 2018.

### **Signatures and Ratifications**

44. The Minamata Convention on Mercury was opened for signature and ratification in October 2013. As of October 12, 2017, the Convention has 128 signatures, and 83 countries have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the

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<sup>6</sup> GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01

Convention. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website: <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Countries/tabid/3428/Default.aspx>.

### **Additional Meetings and Consultations**

45. The GEF Secretariat engaged closely with the Minamata Convention and Interim Secretariat in the preparation for COP 1, and attended the regional preparatory meetings as follows:

- (a) Asia and the Pacific: July 5-7, 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand;
- (b) Africa: July 11-13, 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa; and
- (c) Latin America and the Caribbean: July 25-28, 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

46. The GEF Secretariat shared an advanced draft of the proposed GEF 7 Programming Directions with the Minamata and Interim Secretariat over the summer period and received feedback during an informal discussion on the replenishment among the GEF Secretariat and MEA secretariats on August 28, 2017.

### **MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

47. The GEF Secretariat did not participate in meetings of the Montreal Protocol during the reporting period.

### **SPECIAL PROGRAM**

48. The second round of applications for the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was launched on February 22, 2017 and closed on July 22, 2017.

49. As requested by the Executive Board, the GEF Secretariat has participated in the review of the submissions made to the Special Program.

### **INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

#### **Update on multi-state cooperation frameworks**

50. The GEF plays a pivotal role in catalyzing cooperation in international waters and supports countries to jointly manage their transboundary coastal and marine systems, as well as surface and groundwater basins, to enable the sharing of benefits from their utilization. The importance of continued attention to the transboundary water issues, was highlighted in the recently concluded Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme ([www.geftwap.org](http://www.geftwap.org)). The TWAP provided the first ever global-scale assessment of the five ecosystem types that is

covered by the GEF International Waters investments, namely aquifers, lakes, rivers, large marine ecosystems, and open oceans.

51. On the surface water resources side, increasing water stress underscores the importance of how we manage these critical resources to promote peaceful cooperation and sustainable development. To date, the GEF has financed work in 37 transboundary river basins, thereby increasing the number of river basins covered by agreements. Likewise, the GEF and its partners continue to call for countries to step-up action on improved governance and sustainable management of national and transboundary aquifers. To date, the GEF has financed work in more than eight transboundary aquifers, thereby advancing the management, and sound understanding, of this important resource. On the marine side, the GEF is supporting activities in 24 of the world's 66 Large Marine Ecosystems, and continues to engage in several projects on the Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

### **First UN Ocean Conference**

52. The GEF participated in the first UN Oceans Conference in New York. The conference drew more than 4,000 participants including close to 1000 non-government representatives and featured more than 150 side events. The Conference attracted high political and technical level interest globally, while directing needed attention to the Ocean SDG and its targets. Pollution (including marine litter), climate change and ocean acidification, sustainable fisheries, marine spatial planning, marine protected areas and Blue Economy were among the major themes throughout the conference.

### **Budapest Water Summit**

53. GEF participated in the Budapest Water Summit in Budapest. The summit was guided by the theme of "Water connects - Actions for the 2030 Agenda" and as such was of relevance to the GEF International Waters Focal Area. In follow up of the GEF "Global Groundwater Governance – A Framework for Action" project implemented by FAO in partnership and close cooperation with the World Bank, FAO, UNESCO, IAH, and the GEF a side event was held and GEF presented on Groundwater Governance – Governing the Invisible Commons and participated in discussion on the links between water security and fragility.

### **Our Ocean Conferences**

54. The GEF has participated in all Our Oceans Conferences held to date, latest in Malta. The conferences bring together political, business, financial and civil society leaders from around the world to commit to addressing the challenges facing oceans with emphasis on marine protected areas, climate, sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, security and blue economy. Participants have included President Obama of the United States, the Prince of Wales, Albert of Monaco, Leonardo di Caprio as well as numerous ministers and CEOs. Combined, the conferences have resulted in commitments of over \$16.3 billion and approximately 12 million km<sup>2</sup> of new marine protected areas among many other major announcements.

## **UNECE Water Convention**

55. The GEF have been working with the UNECE Water Convention on a number of subjects and task forces to ensure coordination with the Convention and its member states. Among others in the past year the GEF have engaged in discussions on the Water-Food-Energy and Ecosystems Security Nexus, Integrated Water Resource Management and SDG target indicators has been a focus of a series of initiatives and partners over the last years.

## **World Water Week 2017**

56. The GEF participated in the Stockholm Water Week, which focused on the value of water in under a theme of Water and Waste – Reduce and Reuse. Water is essential to life and underlies the achievement of a range – if not most – SDGs and as such the World Water Forum sessions and discussions addressed its value for poverty alleviation, links to fragility and migration, and opportunities for efficient use and reuse in a circular economy, as well as the need for integrated approaches to pollution abatement benefitting both surface and groundwater resources and marine waters. The GEF co-convened sessions on ‘water resources (in)security and conflict – exploring interlinkages’ and on ‘scaling-up wastewater treatment from source to sea’ as well as presented on a panel on ‘SDG monitoring’.

## **Collaboration with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

57. In 2017, GEF participated as an observer in the third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee established by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292 “Development of an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”, at the United Nations Headquarters.

58. Four themes were discussed for potential inclusion into the agreement: Marine Genetic Resources, including questions on benefit-sharing; Area-Based Management Tools including marine protected areas; Environmental Impact Assessments; and Capacity Building and Marine Technology Transfer. Cross-cutting issues and financing were also discussed. During the fourth session held in July 2017, the GEF shared capacity building experiences during the UN side event on Capacity Development in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: Experiences, Lessons, Possible Ways Forward. This final session led to a proposal that was transmitted to the UN General Assembly for a potential follow-up. The UN General Assembly is to decide whether to open international negotiations to develop the above-mentioned binding instrument.

59. GEF also participated in the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, in New York, that focused on "the effects of climate change on oceans".

## ENGAGEMENT WITH CONVENTIONS TO FACILITATE SYNERGIES AND GEF 7 REPLENISHMENT

60. The GEF occupies a unique space in the global partnership for sustainable development by delivering global environmental benefits. GEF's contributions are anchored in its role as a/the financial mechanism for a number of Conventions. Many global environmental challenges are interlinked and share common drivers. Biodiversity loss, climate change, ecosystem degradation, and pollution often share common drivers and may demand coordinated responses.

61. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as embodied in the SDGs, countries are also increasingly interested in pursuing integrated, cross-cutting opportunities for sustainable development. The GEF has received decisions and guidance related to SDGs from UNCCD COP in 2015 and 2017, from CBD COP in 2016, and also from the Stockholm COP in 2017. Additional decisions of relevance and guidance on synergy and integration have been given by recent COPs. These decisions and guidance underscore the increasing need for the GEF to engage across the Conventions to ensure consistency and effectiveness on cross-cutting themes and to facilitate synergy.

62. The GEF Secretariat organized the Third Informal Dialogue with MEA Secretariats and GEF at the margins of the 52<sup>nd</sup> GEF Council on May 22, 2017. The dialogue was opened by the GEF CEO and featured the Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions, the Principal Coordinator of the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, and senior representatives of the MEA Secretariats. It included participants from the GEF Secretariat as well as government representatives attending the GEF Council. The dialogue focused provided an opportunity to exchange views on the visions and priorities for GEF 7, as well as cross-cutting issues to be taken into consideration. A summary of the dialogue is available online.<sup>7</sup>

63. Regarding the GEF 7 replenishment, the GEF Secretariat has been engaged actively with the five Convention secretariats individually and collectively to ensure that the proposed GEF programming and policy directions address Convention priorities and recent COP guidance, and facilitate synergy towards greater effectiveness and impact.

64. Inputs from all MEA secretariats have been sought on proposed initiatives to support integrated national planning for MEAs and SDGs, as well as initiatives and focal area strategies that are proposed based on national prioritization and Convention guidance and decisions of relevance.

65. The GEF Secretariat shared an advanced draft of the proposed GEF 7 Programming Directions with the MEA secretariats over the summer period and received feedback from the MEA secretariats during an informal discussion on the replenishment among the GEF

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<sup>7</sup> [www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/Summary%20Report\\_Dialogue%20with%20MEAs\\_CommentsIncorporated.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/Summary%20Report_Dialogue%20with%20MEAs_CommentsIncorporated.pdf)

Secretariat and MEA secretariats on August 28, 2017. As described in previous sections, consultations with the Convention secretariats have taken place at multiple levels, including bilateral dialogues between the GEF CEO and Convention heads, technical level bilateral discussions, participation in the second GEF 7 replenishment meeting, and written contributions on proposed Programming Directions.

## **ADAPTATION FUND**

66. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. In November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco, the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP12) decided to renew the interim institutional arrangement for an additional three years, from 30 May 2017 to 30 May 2020.

67. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund continued to collaborate on project reviews for an intersessional review cycle and for the thirtieth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board during the reporting period. The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed. The Adaptation Fund Board has approved 66 concrete projects amounting to \$438 million in total. As of June 30, 2017, funds available to support funding decisions were \$185.9 million.

68. The GEF Secretariat and Adaptation Fund Board secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both Funds held the first gender collaborative meeting with the GCF and the Climate Investment Fund in May 2017, which will occur on regular basis to identify a possible area of collaboration on gender and explore further collaboration. In addition, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat shared with the GEF secretariat its experiences and knowledges related to Gender and the Results-Based Management and exchanged lessons learnt and the developments of gender work within each Fund.

69. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund collaborated through ad hoc planning discussions in preparation for the Adaptation Fund's campaign to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the launch of its operations. The GEF's communications staff provided advice, recommendations, templates and references based on its own experiences with organizing the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GEF the previous year. This contributed to a successful launch of the Adaptation Fund's anniversary campaign and associated products, including a print and web publication, special event and digital media. The GEF Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson also provided an article and a video interview for the commemorative publications and video related to the anniversary.

70. The GEF Secretariat and the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat coordinated closely in April-May 2017 in order to address the issue of unexpected increase in the non-salary staff costs brought about by the revised World Bank Recovery Rate for such costs (this issue was discussed by the GEF Council at its 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting under agenda item 11).

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

### Green Climate Fund

71. The GEF and GCF focal points followed up on items of mutual interest and the areas previously elaborated for potential enhanced collaboration<sup>8</sup> during a several teleconferences over the course of the summer period. The GEF secretariat continued to invite the GCF to observe/participate in GEF Expanded Constituency Meetings (ECWs) during 2017. A GCF representative took part in several GEF ECWs, and provided an overview of the GCF and potential for synergy. A GEF representative, in turn, took part in the GCF Structured Dialogue for the Pacific region on July 18-21, 2017 in Tonga.

72. A GCF representative took part in an event organized by the GEF Secretariat on financing synergy on land and climate actions at the 13<sup>th</sup> UNCCD COP in September 2017. This was the first occasion for the two entities to collaborate within the context of UNCCD COP.

73. Upon request from the GCF Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat made arrangements to enable a GCF Secretariat staff to observe the second GEF replenishment meeting in October 2017 to help prepare for the GCF replenishment in the future. The GCF representative also observed the first GEF replenishment meeting.

74. To further enhance the collaboration between the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism in line with COP guidance and per the objectives of each operating entity, the GEF and GCF secretariats have also worked together to approach several country focal points in October 2017, where the GEF/GCF focal points are shared, to explore the possibility of collaborative programming with a set of interested pilot countries. This explorative exercise is expected to be continued over the coming months. The GEF and GCF Secretariats have also agreed to jointly organize a side event at UNFCCC COP 23.

75. The GEF and GCF staff also continue to discuss items of mutual interest on an ad hoc basis, as needed.

### UN Forum on Forests

76. The GEF Secretariat continued its active participation in the formulation of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) Strategic Plan through its participation in the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) 12, held on May 1-5, 2017, which defined the Four-Year Program of Work of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, adopted by the UNFF Special Session on

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<sup>8</sup> For the list of areas that emerged in terms of practical steps for potential enhanced complementarity and coherence, please see GEF Report to COP 23, paragraph 53:

<https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Final%20COP%2023%20Report%20August%202017.pdf>

January 20, 2017. The UNFF12 adopted an Omnibus Resolution<sup>9</sup> that includes specific decisions with relevance to the GEF. The two paragraphs related to the GEF are the following: “The UNFF... (i) welcomes the funding made available for forests under the 6<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the GEF (2014-2018) through the cross-cutting Strategy for SFM, as well as through the GEF focal areas related to forests, and (ii) invites the GEF, in consultation with donors, to make further funds available for SFM and other forest-related initiatives under its 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment cycle (2018-2022)”.

77. GEF also continued to participate in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in the reporting period, assisting the CPF to finalize important tasks in preparation for the UNFF 12, including the CPF’s new policy document (“Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding”) and the CPF work plan aligned with the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017 – 2030. The CPF is renewing its commitment to the global restoration agenda through integrating policy advocacy, research, technical and financial assistance in its 2017 – 2020 workplan. In this context, the GEF jointly with other CPF members is leading a joint CPF initiative designed to foster partnerships to build coherence and support for forest and landscape restoration globally. In addition, the GEF is contributing to the preparation of the Conference "Halting Deforestation and Increasing Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action", to be held on 20-22 February 2018 in Rome. This Conference was decided by the CPF at the margins of UNFF 12 to provide, through the upcoming UNFF 13 in May 2018, recommendations for action to the next High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

### **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

78. The GEF participated in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in April/May 2017. The GEF gave a statement, during time allocated to the World Bank, that provided an update on indigenous peoples’ engagement with GEF projects, the activities of the Indigenous Peoples’ Advisory Group (IPAG), and the GEF SGP Indigenous Peoples’ Fellowship. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in a number of side events and a discussion between the UN family of agencies and members of the Permanent Forum. GEF Secretariat staff and GEF IPAG also supported the IEO to meet and discuss with indigenous representatives to inform the sixth comprehensive evaluation of the GEF (OPS 6).

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<sup>9</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/UNFF12OmnibusResolution\\_5May2017.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/UNFF12OmnibusResolution_5May2017.pdf)

**ANNEX I: DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC, UNCCD, STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, AND MINAMATA CONVENTION AND GEF RESPONSES<sup>10</sup>**

**Table 1: Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNFCCC COP 22 and SBI 45 and 46 Conclusions and GEF Response to Date**

| <i>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</i>   | <i>GEF's response</i>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Decision 2/CP.22, Paris Committee on Capacity-building<sup>11</sup></b>   |  |
| <p><b>Paragraph 3, Annex on 'Terms of reference for the Paris Committee on Capacity-building':</b></p> <p>Six representatives from bodies established under the Convention and from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism will be invited to participate in all the meetings of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building in line with the annual theme of the Committee.</p>   | <p>Noted. The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, participated in the first meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) held in Bonn, Germany in May 2017. A GEF representative gave a presentation on the GEF experiences in supporting capacity-building, and provided inputs on previous COP guidance on matters relating to capacity-building.<sup>12</sup> The GEF will participate in any future PCCB meetings, as requested.</p> |
| <b>Decision 5/CP.22, Review and report of the Adaptation Committee<sup>13</sup></b>  |  |
| <p><b>Paragraph 3:</b></p> <p><i>Noted with appreciation</i> the ongoing and planned collaboration between the Adaptation Committee (AC) and other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention, including the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the Standing Committee on Finance, the Executive Committee of the Warsaw</p> | <p>Noted. The GEF will continue to collaborate with the AC and other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention.</p>   |

<sup>10</sup> GEF's responses to most recent COP guidance from CBD and Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on mercury were reported to the 50<sup>th</sup> GEF council, and can be found at: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/relations-conventions-and-other-international-institutions-13>. GEF report to the eighth Stockholm Convention COP can be found at:

<http://www.brsmeas.org/2017COPs/MeetingDocuments/tabid/5385/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

<sup>11</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/10a01.pdf#page=5>

<sup>12</sup> [http://unfccc.int/cooperation and support/capacity building/items/10260.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation%20and%20support/capacity%20building/items/10260.php)

<sup>13</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/10a1.pdf#page=12>

| <b>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</b>   | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|--|---|
| <p>International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, the Adaptation Fund, the GEF, the GCF, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the PCCB, in order to enhance the process to formulate and implement NAPs and NAPAs, the implementation of the relevant mandates contained in decision 1/CP.21 and access by developing country Parties to adaptation finance, in particular from the GCF, as appropriate.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Decision 6/CP.22, National adaptation plans<sup>14</sup></b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Paragraph 8:</b><br/><i>Welcomed</i> the support provided by the GEF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.</p> <p><b>Paragraph 9:</b><br/><i>Noted with concern</i> that 12 funding proposals seeking to support elements of countries' work in the process to formulate and implement NAPs were technically cleared by the GEF but, as at 10 November 2016, were awaiting funding under the LDCF.</p> <p><b>Paragraph 10:</b><br/><i>Encouraged</i> developed country Parties to contribute to the LDCF and the SCCF and <i>invited</i> additional voluntary financial contributions to the LDCF, the SCCF and other funds under the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, recognizing the importance of the process to formulate and implement NAPs.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> <p>The GEF, through the LDCF, has processed 22 climate change adaptation projects for approval since COP 22, with a total LDCF funding amount of \$158.3 million and mobilizing an additional \$550.1 million in indicative co-financing, including in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Vanuatu. Several of these projects are entirely or partly devoted to supporting NAP processes (see Part III, Sub-section 2d of GEF COP report).</p> <p>In the reporting period, additional pledges totaling \$38.2 million were made by five donor countries and one sub-national contributing participant to the LDCF and SCCF.</p> |

<sup>14</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/10a01.pdf#page=14>

| <i>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</i>   | <i>GEF's response</i>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Decision 11/CP.22, Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility<sup>15</sup></b>  |  |
| <p><b>Paragraph 1:</b></p> <p><i>Emphasized</i> the need for the GEF to consider lessons learned from past replenishment periods and to take into account the entry into force of the Paris Agreement in its deliberations on the strategy for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEFTF) in order to continue to increase the effectiveness of its operations.</p> | <p>The GEF is committed to serve the Paris Agreement as its financial mechanism, and to fulfil its role as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC. In its GEF 7 strategy development process, the GEF is taking into account relevant evaluations conducted by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), such as the Climate Change Focal Area study, and other analyses. The ongoing Sixth Review of the Financial Mechanism is also expected to provide information on GEF's effectiveness. Various stakeholders, including the UNFCCC Secretariat representatives, have been engaged in the replenishment process and have provided inputs and suggestions to refine the programming directions and policy. The GEF Secretariat has also proposed, through the draft Programming Directions for GEF 7, to allocate an adequate and predictable resource flow towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, to be deliberated further in the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on the replenishment negotiations as they evolve.</p> |
| <p><b>Paragraph 2:</b></p> <p><i>Called upon</i> developed country Parties, and invites other Parties that make voluntary financial contributions to the GEF, to ensure a robust seventh replenishment, in order to assist in providing adequate and predictable funding taking into consideration the Paris Agreement.</p>  | <p>Noted.</p>  |
| <p><b>Paragraph 3:</b></p> <p><i>Requests</i> the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, in its seventh replenishment programming, to continue to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), in</p>   | <p>Noted. The GEF Secretariat has proposed, through the draft Programming Directions for GEF 7, to continue to assist developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, in accessing resources in an efficient manner, specifics of which will be deliberated further in the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on the replenishment process as it evolves.</p>  |

<sup>15</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/206/cop22/eng/10a01.p.f#page=38>

| <b>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</b>  | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|---|---|
| accessing resources in an efficient manner.   |   |
| <p><b>Paragraph 4:</b><br/> <i>Also requested</i> the GEF, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient manner.</p>   | <p>Noted. The GEF is ensuring, through its regular due diligence processes and strong governance model, that its policies and procedures relating to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient manner.</p>   |
| <p><b>Paragraph 5:</b><br/> <i>Took note</i> of the projected shortfall of resources from the sixth replenishment of the GEF due to exchange rate movements, and the decision of the Council of the GEF on item 6 on the agenda of the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Council.</p>  | <p>Noted.</p>   |
| <p><b>Paragraph 6:</b></p>  |   |
| <p><i>Requested</i> the GEF to continue its efforts, as appropriate and as needed, to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 above for its support to developing countries, aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the GEF.</p>  | <p>Noted. The GEF has been working on an ongoing basis to minimize potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 of decision 11/CP.22. The Work Program presented to the Council for decision at its 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting in May 2017 reflects this consideration, aiming to maintain the balance among the original allocations in the GEF-6 replenishment decision, assisting LDCs and SIDS in accessing resources and supporting core obligations to the conventions for which the GEF is a/the financial mechanism.</p> |
| <p><b>Paragraph 7:</b><br/> <i>Welcomed</i> the decisions of the Council of the GEF to establish the Trust Fund for the CBIT and to approve the CBIT programming directions, and to ensure that the support for the CBIT will be included in the seventh replenishment, to complement existing support under the GEF, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 86.</p> <p><b>Paragraph 8:</b><br/> <i>Also welcomed</i> the pledges made by several countries to make voluntary contributions to the CBIT and the signing of the first contribution agreement by a country and <i>encouraged</i> others that have</p> | <p>Appreciated the COP acknowledgement of GEF efforts in timely establishing and operationalizing the CBIT. The CBIT has been included in the draft GEF 7 Programming Directions document, to be deliberated further during the replenishment process.</p> <p>Noted.</p>  |

| <b>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</b>  | <b>GEF's response</b>  |
|---|--|
| pledged to make voluntary contributions to finalize their contribution agreements.  |  |
| <p><b>Paragraph 9:</b><br/> <i>Requested</i> the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, to continue providing in its annual reports, <i>inter alia</i>, information on the establishment and operation of the CBIT, including its programming and implementation modalities, on the voluntary contributions pledged and provided, and on the implementation of decision 9/CP.18.</p> | Noted. Information on these matters is provided in Part II, Section 3 of the GEF COP report.   |
| <p><b>Paragraph 10:</b><br/> <i>Welcomed</i> the GEF's continued engagement and coordination with the CTCN through the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer and the regional technology transfer and financing centres, as well as actions taken by the GEF in response to the recommendations by the TEC following the evaluation of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer.</p>           | Noted.   |
| <p><b>Paragraph 11:</b><br/> <i>Urged</i> the GEF and recipient countries to continue exploring with the CTCN ways to support climate technology related projects through country allocations of the sixth replenishment of the GEF.</p>  | Noted. The GEF has continued exploring with the CTCN the support to climate technology-related projects through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resource (STAR) country allocations of GEF-6. The GEF Secretariat actively participated in the workshops with the CTCN as well as 14 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the TEC in March 2017, and provided further information on GEF-6 programming to interested Parties, as appropriate. |
| <p><b>Paragraph 12:</b></p>   |  |
| <p><i>Requested</i> the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, to take into consideration climate risks in all its programmes and operations, as appropriate, keeping in mind lessons learned and best practices.</p>  | The GEF Agencies, Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) are working to ensure that climate-related risks are taken into consideration in the design and review of all GEF-financed projects and programs. Nevertheless, as recognized in the proposed Policy Agenda for GEF 7, there is a need for a more systematic approach that builds on best available risk  |

| <b>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</b>   | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|--|---|
|  | information. <sup>16</sup> The GEF Secretariat, in consultation with GEF Agencies, is in the process of reviewing the ways in which the GEF could further improve the consideration of climate change and natural disaster risks for the successful implementation and sustainability of all GEF-financed projects and programs. This work will be carried out in conjunction with the review and update of the GEF's minimum standards on environmental and social safeguards, requested by the GEF Council at its 52 <sup>nd</sup> meeting in May 2017. <sup>17</sup> |
| <b>Paragraph 13:</b>   |   |
| <i>Encouraged</i> the GEF to continue its efforts to encourage countries to align, as appropriate, their GEF programming with priorities as identified in their NDCs, where they exist, during the seventh replenishment, and to continue to promote synergies across its focal areas.   | The GEF has proposed to include NDCs and synergies across focal areas in the draft GEF 7 Programming Directions, to be deliberated further during the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on this process as it evolves.  |
| <b>Paragraph 14:</b>   |   |
| <i>Welcomed</i> the conclusions of the "Program evaluation of the LDCF" by the GEF's IEO.  | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 15:</b>   |   |
| <i>Requested</i> the GEF, as the operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention entrusted with the operation of the LDCF, to continue to enhance capacity development in the LDCs for the development of project proposals with a focus on identifying potential funding sources, both national and international, and enhancing long-term domestic institutional capacities. | Noted. The GEF has been consulting with the Chair of the LDC Group and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the guidance is implemented fully in its agreed form.  |
| <b>Paragraph 16:</b>   |   |
| <i>Encouraged</i> the GEF to continue to track, review and report on the sustainability of   | Noted. The GEF Secretariat has been consulting with the GEF's IEO on the tracking of sustainability of project outcomes under the LDCF and the SCCF and continues to  |

<sup>16</sup> GEF/R.7/02, GEF-7 Programming Directions and Policy Agenda (<https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF-7%20Programming%20and%20Policy%20Document%20.pdf>)

<sup>17</sup> Joint Summary of the Chairs: 52<sup>nd</sup> GEF Council Meeting, May 23–25, 2017.

| <b>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</b>  | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|---|---|
| project outcomes from the LDCF and the SCCF.  | track the sustainability of project outcomes from the LDCF and the SCCF.  |
| <b>Paragraph 17:</b><br><i>Welcomed</i> the initial assessment of the accreditation pilot and <i>noted</i> its conclusions.   | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 18:</b><br><i>Requested</i> the GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, in light of the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, to continue streamlining project approval processes and providing enhanced support, including enabling activities, to developing country Parties, including the LDCs and SIDS, as appropriate, in the context of national climate strategies and plans. | Noted. The GEF has continued to provide funding for enabling activities (EAs) in a streamlined fashion, in the context of national climate strategies and plans. The GEF is working to reflect this guidance also in GEF 7.   |
| <b>Paragraph 19:</b>  |   |
| <i>Welcomed</i> the successful roll-out of the non-grant instrument pilot and <i>encouraged</i> further expansion of the pilot with a view to increasing the leverage and impact of GEF financing.  | Noted. The GEF Secretariat has proposed to further expand the non-grant instrument pilot with a view to increasing the leverage and impact of GEF financing, in the draft Programming Directions for GEF 7, to be deliberated further during the replenishment process. The GEF will provide further information on this process as it evolves. |
| <b>Paragraph 22:</b>  |   |
| <i>Also requested</i> the GEF to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided to it in this decision.  | The GEF has included in this report further information on the steps that it has taken to implement the guidance provided to it in decision 11/CP.22.   |
| <b>Decision 12/CP.22, Sixth review of the Financial Mechanism<sup>18</sup></b>  |   |
| [...] <i>recognizing</i> that the review of the Financial Mechanism should inform the replenishment processes of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism [...]  | Noted.  |

<sup>18</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/10a01.pdf#page=41>

| UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion   | GEF's response  |
|---|---|
| <b>Decision 14/CP.22, Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the Convention<sup>19</sup></b>  |   |
| <b>Paragraph 1:</b>   |   |
| <i>Welcomed with appreciation</i> the progress made by the TEC, the CTCN and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism in further elaborating the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, including through an in-session workshop.  | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 8:</b>   |   |
| <i>Encouraged</i> the TEC, the CTCN and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance the involvement of relevant stakeholders as they undertake actions to strengthen the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism.  | Noted. The GEF organized a side event during the SB 46 sessions in May 2017, and invited stakeholders of the Poznan Strategic Program on Technology Transfer as well as TEC members to share innovative financing tools and prioritize activities to enhance technology transfer. The GEF also organized a meeting among the CTCN and implementing agencies (regional development banks) of the Poznan Strategic Program to enhance their collaborative activities on the margins of the 52 <sup>nd</sup> meeting of the GEF Council in May 2017. |
| <b>Paragraph 9:</b>   |   |
| <i>Invited</i> the TEC, the CTCN and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide information on their actions in strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism in their annual reports to the Conference of the Parties for guidance on further actions if needed. | Noted. Information on strengthening the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism is included in this report, including, <i>inter alia</i> , as it relates to GEF support for the CTCN. (See Part III, Section 4 of GEF COP report)   |
| <b>Decision 15/CP.22, Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism<sup>20</sup></b>   |   |
| <b>Paragraph 12:</b>  |   |
| <i>Encouraged</i> the GEF and the Climate Technology Centre to enhance their collaboration with respect to exploring new ways of supporting climate   | The GEF Secretariat held a meeting with the CTCN on the margins of the SB 46 meeting in May 2017 to share the current status of the project to support the CTCN and exchange information on emerging opportunities to   |

<sup>19</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/10a02.pdf#page=3>

<sup>20</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/016/cop22/eng/10a02.pdf#page=5>

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| technology related requests for technical assistance.   | respond to requests from developing countries taking into account the country-drivenness and alignment with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).   |
| <b>Paragraph 13:</b>  |   |
| <i>Underlined</i> the importance of well-functioning and strengthened collaboration between the national designated authorities for the GCF, the focal points for the GEF and the national designated entities for technology development and transfer. | Noted.  |
| <b>Decision 21/CP.22, Gender and climate change</b><br>( <a href="http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/10a02.pdf#page=17">http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/10a02.pdf#page=17</a> )  |   |
| <b>Paragraph 21:</b>  |   |
| <i>Requested</i> the Financial Mechanism and its operating entities to include in their respective annual reports to the COP information on the integration of gender considerations in all aspects of their work.                                      | The GEF's Policy on Gender Mainstreaming was approved in 2011. In 2014, the GEF Council in addition approved the Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) to support the implementation of the Policy on Gender and to enhance gender mainstreaming across GEF's operations and governance. The GEF Secretariat further established the GEF Gender Partnership (GGP) to serve as an ongoing platform for consultation and space to exchange information, share lessons learned and collaborate on other GEAP work products and events. The GGP is now formally operational with active participation of gender focal points from each GEF Agency, secretariats of the conventions, and representatives of the GEF Network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) and other key partners. Further information on GEF's efforts and initial results in integrating gender considerations into all aspects of GEF's work is provided in Part II, Section 8 of the GEF COP report. |
| <b>Decision 2/CMP.12, Report of the Adaptation Fund Board</b><br>( <a href="http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cmp12/eng/08a01.pdf#page=5">http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cmp12/eng/08a01.pdf#page=5</a> )                                      |   |
| <b>Paragraph 2:</b>   |   |
| <i>Decided</i> to renew the interim institutional arrangements with the GEF as the interim secretariat of the Adaptation Fund Board for an additional three years, from 30 May 2017 to 30 May 2020.   | Noted.  |

| <i>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</i>   | <i>GEF's response</i>  |
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| <b>SBI 45 Conclusions on 'Provision of financial and technical support'</b><br><a href="http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/20.pdf#page=13">http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/20.pdf#page=13</a>   |  |
| <b>Paragraph 30:</b>   |  |
| <p>[...] welcomed the information provided by the GEF in its report to COP 22 on: (a) The establishment of the CBIT, including its programming and implementation modalities, and the voluntary contributions pledged by several countries; (b) The financial support provided for the preparation of national communication (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs) by non-Annex I Parties; (c) The Global Support Programme (GSP) for Preparation of NCs and BURs by non-Annex I Parties, especially regarding the development and implementation of the 2016 work programme thereof.</p> | <p>Noted.</p>  |
| <b>Paragraph 32:</b>   |  |
| <p>[...] <i>noted with appreciation</i> the successful efforts of the GEF to take swift action in the establishment of the CBIT through voluntary contributions. The SBI welcomed the pledges made by several countries to make voluntary contributions to the CBIT. It also welcomed the signing of the first contribution agreement by a country and encouraged others that have pledged to make voluntary contributions to finalize their contribution agreements. The SBI noted that the CBIT efforts will be included in the next replenishment of the GEF.</p>                         | <p>Noted.</p>  |
|  |  |
| <b>Paragraph 33:</b>   |  |
| <p>[...] <i>encouraged</i> the GEF, subject to the availability of financial resources in the CBIT Trust Fund, to approve the first set of CBIT projects as early as possible. It also encouraged developing countries to submit project proposals to access</p>   | <p>National CBIT projects were approved by the GEF to take place in Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Uganda and Uruguay, in addition to the funding approval for a Global Coordination Platform to share lessons learned and engage with partners to enhance transparency. Further</p> |

| <b>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</b>   | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
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| financial resources from the CBIT Trust Fund.  | information on the projects approved and progress by the GEF in operationalizing the CBIT to date is provided in Part II, Section 3, of the GEF COP report.   |
| <b>SBI 45 Conclusions on 'Matters relating to the least developed countries'<sup>21</sup></b>  |   |
| <b>Paragraph 57:</b>   |   |
| [...] <i>further welcomed</i> the efforts of the GCF and the GEF secretariats, as well as other organizations, regional centres and networks in organizing special sessions related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs during the NAP Expo.  | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 63:</b>   |   |
| [...] <i>noted</i> that, as at 10 November 2016, 13 project proposals for the implementation of NAPAs and for the process to formulate and implement NAPs that were previously technically cleared by the GEF, amounting to USD 87 million, had been approved by the GEF Council and were ready for implementation. An additional 35 technically cleared projects, seeking USD 231.4 million from the LDCF, have yet to be funded. | The GEF, through the LDCF, has processed 22 climate change adaptation projects for approval since COP 22, with a total LDCF funding amount of \$158.3 million and mobilizing an additional \$550.1 million in indicative co-financing, including in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Tuvalu, Uganda, and Vanuatu. Several of these projects are entirely or partly devoted to supporting NAP processes (see Part III, Sub-section 2d of GEF COP report). |
| <b>Paragraph 64:</b>   |   |
| [...] <i>welcomed</i> the follow-up project under the LDCF of the NAP GSP for LDCs through which all LDCs that were not supported under the first project will have the opportunity to access one-to-one support for their process to formulate and implement NAPs tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.   | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 65:</b>   |   |
| [...] <i>noted</i> with appreciation the new pledges to the LDCF of EUR 24 million for the years 2016–2018 which were made during the LDCF/SCCF Council meeting in October 2016.   | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 66:</b>   |   |

<sup>21</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/20.pdf#page=16>

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|---|---|
| [...] <i>urged</i> additional contributions to the LDCF and other funds under the Financial Mechanism, as appropriate, recognizing the importance of the full implementation of NAPAs and successfully undertaking the process to formulate and implement NAPAs.  | Noted.  |
| <b>SBI 45 Conclusions on 'Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer'<sup>22</sup></b>   |   |
| <b>Paragraph 81:</b>  |   |
| [...] <i>welcomed</i> the report of the GEF on the progress made in carrying out the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, including the actions taken by the GEF in response to the recommendations of the TEC.   | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 82:</b>  |   |
| [...] <i>welcomed</i> the new structure of the report referred to in paragraph 81 above. It encouraged the GEF to continue elaborating on the challenges and lessons learned in carrying out the Poznan strategic programme as part of its future progress reports.   | Noted. Information on challenges and lessons learned in carrying out the Poznan Strategic Program is provided in Part III, Section 4 of the GEF COP report. |
| <b>Paragraph 83:</b>  |   |
| [...] <i>welcomed</i> the approval by the GEF Council of 31 projects with technology transfer objectives for climate change mitigation and 10 projects for climate adaptation during the GEF reporting period. It further welcomed the progress of the Poznan strategic programme technology transfer pilot projects. | Noted.  |
| <b>Paragraph 84:</b>  |   |
| [...] <i>welcomed</i> the ongoing collaboration between the CTCN and the regional technology transfer and finance centres supported by the GEF under the Poznan strategic programme, including the collaboration on responses to developing country requests for technical assistance.                                | Noted. Further information on collaboration between the GEF and the CTCN is provided in Part III, Section 4 of the GEF COP report.                          |

<sup>22</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/20.pdf#page=21>

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| It encouraged the GEF and the CTCN to continue enhancing their collaboration. It further encouraged Parties to enhance collaboration between their GEF focal points and their national designated entities for technology development and transfer.  |   |
| <b>SBI 45 Conclusions on 'Paris Committee on Capacity-building'<sup>23</sup></b>   |   |
| <b>Paragraph 92:</b>   |   |
| [...] <i>agreed</i> that representatives of the following operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the constituted bodies established under the Convention will be invited to participate in the first meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building [...]: (a) The GEF; [...]. | Noted. The GEF, as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, participated in the first meeting of the PCCB held in Bonn, Germany in May 2017, and gave a presentation on the GEF experiences supporting capacity-building. The GEF will participate in any future PCCB meetings, as requested.  |
| <b>SBSTA 45 Conclusions on 'Matters relating to science and review: Research and systemic observation'<sup>24</sup></b>  |   |
| <b>Paragraph 40:</b>   |   |
| [...] <i>encouraged</i> Parties and relevant organizations to strengthen and maintain observation networks and capabilities in all countries, especially in developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDS.   | The GEF, through the LDCF, continues to provide support towards strengthening and maintaining observation networks and capabilities in LDCs. Consistent with the priorities identified in LDC NAPAs, approximately 12 per cent of total funding approvals under the LDCF as at June 30, 2017 were primarily targeted at enhancing climate information services. Under the SCCF, approximately five per cent of total funding approved is primarily directed towards the climate information services sector, as at June 30, 2017. |
| <b>SBI 46 Conclusions on 'Matters relating to least developed countries'<sup>25</sup></b>  |   |
| <b>Paragraph 6:</b>  |   |
| [...] <i>noted with appreciation</i> the new pledges to the LDCF of USD 17.1 million, made between November 2016 and April 2017.   | Noted.  |

<sup>23</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/20.pdf#page=22>

<sup>24</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbsta/eng/04.pdf#page=12>

<sup>25</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbi/eng/l02.pdf>

| <b>UNFCCC COP 22 decision/SBI conclusion</b>   | <b>GEF's response</b> |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Paragraph 7:</b>  |                       |
| [...] <i>noted</i> that, as at 9 May 2017, total LDCF funding approved during the GEF fiscal year 2017 amounted to USD 154.6 million, and that cumulative funding approvals since the establishment of the LDCF were USD 1.22 billion.   | Noted.                |
| <b>Paragraph 8:</b>  |                       |
| [...] <i>noted</i> that, as at 9 May 2017, 23 project proposals for the implementation of NAPAs submitted by the LDCs, accounting for a total of USD 146.1 million, had been technically cleared by the GEF secretariat and were awaiting allocation of resources from the LDCF. | Noted.                |
| <b>Paragraph 9:</b>  |                       |
| [...] <i>urged</i> additional contributions to the LDCF.   | Noted.                |

**Table 2: Decisions of GEF Relevance Contained in Decisions Adopted by UNCCD COP 13 and GEF Response to Date**

| <i>UNCCD COP 13 decision</i>   | <i>GEF's response</i>  |
|--|--|
| Welcomes the continued support for the implementation of the Convention, in particular the funding of enabling activities by the Global Environment Facility in the context of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3.   | Noted with appreciation of recognition.  |
| Invites the Global Environment Facility donors to use the findings and lessons learnt, contained in the report on programming and priorities in the affected regions, to inform the programming directions for the focal area in the Seventh Replenishment phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 7).   | Donors are invited to consider this decision.  |
| Encourages developed country Parties and other Parties to make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility with the aim of achieving robust Seventh Replenishment, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area.   | Donors are invited to consider this decision.  |
| Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF 7, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3.  | The GEF support for the Convention in the context of SDGs and target 15.3 will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF 7 replenishment negotiations, which will conclude in early 2018.   |
| Also invites the Global Environment Facility, during GEF 7, to continue providing technical and financial support for capacity-building, reporting and voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation.   | The GEF support for capacity-building, reporting, and voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and implementation will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF 7 replenishment negotiations, which will conclude in early 2018. |
| Further invites donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and encourages Parties, through the Global Environment Facility and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions during the GEF 7 replenishment process. | Donors are invited to consider this decision.  |
| Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance means to harness  | The GEF will continue to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage   |

| <b><i>UNCCD COP 13 decision</i></b>   | <b><i>GEF's response</i></b>  |
|---|---|
| opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.  | synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF 7 replenishment negotiations, which will conclude in early 2018. |
| Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties.   | The GEF will prepare a report on the implementation of the decision to be submitted to COP 14.  |
| Adopts the attached new Memorandum of Understanding [between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Council of the Global Environment Facility on Enhanced Collaboration]. | Noted.  |
| Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties.   | This will be addressed at the upcoming Council meeting.   |
| Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to implement the attached Memorandum of Understanding.   | The GEF stands committed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding.  |

**Table 3: Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by Stockholm COP 8 Decision SC-8/16 and GEF’s Response to Date**

| <i>Stockholm COP 8 decision</i>  | <i>GEF’s response</i>   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. <i>Requests</i> the principal entity entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Convention, to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2018–2022 the following priority areas:</p> |   |
| <p>(a) Development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to persistent organic pollutants;</p>  | <p>Under the <b>Industrial Program</b> being proposed for GEF 7 in the chemicals and waste focal area the following areas of work are proposed that will specifically address development, deployment or either products, technologies, etc. to replace persistent organic pollutants and strive towards widespread use green chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable chemistry/eco-design/strategies encompassing the entire life-cycle of chemicals</li> <li>• Elimination of the use of mercury and persistent organic pollutants in products (Including brominated flame retardants, PFOS) as well as the use of mercury in products (as specified in Annex A of the Minamata Convention) by phasing our manufacturing of the pure chemicals and introduction of alternatives in the products with a preference to non-toxic chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>Similarly, the <b>Agricultural Program</b> proposes to address this guidance as follows: “This program will address the agricultural POPs and agricultural chemicals that contain mercury or its compounds. Where the chemicals are in use, investments will be made to introduce alternatives with a preference given to non-chemical means. The program will target the reduction of Endosulphan, Lindane and highly/severely hazardous pesticides that enter the global food supply chain as well as address end of life, waste and obsolete POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals and management and safe disposal of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPs and mercury based agricultural chemicals.”</p> |
| <p>(b) Restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization</p>  | <p>The <b>Agricultural Program</b> being proposed in the GEF 7 Chemicals and Waste Focal Area specifically addresses this guidance on DDT as follows: “This</p>   |

| <b>Stockholm COP 8 decision</b>  | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|--|---|
| <p>recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to a Party to the Stockholm Convention;</p>   | <p>program will also address restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to the Party in question.”</p>  |
| <p>(c) Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025;</p>  | <p>The <b>Industrial Program</b> proposes the following: “Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025” which responds to this guidance.</p>   |
| <p>(d) Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028;</p> | <p>The Industrial Program proposes the following: “Environmentally sound waste management/disposal of mercury/mercury containing waste or persistent organic pollutants including liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A of the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028” that responds to this guidance.</p>   |
| <p>(e) Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;</p>   | <p>The <b>Industrial Programs</b> proposes the:” Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced POPs and mercury from major source categories included in both the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions including, but not limited to, cement manufacturing, coal fired power plants, various metallurgical processes, waste incineration” and the <b>Agricultural Program</b> proposes to deal with safe handling of agricultural plastics contaminated by POPS and mercury based agricultural chemicals.</p> <p>Both programs directly respond to the introduction of BAT/BEP which minimizes unintentionally released POPS from the industrial and agricultural process.</p> |
| <p>(f) Development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention;</p>   | <p>The Industrial Program has been designed as follows: “This program is intended to eliminate or significantly reduce chemicals listed under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Pollutants</li> <li>• The Minamata Convention on Mercury</li> </ul>   |

| <b>Stockholm COP 8 decision</b>   | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management</li> <li>• The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer</li> </ul> <p>Through supporting projects and programs that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemicals and Waste at the end of life;</li> <li>• Chemicals that are used or emitted from or in processes and products.</li> </ul> <p>In support of the above, this program will fund facilitation of enabling environments and strengthening of national legislation and regulatory capacity for meeting obligations with regard to POPs, mercury and other chemicals listed in the chemicals and waste conventions including the removal of barriers to market access of manufacturing of products containing GEF relevant chemicals, introduction of alternatives and reduction of production of the pure chemical using sustainable/ green chemistry approaches and that promotes a shift to a circular economy and that supports de-toxifying products and material supply chains.”</p> |
| (g) Review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development  | <p>The Enabling Activities Program proposes the following: “This program will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support enabling activities under the Stockholm Convention, including National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and NIP Updates</li> <li>• Support enabling activities under the Minamata Convention, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and artisanal and small-scale gold mining National Action Plans (ASGM NAPs)</li> <li>• Global Monitoring of chemicals, related to effectiveness evaluation under the Chemical Conventions”</li> </ul>  |
| 2. Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the focal area of chemicals and waste and if appropriate its work on integrated programming as a means of harnessing opportunities for | <p>The Chemicals and Waste focal area will support the Cities Impact Program and the Food Systems Impact program that are being proposed in the GEF 7 programming strategy. The focal area will help to minimize the inclusion of chemicals</p>   |

| <b>Stockholm COP 8 decision</b>  | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
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| <p>synergy in implementing the Stockholm Convention and contributing to the global efforts to attain the chemicals-and-waste-related Sustainable Development Goals with adequate and sustainable financial resources, taking into account the national priorities of developing countries;</p>   | <p>covered by Convention in new cities and will support phase out and management of Stockholm relevant chemicals and their waste in existing infrastructure, products, and materials. The focal area, will also where appropriate support the phase out of Stockholm Convention relevant chemicals for the global food supply through integration with the proposed Food Systems GEF 7 Impact Program.</p>  |
| <p>3. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional agencies from developing countries;</p>   | <p>Enabling activities since GEF 5 can be accessed directly by countries through the direct access modality. There are also 18 accredited GEF agencies including agencies from developing countries. The inclusion of new agencies is being considered in the context of the 7<sup>th</sup> GEF replenishment.</p>  |
| <p>4. Encourages the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, including through public private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access and do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries seeking access to Global Environment Facility funds;</p> | <p>In May 2014, in response to Policy recommendations for the GEF 6th Replenishment, the GEF Council approved a Co-financing Policy which applies to projects and programs financed with resources from the GEF Trust Fund and the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (GEF-financed projects). It does not apply to projects financed with resources from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) or the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).</p> <p>The policy (i) establishes the objectives for co-financing in GEF-financed projects; (ii) defines co-financing in GEF-financed projects; and (iii) sets forth the general principles and approaches for co-financing in GEF-financed projects, including how co-financing will be monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>The policy notes that an objective of the GEF, working with its partners, is to attain adequate levels of co-financing as a means to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the GEF in achieving global environmental benefits; and</li> <li>•strengthen partnerships with recipient country governments, multilateral and bilateral financing entities, the private sector, and civil society.</li> </ul> <p>The policy defines co-financing as “resources that are additional to the GEF grant and that are provided by the GEF Partner Agency itself and/or</p> |

| <b>Stockholm COP 8 decision</b>  | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
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|  | <p>by other non-GEF sources that support the implementation of the GEF-financed project and the achievement of its objectives.”</p> <p>The policy notes that co-financing is required for all GEF full-size projects (FSPs), medium-size projects (MSPs), and GEF programmatic approaches. Co-financing is optional for GEF enabling activities. It notes that requirements for GEF Agencies and the GEF Secretariat during project review and approval and project monitoring.</p> |
| <p>5. Takes note of the projected shortfall of resources from the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda for its fifty-first meeting;</p>  | <p>The GEF Council continues to be updated on the impact of the projected shortfall and the GEF Secretariat continues to apply the decision of the 51<sup>st</sup> GEF Council in this regard.</p>  |
| <p>6. Notes the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the domestic level and in support of the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 above for its support to developing countries aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries;</p> | <p>The GEF Council continues to monitor the impact of the projected shortfall and the GEF Secretariat continues to apply the decision of the 51<sup>st</sup> GEF Council in this regard.</p>  |
| <p>7. Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the obligations under the Stockholm Convention;</p>   | <p>In the context of the GEF 7 negotiations the GEF Trustee has made recommendations on measures to mitigate risks posed by currency fluctuations which will be considered during the replenishment negotiations.</p>   |

| <b><i>Stockholm COP 8 decision</i></b>   | <b><i>GEF's response</i></b>  |
|--|---|
| 8. Requests the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner;  | The reviews of all GEF projects are sent to the GEF agency and country proponents for feedback and information.   |
| 9. Takes note of the following non-exhaustive list of elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Facility that also address relevant priorities of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade: |   |
| (a) Environmentally sound management of waste consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;  | The GEF's programming already addresses and funds the environmentally sound management of waste containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants including PCB containing equipment and waste, medical waste, waste pesticides including containers etc.   |
| (b) Minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;   | The GEF's programming already addresses the minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants including minimization of open burning of e-waste, municipal and hazardous waste and incineration of medical and plastic waste.   |
| (c) Development or strengthening of national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations regarding persistent organic pollutants listed under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as persistent organic pollutant wastes as covered by the Basel Convention;   | GEF programming for the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions help to strengthen the environmentally sound management of POPs and Mercury which strengthens the national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations under Stockholm and Minamata. This usually extends to Rotterdam and Basel if the legislation includes waste management and trans-shipment of wastes and the chemicals themselves. |
| 10. Requests the Secretariat:  |   |
| (a) To prepare, on the basis of the document developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of decision SC-6/20, a complete set of guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention by consolidating the guidance set out in decision SC-7/21 and paragraphs 1–8 of the present decision;   | The GEF Secretariat has been consulted on this list and will continue to provide feedback with a view to helping the BRS Secretariat fully develop the consolidated guidance.   |

| <b><i>Stockholm COP 8 decision</i></b>   | <b><i>GEF's response</i></b>   |
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| (b) To make the complete set of guidance available on the Convention website;  | Not for GEF Action   |
| (c) To update the complete set of guidance after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;   | Not for GEF Action   |
| 11. Welcomes the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention;   | The GEF Council appreciates the acknowledgment of the report and will report at the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. |
| 12. Welcomes the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism;   | Not for GEF Action   |
| 13. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism set out in the annex to decision SC-7/20, draft terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;                                   | Not for GEF Action   |
| 14. Takes note of the report by the Secretariat on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2018–2022;   | Not for GEF Action   |
| 15. Requests the Global Environment Facility, during the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to consider the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the non-exhaustive list referred to in paragraph 9 above;  | The needs assessment has been considered in providing funding scenarios for the GEF 7 replenishment.   |
| 16. Takes note of the low level of responses to the online questionnaire, prepared by the Secretariat in response to paragraph 6 of decision SC-7/18, directed to developed county Parties, other Parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, asking them to provide further information about how they could provide support for the | Not for GEF action   |

| <b><i>Stockholm COP 8 decision</i></b>   | <b><i>GEF's response</i></b> |
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| implementation of the Stockholm Convention;  |                              |
| 17. Urges developed country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;           | Not for GEF Action           |
| 18. Invites other Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support; | Not for GEF Action           |
| 19. Invites other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such contributions;               | Not for GEF Action           |
| 20. Requests the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 17–19 above, a report on the availability of financial resources  | Not for GEF Action           |

| <b><i>Stockholm COP 8 decision</i></b>  | <b><i>GEF's response</i></b>   |
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| <p>additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and ways and means of mobilizing and channeling such additional resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;</p>  |  |
| <p>21. Also requests the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in the annex to decision SC-7/18 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations made by Parties in their assessment of the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the methodology used in preparing it for consideration and possible adoption at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> | <p>Not for GEF Action</p>  |
| <p>22. Further requests the Secretariat to transmit to the Global Environment Facility for its consideration the consolidated guidance referred to in paragraph 10 above, the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 12 above and the report on the assessment of funding needs over the period 2018–2022 referred to in paragraph 14 above and invites the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its next regular report to the Conference of the Parties, how the above guidance and reports have been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Facility;</p>                 | <p>The GEF has included these documents into the development of the GEF 7 programming strategy. The GEF will provide an account of this in the report of the GEF to the ninth Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention.</p> |
| <p>23. Welcomes the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective inter secretariat cooperation in accordance</p>   | <p>The GEF will continue to strengthen its collaboration with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention.</p>   |

| <b><i>Stockholm COP 8 decision</i></b>  | <b><i>GEF's response</i></b>   |
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| with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;  |  |
| Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting. | The GEF Secretariat will collaborate with the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting. |

**Table 4: Guidance Contained in Decision Adopted at Minamata COP 1 and GEF Response to Date**

| <i>Minamata COP 1 decision</i>   |  | <i>GEF's response</i>   |
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| <b>I. Eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources</b> |  |   |
| 2  | To be eligible for funding from GEF as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a country must be a Party to the Convention and must be a developing country or a country with an economy in transition.  | The GEF's eligibility policy for mercury incorporates the criteria for funding enabling activities. The guidelines for these enabling activities are found in the information document of the 45 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the GEF Council, revised in January 2014. <sup>26</sup>   |
| 3  | Activities that are eligible for funding from the GEF trust fund are those that seek to meet the objectives of the Convention and are consistent with the present guidance.  | All activities that have been funded by the GEF to date are considered eligible.  |
| 4  | Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility. | To date, the GEF supported total 105 countries through GEF-5 and GEF-6 to implement Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) and 32 countries to conduct their artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASGM) National Action Plan (NAP). Of these countries. Among these 78 out of 86 Signatories received funding for enabling activities. Of the remaining 6 countries, 2 have become Parties to date. 19 Countries that are non-signatory and non-party have accessed enabling activity resources through the varied eligibility criteria. The 19 that are non-signatory provided the appropriate letters consistent with the decisions of INC6. |
| <b>II. Overall strategies and policies</b>                                 |  |   |
| 5  | In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide new, predictable, adequate and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of the  | This has been used to guide the programming in GEF-6 and will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, which will conclude in early 2018.   |

<sup>26</sup> GEF/C.45/Inf.05/Rev.01, <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/initial-guidelines-enabling-activities-minamata-convention-mercury-0>

| <b>Minamata COP 1 decision</b>   |  | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
|                                  | <p>Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, including costs arising from activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Are country-driven;</li> <li>(b) Are in conformity with programme priorities as reflected in relevant guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties;</li> <li>(c) Build capacity and promote the utilization of local and regional expertise, if applicable;</li> <li>(d) Promote synergies with other focal areas;</li> <li>(e) Continue to enhance synergies and co-benefits within the chemicals and wastes focal area;</li> <li>(f) Promote multiple-source funding approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, including from the private sector, if applicable; and</li> <li>(g) Promote sustainable national socioeconomic development, poverty reduction and activities consistent with existing national sound environmental management programmes geared towards the protection of human health and the environment.</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>III. Programme priorities</b> |  |   |
| 6                                | <p>In accordance with article 13, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the GEF trust fund shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.</p>  | <p>This is reflected in the strategies of the GEF.</p> <p>In GEF-6, \$141 million was allocated by the replenishment to the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The GEF has programmed resources to meet the full cost of the MIAs and the ASGM NAPs. The GEF has programmed resources for several projects that are aimed at early implementation, particularly in the ASGM sector.</p> |
| 7                                | <p>In particular, it should give priority to the following activities when providing financial resources to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Enabling activities, particularly Minamata Convention initial assessment activities and national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining;</li> </ul>  | <p>This has been used to guide the programming in GEF-6 and will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations. All projects and programs in GEF-6 that seek to implement the Minamata Convention are already consistent with this guidance.</p>  |

| <b>Minamata COP 1 decision</b>  |   | <b>GEF's response</b>  |
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|   | (b) Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, affording priority to those that:<br>(i) Relate to legally binding obligations;<br>(ii) Facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party;<br>(iii) Allow for reduction in mercury emissions and releases and address the health and environmental impacts of mercury.  |  |
| 8   | In providing resources for an activity, GEF should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs in accordance with paragraph 8 of article 13 of the Convention.  | In GEF-6, projects with potential for significant mercury reduction have been approved. The GEF will continue to work with countries and agencies to look at the potential reduction of mercury relative to its cost.                                |
| <b>IV. Indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support</b>                             |   |  |
| <b>A. Enabling activities</b>   |   |  |
|   | 1. Minamata Convention initial assessments (MIAs)<br>2. Preparation of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 7 and Annex C<br>3. Other types of enabling activities as agreed by the Conference of the Parties  | This has been used to inform the programming in GEF-6 and will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations. In GEF-6, all eligible enabling activities that were submitted to the GEF to date have received funding. |
| <b>B. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention</b>  |   |  |
| <b>1. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that relate to legally binding obligations</b> |   |  |
| 9   | When providing financial resources to eligible Parties for activities to implement the provisions of the Convention, GEF should afford priority to those activities that relate to legally binding obligations of Parties under the Convention and should take into account the potential mercury reductions of a proposed activity relative to its costs. Such activities could include those related to the following areas, listed in no particular order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury supply sources and trade;</li> <li>• Mercury-added products;</li> <li>• Manufacturing processes in which mercury or mercury compounds are used;</li> <li>• Artisanal and small-scale gold mining;</li> <li>• Emissions;</li> <li>• Releases;</li> <li>• Environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury;</li> </ul> | This will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.   |

| <b>Minamata COP 1 decision</b>   |  | <b>GEF's response</b>   |
|--|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mercury wastes;</li> <li>• Reporting;</li> <li>• Relevant capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer in relation to the above.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>2. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force of the Convention for a Party</b>  |  |   |
| 10   | <p>When considering activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that facilitate early implementation on entry into force, GEF should also consider providing support for activities that, although they are not the subject of a legal obligation under the Convention, may significantly contribute to a Party's preparedness to implement the Convention upon its entry into force for that country.</p>  | <p>This will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.</p> |
| 11   | <p>Within the context of the GEF mandate, such activities could include, inter alia, support for:</p> <p>(a) With regard to emissions, the development by Parties with relevant sources of emissions of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control emissions and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(b) With regard to releases, the development by Parties with relevant sources of releases of national plans setting out the measures to be taken to control releases and their expected targets, goals and outcomes;</p> <p>(c) With regard to contaminated sites, capacity-building for the development of strategies for identifying and assessing sites contaminated by mercury or mercury compounds and, as appropriate, the remediation of those sites;</p> <p>(d) Information exchange;</p> <p>(e) Public information, awareness and education;</p> <p>(f) Cooperation in the development and improvement of research, development and monitoring;</p> <p>(g) Development of implementation plans following initial assessments.</p> | <p>This will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.</p> |
| <b>3. Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury</b> |  |   |

| <i>Minamata COP 1 decision</i>                    |  | <i>GEF's response</i>   |
|---|--|---|
| 12  | Activities to implement the provisions of the Convention that allow for the reduction of mercury emissions and releases and address both the health and environmental impacts of mercury may encompass activities relating to both binding and non-binding provisions, with priority to the legally binding provisions discussed above, that accord with the GEF mandate to deliver global environmental benefits and reflect the GEF chemicals and wastes focal area strategy.  | This will be addressed in the context of the ongoing GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.  |
| <b>V. Review by the Conference of the Parties</b> |  |   |
| 13  | In accordance with paragraph 11 of article 13, the Conference of the Parties will review, no later than at its third meeting, and thereafter on a regular basis, the level of funding, the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties to GEF as one of the entities entrusted with operationalizing the mechanism established under this article and the mechanism's effectiveness and ability to address the changing needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. On the basis of such review, the Conference of the Parties will take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by updating and prioritizing as necessary its guidance to GEF. | At the request of the COP, the GEF will provide information as it relates to the review described in paragraph 11 of article 13 of the Minamata Convention. |