



GEF/ A.4/9  
May 14, 2010

---

Fourth GEF Assembly  
Punta Del Este, Uruguay  
May 25-26, 2010

Agenda Item 15

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEF INSTRUMENT

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. According to paragraph 34 of the GEF Instrument, an amendment to the Instrument “may be approved by consensus by the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Council, after taking into account the views of the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee, and shall become effective after adoption by the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee in accordance with their respective rules and procedural requirements.” This document details two proposed amendments being recommended to the fourth GEF Assembly by the GEF Council.

## **GEF CEO APPOINTMENT AND TERM**

2. In June 2009, the GEF Council took a decision to recommend to the GEF Assembly an amendment to the GEF Instrument to eliminate the role of the Implementing Agencies in the appointment of the CEO and to lengthen the term of the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to four years. This decision is reflected in paragraph 27 of the Joint Summary of the Chairs of the June 2009 GEF Council meeting.

3. The primary reason to eliminate the role of the Implementing Agencies in the appointment of the CEO/Chairperson is because at times staff from one or more of the Agencies is nominated for the CEO/Chairperson position, raising conflict of interest questions if their own Agency is on the nominating Committee.

4. There are persuasive reasons for moving from a three year term with no term limits for the CEO/Chairperson to a four year term with a limit of one reappointment. A term limit will help to keep the GEF a modern multilateral facility, which is not controlled for too long by any one person or viewpoint. A four instead of a three year term will provide the CEO/Chairperson with more time to implement reforms and/or policy decisions in an effective manner. Three years is a relatively short period in which to see the results of reforms or new policies, which may be why the terms of the heads of other IFIs are longer.<sup>1</sup>

## **THE GEF AS A FINANCIAL MECHANISM OF THE UNCCD**

5. In December 2006, the GEF Council took a decision to recommend to the GEF Assembly an amendment to the GEF Instrument to make the GEF available to serve as a financial mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD). This proposed amendment closely reflects decisions of at the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD to designate the

---

<sup>1</sup> Terms for other heads of IFIs are generally four to five years; for example: World Bank (5 years); ADB (5 years); IADB (5 years); IFAD (4 years).

GEF as a financial mechanism of the Convention pursuant to articles 20 and 21 of the Convention.

#### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE INSTRUMENT**

6. The Council, therefore, recommends to the fourth GEF Assembly that it approve by consensus the following amendments and that it call upon the GEF CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to submit the approved amendments to the Implementing Agencies and Trustee for adoption in accordance with their respective rules and procedural requirements.

7. Paragraph 21 of the Instrument should be amended to read:

The GEF Secretariat shall service and report to the Assembly and the Council. The Secretariat, which shall be headed by the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility, shall be supported administratively by the World Bank and shall operate in a functionally independent and effective manner. **The CEO shall be appointed to serve for four years on a full time basis by the Council. The CEO may be reappointed by the Council for one additional four year term. ...**

8. In addition, a new sub-paragraph (b) should be inserted in paragraph 6, with the consequent re-numbering of the present paragraph 6 as sub-paragraph 6(a).

**The GEF shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2(b), and article 21 of the Convention. The Council shall consider and approve arrangements to facilitate collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD and among countries with respect to affected countries, particularly in Africa.**

9. As a consequence of the insertion of a new sub-paragraph 6(b), references to paragraph 6 in the GEF Instrument will be revised accordingly.

10. The GEF Secretariat will transmit these changes to the GEF Instrument, if approved by consensus, to the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee for their adoption, in accordance with their respective rules and procedures. If and when adopted, the amendments to the Instrument will become effective.