



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 1997

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9th Council Meeting – April 1997

Decision 1/1997 CEO Appointment

1. On the basis of the joint recommendation made by the heads of the three Implementing Agencies, the Council reappoints by acclamation Mr. Mohamed T. El-Ashry to serve for an additional three years as the Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Facility beginning July 12, 1997.

Decision 2/1997 Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [work program](#) submitted in document GEF/C.9/3, and approves it subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by May 22, 1997. The Council also agrees to the continued application of the procedures for the approval of inter-sessional work programs by mail approved by the Council on a one-year pilot basis at its meeting in April 1996.

Decision 3/1997 GEF Corporate Budget for FY98

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.9/4, [GEF Corporate Budget for FY98](#), and approves the proposed budget for FY 98 subject to the comments made during the Council meeting and with the addition of two items: \$60,000 for two replenishment meetings, and \$50,000 to provide for an additional fixed-term position for monitoring and evaluation.
2. The Chief Executive Officer is requested to meet with the Implementing Agencies to discuss their experience in applying the three-tier budget approach with a view to reducing costs while enhancing project quality, and to consider how their experience may contribute to development of a fee-based budgetary system.

Decision 4/1997 Principles for GEF Financing of Targeted Research

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.9/5, [Principles for GEF Financing of Targeted Research](#), and approves the document subject to the comments made at the Council meeting as a basis for considering GEF funding of goal-oriented research that supports the GEF operational strategy. The GEF Secretariat is requested to organize the Research Committee referred to in paragraph 20 of the document.

Decision 5/1997 Follow-up Action to STAP Workshop on Land Degradation

1. The Council, having reviewed the recommendations contained in report GEF/C.9/6, [*Follow up action to the STAP workshop on land degradation*](#), agrees with the course of action proposed in the document, subject to the comments made by the Council, and requests the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat to take appropriate steps, consistent with the recommendations and in full consultation with interested recipient countries, to identify, prepare and implement GEF financed land degradation activities as they relate to biodiversity, climate change and international waters. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies, is requested to report back to the Council on a regular basis on developments in this area, starting with the Council meeting in November 1997.

Decision 6/1997 Relations with Conventions

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.9/7, [*Relations with Conventions*](#), approves the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Council of the Global Environment Facility* set forth in Attachment A of the document. The Council also approves the *Annex on the Determination of Funding Necessary and Available for the Implementation of the Convention to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Council of the Global Environment Facility* set forth in Attachment B of the document and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention to approve the annex at its next session.
2. The Council takes note of the decisions of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the early initiatives of the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to respond to the decisions. The Council invites recipient countries, the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to reflect the Convention's guidance in the identification and preparation of biodiversity projects proposed for GEF financing.
3. The Council further notes the review process of the GEF that has been initiated by each of the Conventions. The Council requests the Secretariat to inform the GEF political and operational focal points of this process and to invite them to share their views and experiences through their governments' responses to the Convention Secretariats.
4. The Council notes with appreciation the efforts that have been made by the GEF Secretariat and Implementing Agencies, with the cooperation of the Convention

Secretariats, to disseminate information on GEF project activities and to facilitate access to GEF funding.

Decision 7/1997 Note on the Organization of the GEF Assembly

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.9/8, [*Note on the Organization of the GEF Assembly*](#), and approves the approach described therein for organizing the first GEF Assembly in India in April 1998, subject to the comments made at the meeting. The Council agrees that its first regular Council meeting in 1998 will be convened in conjunction with, and at the same location as, the Assembly meeting. The Secretariat is requested to prepare for Council review at its November meeting a provisional agenda and draft rules of procedure for the Assembly together with other initial documentation identified in paragraph 11 of the note. The Secretariat is also requested to submit to the Council for its approval at the November meeting the proposed budget for the Assembly.

Decision 8/1997 Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Noting the introduction and explanations provided by the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator on his work program in preparation for the Assembly, as described in the synopsis of the study of the GEF's overall performance, the Council agrees that the terms of reference for the studies highlighted in the synopsis are acceptable. In preparing the study of the GEF's overall performance, the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator is encouraged by the Council to seek expert advice and to establish an advisory panel for that purpose. In establishing the panel, he should ensure a broad representation in terms of focal areas and equitable geographic representation and participation by NGOs. The report of the advisory panel should be submitted to the Council together with the evaluation report.
2. The terms of reference of the panel and the studies should be circulated to the Council and made available for public comment by May 8. Comments will be expected on the terms of reference during a ten-day period.
3. Additional costs of the panel will be covered by the monitoring and evaluation budget. The CEO will report on these costs in the mid-term review of the budget and will seek additional resources if necessary.

Decision by Mail – July 1997

Decision 9/1997 Intersessional Work Program

1. The July 1997 intersessional [work program](#) has been approved by Council. However, two Council Members have raised objections about three projects: Japan has reserved its judgement on approving the Pakistan Protected Areas Management projects; the USA does not approve the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Dryland Agro-Biodiversity of the Fertile Crescent and the Vietnam Demand-Side Management projects.
2. Attached are [comments from those Council Members](#) who had comments about individual projects in the work program. These comments should be taken into consideration when finalizing project documents for endorsement.

10th Council Meeting – November 1997

Decision 10/1997 STAP

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.10/5, [GEF Experience in Incorporating the Work of STAP](#), and noted with appreciation STAP's contributions to the GEF. UNEP, as it proceeds with the reconstitution of STAP, should follow the guidelines set out in the Terms of Reference for STAP approved by the GEF Council in October 1995, taking into account the Members' comments made at this meeting and the experience of the GEF entities with the work of STAP. UNEP should also provide advance information to the Council on the proposed composition of the "new" STAP before its final submission at the April Council meeting.

Decision 11/1997 Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [work program](#) submitted to the Council in document GEF/C.10/3, and approves it subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by November 26, 1997. Comments made during the meeting include the following:
 - (a) The Council emphasized the importance of the principle of incremental costs to the GEF while recognizing the difficulties that continue to be encountered in its application.
 - (b) The Implementing Agencies should involve recipient countries in negotiations on the incremental costs of their proposed GEF projects.

- (c) The Secretariat should prepare a policy note on innovative modalities for GEF financing of projects.

Decision 12/1997 Corporate Business Plan FY99-01

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.10/4, [GEF Corporate Business Plan FY99-01](#). The Council requests the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to take into account its comments on the business plan when preparing the proposed FY99 budget for approval by the Council at its meeting in April 1998. The Council further requests the Secretariat to continue to work with the Implementing Agencies to develop and apply the improved cost accounting approach for preparing the FY99 budget and to explore opportunities for piloting the introduction of a fee-based system in FY99.

Decision 13/1997 Monitoring and Evaluation

1. The Council reviewed the [Progress Report on the Preparation of Evaluation Studies](#), document GEF/C.10/6, together with the *Report of the International Expert Advisory Panel for the study of GEF's overall performance*, and welcomes receiving the preliminary findings emerging from both studies. The Council requests the evaluation team to continue its work, taking into account the comments made by the Council, so as to complete the evaluation reports in accordance with the schedule presented to the Council.

Decision 14/1997 Relations with Conventions

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.10/7, [Relations with Conventions](#), welcomes the collaboration between the GEF and Conventions secretariats, and encourages the GEF secretariat and Implementing Agencies to continue their efforts towards active dialogue with the Parties to the Conventions at the appropriate convention meetings. The Council takes note of the initiatives of the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to respond to the additional guidance received from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and requests them to continue their efforts to develop project activities consistent with such guidance. The Council also takes note of the reviews being undertaken by the Conventions of their financial mechanisms, and invites all GEF Participant states, in their capacity as Parties to the Conventions, to contribute to the review process.

Decision 15/1997 Preparations for GEF Assembly

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.10/8 ([Note on the GEF Assembly](#)) and [GEF/C.10/8/Add.1](#), requests the CEO to proceed with preparations for the Assembly in

accordance with the arrangements described in the note, and in particular the structure and timetable for the Assembly presented in Addendum 1, subject to the comments made by the Council. The Council approves the letter of notification proposed in annex A to the document, and requests the CEO to notify Participants, through the political focal point in each country, of the Assembly meeting to be held in April 1998. The Council is in agreement with the provisional agenda and proposed rules of procedures for the Assembly, and requests the CEO to transmit them to the Assembly for final approval. The Council also approves the preparation of documentation described in the proposed list of documents, and the procedures for accrediting NGOs to the Assembly meeting.

2. The Council approves the proposed budget for the Assembly presented in GEF/C.10/8/Add.1 as an addendum to the GEF Corporate Budget for FY98 that was approved at its meeting in April 1997.

Decision 16/1997 Annual Report

1. The Council reviewed the draft [Annual Report covering the activities of the GEF during FY97](#), document GEF/C.10/9, approves it subject to any factual corrections that may be submitted by Council Members by November 30, 1997, and requests the Secretariat to finalize the report.

Decision 17/1997 Other Business

1. The Council reviewed the issues concerning [incremental costs](#) contained in document GEF/C.10/Inf. 6. The Council welcomes further work on the paper by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the secretariats of the Biodiversity and Climate Change Conventions, taking into account Council comments, in order to clarify definitions and to further facilitate application. The paper should also include operational criteria and paradigm cases for different types of GEF activities and projects and should be submitted for Council consideration at its meeting in November 1998.

Decision by Mail – December 1997

Decision 18/1997 Intersessional Work Program

The Council approval of the December 1997 intersessional [work program](#) could not be found.