



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2000

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Decision by Mail – March 2000

Decision 1/2000 Intersessional Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [work program](#) posted on the GEF Website on February 9, 2000, and approves it subject to the comments submitted to the Secretariat.
2. The Council finds that the projects presented to it as part of the work program (i) are or would be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the Implementing Agency, provided that the CEO circulates to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the [Council's comments on the work program](#) accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
3. With respect to the project, *Reversal of Land and Water Degradation Trends in the Lake Chad Basin Ecosystem*, Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive the proposed final project document and within four weeks transmit to the CEO any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing the project document for final approval by the Implementing Agencies. The proposed final project document may be reviewed at a subsequent Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

15th Council Meeting – May 2000

Decision 2/2000 Work Program submitted for Council Approval

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [work program](#) submitted to Council in documents GEF/C.15/3, [GEF/C.15/3/Add.1](#), and [GEF/C.15/3/Add.2](#), and approves it¹ subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by June 1, 2000.
2. The Council finds that , with the exception of the project proposal entitled, *Uganda, Rural Energy for Development*, each project presented to it as part of the work program (i) is or would be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures and

¹ One Council Member, in light of national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, did not support the project proposal entitled *Cuba, Co-generation of Electricity and Steam Using Sugar Bagasse and Trash*.

(ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the Implementing Agency, provided that the CEO circulates to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the Council's comments on the work program accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

3. With respect to the project proposal entitled, *Uganda, Rural Energy for Development*, the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive a draft final project document so that Council Members may transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing the project document for final approval by the Implementing Agency. The project may be reviewed at a further Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

Decision 3/2000 Review of Progress in Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.15/4, [*Review of Progress in Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies*](#). The Council welcomes the progress being made to expand opportunities for Regional Development Banks and the arrangements to expedite their access to PDF-B resources. The Council commends the efforts of the Regional Development Banks to participate in the GEF and the assistance provided to them by the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat. The Council, however, raised major concerns over the complex arrangements and division of labor as outlined in Annex B of the document. Council believes that a clearer definition of "accountability" is needed for the sake of efficiency and transparency and requests the CEO to consult with Senior Management of the Implementing Agencies and to report to Council at its November meeting.
2. The Council also approves the arrangement outlined in Part IV to expand opportunities for UNIDO and FAO as executing agencies, given their specific expertise in new emerging areas for GEF activities. In the case of bilateral aid agencies and other groups, the Council felt that further discussion is needed. The Council requests the Secretariat to prepare for the next Council meeting more detailed criteria and guidelines for expanded opportunities for additional executing agencies based on GEF business needs.

Decision 4/2000 GEF Corporate Budget FY01

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.15/5, [*GEF Corporate Budget FY01*](#), and approves the proposed FY01 corporate budget of \$19.661 million (which includes an additional

US\$100,000 to the Secretariat budget proposed in the document to cover the costs of Alternates from recipient country constituencies attending Council meetings), subject to the comments made during the Council meeting, comprising:

- (a) an amount of \$18.393 million for the resource requirements of the six GEF organizational units (the three Implementing Agencies coordination units, GEF Secretariat, Trustee and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel) in the provision of corporate management services; and
- (b) an amount of \$1.268 million to support the proposed special initiatives of (i) a project tracking and management information system; (ii) the second year of the strengthening of country-level ownership and coordination of GEF-financed activities; and (iii) the continuation of greater outreach and communications efforts.

Decision 5/2000 Report on the Implementation of the fee-based System

1. The Council welcomes the progress that has been achieved in the first year of operation of the [fee-based system](#) and requests the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Implementing Agencies, to continue to refine and simplify the system and to report annually to the Council on progress.

Decision 6/2000 Elements of a GEF Operational Program on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity important to Agriculture

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.15/7, [Elements of a GEF Operational Program on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity Important to Agriculture](#), and approves the elements as a basis for preparing an operational program, subject to the comments made during the Council meeting. The Council requests the Secretariat to develop the operational program, in consultation with concerned partners and stakeholders, including the Implementing Agencies, STAP and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to circulate the draft program to Council Members for comment before finalizing it.

Decision 7/2000 Relations with Conventions

1. The Council takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international global agreements (in document [Relations with Conventions](#)), and invites GEF eligible countries, the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat to continue to develop country-driven projects consistent with the policies and program priorities

identified in the guidance from the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2. The Council welcomes the adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including Article 28 of the Protocol which provides that “the financial mechanism established in Article 21 of the Convention shall, through the institutional structure entrusted with its operation, be the financial mechanism for this Protocol.” The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to inform the Council at its next meeting of its initial strategy for assisting countries to prepare for the entry into force of the protocol. The Council also requests UNDP and the GEF Secretariat to take into account the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol in the on-going work of the Capacity Development Initiative.
3. The Council welcomes the efforts of the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to simplify their procedures in making available to interested countries increased resources under the expedited enabling activities to address priority issues of capacity building. The Council also endorses the approach proposed for financing second national communications to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change pursuant to the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
4. The Council requests the CEO to continue to observe the negotiations of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain organic pollutants and to provide information to delegations negotiating the agreement on the assistance that may be available through the GEF to assist parties in implementing the provisions of the agreement. In addition, the Council requests the GEF Secretariat to elaborate an options paper to expand the scope of GEF interventions in the area of POP’s and/or the elements of a new operational program dedicated to the phasing out of POP’s and to submit the paper to the Council for discussion at its meeting in November 2000.

Decision 8/2000 Third Progress Report on actions to implement the Recommendations of the Study of GEF’s Overall Performance and the Policy Recommendations for the Second Replenishment Period

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.15/9, [*Third Progress Report on Actions to Implement the Recommendations of the Study of GEF’s Overall Performance and the Policy Recommendations for the Second Replenishment Period*](#), takes note of the actions that the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies have undertaken. The Council requests the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to continue their efforts to address the

recommendations and to report to the Council meeting in May 2001 on additional progress made in this regard.

Decision 9/2000 1999 Project Performance Report

1. The Council reviewed the [1999 Project Performance Report](#) (GEF/C.15/10) and concurs with the conclusions of the review, and in particular, supports the recommendation that the GEF move away from an “approvals culture” towards greater attention to the results of its programs. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to take these conclusions fully into account in their development and management of GEF activities, and requests the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator to report back to the Council as to how the conclusions have been taken into account.

Decision 10/2000 Second Study of GEF’s Overall Performance (OPS 2) An Approach Paper

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.15/11, [Second Study of GEF’s Overall Performance \(OPS 2\) – An Approach Paper](#). The Council endorses the scope and main themes outlined in the approach paper and requests the Secretariat to prepare, taking into account the comments made at the meeting, a detailed terms of reference, including budget and timetable, for the Second Study of GEF’s Overall Performance, for Council review and approval between now and its November meeting. The study should be completed no later than September/October 2001 in order to help inform the third replenishment discussions.

Decision 11/2000 Toward an Environment Strategy for the World Bank Group: Progress Report

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.15/12, [Toward an Environment Strategy for the World Bank Group](#), takes note of the steps that have been taken by the World Bank Group in developing a corporate environment strategy and requests the World Bank to take into account its comments in the further development of the strategy. Recognizing the consultations and regional meetings that the World Bank is to undertake as a contribution to the development of its environment strategy as well as the need to incorporate the lessons that will be highlighted by the environment review under preparation by the World Bank’s Operations Evaluation Department, the Council requests the World Bank to submit its final strategy to the Council in advance of the Council meeting in May 2001.

Decision 12/2000 Other Business

1. The Council requests the Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, in cooperation with the CEO/Chairman of the Facility, to initiate discussions on the replenishment of the Trust Fund with the convening of a planning meeting for the negotiations of the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund prior to the Council meeting in November 2000. The Trustee was requested to provide the planning meeting with information on the status of commitments to the second replenishment and the prospects for the coming year.
2. The Council welcomes with appreciation and accepts the kind offer of the Government of China to host the second GEF Assembly around October 2002.

Decision by Mail – July 2000

Decision 13/2000 Intersessional Work Program

The Council approval of the July 2000 intersessional [work program](#) could not be found.

16th Council Meeting – November 2000

Decision 14/2000 Relations with Conventions

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.16/3, [Relations with Conventions](#), takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international agreements, and invites countries, the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat to continue to develop country-driven projects consistent with the policies and program priorities identified in the guidance from the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Council also welcomes the progress that is being made in implementing action pursuant to the Action Plan for Enhancing GEF Support for Activities to Address Land Degradation.
2. The Council requests the CEO to explore the best options for enhancing the support of the GEF in assisting affected countries, especially those in Africa, to implement the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, taking into account the third replenishment, and to report to the Council at its meeting in May 2001.
3. The Council requests the CEO to continue to observe the negotiations for an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain

persistent organic pollutants and to inform the next meeting of the negotiating committee of the Council's discussions concerning the operational role that the GEF can play in assisting countries to implement the new convention.

4. The Council welcomes the information in the paper on the work of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and encourages the GEF Secretariat to enhance its cooperation with such conventions. The Council agrees that representatives of these conventions should be invited to observe Council meetings when project proposals aimed at assisting countries to meet the objectives of their conventions are included in the work program.

Decision 15/2000 Initial Strategy for Assisting Countries to Prepare for Entry Into Force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

1. The Council, having reviewed the *proposed [Initial Strategy for Assisting Countries to Prepare for the Entry into Force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#)*, approves the strategy as a basis for guiding GEF action and requests the GEF Secretariat, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Implementing Agencies, to work with interested countries to assist them. The Secretariat is requested to report to the Council regularly on the implementation of the strategy, including the project entitled, *Development of National Biosafety Frameworks, for which UNEP is the Implementing Agency*.
2. The GEF Secretariat is requested to collaborate with the Convention Secretariat, the GEF Implementing Agencies, bilateral and other multilateral organizations with a view to facilitating better coordination among them for the provision of assistance to interested countries and to explore opportunities to strengthen partnerships for the provision of capacity building activities.
3. The GEF Secretariat is requested to inform the Intergovernmental Committee on the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP) of this strategy and the efforts that are underway through the GEF to build the capacity of countries to address the objective of the Protocol. The strategy should be kept under review so as to incorporate relevant decisions of the ICCP.

Decision 16/2000 Report on Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council takes note of the summary of the Co-Chairs of the Planning Meeting for the Third GEF Replenishment which was held in Washington, D.C., on October 30, 2000.

Decision 17/2000 Driving for Results in the GEF: Streamlining and Balancing Project Cycle Management

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.16/5, [*Driving for Results in the GEF: Streamlining and Balancing Project Cycle Management*](#), and endorses the overall approach towards improving GEF responsiveness and achieving better on-the-ground results and high project quality. The Council commends the progress that has already been made by the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to streamline and balance operations and requests them to continue to develop the options for further improvements outlined in the paper.
2. The Council approves the following revisions to the project cycle, identified in Section II of this document:
 - (a) The CEO is authorized to approve PDF-B resources for projects requiring preparation in multiple countries up to a ceiling of US\$700,000.
 - (b) The CEO is authorized to approve PDF-C resources up to a ceiling of US\$1 million.
 - (c) All technical comments by Council Members on project proposals will be submitted to the Secretariat in writing within two weeks after the conclusion of the Council meeting.
 - (d) A country endorsement by the national operational focal point provided at the time a request is submitted for GEF PDF-B funding, or for PDF-A funding for a medium-sized project, will suffice as the country endorsement for the project proposal submitted for inclusion in the work program, unless the national focal point specifically requests that a second endorsement be sought prior to work program inclusion. The Secretariat may request a second country endorsement when a project proposal is to be included in the work program if:
 - (i) The Secretariat determines that the project design has fundamentally changed since the PDF-B proposal was endorsed, or
 - (ii) There are specific country commitments, such as co-financing, that require confirmation.
3. The Council agrees that with regard to projects prepared and executed by an organization identified in the GEF expanded opportunities for executing agencies (to date, these are the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, and the United

Nations Industrial Development Organization), an Implementing Agency should continue to have direct accountability to the GEF Council for its GEF-financed activities. However, for executing agencies identified under the GEF expanded opportunities, such accountability should be limited in the following manner. The exercise of the Implementing Agency's accountability to the GEF Council will be in the context of the Implementing Agency's initial due diligence work in the process of identifying executing agencies and in ensuring consistency with GEF policies and procedures together with implementation by that executing agency of its own policies and procedures and not the policies and procedures of the Implementing Agencies. The Council confirms that executing agencies identified in the GEF expanded opportunities will have direct access to PDF-B Grants through the GEF Secretariat.

4. The Council calls upon the Implementing Agencies to ensure that the GEF has the capacity and agility to manage small projects, including enabling activities, and to ensure that disbursement of funds for such projects can be achieved in an efficient and timely manner. In this regard, the Implementing Agencies are requested to provide a report to the Council at its next meeting on the mechanisms and arrangements through which they can expedite the disbursement of GEF funds for small projects.
5. The Council requests the CEO to convey this decision on streamlining of GEF procedures and its determination to continue that process to the Conferences of the Parties to the CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD as well as the upcoming fifth session of the International Negotiating Committee (INC) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Organic Pollutants.

Decision 18/2000 Draft Elements of an Operational Program for Reducing and Eliminating Releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants into the Environment

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.16/6, [*Draft Elements of an Operational Program for Reducing and Eliminating Releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants*](#), and takes note of the elements as a basis for preparing an operational program, subject to the conclusions and decisions of the International Negotiating Committee (INC) for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Organic Pollutants.
2. The Council agrees that should the GEF be designated as the financial mechanism for the legal agreement to address persistent organic pollutants, additional financial resources for this purpose will be made available through the third replenishment. The Council also recognizes that should the GEF be the financial mechanism for the legal

agreement it would be willing to initiate early action with regard to the proposed enabling activities with existing resources.

3. The Council requests the CEO to work with UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the INC, to officially circulate the elements of the proposed operational program together with information on the Council's discussions and other relevant decisions, including its decision on streamlining and balancing project cycle management, to the participants at the fifth session of the INC in December 2000 with a view to ensuring that they are fully informed of the operational role that the GEF can play in assisting countries to implement the new convention.

Decision 19/2000 Work Program Submitted for Council Approval

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [Work Program](#) submitted to Council in document GEF/C.16/7 and approves it² subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by November 17, 2000.
2. The Council finds that, with the exception of:

(a) UNEP: Development of National Biosafety Frameworks

(b) UNEP: Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment

each project presented to it as part of the work program (i) is or would be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the Implementing Agency, provided that the CEO circulates to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the Council's comments on the work program accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

3. With respect to the two projects listed above, the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive draft final project documents so that Council Members may transmit to the CEO within two weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing a project document for final approval by the Implementing Agency. Such projects may be reviewed at a future Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

² One Council Member, in light of national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, did not support the project proposal *UNEP: Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment* and *UNEP/FAO: Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling through Introduction of By-catch Technologies and Change of Management*.

4. With regard to projects for which GEF financing is to be approved in tranches, the Council agrees that after the initial approval of the project proposal and the first tranche of financing by the Council, the CEO may approve subsequent tranches of financing in accordance with the provisions of the project proposal, provided that Council Members receive the proposal for additional financing for a three-week review period prior to CEO approval. If at least four Council Members request that the proposal be reviewed at a Council meeting, the CEO shall submit the proposal, for consideration and approval, to the next Council meeting.

Decision 20/2000 Corporate Business Plan FY02-FY04

1. The Council reviewed the [GEF Corporate Business Plan FY02-04](#) (document GEF/C.16/8) and provided comments on the business plan. The Council notes that the forecast of resource allocations beyond FY02 will be subject to the negotiations for the third replenishment as well as developments within the context of the conventions related to the global environment considered under agenda items 5 and 8. The Council requests the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to take into account its comments on the business plan and its decisions on other agenda items in carrying out GEF activities and in preparing the proposed FY02 budget for approval by the Council at its meeting in May 2001.

Decision 21/2000 Note on Organization of Second GEF Assembly

1. The Council reiterates its sincere appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of China to host the [second GEF Assembly](#). The Council agrees that the Assembly will be held in October 2002 so as to allow the Assembly to take into account the results of Rio+10. The Council agrees that the organization and structure of the Assembly proposed in the note prepared by the Secretariat, document GEF/C.16/9, provides a sound basis for planning and requests the Secretariat to begin taking steps necessary to organize the Assembly. In this regard, the Council approves the additional resources to the GEF Secretariat's corporate budget for FY01 detailed in the note for purposes of initiating the planning and organization of the Assembly and recognizes that the Secretariat will include in its proposal for the FY02 corporate budget to be considered by the Council in May 2001 a proposed budget for the full costs of the Assembly.

Decision 22/2000 Review of Climate Change Enabling Activities

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.16/10, [Review of Climate Change Enabling Activities](#). The Council notes the recommendations contained in the review, and requests the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to take the report into

consideration in future climate change enabling activity efforts. This applies particularly to the work of the Capacity Development Initiative, including the development of elements of a strategy and an action plan for capacity development in the area of climate change. The Council also invites the Secretariat to submit the review to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Council of the Global Environment Facility.

Decision 23/2000 New Participants in Constituencies

1. The Council confirms the following [constituency](#) groupings:
 - (a) Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz Republic, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
 - (b) Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Decision 24/2000 Proposed Amendment to the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council

1. The Council, in reviewing a [proposed amendment to the rules](#) concerning decision by mail, confirms that intersessional work programs may be approved by mail on a no objections basis. The Council also confirms that policy decisions should not be approved by mail.
2. The Council agrees to amend rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure to read as follows: "45. At the expiration of the period prescribed for comments, the decision shall be approved unless there is an objection. If a proposed decision has financial implications, approval of the decision will require replies from at least two-thirds of the Members. If there is an objection raised by any Member to any proposed decision, the CEO shall include consideration of the proposed decision as an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council. The CEO shall notify all those that received the communication referred to in paragraph 43 of the action he/she takes pursuant to this paragraph."

Decision 25/2000 Other Business

1. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to make available on the GEF website statistical information on GEF and co-financing commitments and disbursements. This information should be presented according to countries, regions, and focal areas. These statistics should be regularly updated.
2. The Council requests the CEO to ensure the active participation of the GEF in Rio+10 and its preparatory process. In this regard, the CEO is requested to share with the Council a

note on his proposals for integrating the GEF into the Rio+10 process. The Council requests the Secretariat to strengthen its partnership with the GEF NGO network in these efforts.

3. The Council requests the Secretariat to prepare for the next Council meeting a paper on expanded opportunities for executing agencies that would include criteria for the expansion of such opportunities to other agencies as well as a discussion of the implications of the decision reflected in paragraph 18 for the GEF monitoring and evaluation system.
4. The Council requests the Secretariat to organize a familiarization seminar for new Council Members and Alternates in conjunction with Council meetings.