



# Global Environment Facility

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GEF Council  
November 19-21, 2003

Communication to GEF CEO/Chairman from Group of 77 and China



# THE GROUP OF 77

New York  
Office of the Chairman

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31 October 2003

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in relation to the ongoing debate in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council on "Performance Based Framework". In this context, I would like on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to state the following:

- The Restructured GEF was established in 1994 in order to take into account the developments after Rio and to become as one of the principal mechanisms for global environment funding, to ensure a governance that is transparent and democratic in nature, to promote universality in its participation and to provide for full cooperation in its implementation among the Implementing Agencies. The purpose of the Restructured GEF is to operate, on the basis of collaboration and partnership among the Implementing Agencies, as a mechanism for international cooperation for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits.
- After almost ten years of its new life, the Restructured GEF significantly contributed to the protection of the global environment. The role of the GEF, as the only multi-conventions financing facility and as a new multilateral entity is increasingly becoming crucial to the efforts of the international community to protect the global environment.
- We express our deep concern on the discussion of "Performance Based Framework" which deliberately deviates from the agreements in Beijing, in the Third Replenishment and more importantly from the Instrument. This discussion has the potential to undermine the GEF achievements and its credibility. We believe that it will alter fundamentally the way GEF operates, change its objectives and make it difficult to assist developing countries to meet their goals.
- At the time that we share the adoption of measures that contribute to elevate the effectiveness in the use of the GEF resources, since this in turn rebounds, in a bigger achievement of environmental benefits so much at national level as international, it is necessary to get the attention about the fact that the proposed procedures, adds new elements that instead of given flexibility and speeding up the approval procedures of GEF projects, make them more complex and delayed. This without a doubt conspires with the

execution of one of the main historical requests of the recipient countries in the GEF, that is to say the simplification of the procedures in benefit of the increase of the capacities of the developing countries to utilize the resources of the GEF.

- We cannot allow ourselves that new procedures intended to be approved by the GEF, become into an additional load or in approaches of selection of difficult execution for a good part of the recipient countries, and limit the access of these countries to the so necessary financial resources to reach the sustainable development.

- The secret of the success of the GEF was its distinction from other multilateral financing mechanisms. GEF was established to remove the barriers to the collective efforts of the international community for improving the environment across the globe without putting any conditionality. The necessity to comply with the mandate given to the GEF by the MEAs to which it serves as the financial mechanism, without any discrimination neither differentiation between the capacities of the developing countries. Therefore, any discussion, which eventually leads to the limitation of access and discriminates against some of the recipients' countries to the GEF funding and fundamentally changes the nature and the objectives of the GEF is not acceptable to the developing world.

- The GEF needs to continue its work consistent with its overarching objectives, as enunciated in the Instrument. The GEF should continue its path towards promoting global partnership for protection of environment through provision of effective support to the recipient countries, and in this context we stand ready to support the GEF in its endeavour to achieve its goals.

Please accept, Mr. Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ambassador Mohamed Bennouna  
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom  
of Morocco to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Group of 77

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c.c. To all GEF Council Members and Alternates