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STATEMENT OF JOKE WALLER-HUNTER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, UNFCCC SECRETARIAT



Twenty-third meeting of the GEF Council

Washington DC, 20 May 2004

**Joke Waller-Hunter
Executive Secretary, UNFCCC secretariat**

- **Tenth anniversary of entry into the force of the UNFCCC**
 - This year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the UNFCCC. I think that it is fair to say that within the past decade, the Convention and its COP have been very effective in advancing the international debate on climate change. This has led to a more active international cooperation on strategies to address the underlining causes of climate change as well as approaches to mitigate climate change and to assess its impacts on different regions and sectors.
 - Significant progress and action has also been achieved at the national and global levels in support of the objective of the Convention. New national institutions have been established and critical capacities built to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention.
 - The implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol have spurred emerging new sets of climate friendly technologies e.g. in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
 - Over this decade the GEF has developed into a key agent with regard to implementation. I was heartened by the discussions yesterday, which aimed at ensuring that emerging trends are well reflected in the GEF program and in a vibrant pipeline of projects.
- **Key outcomes of COP 9 of relevance to the GEF**
 - COP 9 in Milan in December last year took five key decisions of relevance to the GEF. They are well reflected in the document of the GEF sec. They collectively demonstrated Parties' determination for action and for strengthening support to developing countries to effectively implement the Convention. The guidance provided by these decisions relate to the GEF core fund and to the special climate change funds that were created by the Marakesh accords in 2001. The parties have invited the GEF to administer these funds. It is important to keep in mind that these new funds constitute separate entities and should therefore have their own identity and not be merged with the operations of the Core Fund. I would also like to mention that , following COP decisions on guidelines and the GEF Council decision on expedited funding, the second round of national communications has seen a flying start at a recent workshop in Manila.
- **Issues of special relevance**

I would like to highlight a few issues that are in my view of special relevance.

Adaptation activities

- We have read with keen interest the Council information paper on GEF assistance to address adaptation and noted the progress made in preparing for piloting an operational approach to adaptation under the climate change focal area.
 - We are pleased with the pace of progress and the interest of the GEF to move ahead on adaptation. Our Parties continue to increasingly express their interest in the subject in everyone of our sessions.
 - Climate change will take place and will have severe impacts on many countries and on many communities and ecosystems. And as we all know, and as the evidence indicates, unfortunately the most severe impacts will be felt by those with the least resources at their disposal to cope with the changes.
 - The GEF Trust Fund through its various operational programmes, and through its pilot operational programme on adaptation is well placed to address adaptation in a comprehensive manner.
 - The STAP work on interlinkages and much of the discussion that is now taking place in various international fora emphasize the need for more integrated approaches to adaptation, focussing on a sound management of the natural resources, water, land and biodiversity. An emerging consensus seems to be that the diversified set of needs in respect to adaptation cannot be adequately addressed simply by one approach, one operational programme, or one particular Fund, or even less by climate change funds alone. In a world still dominated by compartmentalized methods of work, this is quite a challenge.
 - We recognize that there are more challenges ahead particularly when it comes to the treatment of the well established GEF concepts of global benefits and incremental costs. These concepts cannot not be easily applied to adaptation where both the impacts of climate change as well as the benefits of adaptation appear, in the first instance, to be limited to the local context. We look forward to discussions on this issue.
- **On the Special Climate Change Fund**
 - COP 9 has provided further guidance on the SCCF by identifying two initial eligible activities: adaptation and technology transfer and its associated capacity building. COP 10 will come back to the issue.
 - We welcome the efforts of the GEF to operationalize COP 9 guidance on the SCCF and initiate resource mobilization for the Fund this year. We trust that the July and October meetings of potential donors will be fruitful and result in significant resources. It is important to show progress before COP 10 in December this year in Buenos Aires.
 - **As regards the LDC Fund**
 - Likewise we are also pleased to note the good progress made in mobilizing resources to support the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) in the LDCs. We urge all donors to contribute generously to this important fund to enable the

least developed countries implement NAPA projects to address their urgent adaptation needs. We wish the GEF much success in its resource mobilization efforts.

- **On the Performance-based allocation framework**

- We have noted the efforts made by the GEF secretariat in further developing this framework for GEF resources. We look forward to the Council discussions on this paper. The Council will undoubtedly recognize the risk for potential tension between criteria established by the PBA and requirements identified by the various conventions when it comes to addressing countries and sectors. It is therefore in my view essential that any allocation framework to be agreed upon should enable the GEF to respond more effectively and efficiently to COP guidance on support for the implementation of the Convention.

- **Inter-secretariat cooperation**

- The Convention Secretariat has actively consulted with the GEF Secretariat, on the preparation of a document on the implementation of COP guidance on the determination of funding for the implementation of the Convention by developing countries with a view to the next GEF replenishment. The issue is defined in the MoU between the Convention and the GEF, and has been operationalised by the decision of COP8. This issue will come up for consideration at the forthcoming SBI meeting in three weeks time.
- As a first step the document before the SBI seeks to provide context within which the assessment of funding needs of developing countries for the implementation of the Convention will be carried out.
- We thank the GEF Secretariat for their collaboration and we look forward to closely working on this topic and on the many other issues that are on our common agendas.

20/05/04
