



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

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Agenda Item 13

**SUMMARY OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE THIRD MEETING FOR THE
FIFTH REPLENISHMENT OF RESOURCES OF THE GEF TRUST
FUND**

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PARIS, FRANCE
OCTOBER 14-15, 2009**

SUMMARY OF THE CO-CHAIRS

1. The third meeting of Participants for the GEF-5 Replenishment was held at the World Bank office in Paris, France on October 14-15, 2009. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg, Vice-President, Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships, World Bank, and Ms. Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility.
2. Participants welcomed the Fourth Overall Performance Study (OPS4) and thanked the Evaluation Office for its extensive work in preparing the report. Participants broadly agreed with the findings, but highlighted a number of issues that will require continued attention in programming and policy discussions, among which are included:
 - i. the need to reinforce country ownership;
 - ii. benchmarking, measuring, and reporting actual impacts and outcomes;
 - iii. further streamlining the project cycle;
 - iv. integrating gender and social issues throughout the project cycle;
 - v. resource allocation for LDCs, small island states, and fragile states,
 - vi. the need to define under-funding as it relates to the GEF; and
 - vii. greater involvement of the private sector and CSOs in GEF programs.

Some participants expressed concern with regard to some of the wording in the OPS4 and agreed to clarify any factual concerns or errors with the Evaluation Office before the report is published.

3. The GEF Secretariat presented the updated GEF-5 Programming Document. Participants reiterated support for a strong GEF replenishment. Many noted the need for ambitious but realistic scenarios. In response, the GEF Secretariat will develop scenarios reflecting increases of 50, 75, and 100 percent over GEF-4. Most Participants expressed openness to an asymmetric approach to increasing allocations for focal areas and themes, provided the level for each focal area is at least maintained relative to GEF-4 levels. Participants indicated strong support for voluntary national business plans, with national authorities in the lead in determining country-specific priorities.
4. In this context, most Participants expressed the need to increase the focus on and increase allocations for climate change. In particular, they noted the central importance of capacity-building efforts, including for developing carbon markets, and the value of GEF in promoting low-carbon technologies. Many Participants expressed the need for increased allocations to POPs and ODS, and the desirability GEF involvement in a broader chemicals program, including mercury. Some Participants also expressed support for a stronger focus on biodiversity, sustainable forest management, land degradation, and international waters. Participants supported maintaining the small grants program at a level comparable to the one pledged for GEF-4. Several Participants also highlighted the importance of enhancing private sector engagement, with some noting that a broader private sector window than the Earth Fund may be desirable. A revised programming document will be prepared by the Secretariat by end-October.

5. Participants welcomed commitments in the policy document to streamline the project cycle, increase alignment of GEF programming with country needs, strengthen the results-based management framework, and enhance accountability to the Conventions.

Participants expressed broad support for the preparation of national communications to the Conventions directly by countries, though some Participants raised questions regarding the comparative advantage of the Secretariat in facilitating their preparation.

6. Many participants underscored the need for continued consideration of direct access by developing country government to GEF resources, incorporating lessons learned from the ongoing implementation of the Adaptation Fund. In this regard, some Participants recommended an examination of principles that could underpin direct access, including the need for appropriate capacity and minimum fiduciary standards. Participants indicated that additional voluntary contributions between replenishment cycles may be useful but cautioned against any introduction of earmarking. The Secretariat will revise further the policy recommendations document in accordance with guidance provided by Participants, with the aim of prioritizing recommendations, establishing a clear timeline, and building on GEF-4 achievements.

7. Finally, the Chairs noted that some Participants had expressed a desire to hold an additional replenishment meeting tentatively on November 13 in Washington, DC to help further narrow the anticipated funding range. In addition, the Chairs indicated that no Participant had yet expressed an interest in hosting the fourth meeting, targeted for early 2010. Participants interested in hosting the February meeting were invited to make their intentions known to the Trustee and the GEF Secretariat by December.