

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS
37TH GEF COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 24, 2010

1. The following is a record prepared by the GEF Secretariat of comments, understandings and clarifications of certain points made by Council members during discussions of the agenda items and related decisions. The joint summary of the Council meeting records the decisions agreed by the Council. These points are supplemental to the joint summary.

AGENDA ITEM 4. FIFTH REPLENISHMENT OF THE GEF TRUST FUND

2. Members welcomed the outcome of the fifth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. Some noted the gap between the amount of the replenishment and the financing needs to address global environmental issues.

3. Some countries noted that their endorsement is based on the understanding that the national portfolio identification exercise described in the programming document, represents a voluntary option for intended parties and not a standard procedure for national portfolio building and management.

AGENDA ITEM 5. GEF CORPORATE BUDGET FOR FY11

4. Many Members recognized the need to provide the Secretariat with the resources necessary to function effectively and acknowledged that the Secretariat will need more resources to take on a higher level of work in GEF-5, particularly associated with the early implementation of policy reforms.

5. Some countries noted that they would have liked to have seen a clear relationship between the GEF business plan and the GEF budget, in particular the budgetary increases. This would have allowed the Council both to ensure that the Secretariat would receive sufficient resources to conduct its work, including implementation of the reforms of the fifth replenishment, and at the same time to ensure sufficient information and transparency for Council to take an informed budgetary decision.

AGENDA ITEM 8. OTHER BUSINESS

6. Mrs. Graciela Muslera, Minister of Housing, Land Management and Environment of Uruguay gave a brief statement welcoming the Council and the Assembly to Uruguay. She stressed that the environmental dimension of development must be strengthened, noting that while the vicious cycle that links poverty-degradation-pollution-underdevelopment goes beyond the environment, its environmental component is fundamental. She also expressed satisfaction with the replenishment and ended wishing the Council every success.