



Global Environment Facility

May 16, 2000

JOINT SUMMARY OF THE CHAIRS GEF COUNCIL MEETING MAY 9-11, 2000

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The meeting was opened by Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Facility.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

2. The Council elected Victor Kouame, the Member representing the constituency of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo, as its elected Chairperson.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Council, in adopting the provisional agenda set forth in document GEF/C.15/1/Rev.1, agreed that it would also find an opportunity within the agenda to discuss:

- (a) the second GEF Assembly and the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund,
- (b) the Secretariat's proposal on the Programmatic Approach which was circulated to the Council for comment, and
- (c) the information document 14, *Addressing the Global Threat of Persistent Organic Pollutants*.

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT OF CEO/CHAIRPERSON OF THE FACILITY

4. The Council unanimously approved the reappointment of Mr. Mohamed T. El-Ashry as CEO/Chairperson of the Facility for a three year term. The Council recalled paragraph 21 of the Instrument that provides that "the CEO shall be appointed to serve for three years on a full-time basis by the Council on the joint recommendation of the Implementing Agencies. Such recommendation shall be made after consultation with the Council." The Council expressed its appreciation for the thorough consultations, both formal and informal, that had occurred during the past six months between the Council and the Implementing Agencies leading to the recommendation to reappoint

Mr. El-Ashry and noted that the process that had been followed provided a good example that should be followed in the future.

STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

5. Statements were made to the Council by Ms. Claire Parker, Coordinator, Implementation Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Principal Officer, Executive Direction and Management, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary, Convention to Combat Desertification. Ms. Parker, Mr. Jalbert and Mr. Diallo responded to questions from Members.

6. The Council expressed its appreciation for the good and active collaboration that was evident among the Convention Secretariats and the GEF, and requested that this collaboration should continue to evolve and be strengthened. With regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Council requested the GEF Secretariat and the Convention Secretariat to make every effort to ensure strong coordination between the work of the Capacity Development Initiative and the work being undertaken within the framework of the Climate Change Convention on capacity building. Concerning the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Council strongly supported the recommendation of the Inter-sessional Meeting on the Operations of the Convention that guidance to the financial mechanism should be incorporated into a single decision, including the identification of priority issues, in a manner that is transparent and allows participation and full consideration of other decisions that are being considered by the Conference of the Parties. With regard to the statement made by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD which was focussed on land degradation and desertification, the Council urged the GEF Secretariat to continue to pursue and intensify its collaboration with the Implementing Agencies, Regional Development Banks and CCD Secretariat in supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Convention. The Council was encouraged by the continuous involvement of the GEF in the activities relevant to land degradation and reiterated its appreciation to the CEO for his close cooperation with the CCD Secretariat.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR OF STAP

7. The Chair of STAP, Dr. Madhav Gadgil, reported on STAP's work program and the progress that had been made since the last Council meeting. Dr. Gadgil also responded to questions from the Council Members.

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

8. The Council approved the following decisions:

Decision on Agenda Item 7

Work Program submitted for Council Approval

9. 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.

10. 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 (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.

11. 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 on Agenda Item 8

Review of Progress in Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies

12. 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

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*.

with Senior Management of the Implementing Agencies and to report to Council at its November meeting.

13. 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 on Agenda Item 9

GEF Corporate Budget FY01

14. 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 on Agenda Item 10

Report on the Implementation of the fee-based System

15. 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 on Agenda Item 11

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

16. 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 on Agenda Item 12

Relations with Conventions

17. The Council takes note of the developments of relevance to the GEF within the various international global agreements, 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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 on Agenda Item 13

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

21. 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 on Agenda Item 13

1999 Project Performance Report

22. 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 on Agenda Item 14

Second Study of GEF's Overall Performance (OPS 2) An Approach Paper

23. 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 on Agenda Item 15

Toward an Environment Strategy for the World Bank Group: Progress Report

24. 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 on Agenda Item 16 *Other Business*

25. 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.

26. The Council welcomes with appreciation and accepts the kind offer of the Government of China to host the second GEF Assembly around October 2002.

HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION

27. The following comments, understandings and clarifications were made during the Council's discussions of its agenda items and related decisions.

Agenda Item 7 *Work Program*

28. The Council welcomed both the volume and content of the work program, and noted with satisfaction that with the approval of the work program the GEF Council will have approved over \$3 billion in GEF financing.

29. The Council noted its continued interest in ensuring the sustainability of project results and benefits and replication of lessons learned.

30. The Council reiterated its concern that the pipeline of projects in the climate change area is not sufficiently robust, and noted the information provided by the World Bank on the steps that were underway to ensure increased project preparation and implementation in this focal area. The Council also noted that the arrangements with the Regional Development Banks is expected to strengthen the GEF pipeline of projects in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

31. The Council called for increased exchange of information among donors sponsoring projects within a country with a view to ensuring efficient use of resources and better strategic planning and programming on the country level. The Council noted that efforts to move towards a programmatic approach would facilitate such coordination.

32. The Council requested that work be undertaken to reach a common understanding of what is meant by leveraging, and that information be provided to show the trends in the generation of leveraged resources. In reporting co-financing, distinctions should be

made between associated funding, jointly-managed project funds, and leveraged funds that have been mobilized as a direct result of the GEF financing.

33. The Council was pleased that progress had been made in preparing projects that address land degradation and stressed the importance of increasing land degradation activities so as to ensure a balanced GEF portfolio. The Council called upon the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to continue to strengthen their efforts and outreach to countries to ensure additional progress in this area.

34. The Council highlighted the importance of community participation in the preparation and implementation of projects as this contributes to better project ownership and requested that project documentation more clearly record how such participation has been achieved.

35. The Council requested the Secretariat to review the treatment of risks and assumptions in each project proposal and to highlight risks and assumptions in the cover note to the work program. The Secretariat noted that an identification of risks and assumptions is an integral feature of the logical framework adopted as the structure for GEF projects, and that this should be reflected in both the standard annex on the logframe and within the project document itself.

Agenda Item 8

Progress report on expanded opportunities for executing agencies

36. Consistent with the need for the GEF to streamline and expedite its project preparation and implementation, the Council requested that the issue of accountability for projects be clarified, and that the accountability to the Council of the Implementing Agencies for the work of a Regional Development Bank should not overlap with, nor duplicate the accountability of, a Regional Development Bank for a project it would be implementing as might be the case with the proposals presented in Annex B to the document.

37. Council suggested that in clarifying the issue of accountability the following should be considered as constituting the responsibilities of the Implementing Agency:

- (a) an assessment of whether the executing agency can comply with the policies and standards of GEF;
- (b) an assurance of quality at entry of project proposal in the work program based on project preparation; and
- (c) a defined role for the Implementing Agency in the evaluation process at project completion.

38. The primary role of the national focal points in the project cycle should also be emphasized. National ownership of all GEF projects is particularly important.

39. The Council requested the Regional Development Banks to ensure that their country offices were informed about GEF issues and policies.

40. The Council did not support the idea of a premium being added to the administrative fee in cases where an RDB was to execute a project.

Agenda Item 9

GEF Corporate Budget FY01

41. The CEO informed the Council that as requested by the Council at its last meeting, he had consulted with Council Members on the matter of providing financial assistance to Alternates from constituencies formed primarily of recipient countries to cover their travel and subsistence for the purpose of attending Council meeting. On the basis of his consultations, the CEO proposed that these costs be provided for in the corporate budget of the Secretariat. In agreeing to the proposal of the CEO, the Council stressed the importance of ensuring representation and participation of a larger number of countries in the work of the Council. It was clarified that this support would be available to Alternates from recipient countries in multi-party constituencies when the Alternate was from a different country than that of the Council Member.

42. One Council member requested that proposals requiring approval of budgetary resources should preferably be included in the proposed budget circulated in advance to the Council before the meeting.

43. The Council requested that future presentations of the budget include more precise information on the aims and objectives of activities to be funded as well as more quantitative data and measures.

44. The Council agreed that in future budgets the financing of outreach activities that is included in the current budget under special initiatives should be mainstreamed in future budgets of the Secretariat.

45. In approving the budget, the Council agreed that on the basis of its discussions under agenda item 14, Approach for Second Study of GEF's Overall Performance, the Secretariat should prepare proposed terms of reference and a budget for such a study (see paragraph 23 above.)

46. In reviewing the budget, the Council continued its discussions on the need for streamlining the GEF project cycle to enhance the effectiveness of the GEF. The CEO reported to the Council the agreement of the Heads of Agencies (see document GEF/C.15/Inf. 10) on the need for further simplification and streamlining of project preparation and approval processes, as well as for enhanced responsiveness to recipient countries. The CEO will be chairing a retreat with senior staff of the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies on this matter and will submit a report to the Council for its consideration at its next meeting.

47. As a first step, the Council agreed to adjust the CEO's present authority to approve medium sized projects to include approval authority for medium sized projects with GEF financing of up to US\$ 1 million (this is an increase from the present limit of

US\$750,000). Furthermore, the Council confirmed that the CEO may approve supplementary budgets of up to 5% of each GEF unit's corporate management budget as necessary and appropriate to ensure the expedient operation of GEF corporate management activities and the quality of its work.

48. The Council also strongly supported the development of a GEF project tracking system as a way of improving the transparency, streamlining and effectiveness of the GEF.

49. It was suggested that the Secretariat might usefully explore the possibilities of collaborating with other financial sources to catalyze the preparation of country environmental analysis in interested countries or regions that could serve to inform policy makers of strategic decisions and actions that should be undertaken to contribute to the protection of the local, national and global environment.

Agenda Item 10

Progress report on the fee-based system

50. The Council welcomed the progress that had been achieved in designing a fee-based system, while recognizing that this is a new and dynamic system still in evolution. The Council requested the Secretariat to continue its work with the Implementing Agencies with the objective of designing a system that is consistent with the principles set forth in paragraph 15 of the document.

51. The Council raised a number of questions and concerns with regard to the formula proposed in paragraph 17 of the document, and requested that such questions and concerns be taken into account as the formula is further developed and applied.

52. The Council requested the Secretariat to provide it with more information in the coming months on the methodology that will be applied to determine fees for project proposals to be included in the work programs beginning in FY01 and on the development of implementation service contracts that will help clarify what services are to be funded by the fees. The Council also requested the Secretariat to include in the cover note to the November work program an explanation as to how the fee system was applied to the proposals included in the work program. The Secretariat will prepare a second progress report on the fee-based system for Council consideration at its meeting in May 2001.

Agenda Item 11

Elements of an operational program on agrobiodiversity

53. The Council requested that the operational program to be developed on the basis of the elements take fully into account:

- (a) the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as relevant guidance of the Conference of the Parties;

- (b) the importance of the rights and needs of local and indigenous communities to agrobiodiversity;
- (c) the Global Plan of Action for Plant and Genetic Resources approved in Leipzig in 1996;
- (d) the International Undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources being developed under the auspices of FAO;
- (e) the importance of collaboration with FAO and other institutions working in the field of agriculture;
- (f) the need for capacity building to assist countries to prepare projects eligible for financing under the operational program;
- (g) synergies and conflicts between traditional agricultural practices and global commerce;
- (h) the value of genetic resources and the equitable sharing of benefits;
- (i) issues of biosafety and genetically modified organisms;
- (j) ex situ as well as in situ activities;
- (k) links to other focal areas, such as climate change; and
- (l) role of research institutions in developing countries.

54. The Council requested the Secretariat to review the structure of the operational programs as a whole, their relationship to each other, and to share with the Council its views as to the future evolution of the operational programs.

Agenda Item 12

Relations with conventions

55. The Council agreed that for purposes of future meetings, the agenda items on Statements by the Conventions and Relations with Conventions should be combined in one agenda item.

56. The Council supported the Secretariat's efforts at establishing a more informative and visible role for the GEF at meetings on global environmental issues, including Convention meetings.

57. The Council requested the Secretariat to include in its reports information on its collaboration with other international environmental conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and the Convention on Migratory Species.

58. The Council noted that additional financial assistance would be required for purposes of the POPs agreement and confirmed that should the GEF be designated as the financial mechanism of the agreement there would be consideration of additional financial resources for this specific purpose during the next replenishment.

59. The Council requested the GEF Secretariat to seek to actively participate and contribute to the negotiations of the POPs agreement.

60. The Secretariat was requested to review the financing limits for expedited enabling activities as part of its work on identifying means to streamline the project cycle and project processing.

Agenda Item 13

Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Study of GEF Overall Performance and the Policy Recommendations for the Second Replenishment together with the 1999 Project Performance Report

61. With regard to the first Overall Performance Study, the Council noted that there is still much work to be done with regard to mainstreaming.

62. The Council requested that it be actively involved in the formulation of the monitoring and evaluation working program.

Agenda Item 14

Proposal for second Study of GEF Overall Performance

63. In discussing the proposed approach to the second Overall Performance Study, the Council requested the Secretariat to take into account in the preparation of the terms of reference the following:

- (a) the study should adopt an open and constructively critical approach, aimed at improving the performance and efficiency of the GEF;
- (b) the study should include review of impacts in the area of land degradation and in multifocal areas;
- (c) issues relating to local-global benefits and environment in relation to the larger perspective of sustainable development deserve serious attention;
- (d) the study should be forward looking and consider new policy issues that have arisen and not just focus on the past activities of the GEF;
- (e) the study should stress results and impacts at the country level, and in this regard, should provide for an adequate number of country reports

and visits to ensure consultation at the country level with all interested stakeholders;

- (f) the study should consider the impact of the GEF in the context of the international development target on the environment which calls for “current trends in the loss of environmental resources to be effectively reversed at both global and national levels by 2015;”
- (g) the team of experts that will prepare the study should be recruited according to criteria approved by the Council and in consultation with the CEO/Chairman;
- (h) the criteria for the study team should include gender aspects (among others);
- (i) in focusing on impacts, the study should recognize that it is premature to expect realization of medium and long-term impacts that are required for global environment benefits;
- (j) the study should examine what policy changes have taken place since the first Overall Performance Study and what progress has been made in implementing these policies;
- (k) the study should examine the efficacy of financing to developing countries that has been achieved through the incremental costs criteria and how the Conventions’ provisions on full agreed incremental costs have been implemented;
- (l) the study should focus on an analysis of groups of projects and their impacts and lessons learned, particularly in the climate change area;
- (m) the study team should include expertise in the private sector;
- (n) the study should consider the assessments of enabling activities;
- (o) the study should examine the country focal point system and whether it is achieving the desired results;
- (p) the study should consider the effectiveness of public participation and consultation;
- (q) public consultations should seek to include civil society and interested stakeholders in developing countries. The use of information technology could assist in reaching a wider audience for consultations;
- (r) the NGO network could usefully assist in ensuring an effective consultative process.

64. All actors in the GEF family were requested by the Council to provide information necessary for the preparation of the study as expeditiously as possible.

65. In preparing the terms of reference and schedule for the preparation of the study, the Secretariat was requested to endeavor to include an opportunity for circulating an interim report of the findings of the study team to the Council in June/July 2001.

Agenda Item 15

*Progress report on the World Bank
Environment Strategy*

66. The Council noted the progress that had been made in the preparation of the World Bank Environment Strategy, and expressed its support for the proposed work and consultative process that would lead to the completion of the strategy at the end of the year.

67. The Council requested the World Bank to take the following into account in the further development of its strategy:

- (a) the strategy should reflect a better balance between local and global environmental issues;
- (b) sustainable development should be a guiding principle, and environmental sustainability should be a fundamental consideration of all development activities;
- (c) the section on regional and global impacts should be better developed; and
- (d) the final strategy should clearly identify how to operationalize the objectives of the strategy.

Agenda Item 16

Other Business

68. In considering the timing for the second Assembly, the Council considered both the provisions of the Instrument that the Assembly be held every three years as well as the international calendar of meetings and in particular proposals for the convening of the Conference on the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+10). The Council agreed that the Assembly should be linked with the completion of replenishment discussions and that it would therefore be important for the forthcoming GEF Assembly to be held after the completion of negotiations for the third replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. The Council also concluded that it would be useful for the Assembly to be held after the convening of the Rio+10 conference to allow the GEF Assembly to take into account the results and new directions agreed to by the conference.

69. The Council agreed that an initial planning meeting for the third replenishment should be convened immediately prior to the next Council meeting.

70. Council Members made some preliminary comments on the paper, *GEF Programmatic Approach: Criteria and Processes for its Implementation*. Members were requested to submit written comments on the paper to the Secretariat by May 31, 2000.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

71. The meeting was closed by the Chairs on May 11, 2000.