

59th GEF Council Meeting
December 7 – 11, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 02

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda Item 01.

Opening of the Meeting

1. The meeting will be opened by Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO/Chairperson of the Facility.

Agenda Item 02.

Adoption of the Agenda

2. The *Provisional Agenda* has been issued as document GEF/C.59/01/Rev.01, for consideration by the Council.
3. The Council is invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

Agenda Item 03.

The GEF Monitoring Report 2020

4. Document GEF/C.59/03/Rev.01, *The GEF Monitoring Report 2020*, presents for Council consideration a summary of the progress and performance of the active portfolio of projects with financing from the GEF Trust Fund from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. It reflects the GEF's approach to portfolio-level monitoring and reporting on results, performance and financing.
5. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/03/Rev.01, The GEF Monitoring Report 2020, welcomes the report, its framework tracking effectiveness and efficiency, as well as progress in reporting on results. The Council requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with Agencies, to continue to assess implementation progress made by projects and programs to ensure the timely delivery of expected global environmental benefits and to engage with Agencies on ways to improve and adapt to the current operating context affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Agenda Item 04.

Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

6. Document GEF/C.59/04, *Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund*, proposes the initiation process of the eight replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.
7. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/04, Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, requests the Trustee, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to initiate the discussions on the eighth replenishment of resources of the GEF Trust Fund.*

Agenda Item 05.

GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy

8. Document GEF/C.59/07, *GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy*, presents a proposal for a strategy on private sector engagement, for Council consideration. The Private Sector Engagement Strategy aims to develop the rationale for a more productive approach to private sector engagement, underpinned by GEF Secretariat coordination support. It also seeks to capture private sector leadership to support the GEF Partnership and its networks, so that the private sector becomes mainstreamed in to the GEF's work.
9. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/C.59/07 GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy, endorses the Private Sector Engagement Strategy and notes the Implementation Plan contained in the Information Document GEF/C.59/Inf.18. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to report annually on its implementation. Recognizing that international conditions will evolve over time, the Council agrees to review the GEF Private Sector Engagement Strategy as appropriate and needed.*

Agenda Item 06.

Work Program for GEF Trust Fund

10. Document GEF/C.59/06, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, outlines important aspects of the proposed Work Program, including programming trends in the GEF resources relative to focal area strategies and objectives, distribution by regions and GEF Agencies, and highlights of innovative elements inherent in the programs and projects. The Council is requested to review and approve the Work Program for the total resources requested.
11. Draft decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/06, Work Program for GEF Trust Fund, approves the Work Program comprising 60 projects and 2 programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 11, 2021.*

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$409.2 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), Program Framework Documents (PFDs), and Nonexpedited Enabling Activity: [See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-

expedited Enabling Activity (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 GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

With respect to the PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the final child project documents fully incorporating and addressing the Council's and STAP reviews shall be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.

Agenda Item 07.

Report of the Chairperson of the STAP

12. The Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will be invited to make a statement to the Council on the work of the Panel. A written report of the Chairperson can be found in document GEF/STAP/C.59/Inf.01, *Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel*. An opportunity will be provided for Council Members to comment on the report, address questions to the Chairperson, and provide guidance to the Panel, as appropriate.

Agenda Item 08.

Report of the Working Group on Governance

13. Document GEF/C.59/08, *Report of the Working Group on Governance*, presents, for Council consideration, the findings and recommendations, of the Working Group, to further improve efficiency, accountability and transparency with regard to the governance of the GEF partnership.
14. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/C.59/08, Report of the Working Group on Governance, endorses the suggested recommendations of the Working Group on Governance. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat and the Independent Evaluation Office to report to the Council on the implementation of the recommendations no later than the*

60th Council Meeting. In line with the recommendations, the Council decides to:

1) Receive and consider future evaluation reports and related recommendations, rather than endorse them, while endorsing – or not – future Management Responses and Management Action Records.

2) Pilot for two years an adjusted co-chairing arrangement and to appoint the Chairperson from among its Members for the duration of one year (one year for a recipient member and one year for a non-recipient member) instead of just one meeting, in order to facilitate a stronger involvement of the elected Chairperson in providing input into agenda, the chairing of the meeting and the meeting report.

3) Consider at its 63rd Meeting an assessment of the pilot and proposed options for the future including but not limited to recommending to adjust paragraph 18 of the Governing Instrument.

Agenda Item 09.

Evaluation of GEF Engagement in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations

15. Document GEF/E/C.59/01, *Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations*, analyzes how conflict and fragility affect GEF project outcomes, determines the extent to which GEF-supported projects consider the broader conflict content in their design and implementation, and assesses whether consideration of these factors affects project outcomes. Based on these findings, the report offers recommendations for improving conflict sensitivity in GEF-sponsored projects.
16. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/E/C.59/01, Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict Affected Situations, and the Management Response, endorses the following recommendations:*
 - 1. The GEF Secretariat should use the project review process to provide feedback to Agencies to identify conflict and fragility-related risks to a proposed project and develop measures to mitigate those risks.*
 - 2. To improve conflict-sensitive programming while also providing flexibility to Agencies and projects, the GEF Secretariat could develop guidance for conflict-sensitive programming.*

3. *To improve conflict-sensitive design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GEF projects, the GEF Secretariat together with the Agencies should leverage existing platforms for learning, exchange, and technical assistance.*

4. *The current GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards could be expanded to provide more details so that GEF projects address key conflict-sensitive considerations.*

5. *The GEF Secretariat could consider revising its policies and procedures so that GEF-supported projects can better adapt to rapid and substantial changes common in fragile and conflict-affected situations.*

Agenda Item 10.

Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector

17. Document GEF/E/C.59/02, *Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Sector*, seeks to provide GEF stakeholders with evaluative evidence on the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of GEF interventions in the ASGM sector. The evaluation aims to understand the evolution over time of GEF's strategy in the sector, the sustainability of the outcomes in completed ASGM projects, and evaluate the design and early implementation of the GOLD program. The report provides findings and recommendations.

18. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed the document GEF/E/C.59/02, Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Sector and the Management Response, endorses the following recommendations:*

1. *The GEF partnership and the Minamata Convention should continue to encourage high mercury use countries to become more involved in the Convention.*

2. *The GEF partnership should increase project focus on policy interventions that help governments put into place the necessary framework to formalize artisanal and small-scale gold miners and monitor the sector.*

3. *The GEF partnership should seek opportunities for multi-focal area ASGM interventions and measure co-benefits beyond the Chemicals and Waste focal area.*

4. *The planet GOLD global platform should make available results and lessons learned from completed ASGM projects and provide more detailed information on NAP and GOLD program child projects.*

Agenda Item 11.

Evaluation of the Role of Medium Size Projects (MSP) in the GEF Partnership Knowledge Management

19. Document GEF/E/C.59/03, *Evaluation of the Role of Medium-sized Projects in the GEF Partnership*, examines the evolution of the MSP modality, assesses progress made since the last evaluation completed in 2011 and examines the extent to which the MSP modality is achieving its intended role. The evaluation additionally assesses the relevance of the MSP within the GEF suite of modalities. The report presents findings and main conclusions.
20. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/E/C.59/03, Evaluation of the Role of Medium-sized Projects in the GEF Partnership, and the Management Response, endorses the following recommendations:*
 1. *The MSP should continue to be primarily used for developing innovative projects.*
 2. *Midterm and final evaluations should be conducted on MSPs designed as innovative or transformative, to provide lessons for scaling up or replication*

Agenda Item 12.

Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF (2020)

21. Document GEF/E/C.59/04, *Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF (2020)*, presents the findings of an evaluation carried out by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) in 2020 to assess Knowledge Management (KM) in the GEF partnership as an update to the 2017 KM evaluation.

22. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/E/C.59/04, Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF (2020) and the Management Response, endorses the following recommendations:*
1. *The GEF partnership should develop a clear KM strategy.*
 2. *The GEF partnership should invest in a technical solution that strengthens the KM system.*
23. Document GEF/E/C.59/06 presents the GEF Secretariat's management responses to the above reports of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).

Agenda Item 13.

Updates to the GEF Evaluation Policy

24. Document GEF/E/C.59/05, *Updates to the GEF Evaluation Policy*, sets out the guiding principles and minimum requirements for evaluation across the Global Environment Facility (GEF) partnership and for all GEF-financed activities. It explains the concept, role, and use of evaluation within the GEF.
25. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/E/C.59/05, Updates to the GEF Evaluation Policy, approves the revised GEF Evaluation Policy contained in Section 2 of this document.*

Agenda Item 14.

Proposal for Responsible Investment Options for the GEF Trust Fund

26. Document GEF/C.59/12, *Proposal of responsible investment options for the GEF Trust Fund*, presents options for social and responsible investment (SRI) strategies for the GEF Trust Fund that are consistent with international best practice for environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards. The Trustee proposes, for Council Consideration, an SRI option through Sustainable Bond Strategy.
27. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed the document GEF/C.59/12, Proposal of Responsible Investment Options for the GEF Trust Fund prepared by the Trustee, provides its consent to the Trustee to implement the proposed Sustainable Bond Strategy for the GEF Trust Fund. The Council also notes that the proposed Sustainable Bond Strategy and the default ESG Integration approach, already in implementation since July 2019, collectively address the GEF-7 policy recommendation for the Trustee to develop options for a responsible investment strategy for the financial management of the GEF funds held in trust.*

Agenda Item 15.

The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from across the GEF Partnership

28. Document GEF/C.59/11, *The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from Across the GEF Partnership*, reports on information from GEF partners on the implications of the pandemic on the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and programs.
29. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/11, The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from Across the GEF Partnership, takes note of the report, and approves an exceptional authorization for the CEO to grant exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy, as follows:*
 - a. *The CEO may grant extensions to cancellation deadlines for all project types for a total of up to 24 months, replacing the references to extensions of 12 months and 6 months in paras 5(d) and 6(d) respectively of the Cancellation Policy.*
 - b. *This authorization is effective through the final day of the 60th Council meeting. The Council further requests that the Secretariat continue to monitor the impacts of the pandemic on GEF operations, report to Council and take necessary actions within its authority.*

Agenda Item 16.

Report on the Assessment of GEF Agencies' Compliance with the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards

30. Document GEF/C.59/05, *Report on the Assessment of GEF Agencies' Compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards*, presents to Council the findings of the limited compliance reassessment, including Agency self-assessments, certificates of compliance as well as action plans to address areas of non-compliance.
31. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document, GEF/C.59/05, Report on the Assessment of GEF Agencies' Compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards, welcomes the assessment and takes note of the findings, including the agency certificates of compliance as well as agency action plans to address areas of non-compliance (in Annex 1).*

The Council approves the action plans submitted by Agencies to achieve full compliance as summarized in paragraphs 28-68 of this document and further detailed in the letters provided by Agencies in Annex 1 and decides that these Agencies may continue to act in their full capacity as GEF Agencies and seek GEF financing while they implement their timebound action plans.

The Council approves AFBD's request for additional time to complete its self-assessment.

The Council requests that:

a. those agencies which have self-assessed as not in full compliance with the minimum standards start implementing their agreed action plans according to the timelines set out in the plans and provide biannual updates to the Secretariat, ahead of every Council meeting, on implementation progress, until they have completed implementation of the action plans and come into full compliance with each minimum standard;

b. the Secretariat report to the Council on progress made by GEF Agencies in implementing their action plans, based on the updates provided by the Agencies and, as needed, further expert assessment and consultation with the Agencies; and to provide a summary of overall progress to Council at its subsequent meetings on the implementation of the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards.

c. the Secretariat notify Council when GEF Agencies have met their commitments set out in their respective action plans to achieve full compliance.

Agenda Item 17.

Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

32. Document GEF/C.59/10, Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions, provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete

the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The document also provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

33. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/10, Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions, welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.*

Agenda Item 18.

Update on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund

34. Document GEF/C.59/09, *Update on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund*, presents to the Council a request to extend the operation of the NPIF Trust Fund.
35. Draft Decision: *The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/09, Update on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund, took note of the good progress made by the GEF Secretariat in managing the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF), and decided to extend the operation of the NPIF until December 31, 2023 to allow the Completion (terminal evaluation) and Closure of all the 13 projects funded by the NPIF.*

Agenda Item 19.

Report of the Selection and Review Committee (Executive Session)

36. The Selection and Review Committee will present its report to the Council for consideration and appropriate decision.

Agenda Item 20.

Other Business

37. Members and the Chairs may raise any other business under this agenda item.
38. The Chair will inform the Council of possible dates for holding the 2023 Spring and Fall Council meetings.

Agenda Item 21.

Summary of the Chair

39. The CEO/Chairperson will present a summary of the decisions approved during the meeting.