



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.60/09

May 26, 2021

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60<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
June 14-18, 2021  
Virtual

Agenda Item 19

## **NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.60/09, *Numbering System for GEF Council Decisions*, welcomes the proposal and approves the numbering system for GEF Council Decisions.

## INTRODUCTION

1. As the main governing body of the GEF, the Council is responsible for developing, adopting and evaluating the operational policies and programs<sup>1</sup>. The Council meets twice a year to review and approve policies and projects. When necessary, the Council also reviews and approves decisions by mail.
2. Council decisions during the bi-annual meetings are listed as part of the Joint Summary of the Co-Chairs. Decisions by mail are saved in the Secretariat's records.
3. The purpose of this document is to introduce a numbering system for all Council decisions, including those approved during the Council meetings as well as those approved by mail.

## BACKGROUND

4. A numbering system for decisions taken by the governing body is a common practice in all United Nations agencies and other international organizations. The Conventions the GEF serves also have a numbering system for the decisions adopted at the annual meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Some examples of numbering systems for decisions include:
  - The resolutions and decisions adopted by the [United Nations General Assembly](#);
  - The decisions adopted by members of the Executive Board of the [United Nations Development Programme](#);
  - The resolutions of the Board of Governors of the [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#) (the World Bank);
  - The resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board of the [World Health Organization](#);
  - The decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), the [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and the [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#).
5. All the numbering systems for decisions from these organizations share some key features, as follows:
  - a) Decisions are categorized in orderly way. Some of these international organizations have organized meetings of their governing bodies for more than 30 years. Assigning

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<sup>1</sup> Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, Par. 15

a number to each decision simplifies the documentation and record-keeping of decisions adopted.

- b) Decisions are published in the respective website separately from other documents reviewed by the governing body. Every meeting of the governing body includes, on average, between 20 and 40 documents. Publishing decisions separately facilitates access to the outcomes of each meeting.
- c) The cross-referencing of decisions, when necessary, is simplified by only using the decision number. For example:

“Review of the implementation of General Assembly *resolution 67/290* on the high-level political forum on sustainable development, *resolution 70/299* on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and *resolution 72/305* on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.”

- 6. The numbering system for decisions utilized by these international organizations and Conventions are usually organized by year, depending on the frequency of the meetings of the respective governing bodies.

#### **NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR GEF COUNCIL AND LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL DECISIONS**

- 7. GEF Council decisions approved during the bi-annual meetings are included in the Joint Summary of the Co-Chairs. The search for a particular decision implies a search for the Joint Summary of the Co-Chairs for a particular meeting and the thorough review of the Council meeting documents associated with that decision.
- 8. GEF Council decisions approved by mail are circulated to Council members for approval. Once approved, decisions are saved by the Secretariat. There is no easily accessible record of these decisions.
- 9. There have been 59 Council meetings since 1994, with between 10 and 15 approved decisions during each meeting. On average, there have been five decisions by mail every year.
- 10. To systematize and compile all GEF Council decisions, it is proposed to create a numbering system. The proposed system includes the following elements:
  - a) Council decisions will be organized by calendar year, including decisions approved at the Council meetings as well as decisions by mail. Compiling all decisions in a single file by year will facilitate access and review, when necessary. It is proposed to create 28 separate annual files for GEF Council decisions, from 1994 to 2021.

- b) To organize decisions approved in a year, headings will indicate when and how the decision has been approved, for example:

**Decision by Mail – January 2020**

**58<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting – June 2020**

- c) Under each heading, a sequential number will be assigned to every decision, followed by the year, for example: **Decision 1 / 2020**
- d) To facilitate the review of the documents associated with each decision approved, the link to the document will be included in the decision itself, for example:

***Decision 9 / 2020 Approach Paper of the 7th Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF***

1. *The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/E/C.58/02, [Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF \(OPS7\): Approach Paper](#), approves this approach paper. The Council requests the Independent Evaluation Office to conduct the Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation (OPS7) and to provide the evaluation reports to the replenishment process and to the Council according to the schedule presented.*

- e) For future decisions, a number will be assigned to every decision once it is approved by the Council. For decisions approved during the Council meetings, the decision number will be included in the Summary of the Co-Chairs. The numbering will start with the last decision approved by the Council that year.
- f) The compilation of all GEF Council decisions will be published in the GEF website.