

## COUNCIL DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 6

At its second meeting, the Council considered the issue of NGO representation at Council meetings and NGO consultations. In this regard, the Council decided:

*Council Meetings:*

- a. For purposes of paragraph 13 of the Council's rules of procedure, the CEO shall invite five NGO representatives to attend Council meetings and five NGO representatives to observe the meetings. Such representatives will be invited to attend or observe, as the case may be, Council discussions on all agenda items except those considered in executive session as provided for in paragraph 14 of the rules of procedure. The GEF administrative budgets should always be considered in executive session as well as decisions on amendments to the rules of procedure. Since the administrative budget will be on the agenda of each Council meeting, either for approval or review, an executive session should be scheduled for each meeting. The executive session could also be used by the Chair to raise any matters relating to decisions on the allocation of funds.
- b. The Council invites the Secretariat, in consultation with NGOs, to develop criteria for selection of NGO representatives to attend or observe Council meetings. Such criteria should be based on the principles of regional representation and of self selection by the NGOs, taking into account the GEF thematic scope. The Secretariat should submit proposed criteria to the Council for review and approval at its third meeting.
- c. The cost of NGO representation from recipient countries should be provided for in the administrative budget of the GEF Secretariat. Such financing should be clearly identified in a separate line item in the budget. In accordance with paragraph 20(j) of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF, the Secretariat's budget will be approved by the Council.

*NGO Consultations:*

- d. The Council requests the Secretariat to prepare a paper on NGO consultations for consideration at its third meeting in January 1995. The paper should elaborate further on the information presented in the *Technical Note on NGO Relations with the GEF* (document GEF/C.1/4) and in particular should address the scope of such consultations, cost implications and other modalities for their organization.
- e. Pending a decision on the scope and funding of NGO consultations, the Council requests the CEO to convene an NGO consultation in accordance with pilot phase practice prior to the Council meeting in January 1995.