



# Global Environment Facility

GEF/R.5/Inf.19  
October 06, 2009

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Third Meeting for the Fifth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund  
October 14-15, 2009  
Paris, France

## **NOTE TO THE CEO & CHAIRPERSON FROM THE HEADS OF THE THREE IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**

**(PREPARED BY UNDP, UNEP, AND THE WORLD BANK)**



October 6, 2009

Ms. Monique Barbut  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Ms. Barbut,

*GEF-5 Policy and Programming Papers*

Thank you for the revised GEF-5 Policy and Programming papers. We would like to thank the Secretariat for its efforts to reflect the views of all the GEF network partners, and commend you for exploring new and innovative solutions. We are convinced that the core principles and mandate of the GEF network continue to be preserved and strengthened, and GEF is poised to take on a much stronger mandate in multi-lateral financing for the environment.

As discussed between our offices, additional discussions are needed to clarify issues such as the division of responsibilities between the GEF entities in order to avoid any duplication of roles, to clarify the role of the Implementing Agencies in policy development, and to preserve the role of the Secretariat as a neutral facilitator of the network.

At this time we wish to comment on two issues: the voluntary national business plans, and the expedited project cycle.

We believe that the proposed voluntary national business plans should facilitate national programming - both in terms of substantive coherence and subsequent project development, and the roles of the Secretariat and the GEF agencies in supporting these plans should be further spelled out. Ideally, the plans should enable a dramatic streamlining of the project cycle, which is not yet reflected in the paper. With upstream Secretariat buy-in of GEF projects and programmes in such country-led plans, the Secretariat's role in later appraisal and approval of these projects and programmes should be commensurately reduced.

Similarly, we fully support the need to develop an expedited approach to national communications. The documents state that "*the Secretariat would enter into grant agreements with recipient countries to fund the preparation by such recipients of national communications / reports to the conventions*" (paragraph 20). Given that GEF agencies can directly enter into grant agreements for country execution, the

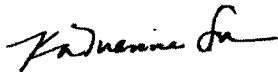
comparative advantages of the proposed recommendation to have the Secretariat implement this approach should be further reviewed, as well as other options such as a streamlined programmatic approach.

We are ready to work with the Secretariat in developing the papers to be prepared for Council review, and we would also like to propose a Heads of Implementing Agency meeting following the replenishment meeting in Paris in October 2009.

In the spirit of the GEF partnership we are committed to joint and continued efforts to ensure that the GEF remains a critical instrument of the global environmental governance system in the years to come and collectively we lend our support to a strong replenishment.

With best regards,

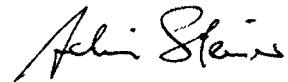
Sincerely,



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