

**JOINT SUMMARY OF THE CHAIRS
GEF COUNCIL MEETING**

OCTOBER 27, 1995

OPENING OF THE MEETING

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

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

2. The Council elected Mr. Erik Fiil, the Member representing the constituency comprised of Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, and Norway, as its elected Chairperson.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Council adopted the provisional agenda set forth in document GEF/C.6/1/Rev.1.

**STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTIONS
FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

4. Statements were made to the Council by Mr. Calestous Juma, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Messrs. Juma and Zammit Cutajar responded to questions from the Members.

STATEMENT BY THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL (STAP)

5. The Chairman of STAP, Dr. Pier Vellinga, also made a general statement to the Council and responded to questions from the Members.

DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

6. The decisions approved by the Council are appended to this summary. The following are some explanatory notes elaborating upon certain aspects of the Council discussions.

Operational Strategy

7. During discussions of the Operational Strategy, STAP was requested to examine further the following issues emerging from the Strategy.
 - (a) In the context of biodiversity:
 - (i) STAP is requested to analyze sustainability in the context of ecosystems and present and analyze successful examples. A STAP assessment paper should be prepared.
 - (ii) STAP is requested to extend the analysis of ecosystems as an organizing framework for operational programs. A STAP assessment paper should be prepared.
 - (b) In the context of Climate Change:
 - (i) STAP is requested to review the scientific and technological issues and options in the transport sector. An options note should be prepared.
 - (ii) STAP is requested to review the scientific and technical aspects of Stage I Adaptation with respect to the identification of vulnerable areas drawing upon the assessments of IPCC and SBSTA. A STAP assessment paper should be prepared.
 - (iii) STAP is requested to assess the status of learning curves of renewable energy technologies and identify the most commercially promising technologies. A STAP assessment paper should be prepared.
 - (c) In the context of International Waters:
 - (i) STAP is requested to identify global benefits to be achieved in the focal area of international waters. STAP should prepare an issues paper.
 - (d) In the context of Land Degradation as it relates to the four focal areas:
 - (i) STAP is requested to make a scientific and technical assessment of the relationship between land degradation and the four focal areas. STAP should prepare an issues paper to include specific types of projects that would have multiple benefits.
8. It was the Council understanding that for the purposes of paragraph 5.23 (a), (3) the six month delay in project consideration, due to the exclusion of ozone projects from the current work program, would not be counted.
9. With regard to the Operational Strategy chapter on international waters, the Council agreed that the focus of GEF finance should be on actions. SAPs should concentrate on identifying

GEF eligible activities and catalyzing their implementation. SAPs should avoid duplication with existing plans, such as those developed by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

10. The Council agreed that the strategy is a living document and that it should consider annually whether there is a need to revise the strategy.
11. The Council agreed that the operational programs should be developed in collaboration with the Implementing Agencies and their development should incorporate public consultations. The Council agreed to discuss whether it would approve operational programs at its next meeting.

Business Plans and other budgetary matters

12. The Council took note that the *Audit of STAP FY95 Accounts* was not yet available. The Secretariat will circulate the audit to Members as soon as it is available.
13. The Council also took note of documents GEF/C.6/Inf.6 *Report on GEF FY95 Additional Administrative Expenditures* and of GEF/C.6/Inf.9 *FY96 Administrative Budget for IFC*.

Annual Report

14. Several Members suggested that subsequent Annual Reports aggregate, rather than list, information on project ideas submitted for consideration and the review of project activities funded by the Facility and their outcomes.
15. It was requested that the Annual Report include audited statements. The CEO informed the Council that work is proceeding on developing a system for consolidated audited accounts.

Other Business

16. The CEO drew the attention of the Council to document GEF/C.6/Inf.10, *Analysis of Independent Evaluation*.
17. The Council welcomed the proposal of the Member from the United States constituency on ways to facilitate work program review. The Council requested the CEO to review the proposal, to analyze its implications for the GEF and to circulate a written proposal for consideration by the Members in accordance with paragraphs 34 to 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the GEF Council.
18. The Secretariat is considering a number of initiatives to increase communications with Council between semi-annual meetings. These include additional consultations, circulation of draft policy papers for comments before finalizing for consideration at Council meetings, and use of electronic communications media on a regular basis.
19. The Council agreed that the CEO should share with other Council Members the request for reconsideration of the proposed dates for the two regular Council meetings in 1996 and make

a proposal to the Members as early as possible with a view to finding dates that are acceptable to the large majority of Members.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

20. The meeting was closed by the Chairs on October 27, 1995.

APPENDIX TO CHAIRS' JOINT SUMMARY

COUNCIL DECISIONS

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 5

GEF Operational Strategy

1. CRP.5

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 6

Work Program

2. CRP.4

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 7

Facilitating Council Oversight of GEF Budget

3. CRP.2 and CRP.3

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 8

Business Plan and other budgetary matters

4. The Council reviewed the GEF Corporate Business Plan, FY97-99, document GEF/C.6/5, which was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the business plans submitted by each Implementing Agency, STAP, the Trustee and the Secretariat. The Council requests the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to take into account its comments on the business plan when preparing the proposed FY97 budget for approval by the Council at its meeting in April/May 1996 and when planning further ahead.
5. The Council reviewed the STAP business plan and budget for FY96 presented in document GEF/C.6/8, takes note of the business plan and approves the STAP budget for FY96 as proposed in the document.

DECISION ON AGENDA ITEM 9

Annual Report

6. The Council reviewed and approved document GEF/C.6/7, *Draft Annual Report*, and requests the Secretariat to finalize and distribute the document widely