



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 1998

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11th Council Meeting – March 1998

Decision 1/1998 Report on the Second GEF Replenishment Process

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report on the Second Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), endorses the Replenishment Document (GEF/C.11/6, Annex A) and requests the CEO to transmit it to the World Bank with a request that it be submitted for adoption by the World Bank Executive Directors, thereby authorizing the World Bank as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, to manage the resources made available under GEF-2.
2. Furthermore, the Council endorses the policy recommendations¹ (GEF/C.11/6, Annex B) as a statement of the Council on actions to be undertaken by the GEF to maximize its effectiveness and impacts, while respecting the prerogatives of the governing bodies of the Implementing Agencies. The Council requests the CEO, in conformity with Paragraph 22 and Annex D, paragraph 7, of the *Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF*, to transmit the Joint Summary of the Chairs for the present Council meeting, the *Report on the Second Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund*, and the GEF evaluation reports that are before the Council at this meeting, to UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, inviting each of them, in its role as Implementing Agency, to take note of the replenishment and to accept and take appropriate action on the policy recommendations.

Decision 2/1998 Review of Evaluation Reports and Follow-up Actions

1. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies, to prepare for Council review and approval at its meeting in October 1998, an action plan and timetable for responding to the recommendations of the [Study of GEF's Overall Performance](#) and other evaluation reports as appropriate, taking into account comments made by the Council Members at this meeting and any written comments submitted to the Secretariat by June 1, 1998.

Decision 3/1998 Review of CEO Report and Other Documentation Prepared for the GEF Assembly

1. The Council reviewed and took note of the draft [CEO Report on the Policies, Operations and Future Development of the GEF](#), document GEF/C.11/5, and made a number of helpful comments.

¹ In endorsing the policy recommendations set forth in Annex B to document GEF/C.11/6 ([Report on the Second Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#)), the Council agreed to insert the word "most" before the word "Participants" in line 4 of paragraph 2 of Annex B.

Decision 4/1998 Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [work program](#) submitted to the Council in document GEF/C.11/3, and approves it subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by April 22, 1998.

Decision 5/1998 GEF Corporate Budget for FY99

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.11/4, [GEF Corporate Budget FY99](#), and approves the proposed budget for FY99 subject to the comments made during the Council meeting. In approving the budget, the Council agrees that: (i) the Secretariat should incorporate in the next corporate business plan proposals for budget stabilization and for the introduction of a fee-based system; (ii) the cover sheets for each project proposal should include a transparent account of all administrative and executing costs included in the project allocations; (iii) the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies should accelerate the development of a fee-based approach to administrative costs, and (iv) administrative budgets will be reduced in case of under-delivery of work program outputs.
2. The Council reviewed the [Report on GEF FY98 Estimated Mid-Year Expenditures](#), and approves the mid-year budgetary revisions proposed in the report concerning the monitoring and evaluation component of the Secretariat budget.

Decision 6/1998 Other Business

1. The Council reviewed the [Note on the Reconstitution of STAP for the Second Phase of the GEF](#) prepared by UNEP, document GEF/C.11/Inf.4, and approves the composition of STAP proposed by the Executive Director of UNEP on the basis of the recommendations put forward by the Search Committee. The Council also welcomes the appointment of Dr. Madhav Gadgil as Chair of STAP and Dr. Christine Padoch as Vice-Chair.
2. The Council reviewed provisions of the [Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council](#) concerning Council decisions without meeting. With regard to paragraph 36 of the rules, the Council agrees that work programs transmitted to Council Members for approval by mail may be approved on a no-objection basis. Furthermore, the Council agrees that reports on estimated mid-year expenditures may be approved in accordance with the present text of paragraph 36. All other budgetary or financial decisions should be addressed during the course of Council meetings.

Decision by Mail – July 1998

Decision 7/1998 Intersessional Work Program

1. The [work program](#) was approved by mail on July 24, 1998, except for the following two proposals:
 - 1) **Brazil:** *Integrated Watershed Management Program for the Pantanal and Upper Paraguay River Basin* (UNEP). One Council Member is of the opinion that “the major components of this project either duplicate or conflict with a project in Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia financed by France”, and
 - 2) **Kenya:** *Removal of Barriers to Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency in Small and Medium Scale Enterprises* (UNDP). This project requires further consultation.
2. The other projects are approved subject to [technical comments](#). Please address these comments appropriately prior to submitting the projects for endorsement

12th Council Meeting – October 1998

Decision 8/1998 Work Program

1. The Council reviewed the proposed [work program](#) submitted to the Council in document GEF/C.12/3, and approves it subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by November 6, 1998.

Decision 9/1998 Implementing Agencies’ Strategies for Integrating Global Environmental Activities

1. The Council welcomed the reports submitted by the three Implementing Agencies² ([UNDP](#), [UNEP](#) and the [World Bank](#)) as an initial step in putting forward useful ideas, identifying important issues, and recognizing progress made concerning the integration of global environmental issues into, or complementarity of such issues with, the regular programs of the Implementing Agencies. The Council invited the Implementing Agencies to continue their efforts to develop a strategic approach to the matter, including preparation by UNDP and the World Bank of action plans for integrating global environmental activities in their regular operations and preparation by UNEP of an

² See GEF/C.12/4, [Mainstreaming Global Environmental Issues: Report of UNDP to the GEF Council](#), GEF/C.12/5, [Complementarity of UNEP’s Core Activities and its GEF Interventions](#), GEF/C.12/5/Add.1, [Information Note on the Measures Initiated by UNEP to Mainstream GEF Operations in its Regular Activities](#), and GEF/C.12/6, [Mainstreaming the Global Environment in World Bank Group Operation](#)

action plan on complementarity and additionality, taking into account the comments made at the meeting. The action plans should include clear objectives, specific measures and time frames for their achievement, and measurable indicators. The Implementing Agencies were requested to submit the action plans (status report for the World Bank) on their preparation to the Council at its next meeting.

Decision 10/1998 Action Plan on Follow-up to Overall Performance Study

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.12/7, [Actions to Implement the Recommendations of the Study of GEF's Overall Performance and the Policy Recommendations for the Second Replenishment Period](#), takes note of the actions that the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies have undertaken since the last Council meeting to follow-up on the evaluation report and the policy recommendations endorsed by the Council. The Council approves the proposed actions, subject to the comments made at the meeting and consistent with its decisions on other relevant agenda items before the meeting. The Council requests the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to take the necessary steps to carry out the approved actions and to report regularly to the Council at its meetings on progress made in implementing such steps.

Decision 11/1998 Country Ownership of GEF Projects

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.12/8, [Country Ownership of GEF Projects: Elements for strengthened country level coordination and ownership and greater outreach and communication](#), approves the proposed elements for an action plan to strengthen country level coordination and a strategy for greater outreach and communication, subject to the comments of the Council. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies as well as with national focal points and other appropriate actors, is requested to proceed to prepare and, where possible, to implement activities necessary to achieve those elements.
2. The Secretariat is also invited to include in the proposed corporate budget for FY00, to be considered by the Council at its meeting in May 1999, administrative resources necessary to carry out the activities foreseen under the elements of the action plan and strategy.

Decision 12/1998 Streamlining the Project Cycle

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.12/9, [Streamlining the GEF Project Cycle](#), takes note of the steps that have been undertaken since the project cycle was first approved in May 1995 to streamline and expedite the preparation and implementation

of GEF-financed projects. In particular, the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies are encouraged to proceed with their efforts to clarify and make more pragmatic the determination of incremental costs and to report to the Council on these efforts at its meeting in May 1999.

2. In order to expedite further the project cycle process, the Council agrees that in approving work programs, it would indicate the following:

The Council finds that, with the exception of [_____], each project presented to it as part of the Work Program (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 Implementing Agency, provided that the CEO circulate to the Council Members, prior to endorsement, draft final project documents fully incorporating the Council's comments on the Work Program accompanied by a satisfactory explanation by the CEO of how such comments and comments of the STAP reviewer have been addressed and a confirmation by the CEO that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to [_____], the Council requests the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive project documents and within four weeks transmit to the CEO any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing a project document for final approval by the Implementing 4 Agency. Such projects may be reviewed at a further Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

3. The Council requests the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to continuously seek ways to simplify and facilitate the preparation and implementation of projects, and to bring to the Council's attention any proposals to this end.

Decision 13/1998 Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.12/10, [*Expanded Opportunities for Executing Agencies*](#). The Council notes the current efforts of the Implementing Agencies and the Secretariat to expand the opportunities for all executing agencies. The Council, after having discussed the options outlined in the paper for further enhancing the opportunities for executing agencies, especially the regional development banks, in GEF projects, requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Implementing Agencies and selected executing agencies and based on the Council discussions, to prepare a more detailed analysis of the three options for Council consideration at its next meeting.

Decision 14/1998 Corporate Business Plan FY00-02

1. The Council reviewed document GEF/C.12/11, [GEF Corporate Business Plan FY00 - FY02](#) and GEF/C.12/11/Add.1, [Priorities Proposed for the Reconstituted STAP for FY00-02](#). The Council requests the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to take into account its decisions on other agenda items and its comments on the business plan when they carry out GEF activities and when they propose the FY00 budget for approval by the Council at its meeting in May 1999. The Council further requests the Secretariat to continue to work with the Implementing Agencies to introduce a comprehensive fee-based system.

Decision 15/1998 Relations with Conventions

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.12/12, [Relations with Conventions](#), takes note of the developments within the various international global agreements concerning the GEF, and encourages the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies to continue their efforts towards active dialogue and collaboration with the Parties to the Conventions and the Convention secretariats, including the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification. In particular, the Council requests the Secretariat and Implementing Agencies to continue their efforts to implement the guidance to the GEF approved by the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Council also agrees to include in the agenda for its meeting in May 1999 an item on the relationship of the GEF to the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee for an international instrument for action on certain organic pollutants.

Decision 16/1998 First GEF Assembly

1. The Council welcomed the [New Delhi Statement of the First GEF Assembly](#) and expressed its satisfaction with the success of the Assembly. The Council echoed the Assembly in expressing its sincere appreciation to the Government and people of India for the hospitality and generosity extended to all Participants, including the Council. The Council also recognized with appreciation the efforts of the Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies that contributed to the success of the Assembly. The Council noted that many of the agenda items before it at the present meeting respond to the New Delhi Statement, the recommendations of the [Study of the GEF's Overall Performance](#), and the policy recommendations of the replenishment that were endorsed by the Council at its meeting in April, and agreed that the statement and policy recommendations provided a sound basis for maximizing the effectiveness and impacts of the GEF.

Decision 17/1998 Draft Annual Report

1. The Council reviewed the draft [Annual Report](#) covering the activities of the GEF during FY98, documents GEF/C.12/13 and GEF/C.12/13/Add.1 and approves it subject to the comments made by the Council. The Council requests the Secretariat to publish the report and disseminate it widely.

Decision 18/1998 Elements of an Operational Program on Transport

1. The Council reviewed the document GEF/C.12/14, [Elements of a GEF Operational Program on Transport](#). The Council requests the Secretariat to develop the operational program, taking into consideration Council comments on the elements paper and in consultation with the Implementing Agencies, other experts and appropriate operational entities.