

The Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility

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STATEMENT BY CANADA

Caroline Leclerc, Head of Delegation

Honourable Ministers,

Ms. Naoko Ishii – Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson,

Honourable Governors,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

I would like to begin by thanking the Government of Mexico and the city of Cancun for hosting the Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility and for the warm welcome.

Canada is a strong supporter of the Global Environment Facility. The GEF unites a diversity of stakeholders and plays a valuable role in addressing global environmental concerns that affect us all. It is important that together we continue to ensure that the GEF will be able to meet the environmental and developmental challenges of the future, consistent with the multilateral environmental agreements.

Those Agreements provide the GEF with its mandate, as well as guidance to help prioritize its actions. For GEF-6, the GEF's mandate has been expanded to include the new Minamata Convention on Mercury. Canada supports the efforts of developing countries to successfully ratify the new Mercury Convention, and to manage the

additional persistent organic pollutants added under the Stockholm Convention. In terms of priorities, we welcome the fact that the climate change and biodiversity focal areas continue to be the largest allocations, reflecting the GEF's important ongoing role in climate change finance, including in creating and supporting synergies across focal areas, as well as increased biodiversity support for developing countries to meet the 2020 Aichi Targets.

Leveraging donor resources:

Given the breadth and depth of challenges facing the global environment, there is an increasing need to leverage resources to help address the challenges. We are pleased that the GEF-6 Policy Recommendations include three complementary initiatives to do just that, specifically: enhancing the use of non-grant instruments; seeking higher levels of co-financing; and, enhancing engagement with the private sector. Together they represent innovation and partnership.

Innovation comes from expanding the use of non-grant instruments to include the private and public sector. This is an important step forward for the GEF, in thinking about how global environmental benefits can be financed. We encourage the public and private sectors of recipient countries to use the non-grant instrument pilot as an opportunity to secure additional funding to generate important environmental benefits.

Working in partnership with recipient countries and the private sector is also key to stretching donor resources. Greater co-financing will be encouraged from recipient countries that have greater capacity, and we look for leadership from upper middle-income countries in this regard. As for the private sector, it is a dynamic, innovative and essential partner for the GEF in its work to address urgent environmental challenges. Canada therefore welcomes the mainstreaming of private sector engagement throughout GEF programming. We look forward to greater private sector engagement in GEF-6, and to more granular reporting on that engagement and its

contribution to the GEF's impact.

Résultats du renforcement des programmes

Étant donné la portée et l'ampleur des enjeux environnementaux dans le monde, nous devons non seulement mobiliser toutes nos ressources, mais aussi les utiliser de manière optimale. Le Canada se réjouit que les orientations en matière de politiques et de programmes du FEM renforceront l'efficacité du FEM, par une participation accrue des pays et de la société civile, par la mise à l'essai d'une nouvelle approche intégrée ainsi que par une plus grande intégration des questions d'égalité entre les sexes.

Pour le Canada, le soutien à l'égalité entre les sexes constitue un objectif en soi, y compris un moyen de promouvoir un développement plus efficace. De même, le *Rapport sur le développement dans le monde 2012 : Égalité des genres et développement* de la Banque mondiale nous rappelle que l'égalité entre les sexes est la meilleure option sur le plan économique. Nous nous attendons à ce que l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action pour l'égalité entre les sexes, lors du FEM-6, améliorent l'efficacité des programmes du FEM.

Amélioration constante du FEM

L'optimisation de nos ressources implique d'apporter d'autres changements au fonctionnement du FEM, pour en améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience. Nous accueillons favorablement le programme de réforme du FEM-6. Le Canada salue les initiatives visant à renforcer la gestion axée sur les résultats et les cadres de gestion du savoir du FEM. Grâce à ces améliorations, il pourra effectuer un meilleur suivi des progrès vers une plus grande efficacité et mieux partager sa vaste expérience ainsi que les nombreux enseignements tirés à ce jour.

Concluding Remarks:

Through the GEF-6 priorities outlined today, and continued leadership of the GEF Council and CEO, Ms. Naoko Ishii, the GEF will continue to enhance its influence and effective leadership in the delivery of global environmental benefits.

Thank you.