



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2018

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54th Council Meeting – June 2018

Decision 1/2018 Summary of Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Summary of Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#) (Document GEF/C.54/19/Rev.03), welcomes the successful conclusion of the replenishment, takes note of the Summary, and endorses the programming directions (Annex A) including the allocations of resources set forth therein, the policy recommendations (Annex B), and the Draft Replenishment Resolution (Annex C).
2. The Council requests the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to transmit this Summary to the World Bank with a request that the World Bank Executive Directors be invited to adopt Annex C to this Summary, Draft World Bank Resolution No. [IBRD 2018-xxx], *The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund: Seventh Replenishment of Resources*, thereby authorizing the World Bank, as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund, to manage the resources made available under GEF-7.

Decision 2/2018 The GEF Gender Implementation Strategy

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/06, [The GEF Gender Implementation Strategy](#), welcomes the strategy and requests the Secretariat to provide annual updates on the progress on activities outlined in the Strategy, as well as in line with the results framework contained in Annex I of the document.

Decision 3/2018 Updated Co-Financing Policy

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/10/Rev.01, [Updated Co-Financing Policy](#) approves the Policy contained in Annex I to the document, which supersedes the Co-Financing Policy of May 2014 (Council document GEF/C.46/09).
2. The Council requests the Secretariat to report to the Council at its next meeting on the implementation of the Co-Financing Guidelines, particularly regarding the calculations used to compute co-financing and investment mobilized.
3. The Council requests the Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the Policy and report on progress, results and lessons learned at the 59th Council meeting in the Fall of 2020.

Decision 4/2018 Strengthening the GEF Partnership

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/08, [Strengthening the GEF Partnership](#) takes note of the analysis carried out by the Secretariat.
2. With a view to promoting a level playing field for all GEF Partner Agencies, the Council approves the following policy measures, effective on July 1, 2018:
 - (i) removal of the ceiling on the size of individual GEF projects for the GEF Project Agencies; and
 - (ii) removal of the 20% ceiling for the share of GEF financing of a GEF Project Agency's total portfolio.
3. The Council takes note of the GEF-7 policy recommendation on the application of a ceiling of 30% on the GEF's share of an Agency's portfolio, applicable to all Agencies. The Council requests that the Secretariat, in collaboration with all Agencies, present complete and up-to-date information on the GEF's share of each Agency's portfolio, and a suggested way forward regarding the 30% ceiling, at the 55th Council meeting in the Fall of 2018.
4. The Council further takes note of the GEF-7 policy recommendation requesting the Secretariat continue to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage, as well as the effectiveness, efficiency and engagement of the GEF Partnership, and report on its findings at the 57th Council meeting in the Fall of 2019.

Decision 5/2018 Terms of Reference for the Private Sector Advisory Group

1. Having reviewed GEF/C.54/13/Rev.01 ([Private Sector Advisory Group Terms of Reference](#)), the Council approves the proposed TOR for the Private Sector Advisory Group and requests the Secretariat to present a proposal for a strategy on private sector engagement, with inputs from the Advisory Group, for consideration for Council in Spring 2019.

Decision 6/2018 Updating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/03/Rev.01, [Updating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources \(STAR\)](#), approves the STAR Policy contained in Annex I, which replaces and supersedes all relevant previous Council decisions regarding STAR.

2. The Council also requests that the Independent Evaluation Office evaluate STAR as part of its Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7), and that it share its findings, conclusions and recommendations in sufficient time to inform the negotiations on the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

Decision 7/2018 GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY19

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/18, [GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY19](#), takes note of the business plan, and approves a FY19 corporate budget from the GEF Trust Fund of US\$27.971 million, comprised of:
 - (a) US\$22.466 million for the GEF Secretariat;
 - (b) US\$2.725 million for STAP; and
 - (c) US\$2.780 million for the Trustee
2. The Council also approves a total FY19 administrative budget for the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) of US\$20,300, comprised of the following allocations from the NPIF to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for NPIF administration and implementation:
 - (a) US\$14,500 for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$5,800 for the Trustee
3. The Council also approves a total of US\$0.517 million for the FY19 budget for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Trust Fund, comprised of the following allocations to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for CBIT administration and implementation:
 - (a) US\$0.485 million for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$0.032 million for the Trustee
4. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with STAP and the Trustee, to present a combined FY20 corporate budget and business plan for discussion at its 2019 spring meeting.

Decision 8/2018 Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Governance

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/17, [Terms of Reference and Membership of the Working Group on Governance](#), establishes an Ad-hoc Working Group on Governance made up of eight Council Members or Alternates appointed by

the Council to follow up on the findings of OPS6 with regard to the governance of the GEF Partnership and to make recommendations for consideration by Council to further improve efficiency, accountability and transparency. The Working Group will operate between June 2018 and December 2019, when it will present draft recommendations to Council.

Decision 9/2018 Membership of the Working Group on Governance

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.54/17, approves the Membership of the Working Group on Governance as follows:
 - (a) Stefan Schwager, Switzerland - Council Member of the Constituency of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
 - (b) Geoffrey Okamoto, United States – Council Member
 - (c) Camila Zepeda Lizama, Mexico – Council Member of the Constituency of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela
 - (d) Kordula Mehlhart, Germany – Council Member
 - (e) Munenari Nomura, Japan – Council Member
 - (f) Aparna Subramani, India – Council Member of the Constituency of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
 - (g) Ruel Edwards, Grenada – Council Member for the Constituency of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago
 - (h) Khulekani Mpofu, Botswana – Alternate Council Member of the Constituency of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Decision 10/2018 Identification of Issues Related to Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/09/Rev.01, [Identification of Issues Related to Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism](#), takes note of the issues identified.

2. The Council requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Trustee, to present for Council consideration at its 55th meeting in the Fall of 2018 a proposal to update the Minimum Fiduciary Standards to close any immediate gaps related to anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in accordance with the principles stated in Paragraph 14 of this document.

Decision 11/2018 Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/11/Rev.02, [Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7](#), notes with appreciation the proposed measures to enhance the capture, monitoring and reporting of results across the GEF portfolio.
2. The Council further notes that the work done through the GEF also contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Secretariat would develop a Guidance Note related to this item for information following the 54th Council meeting.
3. To enable the timely operationalization of the proposed results architecture, the Council approves the monitoring and reporting requirements described in Box 2 (p. 11) of this document, effective July 1, 2018, and requests the Secretariat and the Independent Evaluation Office to include those requirements in an updated version of the 2010 Monitoring and Evaluation Policy.

Decision 12/2018 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report June 2018

1. Regarding the Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the Independent Evaluation Office. The Council, having reviewed the [Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: June 2018](#), approves the IEO Budget for FY2019.

Decision 13/2018 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.54/15, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.
2. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.54/16, [Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly Africa and the Council of the Global Environment Facility:](#)

- (a) Approves the Memorandum of Understanding as adopted by the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in decision 11/COP.13 and as annexed to this document.
- (b) Requests the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and invites the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 14/2018 Work Program

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/14, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 8 projects and one program concept, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 24, 2018.
2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$63.4 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Document (PFD):

Climate Change

1. **Global (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, St. Lucia, Moldova, Madagascar, Mongolia, Mauritius, Niue, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Vietnam):** Umbrella Program
2. **Equatorial Guinea:** Promoting Community-based Forestry for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Equatorial Guinea: (FAO) (\$ 5,329,455) GEF ID 10034¹
3. **Nauru:** Supporting Mainstreamed Achievement of Roadmap Targets on Energy in Nauru (SMARTEN) (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 3,302,968) GEF ID 9974

International Waters

4. **Regional (Bhutan, India):** Manas Integrated River Basin Management Project (WWF-US) (GEF Financing: \$ 8,974,312) GEF ID 10033
5. **Regional (Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Togo):** Reversing Ecosystem and Water Degradation in the Volta River Basin (REWarD-Volta River Basin) (UNEP/IUCN) (GEF Financing: \$ 7,122,566) GEF ID 9910

¹ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments do not have in place a functioning and transparent military audit and have violated human rights, abstains from participating in the decision on the *Promoting Community-Based Forestry for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods* project in Equatorial Guinea.

Land Degradation

6. **Lesotho**: Integrated Watershed Management for Improved Agro-pastoral Livelihoods in the Sepabala Sub-catchment (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 2,101,826) GEF ID 10020

Programmatic Approaches

7. **Regional (Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Maldives, Malaysia, Thailand)**: Sustainable Management of the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (FAO/ADB) (GEF Financing: \$ 14,266,055) GEF ID 9909

Multi Focal Area

8. **Regional (Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu)**: Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 5,261,356) GEF ID 10041
 9. **Sao Tome and Principe**: Enhancing Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management (UNDP) (GEF Financing: \$ 4,262,559) GEF ID 10007
3. With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (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 GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
 4. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.
 5. The Detailed funding decisions taken by the Council during this 54th session of the work program is part of the associated [Annex 1](#) appended to this Joint Summary of the Chairs.

Decision 15/2018 GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/05/Rev.01, [GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7](#), takes note of the implementation arrangements and approves the proposed financing structure for the GEF-7 Small Grants Programme (SGP).

2. The Council requests the Secretariat and UNDP, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to keep under review the criteria for eligibility to core funds, and to propose any changes for Council consideration with a view to ensuring an equitable deployment of SGP support over time.
3. In addition, the Council requests UNDP, in consultation with the Secretariat, to prepare a paper for Council information at its 55th meeting in the Fall of 2018, describing:
 - (a) the approach and the criteria for the retained allocation of core funds to countries; and
 - (b) the results framework for the GEF-7 SGP and associated targets for global environmental benefits, aligned with the overall GEF-7 results architecture.

Decision 16/2018 Country Support Program Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/04/Rev.01, [Country Support Program Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7](#), approved the proposal for the Secretariat to execute the Country Support Program according to the procedures contained therein. The Country Support Program will include the following elements, funded by the GEF Trust Fund, with a total allocation of US\$21 million, to be allocated for each activity as specified below:
 - (a) GEF Programming and Training activities: US\$14.7 million;
 - (b) GEF Constituency Meetings: US\$5 million;
 - (c) GEF Introduction Seminars: US\$1 million; and
 - (d) Pre-Council meetings for Recipient Country Council Members/Alternates: US\$0.3million.
2. The Council directed the Trustee to set aside US\$21 million in GEF Trust Fund resources for use by the Secretariat to fund these activities.

Decision 17/2018 Strengthening Consultations with Civil Society: Proposed Topic for Discussion at the Consultations of the 55th GEF Council Meeting

1. The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.54/07, [Strengthening Consultations with Civil Society: Proposed Topic for Discussion at the Consultations of the 55th GEF Council Meeting](#), selects the following topic to be addressed as part of the Consultations in the next Council meeting, to take place in December 2018: Connecting Environmental Impact and Gender Equality.

Decision 18/2018 Report of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council welcomed the update provided by the Selection and Review Committee (SRC).
2. The Council notes that the SRC will, as a priority, prepare FY19 goals for the GEF CEO and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) Director and that these will be circulated to the Council for information as soon as possible and no later than 4 weeks prior to the 55th Council Meeting to facilitate a preliminary discussion on progress toward achieving the goals at its 55th meeting, ahead of a concluding review of FY19 performance at its 56th meeting.
3. The Council notes that the SRC will circulate a proposal, no later than 4 weeks prior to the 55th Council Meeting, to improve the quality and timing of the CEO and IEO Director's performance assessments, informed by Council Members' views and World Bank HR advice, for consideration at the 55th Council Meeting.

Decision 19/2018 Contributions to the CBIT Trust Fund

1. The Council, at the request of the Contributing Participants, considered extending the sunset of the CBIT Trust Fund. Accordingly, the Council agrees that the CBIT Trust Fund will extend the end contribution date to October 31, 2018 and no new contributions will be received from donors after that date. The Council also agrees that funds in the CBIT Trust Fund will be used to approve projects, activities or programmatic frameworks until the end of October 31, 2018. All other terms of the CBIT Trust Fund approved by the Council through GEF/C.50/05 ([Establishment of a New Trust Fund for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#)) (including CBIT Trust Fund implementation and closure) will remain unchanged.

Decision 20/2018 Dates for the Fall 2019 Council Meeting

1. The Council decides that it will hold its fall 2019 meeting during the week of December 9, 2019.

Decision by Mail – August 2018

Decision 21/2018 Report to the COP14 of the CBD

1. The Council, having reviewed the [GEF report to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#), approves the report for submission to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Decision 22/2018 Report to the COP24 of the UNFCCC

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), approves the Report.

Decision 23/2018 New dates for 56th Council Meeting

1. The 56th Council Meeting will be held June 11 to 13, 2019 in Washington DC.

Decision by Mail – October 2018

Decision 24/2018 Appointment of STAP Members

1. The Council reviewed and approved the proposal by the Executive Director of UN Environment to appoint the following as Members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel:
 - (a) Dr. Graciela Metternicht (land degradation);
 - (b) Dr. Jamidu Katima (chemicals and waste);
 - (c) Dr. Rosie Cooney (biodiversity); and
 - (d) Dr. Saleem Ali (climate change mitigation).

Decision 25/2018 Status of National Communications and BUR

2. The Council, having reviewed the GEF submission on the [status of national communications](#) and [biennial update reports](#) to the 49th session of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation, approves the submission to the 49th session of the Subsidiary Body of Implementation and requests the GEF Secretariat to transmit it to the UNFCCC secretariat.

Decision 26/2018 Report to the COP2 of the Minamata Convention

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#), approves the Report.

55th Council Meeting – December 2018

Decision 27/2018 Policy Measures to Enhance Operational Efficiency, Accountability and Transparency

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/04/Rev.01, [Policy Measures to Enhance Operational Efficiency, Accountability and Transparency](#), approves the following:
 - (a) An amendment to the Cancellation Policy (OP/PL/02, Council document GEF/C.48/04) ([Expediting the Preparation of the Stock of Delayed Projects](#)), as set out in Annex I;
 - (b) An amendment to the Project and Program Cycle Policy (OP/PL/01, Council document GEF/C.50/08/Rev.01) ([GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy](#)), as set out in Annex II; and
 - (c) A one-time cancellation, with immediate effect, of any GEF funds approved for Programs on or before June 30, 2014 that (i) have not been committed towards the Program's Child Projects, or (ii) have not been spent by the Program's Child Projects and have been returned to the Program set-aside.

Decision 28/2018 Policy on Access to Information

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/06, [Policy on Access to Information](#), approves the Policy contained in Annex I to the document.

Decision 29/2018 Updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/07/Rev.01, [Updated Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#), approves the Policy contained in Annex I to the document, which supersedes the 2011 Policy on Agency Minimum Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards (Council document GEF/C.41/10/Rev.01).
2. Further, the Council requests the Secretariat to propose a procedure to inform the Council of possible non-compliance with the minimum standards contained in the Policy, where reputational risks for the GEF may arise, for the Council's consideration at its 56th meeting in the Spring of 2019.

Decision 30/2018 Harmonizing the Rules and Requirements for all Agencies

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/08, [Harmonizing the Rules and Requirements for all Agencies](#), takes note of the latest information on the GEF's share of each Agency's portfolio.
2. The Council requests Agencies to report to the Secretariat the volume of their non-GEF portfolios on an annual basis, starting on June 30, 2020, and the Secretariat to compile and present such reports for Council review and decision starting in the Fall of 2020.
3. The Council further requests the Secretariat to monitor the application of a 30% ceiling on the GEF's share of Agencies' portfolios, and report on progress and lessons learned at the 61st Council meeting in the Fall of 2021.
4. In addition, the Council requests that the Secretariat, in collaboration with a Working Group of interested Council members, consider questions around the concentration of GEF resources across Agencies, and develop further the modalities for the implementation of a 30% ceiling, and make recommendations for Council consideration at its 56th meeting in the Spring of 2019.

Decision 31/2018 Updating the GEF's Minimum Fiduciary Standards Related to Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/09, [Updating the Minimum Fiduciary Standards on Issues Related to Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism](#), approves, with immediate effect, the minimum requirements for Agencies on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism contained in Annex I of this document and requests the Secretariat to include those minimum requirements in an updated version of the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies (GA/PL/02).
2. The Council requests Agencies to certify that they meet the approved minimum requirements, or present a time-bound action plan to achieve compliance, no later than April 30, 2019. The Council requests the Secretariat to compile Agencies' certifications and any action plans for the Council's review and decision at its 56th meeting in the Spring of 2019.

Decision 32/2018 GEF-7 Non-Grant Instrument Program

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/12, [GEF-7 Non-Grant Instrument Program](#), takes note of the implementation framework for the NGI Program. The

Council also requests the Secretariat and the Trustee to provide an updated report on non-grant instrument reflows at the Fall 2019 Council meeting.

Decision 33/2018 Semi-Annual Evaluation Report June 2018

1. Regarding the Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the Independent Evaluation Office. The Council, having reviewed the [Semi-Annual Evaluation Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: November 2018](#), endorses the recommendations of the evaluations included. The Council endorses the proposal for the peer review of the Independent Evaluation Office.

Decision 34/2018 Work Program

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/10, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 18 projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 7, 2018.
2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$157.8 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

Biodiversity

1. **China:** Strengthening the protected area network for migratory bird conservation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) in China (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420) (GEF ID 10073)²
2. **Chile:** Strengthening management and governance for the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in coastal marine ecosystems in Chile (FAO) (GEF Project Financing: \$3,502,968) (GEF ID 10075)
3. **Argentina:** Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation criteria in sectoral and intersectoral public policies and programs to safeguard threatened wildlife in Argentina (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$2,703,196) (GEF ID 10085)

Climate Change Mitigation

4. **Algeria:** AIM-WELL: Algeria Integrated Management of Waste Energy at the Local Level (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$4,416,210) (GEF ID 10080)

² The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, opposes the following project(s) and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: (1) "Strengthening the Protected Area Network for Migratory Bird Conservation Along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF)" in **China**.

5. **Chile:** Accelerating investment in efficient and renewable district energy systems in Chile (UNEP) (GEF Project Financing: \$2,141,781) (GEF ID 10087)
6. **Turkey:** Promoting Low Cost Energy Efficient Wooden Buildings in Turkey (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$3,800,000) (GEF ID 10090)
7. **Ukraine:** Sustainable Bioenergy Value Chain Innovations (EBRD) (GEF Project Financing: \$4,800,000) (GEF ID 10110)
8. **Colombia:** Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$3,791,550) (GEF ID 10121)

Chemicals and Waste

9. **Turkey:** Enhancing environmental performance in the expanded and extruded polystyrene foam industries in Turkey (UNIDO) (GEF Project Financing: \$3,195,000) (GEF ID 10082)
10. **Mexico:** Reducing global environmental risks through the monitoring and development of alternative livelihood for the primary mercury mining sector in Mexico (UNEP) (GEF Project Financing: \$7,035,000) (GEF ID 10086)
11. **Argentina:** Environmentally Sound Management of POPs, Mercury and other Hazardous Chemicals in Argentina (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$8,930,250) (GEF ID 10094)

International Waters

12. **Regional (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama):** Towards Joint Integrated, Ecosystem-based Management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$6,877,626) (GEF ID 10076)
13. **Regional (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan):** Strengthening the Resilience of Central Asian Countries by Enabling Regional Cooperation to Assess High Altitude Glacio-nival Systems to Develop Integrated Methods for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$6,192,694) (GEF ID 10077)³

³ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects involving countries whose governments do not have in place a functioning and transparent military audit, abstains from participating in a Council decision that would support the "Strengthening the Resilience of Central Asian Countries by Enabling Regional Cooperation to Assess High Altitude Glacio-nival Systems to Develop Integrated Methods for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change" regional project, which includes **Turkmenistan**.

14. **Regional (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda):** Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme Phase 3 (World Bank) (GEF Project Financing: \$9,132,420) (GEF ID 10116)⁴

Multi-focal Area

15. **Uruguay:** Consolidating biodiversity and land conservation policies and actions as pillars of sustainable development (UNDP)(GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,269) (GEF ID 10081)

16. **Sudan:** Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project -AF⁵ (World Bank) (GEF Project Financing: \$1,369,863) (GEF ID 10083)⁶

17. **Global:** GEF SGP 7th Operational Phase – Core (Part 1) (UNDJP) (GEF Project Financing: \$61,538,462) (GEF ID 10084)⁷

18. **Egypt:** Green Sharm El Sheikh (UNDP) (GEF Project Financing: \$6,212,694) (GEF ID 10117)

3. With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (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 GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
4. With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.

⁴ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, opposes the following project(s) and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: the (2) "Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme Phase 3" regional project that includes **Burundi**.

⁵ This is a multi-trust fund project consisting of GEFTF and LDCF. The financing here is the GEFTF component only. The LDCF component is included in the LDCF/SCCF work program.

⁶ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries which are state sponsors of terrorism, opposes the following project and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: "Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project", which takes place in **Sudan**.

⁷ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, opposes the following project and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support the global program: "GEF Small Grants Programme – 7th Operational Phase – Core", that includes **China, Comoros, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo, Laos, Mauritania, and Venezuela**.

5. The Detailed funding decisions taken by the Council during this 55th session of the work program is part of the associated [Annex 1](#) appended to this Joint Summary of the Chairs.

Decision 35/2018 Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report 2018

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/03, [Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report 2018](#), welcomes the overall finding that the GEF portfolio under implementation in FY18 performed satisfactorily across all focal areas.

Decision 36/2018 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.55/11, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Decision 37/2018 Options for a Responsible Investment Strategy

1. The Council reviewed the document GEF/C.55/13, [Responsible Investment for the GEF Trust Fund as part of the World Bank Trust Fund Pool](#), in response to the GEF-7 Policy Recommendation to develop Responsible Investment options for GEF Trust Fund, and acknowledges the progress made by the World Bank as Trustee of the GEF Trust Fund in developing Responsible Investment Guiding Principles and takes note of the World Bank's proposal to identify Environmental, Social, and Governance Integration as the overarching approach for the GEF Trust Fund as part of the World Bank Trust Fund Pool, subject to approval within the World Bank's governance structures. The Council further requests the Trustee to present a proposal for an ESG Investment Strategy for the GEF Trust Fund to the Council for consideration, promptly following the approval of the overarching Responsible Investment Guiding Principles by the World Bank.

Decision 38/2018 Updated Membership of the Working Group on Governance

1. The Council, having considered the oral Report from the Ad-hoc Working Group on Governance, approves the updated membership of the Working Group on Governance as follows:
 - (a) Mathew Haarsager, United States Council member, to replace Geoffrey Okamoto.
 - (b) Adriana Flachier Alternate Council Member of the Constituency of Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador to replace Camila Zepeda Lizama, former Council Member

of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá and Venezuela.

Decision 39/2018 Strengthening Consultations with Civil Society: Proposed Topic for Discussion at the Consultations of the 56th GEF Council Meeting

1. The GEF Council, having considered Document GEF/C.55/05, [Strengthening Consultations with Civil Society: Proposed Topic for Discussion at the 56th GEF Council Meeting](#), selects the following topics to be addressed as part of the future Consultations as follows:
 - (a) At the 56th Council Meeting in June 2019: Plastics management to avoid pollution: experiences by Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations;
 - (b) At the 57th Council Meeting in December 2019: Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Civil Society Perspective.

Decision 40/2018 Report of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.55/14, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC)*:
 - (a) Takes note of the FY19 goals for the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) and the GEF CEO and requests the SRC to present the performance evaluation of the IEO Director and the GEF CEO for the Council's review at its 56th meeting.
2. In addition, and subject to a 'no objection' period ending on Thursday 24 January 2019 at 1800hrs EST (US), the Council⁸:
 - (b) Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF CEO's FY18 performance and the recommendation to provide the GEF CEO with a "4" rating on the World Bank's 6-point scale and taking into account the GEF CEO's current salary zone placement, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix, the SRC recommends a merit-based salary increase in FY18 for the GEF CEO that is consistent with World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.
 - (c) Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF IEO Director's FY18 performance and the recommendation to provide the GEF IEO Director with a "4" rating on the World Bank's 6-point scale, and taking into account the IEO Director's current salary zone

⁸ The Council Member representing Spain abstained from participating in the items contained in paragraph 2 (b) and (c).

placement, in accordance with the World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix, the SRC recommends a merit-based salary increase in FY18 for the IEO Director that is consistent with World Bank's Merit Increase Matrix. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resource Department.

- (d) Agrees with the SRC's recommendation to reappoint Mr. Juha Uitto as Director of the Independent Evaluation Office for a second, and final, five-year term beginning September 2 2019.

Decision 41/2018 Dates for the 2020 Council Meetings

1. The Council decides that it will hold its Spring 2020 meeting during the week of June 1, 2020, and the Fall 2020 meeting during the week of December 7, 2020.