



## **Chair's Summary of the Seventh GEF Assembly**

Vancouver, Canada

August 22-25, 2023

### **Agenda Item 1. Election of the Chair**

1. The Assembly elected H.E. Mr. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development of Canada as its Chair.

### **Agenda Item 2. Election of the Vice-Chairs**

2. The Assembly elected Mr. Prakash Mahat, Minister of Finance of Nepal and Mr Takao Matsuzawa, Vice-Minister of Global Environmental of Japan, as its Vice-Chairs.

### **Agenda Item 3. Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

3. The Assembly approved the provisional agenda circulated as document GEF/A.7/01/Rev.01. The organization of work was approved as described by the Chair.

### **Agenda Item 5. First High-Level Plenary Session: Solutions for a Healthy Planet: Integrated Responses to Global Environmental Degradation.**

4. The Chair of STAP, Dr. Rosina Bierbaum, moderated a panel of distinguished guest speakers.

5. The ecosystems, biomes, and processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system are being stretched to a breaking point. Our future depends on how well we understand and reverse the degradation of the global environment. We must maintain and restore the health of the planet as a necessary condition and basis for sustainable resilient societies. Doing this requires developing integrated responses to address the multiple and inter-linked environmental and development challenges.

6. Panelists reflected on their experiences implementing these kinds of responses, identifying successes, failures and trade-offs, and highlighting future directions and approaches the GEF might take and support as it continues to evolve its own programming and investment strategies.

**Agenda item 6. Second High-Level Plenary Session: Solutions for a Healthy Planet: Partnerships for Financing.**

7. Ms. Chizuru Aoki of the GEF Secretariat, moderated a panel of distinguished guest speakers.

8. New and inclusive strategies that combine conservation action with engagement of development organizations, the private sector, and civil society will be needed if we are to transform the major economic systems that are driving environmental degradation. The development of a new trust fund under the GEF, the GBF Fund, provides one example of how the public and private sectors can come together to leverage funding towards positive environmental outcomes.

9. Panelists presented their experiences implementing strategies to unlock financing beyond simply more ODA to implement global agreements, including examples of successful re-purposing of subsidies and harmful incentives, structuring of green bonds, PES, and blended finance, highlighting innovations for GEF engagement and future investment.

**Agenda Item 7. Third High-Level Plenary Session: Solutions for a Healthy Planet: Responsible, Inclusive and Transformative Governance**

10. Mr. Peter Seligmann, CEO of Nia Tero moderated a panel of distinguished speakers.

11. Reversing the global environmental degradation trend will require a concerted effort to include many of the stakeholders that have been historically neglected and negatively affected by development. Without strong and inclusive governance, sophisticated integrated solutions and robust financing will not result in the outcomes we seek as a community. In advancing development goals and aspirations, governments must increasingly strive to promote coherence and consistency in policy options that underpin environmental sustainability. At the same time, providing a voice and engaging a broad set of actors in the future stewardship of the environment will allow for a different and more sustainable pathway to a healthy planet.

12. Speakers in this plenary, Governments and IPLCs presented examples of successful environmental governance systems and identify how GEF can best support governance reforms in the pursuit of achieving a Healthy Planet and Healthy People.

**Agenda Item 8. Amendments to Instrument for the Establishment of a Restructured Global Environment Facility.**

13. The Council proposed amendments to the Instrument in its Decisions 37/2022 and 14/2023.

14. The proposed text of the amended Instrument was included in Document GEF/A.7/08.

15. The Assembly adopted the following decision:

*The Seventh GEF Assembly, recalling paragraph 34 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, and having considered the recommendations of*

*the GEF Council for proposed amendments to the Instrument in its Decisions 37/2022 and 14/2023, approves by consensus the amended text of the Instrument contained in Document GEF/A.7/08.*

*Invites the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to submit this amended text to the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee and to request that they adopt it in accordance with their respective rules and procedural requirements.*

*Invites the CEO/Chairperson of the Facility to inform all Participants of the effectiveness of the amended Instrument once the Implementing Agencies and the Trustee have approved it.*

**Agenda item 9. Assembly Ratification of the Council Decisions of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund**

16. At its 64th meeting, the GEF Council adopted Decision 09/2023 whereby it established the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

17. The Assembly adopted the following Decision:

*The Assembly, having considered document GEF/A.7/09 endorses Council Decision 09/2023.*

**Agenda Item 10. Report on the GEF Trust Fund**

18. The Assembly took note of the Trustee Report, GEF-7 Funding Retrospective (GEF/A.7/06).

**Agenda Item 11. Report on the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund**

19. The Assembly took note of the Summary of Negotiations of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF/A.7/04).

**Agenda Item 12. Statement by the GEF Evaluation Office (IEO)**

20. The Assembly welcomed the document Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF (OPS7) (GEF/A.7/06) *Working Toward a Greener Global Recovery*.

**Agenda Item 13. Statement by the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)**

21. The Assembly welcomed the Report of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel: *Catalyzing transformational change through GEF investment*, contained in document GEF/A.7/07.

**Agenda Item 14. Statement by a Representative of Civil Society Organizations**

22. The Assembly received a report on the Partnership Forum that took place on August 23, 2023. The Report was delivered by Akhteruzzaman Sano, Chair, CSO network; Youth representatives: Fabiola Monzon Ahmad Bassam and Manal Bidar; and women's representatives: Ana di Pangracio and Siddika Sultana.

23. The Assembly took note of the report

**Agenda item 16: Report on GEF Participants**

24. The Assembly took note of the Report on GEF Participants (GEF/A.7/03/Rev.01).

**Agenda Item 17. Report on Credentials**

25. The Bureau presented its report on credentials to the plenary (GEF/A.7/10). The Assembly took note of the report.

**Agenda item 18. Summary of High-Level Round Table Discussions**

26. A document about the GEF Assembly Round Tables, Round Table Discussions, was submitted to the Assembly as document GEF/A.7/Inf.02/Rev.01

27. Round table discussions were key features of the GEF Assembly. They debated the sessions will debate how the GEF and countries could better address challenges to the global environment. Round tables were composed of speakers from different sectors including government, international organizations, and private sector.

28. A report on their conclusions was presented by Mr. Richard Bontjer of Australia.

29. The Assembly took note of the report.

**Agenda item 19: Summary of Chair**

30. In accordance with paragraph 24 of the Rules of Procedure, the Assembly approved the Summary of the Proceedings submitted by the Chair.

**Agenda item 20: Closing of the Assembly**

31. The CEO and Chairperson of the Facility, Carlos Manuel Rodrigues and the Vice-Chair of the Assembly Mr. Yutaka Matsuzawa made closing remarks.