



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2023

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Decision by Mail – February 2023

Decision 1/2023 Location of the 64th Council Meeting

1. The Council, recalling its Decision 43/2022 and appreciating the invitation received from the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, decides to hold its 64th meeting in the city of Brasilia, Brazil.

Decision by Mail – March 2023

Decision 2/2023 Appointment of the Elected Chair for the Year 2023

1. In accordance with paragraph 30 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council and having received a nomination from the non-recipient Council Members, the Council appoints Mr. Tom Bui, Council Member for Canada, as the Elected Chair for the year 2023.

Decision 3/2023 Dates for the GEF 7th Assembly

1. The Council, recalling its Decision 3/2022, decides that the GEF 7th Assembly and its Associated Meetings will be held August 22-26, 2023, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Ministerial level Assembly will be held on August 24 and 25.

Decision 4/2023 Report to the CoP 11 to the Stockholm Convention

1. The Council, having reviewed the [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants](#), approves the Report.

Decision by Mail – May 2023

Decision 5/2023 Updated Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards

1. The Council, having considered the [Updated Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards](#):
 - a) Notes with appreciation the updated reviews reflecting the additional information provided by AfDB, BOAD and DBSA.
 - b) Acknowledges the time-bound Actions Plans submitted by ADB, AfDB, BOAD, CAF and FECO and IUCN addressing issues identified in the self-assessment and review process.

- c) Decides to request the Agencies to report to the Secretariat on progress under the time-bound Action Plans and the Secretariat to report such information to each Council meeting until the Action Plans have been completed.

Decision by Mail – June 2023

Decision 6/2023 Dates for the 65th Council Meeting

1. The Council, recalling its Decisions 20/2021 and 43/2022, decides that it will hold its 65th meeting the week of December 18, 2023 in virtual modality.

64th Council Meeting – June 2023

Decision 7/2023 GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY24

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.64/03/Rev.02, [GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY24](#), takes note of the business plan, and approves an FY24 corporate budget from the GEF Trust Fund of US\$37.201 million, comprised of:
 - (a) US\$30.534 million for the GEF Secretariat, of which US\$2 million will be paid from GEF-7 administrative budget underruns
 - (b) US\$3.135 million for STAP; and
 - (c) US\$3.532 million for the Trustee
2. The Council also approves a total FY24 administrative budget for the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) of US\$22,400, comprised of the following allocations from the NPIF to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for NPIF administration and implementation:
 - (a) US\$17,500 for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$4,900 for the Trustee
3. The Council also approves a total FY24 administrative budget for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) from the CBIT Trust Fund of US\$0.436 million, comprised of:
 - (a) US\$0.412 million for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$0.024 million for the Trustee
4. The Council calls upon the IBRD as administrative host of the GEF to work with the GEF Secretariat to speedily resolve the GEF office space lease, enabling the Secretariat and

the IEO to remain in the current office premises to ensure that the GEF work and administrative budget is not further disrupted by temporary measures.

5. The Council decides that, in the context of the Secretariat's analysis, the level of 11% indirect charge as set out in this document is the upper limit for the GEF, provided that the World Bank provides a sufficient justification for this level, and otherwise may be adjusted to the level of 7%.
6. The Council requests the World Bank to provide a written report setting out the justification and basis for the proposed increase in indirect costs by no later than 30 September 2023, preferably earlier if possible, and attend a subsequent Council meeting to enable a discussion with Council on the matter.
7. The Council requests the Secretariat to report to Council on the status of the above-mentioned elements of this Decision on office space and indirect charge.
8. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with STAP and the Trustee, to present a combined FY25 corporate budget and business plan for discussion at its June 2024 meeting.

Decision 08/2023 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C64/04/Rev.01, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 45 projects and programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 27, 2023¹.

¹ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that are state sponsors of terrorism; in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces; and in light of its policies related to development projects in China and Cuba; and in light of its concerns related to project implementation risks in Venezuela, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11286 in China, Cuba, and Venezuela.

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that are state sponsors of terrorism; in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons; and in light of its policies related to development projects in Cuba, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF projects 11285 and 11250 in Cuba.

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, and in light of its policies related to development projects in Nicaragua, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11273 in Nicaragua.

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, and in light of its policies related to development projects in China, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11271 in China.

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, and in light of its policies related to development projects in China, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11271 in China.

2. Total GEF resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$1.397 billion, including GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFD):
 - 1) Regional (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama). Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program (GEFID: 11273). Agency: FAO, IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$58,147,493; Co-financing: \$438,166,265.
 - 2) Global (Belize, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Cuba, Maldives, Mauritius, Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles, St. Lucia, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu). Blue and Green Island Integrated Programme. (GEFID: 11250). Agency: FAO, WWF-US, IUCN, UNDP, World Bank, UNEP. GEF Project Financing: \$121,183,945; Co-financing: \$733,790,102.
 - 3) Regional (Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe). Congo Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program. (GEFID: 11241) Agency: IFAD, CI, IUCN, UNEP. GEF Project Financing: \$56,259,439. Co-financing: \$428,640,177.
 - 4) Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela). Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3. (GEFID: 11198) Agency: WWF-US, CI, World Bank, FAO, UNDP. GEF Project Financing: \$88,644,185. Co-financing: \$557,827,180.
 - 5) Global (Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, India, Jordan, Lao PDR, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa). Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution. (GEFID: 11181) Agency: WWF-US, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP. GEF Project Financing: \$96,280,581. Co-financing: \$595,778,545.
 - 6) Global (Cambodia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago). Eliminating hazardous chemicals from supply chains. (GEFID: 11169). Agency: FAO, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO. GEF Project Financing: \$45,674,998. Co-financing: \$295,245,000.
 - 7) Regional (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone). Guinean Forests (GEF-8 Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program). (GEFID: 11142) Agency: FAO, CI, IUCN. GEF Project Financing: \$20,077,828. Co-financing: \$59,664,406.

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11110 in Ethiopia.

The United States, in light of its concerns related to project implementation risks, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF projects 11115, 11198, and 11108 in Venezuela.

- 8) Global (Angola, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam). Ecosystem Restoration. (GEFID: 11118) Agency: UNDP, CI, IFAD, UNEP, World Bank, FAO, IUCN. GEF Project Financing: \$183,859,244. Co-financing: \$1,627,501,995.
- 9) Regional (Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, Thailand). Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program. (GEFID: 11102). Agency: FAO, IUCN, UNDP. GEF Project Financing: \$38,216,208. Co-financing: \$185,597,817.
- 10) Global (Chile, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam). Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Programme. (GEFID: 11085). Agency: UNIDO, ADB, UNDP, UNEP, CAF, FAO. GEF Project Financing: \$98,678,187. Co-financing: \$695,182,970.
- 11) Global. Global Programme to Support Countries to Upscale Integrated Electric Mobility Systems (GEF ID 11074). Agency: UNEP, ADB, World Bank, EBRD; GEF Project Financing: \$22,257,385; Co-financing: \$129,356,667.
- 12) India. Guarantee Mechanism for Renewable Biogas Initiative (GEF ID: 11068). World Bank; GEF Project financing: \$13,761,468; Co-financing: \$705,000,000.
- 13) Regional. LAC. Yield Lab Opportunity Fund I: Accelerating technology and local innovation for sustainable and decarbonized food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEF ID: 11066). Agency: IADB; GEF Project financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$44,000,000.
- 14) Chile. Green Hydrogen Facility to Support a Green, Resilient and Inclusive Economic Development (GEF ID: 11065). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project financing: 13,761,469; Co-financing: \$450,000,000.
- 15) Regional: Asia and Pacific. Natural Capital Fund (NCF): Investing in Nature-Positive Agri-Food Enterprises in Asia and the Pacific (GEF ID: 11062) Agency: ADB; GEF Project financing: \$13,761,469; Co-financing: \$646,350,000.
- 16) Brazil. Empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to manage biodiversity data and information as a strategy to conserve their territories, safeguard traditional knowledge, and promote integrated biodiversity management (GEF ID: 11269). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,192,695; Co-financing: \$49,450,000.
- 17) Brazil. Biodiversity Wildlife Territories (GEF ID: 11268). Agency: FUNBIO; GEF Project Financing: \$16,872,477; Co-financing: \$51,000,000.
- 18) Chile. Strengthening inter-institutional coordination for the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in national, regional and local public policies in Chile (GEF

- ID: 11208). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$3,776,941; Co-financing: 25,681,614.
- 19) Venezuela. Strengthening management to combat threats from Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in Venezuela (GEF ID: 11115). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$35,940,000.
 - 20) China. Green hydrogen energy integrated demonstration application project in China (GEF ID: 11271). Agency: UNIDO; GEF project financing: \$16,000,000; Co-financing: \$160,900,000.
 - 21) Argentina. Accelerating low-emission and resilient community energy in Argentina. (GEF ID: 11073). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,701,497; Co-financing: \$32,000,000.
 - 22) Brazil. Promoting zero-emission buildings in Brazil through climate technologies and policies (EDinova) (GEF ID11072). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$9,167,443; Co-financing: \$66,657,355.
 - 23) Chile. Supporting the shift to a low-emission, circular construction in Chile. (GEF ID: 11071). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,963,699; Co-financing: \$20,200,000.
 - 24) Eswatini. Reduced risks on human health & the environment through reduction of POPs & U-POPs in Eswatini (GEF ID: 11272) Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$4,935,000; co-financing: \$31,140,000.
 - 25) Global (Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uruguay). Shifting to Zero Waste Against Pollution (SWAP) Initiative (GEF ID: 11211). Agency UNDP; GEF project financing: \$26,700,000; Co-financing: \$216,691,545.
 - 26) Regional (Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa). Fortifying Infrastructure for Responsible Extinguishments (FIRE): (GEF ID: 11110). Agency UNEP; GEF project financing: \$10,000,000; Co-financing: \$45,000,000.
 - 27) Regional (Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Panama). Beyond 30x30: Securing resilience in the Eastern Tropical Pacific through enhanced transboundary cooperation (GEF ID: 11267). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$14,378,899; Co-financing: \$53,383,037.
 - 28) Regional (Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa). Strengthening integrated transboundary management of the Incomati and Maputo river basins (GEF ID. 11180). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$23,600,000.
 - 29) Global (Costa Rica, Kenya and Vanuatu). Plastic Reduction in the Oceans: Sustaining and Enhancing Actions on Sea-based Sources (PRO-SEAS). (GEF ID: 11166). Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$49,151,264.

- 30) Regional (Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Sudan, and Yemen). Promoting sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (RedSeaFish project). (GEF ID 11113). Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$6,192,694; Co-financing: \$40,300,000.
- 31) Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela). Towards a Better Understanding of the Amazon Aquifer Systems for its Protection and Sustainable Management (GEF ID 11108). Agency: UNEP and IADB; GEF Project Financing: \$13,461,468; Co-Financing: \$131,236,473.
- 32) Regional (Angola, Namibia, South Africa). Mainstreaming Climate-Resilient Blue Economy in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Region (GEF ID: 11282). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$10,484,931; Co-financing: \$25,000,000.
- 33) Mexico. Ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihoods in the Biocultural Corridor of the Central West of Mexico (COBIOCOM) (GEF ID: 11249). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$51,156,135.
- 34) Honduras. Generating opportunities for livelihoods and biodiversity through participatory governance of natural resources and the economic diversification of the communities of the central forest corridor of Honduras (GEF ID: 11213). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,453; Co-financing: \$39,900,000.
- 35) Panama. Strengthening ecological connectivity in natural and productive landscapes between the Amistad and Darien biomes (GEF ID: 11209). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,585,388; Co-financing: \$42,800,000.
- 36) Georgia. Transforming Policy and Investment through Improving Ecosystem Management and Restoration of Degraded Drylands of Dedoplistskaro Biosphere Reserve in Georgia to Generate Multiple Environmental and Socio-Economic Benefits (GEF ID 11141). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,552,970; Co-financing: \$24,875,000.
- 37) Lebanon. Community-based Wildfire Risk Management in Lebanon's Vulnerable Landscapes (GEF ID 11117). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$3,458,000; Co-financing: \$126,000,000.
- 38) Djibouti. Sustainable management of water and rangeland resources for enhanced climate resilience of rural communities in Djibouti (GEF ID 11284); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$2,977,523 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$18,048,624 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$66,300,000.
- 39) Zambia. Climate-resilient ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management in the Central and Southern Provinces of Zambia (GEF ID 11212); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$8,265,283 (LDCF) and \$3,544,809 (GEF Trust Fund); Co-financing: \$91,200,000.

- 40) Global. Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEFID: 11285). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing \$126,186,603; Co-financing: \$126,187,000.
- 41) Global (Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, St Vincent & Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela). Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports (GEF ID: 11286). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$28,400,000.
- 42) Global (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo DR, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Palau, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tonga, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Zambia, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Micronesia, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Qatar, Serbia, Uganda, Zimbabwe). Umbrella Programme to Support NBSAP Update and the 7th National Reports (GEF ID: 11281). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$36,435,000
- 43) Global (Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cook Islands, Eritrea, Ghana, Mali, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Venezuela, Cote d'Ivoire, Thailand). Technology Needs Assessment Phase V Project (GEF ID11099). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,100,000.
3. With respect to the following 2 projects, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:
- 44) Haiti. Land degradation neutrality initiative in Southern Haiti (GEF ID: 11238). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,417,361.00; Co-financing: \$20,175,990.00.
- 45) Paraguay. Global Opportunities for the Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Paraguay - planetGOLD Paraguay (GEF ID 11112). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,000,000; Co-financing: \$22,000,000.

4. With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (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.
5. 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.
6. Following previous Council decisions related to UNDP GEF Management, all projects included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP shall be circulated by email for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the external audit and management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to the Council during the 4-week review period.
7. The Council, recalling its decision 9/2022 and having considered the report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program, notes the technical and analytical steps taken by the GEF Secretariat and endorses the agency selection to lead the Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program

Decision 09/2023 Establishment of a new Trust fund: Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.64/05/Rev.01, [Establishment of a New Trust Fund: The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), approves the arrangements proposed for the establishment of a new trust fund, with the aim to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
2. The Council invites the World Bank to act as Trustee for the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

Decision 10/2023 Programming Directions for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.64/06/Rev.02, the [Programming Directions of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), approves the programming directions, with the aim to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the principles set forth therein by which resources will be allocated.

Decision 11/2023 Evaluation of The GEF’s Approach and Interventions in Water Security and Management Response

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/E/C.64/01, [Evaluation of The GEF’s Approach and Interventions in Water Security](#), and GEF/C.64/13, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 12/2023 Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of the Lower Mekong River Basin Ecosystem and Management Response

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/E/C.64/02, the [Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of the Lower Mekong River Basin Ecosystem](#) and document GEF/C.64/14, the [Management Response](#), takes note of the related evaluation recommendations and endorses the management response to address them.

Decision 13/2023 Four-Year Work Program and Budget of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/ME/C.64/03/Rev.01, the [Four-Year Work Program and Budget of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: GEF-8](#):
 - (1) Approves the annual IEO budget for FY24 for a total of \$8.34 million, which includes the Indirect overhead charge of 11% applied by the World Bank Group.
 - (2) Approves the work program for GEF-8 including the preparations for the Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF.

Decision 14/2023 Preparing the GEF to serve as part of the financial mechanism of the internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.64/12/Rev.02, [Preparing the GEF to serve as part of the Financial Mechanism of the international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction \(BBNJ\)](#):
2. Welcomes the invitation from the Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ to the GEF to be part of the Financial Mechanism of the BBNJ agreement as reflected in part VII

“Financial Resources and Mechanism” of the agreement adopted at the further resumed fifth session of the Intergovernmental Conference on June 19, 2023;

3. Authorizes the use of up to \$34 million for the funding of ratification support and early action activities for the BBNJ Agreement to be programed during GEF-8;
4. Requests the GEF Secretariat to develop initial guidelines for enabling activities and ratification support projects and present them as a decision document at the 66th Council Meeting;
5. Recommends to the Assembly the following amendment to the Instrument:

To add a new subparagraph (f) under paragraph 6 that would read:

(f) Operate as one of the entities comprising the financial mechanism of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, pursuant to its Article 52, paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10. In such respects, the GEF shall function under the guidance of and shall be accountable to the Conference of the Parties. In addition, the GEF shall receive guidance from the Conference of the Parties on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities and eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources.

Decision 15/2023 Improving the visibility of the GEF: New communication and visibility policy

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.64/11, [Improving the Visibility of the GEF: New Communication and Visibility Policy](#), approves the GEF Communication and Visibility Policy attached as Annex I and requests that all GEF Agencies and others in the GEF Partnership to implement the Policy, including the GEF Brand Guidelines developed by the Secretariat as necessary, where applicable to any GEF-funded activity.

Decision 16/2023 Assessing the Strength of the GEF Partnership: Coverage by GEF Agencies

1. The Council, having considered document, GEF/C.64/10, [Assessing the Strength of the GEF Partnership: Coverage by Agencies](#), takes note of the report and decides:
 - i. to request the Secretariat to continue to monitor the strength of the GEF Partnership along the five dimensions of geographic coverage, thematic coverage, efficiency, effectiveness and engagement and present an analysis to the 67th Council in advance of the commencement of the GEF-9 Replenishment negotiations;

- ii. to request the Secretariat to take the necessary actions to remove the geographic restrictions applicable for the Development Bank of South Africa to enable it to implement GEF projects or programs in any country in accordance with its mandate

Decision 17/2023 Report of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council notes with regret that Mr. Uitto's term as Director of the Evaluation Office finishes on April 2024. In order to ensure a smooth transition, his successor will need to be appointed by the GEF Council, preferably at its second session in 2023.
2. Having considered document GEF/C.64/15, the Report of the Selection and Review Committee, the Council:
 - (i) Agrees to launch the recruitment process for the Director of the Evaluation Office as soon as possible, based on the attached terms of reference, and in accordance with the recommended "hybrid" process;
 - (ii) Takes note of the estimated costs of the recruitment process for the Director of the Evaluation Office, and approves a budget of up to US\$50,000 for the Special Initiative to complete the recruitment of a new Director of the Evaluation Office;
 - (iii) Takes note of the FY23 mid-term assessment for the IEO Director and the GEF CEO and, recalling its decision 42/2022, requests the SRC to present the performance evaluations of the GEF CEO and IEO Director for the Council's review at its 65th meeting.

Decision by Mail – August 2023

Decision 18/2023 Report to the CoP 5 to the Minamata Convention

1. The Council, having considered the document [Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#) approves the report for submission to the fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Minamata Convention.

Decision 19/2023 STAP International Waters Panel Member

1. The Council, having considered the proposal by the Executive Director of UNEP, approves the appointment of Dr. Susanne Schmeier, as Member for International Waters of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

Decision 20/2023 Dates for the 65th Council Meeting

1. The Council, recalling its decision 6/2023, decides to hold its 65th meeting in virtual mode on October 10, 2023.

Decision 21/2023 Report to the COP 28 to the UNFCCC

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

Decision 22/2023 GEF-8 BD Allocations from Global Regional Programs to Enabling Activities

1. The Council, having considered the explanations provided by the Secretariat on the need to reassign GEF-8 funding from Global Regional Programs to Enabling Activities, approves an amendment to the GEF-8 Resource Allocation Table found on page 247/248 of Document GEF/C.62/03 ([Summary of Negotiations of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#)) and approved by decision 7/2022. The amendment changes the amounts for Enabling Activities to 145,561,110 and the amount for Global Regional Programs to 37,438,890 in the section on Biodiversity.

65th Council Meeting – October 2023

Decision 23/2023 Global Environment Facility Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.65/03/Rev.01, [Global Environment Facility Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning](#), approves the strategic directions proposed for knowledge management and learning, and encourages the GEF Secretariat to engage with Agencies and STAP in facilitating implementation of the Strategy.

Decision 24/2023 Enhancing Policy Coherence through GEF Operations

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.65/04, [Enhancing Policy Coherence through GEF Operations](#), endorses the outlined approach and requests the GEF Secretariat to work along the outlined action areas.

Decision 25/2023 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having considered document GEF/C.65/05, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), welcomes the report and requests the GEF network

to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Decision 26/2023 Dates for the 66th, 67th and 68th Council Meetings

1. The Council decides that it will hold its 66th meeting during the week of February 05, 2024, the 67th during the week of June 17, 2024, and the 68th meeting during the week of December 16, 2024. The 66th and 67th Council Meetings will be held in Washington, D.C. in a hybrid format and the 68th Council meeting will be in virtual.

Decision by Mail – October 2023

Decision 27/2023 GEF Submission on the Status of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports to the UNFCCC

1. The Council, having considered the GEF submissions on the [Status of National Communications](#) and [Biennial Update Reports](#) to the 59th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the [Status of Biennial Transparency Reports](#) to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fifth session, approves the submissions and requests the GEF Secretariat to transmit them to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Decision by Mail – December 2023

Decision 28/2023 66th Council Meeting: Topic for Consultations with Civil Society

1. The Council, recalling its Decision 14/2017 on the [Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF](#), decides that the topic to be addressed as part of the GEF Consultations with Civil Society prior to the 66th Council meeting will be: “The Role of CSOs in Building Resilient and Inclusive Cities”.

Decision 29/2023 Appointment of the Co-Chair for the Year 2024

1. The Council, recalling paragraph 18 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility as amended by the Seventh GEF Assembly, decides to appoint Mr. Dawda Badgie, Council Member for the Constituency of Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and The Gambia, as Co-Chair for the year 2024.