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Agenda Item 13

RELATIONS WITH THE CONVENTIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.67/07/Rev.01, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, welcomes the report and the *Multilateral Climate Funds Action Plan on Complementarity and Coherence* contained in its Annex II, 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document provides the Council with an update on the activities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in support of the following multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol), and 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 (BBNJ). Covering the period from November 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, the document further provides information on relations between the GEF Secretariat and other international conventions, institutions, and fora.

2. During the reporting period, a number of MEA-related meetings took place, with participation of the GEF Secretariat personnel. The session of COP 28 of the UNFCCC took place from November 30 to December 13, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, took place in Bern, Switzerland, from January 23 to 25, 2024, and the second in-person meeting of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization (ACRM) for CBD took place from March 17 to 23 in Boyacá, Colombia.

3. Further updates are provided in this document on: the fifth COP to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which was held from October 30 to November 3, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland; the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (WG8J-12) which took place from November 12 to 16, 2023, and; the First meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on Genetic Resources, that took place from November 14 to 18, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland.

4. The GEF CEO and senior level officials took part in these MEA engagements, including those organized by partners, to discuss priorities and challenges to raise the level of ambition for action.

5. The provision of finance to countries through the GEF and consultations with countries continued with the approval of GEF-8 programming, notably the continuation of Integrated Programmes approval and continued implementation of the Dedicated Programs under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), and with the initiation of Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) programming.

6. Highlights reported in this document include:

- (i) CBD: Updates on the operationalization and rollout of the GBF Fund; on Secretariat's participation to preparatory meetings to COP 16; ratification of CBD protocols; and on the submission of national reports;

- (ii) UNFCCC: Updates on GEF Secretariat’s participation in COP 28 and related meetings; ministerial pledging session for the LDCF and the SCCF, LDCF/SCCF support to address climate adaptation and resilience priorities of countries, continued efforts to support the timely implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, including support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT); submission of national reports; and ratifications;
- (iii) UNCCD: Updates on responses to the COP 15 Decision on the collaboration with the GEF, on discussions and recommendations coming out of the twenty first Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC), and meetings between the GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat;
- (iv) Stockholm Convention: Updates on ratifications and accessions, and national reporting;
- (v) Minamata Convention: Updates on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention, ratifications and accessions, and national reporting;
- (vi) Special Programme: Updates of the seventh round of the program and on GEF Secretariat participation in the ninth meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme;
- (vii) BBNJ Agreement: Updates on the operationalization of the GEF-8 International Waters Focal Area funding of ratification support and early action activities for the BBNJ Agreement, and on signatures, ratifications, accessions, acceptances and approvals.
- (viii) Summary of relations and activities associated with other international institutions: the Adaptation Fund, the UN Forum on Forests, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (Plastic INC), UNEA-6, post-SAMOA Pathway, and multilateral climate funds and related processes.

7. An annex with the full list of GEF’s up-to-date responses to decisions from most recent COPs including CBD COP 15, UNFCCC COP 28, UNCCD COP 15, Stockholm Convention COP 10 and Minamata COP 5.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	ii
Introduction	6
Convention on Biological Diversity	6
Summary of Key Activities	6
Operationalization of Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF).....	7
CBD Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement.....	8
Ratifications and Accessions.....	10
National Reporting.....	11
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.....	11
Summary of Key Activities	11
COP 28 and Outcomes	13
Additional Meetings and Consultations.....	15
Ramifications and Accessions	16
National Reporting.....	16
UN Convention to Combat Desertification.....	17
Summary of Key Activities	17
Ratifications and Accessions.....	17
National Reporting.....	17
Additional Meetings and Consultations.....	17
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	19
Summary of Key Activities	19
Ratifications and Accessions.....	19
National Reporting.....	19
Minamata Convention on Mercury	20
Summary of Key Activities	20
Ratifications and Accessions.....	20
National Reporting.....	20

Specific International Programme	20
Special Programme	21
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	21
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 (BBNJ) ...	21
Summary of Key Activities	21
BBNJ Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement	22
Additional Meetings and Consultations	22
Ratifications and Accessions	23
Relations with Multilateral Climate Funds	23
Adaptation Fund	25
Green Climate Fund	27
Climate Investment Funds	28
Group of 20 (G20)	29
Relations with Other International Institutions.....	30
UNEA 6	30
UN Forum on Forests	31
Post-SAMOA Pathway.....	31
Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)	32
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop a Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment	32
Annex I: Decisions and Guidance of the Conferences of Parties to the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Stockholm Convention, and GEF’s Responses	1
Annex II: The Multilateral Climate Funds Action Plan on Complementarity and Coherence	1

INTRODUCTION

1. This document reports on action by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of decisions and initiatives within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, 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 (BBNJ). The report further provides information on the GEF Secretariat's relations with other institutions, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other multilateral funds.
2. This document reports on activities undertaken by the GEF Secretariat since the last report presented to the 65th GEF Council held in February 2024. It covers the period from November 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.
3. During the reporting period, the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) to UNFCCC was held from November 30 to December 13, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. where guidance to the GEF was adopted.
4. Other major Convention-related meetings took place during the reporting period. The fourth meeting of intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC 4) for an international legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, convened from April 21-29, 2024, in Ottawa, Canada.
5. The Executive Secretaries of the CBD, Minamata Convention and Stockholm Convention, and the Deputy Executive Secretaries of UNFCCC and UNCCD addressed the GEF Council in February 2024 on the status of negotiations, guidance provided to the GEF and collaboration across multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in the implementation of GEF-8.
6. The provision of finance through the GEF in line with COP guidance and decisions of relevance continued in the reporting period, as well as consultations with countries and Agencies conducted by the GEF Secretariat.
7. The GEF remains committed to working with the Conventions, countries, and partners to maintain momentum and action on the ground.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Summary of Key Activities

8. The acting Executive Secretary of the CBD briefed the 66th GEF Council about the progress being made on the resource mobilization for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), priorities for the CBD from here to COP 16, and relevance to ongoing and

upcoming GEF programming. He also appreciated the prompt establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) and outlined the importance of further donor contributions.

9. During the reporting period, GEF Secretariat efforts focused on the operationalization and launch of the GBFF, including expanded consultations, the approval of its policies on allocation of resources and project cycle, administrative budget and business plan during the first GBFF Council held on February 8 and 9, 2024, and the approval of the first selection round of project preparation grant (PPG) requests by the GEF CEO in March, 2024.

10. The GEF Secretariat continued support of the implementation of the KMGBF and related programming. These engagement efforts are described further in sections below.

Operationalization of Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)

11. During the reporting period, the operationalization of the GBFF made steady progress. The first GBFF Council was held on February 8 and 9, 2023, opened by the GEF CEO and the Acting Executive Secretary of CBD. The Council considered four agenda items, namely the GBFF Project Cycle Policy, Resource Allocation, FY24 and FY25 budget and business plan, as well as the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group(s) and Auxiliary Body.

12. Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, youth, women, conservation and philanthropic organizations were selected as observers following the established CBD process or based on the agreed selection process, and took part in the first GBFF Council and actively shared their perspectives. The GEF Secretariat provided a briefing session for them and facilitated their engagement.

13. Following the Council meeting, the GEF CEO notified the GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) on February 21, 2024 about the opening of the first tranche of the GBFF resources of \$211 million.

14. The GEF Secretariat organized several briefing sessions, both virtual and in-person, to the GEF Council members, GEF OFPs, CBD National Focal Points, GEF Agencies, participants to the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the League of Arab States, among others. Some were held in cooperation with the CBD Secretariat. The Secretariat also had bilateral with various multilateral development banks.

15. The special first selection round was opened on February 21, 2024 and closed on March 1, 2024 for those ready to submit the endorsement request in time for approval by the June 2024 GBFF Council. This first round was organized in light of views expressed during the first GBFF Council to explore the possibility to have the first Work Program at the June 2024 Council. All four submissions were approved, and the applicants were notified by March 15, 2024. The 67th Council is considering the first GBFF Work Program.

16. The second selection round for PPG requests were opened on March 4, 2024 and closed on April 1, 2024. Out of 66 submissions, 18 PPG requests were approved.

CBD Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement

17. As part of a [series of virtual briefing sessions on the start of programming under the GBFF](#), the GEF Secretariat organized a session dedicated to National Focal Points of the CBD and its Protocols on March 8, 2024. National Focal Points of the CBD and its Protocols were informed of the start of programming and invited to attend the briefing session through a notification jointly signed by the CBD Acting Executive Secretary and the GEF CEO and Chairperson.¹ The briefing sessions covered the Fund’s operationalization, its resource allocation system and selection criteria, its project cycle, and its PPG request form.

18. The GEF Secretariat personnel participated in the International Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Relevant Stakeholders on the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Gender Plan of Action from November 9-10, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. GEF staff presented on “Target 19 and direct access to funding by indigenous peoples and local communities for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” and answered many questions on the GBFF decisions and next steps for implementation of the GBFF.

19. The International Dialogue was a response to a decision requesting the Secretariat to organize international dialogues with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, including women and youth, on progress in the implementation of the KMGBF and the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030). The Conference of Parties of the CBD adopted a Gender Plan of Action to guide, promote and support the gender-responsive implementation of the Framework and applying gender-responsive mechanisms associated with the implementation of the Framework (decision [15/11](#)). The International Dialogue provided a forum to exchange views on key issues of relevance to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Gender Plan of Action (2023-2030).

20. GEF staff then participated in the 12th Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions held November 12-16, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. During these meetings, GEF staff spoke as a panellist for a side event organized by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) on “Indigenous Peoples and local communities direct access to funding for the implementation of Target 19”.

21. Through its decision 15/9 “Digital sequence information on genetic resources”, the CBD COP decided “to establish as part of the KMGBF a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund”. The CBD COP further established “a fair, transparent, inclusive, participatory and time-bound process to further develop and operationalize the mechanism [...] to be finalized at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties”. The process includes an Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group

¹ CBD, 2024, [First programming tranche of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), Notification 2024-024.

on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (DSI OEWG) mandated to further develop the multilateral mechanism and make recommendations to COP 16.

22. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the first Meeting of DSI OEWG, which was convened from November 14 to 18, 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. The working group agreed “Possible elements of a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund”, outlining elements on which there is potential convergence and a non-exhaustive list of elements for which there is a need for further discussion, with regards to (i) Contributions to the fund, (ii) Disbursement from the fund, (iii) Non-monetary benefit-sharing, (iv) Governance, and (v) Relation to other approaches and systems. “Options for new or existing funds which could host the global [DSI] fund” and “Options for revisions to the operating modalities of the Global Environment Facility or the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, under request from the Conference of the Parties, to enable them to serve as the host of the global fund” were included as elements for further discussion.

23. The first DSI OEWG also agreed to a package of intersessional work to prepare the second and final DSI OEWG meeting scheduled for August 12 to 16, 2024, in Montreal, Canada. As part of the intersessional work, GEF Secretariat staff has participated in the open-ended informal advisory group (IAG) on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, which has been holding virtual monthly meetings since January 2024.

24. GEF secretariat staff participated in the [Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal GBF](#), which took place in Bern, Switzerland, from January 23 to 25, 2024. The GEF secretariat presented an update on GEF-8 programming and the creation of the GBF Fund to provide participants with an overview of how GEF support can be harnessed for the benefit of biodiversity-related conventions for which the GEF does not serve the financial mechanism. With a view to the upcoming GEF-9 replenishment process, it also encouraged participants to make use of the process established by the CBD COP for biodiversity-related MEAs to pass on guidance to the GEF through the CBD.

25. The GEF CEO and GEF Secretariat staff attended from March 17-23 in Boyacá, Colombia, the second in-person meeting of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization (ACRM) which was established by COP-15 in December 2022, in paragraph 43 of [decision 15/7](#). This followed a GEF participation in all four virtual meetings held since the first in-person meeting of the ACRM (virtual meetings held on November 24, 2023, January 18, 2024, and February 21 and 22, 2024). The Committee was assigned three main tasks:

- (a) *To fully align the strategy for resource mobilization with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to ensure that it would provide a solid basis to guide Parties and other actors towards the mobilization of adequate resources, commensurate with the ambition of the Framework (para. 40 of the decision)*

- (b) *To explore the current biodiversity finance landscape, with a view to assessing gaps and overlaps and to identifying opportunities to strengthen, simplify and reform existing instruments to strengthen the current finance landscape for biodiversity (para. 41 of the decision)*
- (c) *To explore proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance to mobilize resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, on the basis of the assessment made and the gaps identified (para. 42 of the decision)*

26. To this end, the discussions focused on a draft strategy for resource mobilization, an exploratory study of the current biodiversity finance landscape, exploration of proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance, and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

27. To help inform the Committee's work, the GEF CEO made a presentation on the first day of the meeting focusing on (1) the GEF's support to biodiversity, through both the GEF Trust Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, (2) the GEF's expanding mandate and continued work on integration across conventions and thematic areas, (3) key statistics on the GEF's efficiency and effectiveness, including recent advancements, (4) processes of transparency and accountability, including through external assessments, and (5) the ongoing GEF reform aimed at increasing efficiency, agility, access, and responsiveness across our Family of Funds.

28. Taking into account the rich discussions and various views presented on the three main agenda items over the course of the week, the ACRM co-chairs finalized the documents that were submitted to SBI 4, which can be accessed from [this link](#).²

Ratifications and Accessions

29. As of March 31, 2024, there were 196 Parties to the CBD, 173 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 54 Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and 141 Parties the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD. Detailed information on the list of Parties to the Convention and its protocols can be found from this [link](#).

30. Since the last report to the GEF Council, Equatorial Guinea became Party to the Nagoya Protocol on January 2, 2024.

² Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), [Subsidiary Body on Implementation Fourth Meeting](#), Nairobi, May 21-29, 2024.

National Reporting

31. The Convention Secretariat has received no additional sixth national reports since the last report to Council. The list of national submissions received can be found on [this page](#).

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Summary of Key Activities

32. During the reporting period, efforts continued to support climate change activities with the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

33. UNFCCC COP 28 took place from November 30 to December 13, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Along with COP 28, the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 5), the 18th COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 18), as well as subsidiary bodies meetings were convened.

34. The GEF delegation participated in the COP 28 meetings, headed by the Lead Environmental Specialist on behalf of the GEF CEO. The COP considered the GEF Report to COP 28 and provided guidance to the GEF on several substantive elements, as discussed below. The GEF Report highlighted various tasks carried out to respond to guidance from COP 27 and the GEF's continued efforts to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including in relation to the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework (ETF).

35. A Ministerial dialogue and pledging session was organized at COP 28 for the LDCF and SCCF, where pledges totalling \$141.74 million were announced from six countries to the LDCF and \$32.5 million from three countries for the SCCF.

36. For the first time, the four major multilateral climate funds (MCFs), namely the GEF, Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds (CIF), and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), organized a joint pavilion at COP 28, co-hosting several high-level events and organizing meetings addressing joint and respective priorities. During an official side event at COP 28, the Heads of the four MCFs announced their commitment to develop an ambitious and concrete action plan to enhance access to climate finance and increase the collective impact of the MCF's action. Further information on GEF engagement with MCF related processes can be found in a new dedicated section below titled "Relations with Multilateral Climate Funds".

37. Events coverage, including participation in COP Presidency-led dialogues and consultations, and news articles related to GEF participation in COP 28 are available on the [GEF website](#).

38. GEF Secretariat staff continued to participate and be observers in events and meetings to advance momentum and action on climate, including the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues and

meetings of Constituted Bodies, such as the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC).

39. Regarding mobilization of finance for enabling activities under the UNFCCC, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs).

40. Following the work conducted in the previous reporting periods to define and communicate modalities of support provision for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. To date, the GEF has approved BTR support to 103 countries for 144 BTRs, and three additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.

41. The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. During the reporting period, the GEF approved two projects totalling \$3.4 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and a project preparation grant (PPG). As of March 31, 2024, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 96 projects covering 88 countries, 88 national projects, one regional project (covering four countries), and seven global projects, totalling \$159.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, is presented to the 67th Council in an information document.

42. The Secretariat also advanced plans for the organization of the Global Transparency Forum, to be held in Tokyo, Japan on May 20 and 21, 2024, with participation of delegates from over 100 countries, including the COP 28, 29, and 30 Presidencies.

43. During the reporting period, the third Work Program for the LDCF/SCCF for the GEF-8 period was approved at the 35th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting in February 2024. This was one of the largest work programs for LDCF/SCCF, with a total of \$203.40 million approved of GEF support, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The approved LDCF/SCCF Work Program will support 16 least developed countries (LDCs) and eight non-LDC small island developing states (SIDS) in addressing climate change adaptation priorities. All approved projects are aligned with, and contribute to the implementation of, national climate change policies and strategies, including the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), and other policy documents.

44. The GEF Adaptation Strategy for 2022-2026 recognized that many LDCs and SIDS face several capacity constraints. It outlined a Dedicated Program on 'Outreach and Capacity Support for LDC and SIDS Planning and Programming,' which responds directly to gaps and needs of the LDCs and SIDS. During the reporting period, the GEF organized a regional adaptation programming and strategy workshop for the 15 Caribbean non-LDC SIDS from March 11 to 15,

2024, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, which focused on resource access and programming under the SCCF-A window. Post-workshop surveys reported a highly positive assessment from participants on the value of such workshops.

45. The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC reported to the GEF 66th Council through a video intervention on COP 28 and highlighted key decisions and their relevance to the GEF, including on the global stocktake, global goal on adaptation, arrangements to address Loss and Damage, and just transition. He also outlined priorities of the upcoming COP on finance and the expected role of the GEF in collaboration with other climate and nature multilateral funds and private sector.

COP 28 and Outcomes

46. At COP 28, Parties agreed to the UAE Consensus, a package of decisions which most notably included the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage and the outcomes of the First Global Stocktake (GST). Parties also agreed to a global, time-bound target for adaptation, i.e. the global goal on adaptation (GGA) and to launch a two-year work program has been established to develop indicators for measuring and assessing progress towards the GGA's overarching targets.

47. Of particular relevance for the GEF, the interlinkages between climate change and nature were increasingly recognized in the decision package. The GST decision included a call to governments to consider ecosystems, biodiversity, and carbon stores, including forests, in the next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) which are expected to be submitted in 2025. The importance of nature-based solutions and ecosystem conservation towards achieving the Paris Agreement goal was reaffirmed, along with the need to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

48. The GEF delegation including senior staff members participated in various meetings and supported the negotiation process. During the COP, the GEF submitted an oral statement on GEF initiatives and achievements to update Parties, based on its annual report.

49. The GEF delegation also participated in contact groups and other sessions as requested to provide briefings to Parties and to respond to questions on GEF activities, its support to Parties, and its responses to COP guidance. Key negotiations topics the GEF Secretariat participated in and/or provided input to included, inter alia, finance and provision of support, loss and damage, transparency, GGA, technology transfer and agriculture.

50. The GEF received guidance from COP 28 and CMA 5, which, along with GEF's responses to date, is contained in Table 1 of Annex I to this document. Key elements of the COP 28 and CMA 5 guidance are summarized below:

- (a) On the Enhanced Transparency Framework: the GEF was encouraged to (i) include information on lessons learned on Enabling Activities, in particular on costs, access

modalities and support delivery, in its annual report and to participate in the UNFCCC-organized transparency workshops and dialogues in 2024 and 2025.

- (b) On Technology Transfer: the GEF was requested to continue to support Technology Needs Assessments and Technology Action Plans, and to consider including in the GEF annual report to COP information on support provided for research development and demonstration. In addition, the GST text decided to establish a Technology Implementation Programme, to be supported, inter alia, by the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC, including the GEF as one of its operating entities, to support Parties with their technology transfer needs.
- (c) Regarding GEF Agencies: the COP encouraged the GEF to open a targeted round of implementing agency expansion within the GEF partnership, with a focus on underserved regions.
- (d) On Adaptation and Loss and Damage: COP requested the GEF to consider ways to enhance its ongoing work to fund activities relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, consistent with its current mandates, and requested the GEF in administering LDCF and SCCF to take into account the GGA framework.

51. In its report to COP 29, the GEF will elaborate on the steps taken to fully implement the guidance received from COP and CMA in Dubai. The report, covering the period from July 1, 2023, until June 30, 2024, is expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in August 2023, upon approval by the GEF Council.

52. The GEF Secretariat organized a Ministerial pledging event for the LDCF/SCCF during COP 28. Pledges totalling \$141.74 million were announced from six countries to the LDCF and \$32.5 million from three countries for the SCCF. The commitments made in Dubai for these funds providing targeted support for the world's most climate-exposed countries extends the trend of increasing contributions to the LDCF/SCCF, which at COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh received a total of \$105.6 million.

53. The GEF co-organized and participated in two UNFCCC official side events. During the first one, titled "Climate finance: the role of the climate funds in supporting developing countries", the Heads of the MCFs joined forces for the first time to announce their intention to adopt a joint action plan to enhance access to climate finance and increase the MCFs' collective impact. The action plan, which is contained in Annex II to this document, is expected to be presented to the MCFs' respective Governing Bodies in 2024 and published in its final version by the Heads of the MCFs at COP29. The plan aims to strengthen the complementarity and coherence between the funds and move towards harmonizing their procedures and to improve and streamline modalities of access to finance. The second official side event was jointly organized by GEF and GCF and provided an opportunity for the two organizations to present the results of a recent analysis on complementarity and coherence that was concluded in 2023 as part of the Long-Term Vision (LTV) on Complementarity engagement between the two funds.

54. In addition to joint events, the GEF hosted additional high-level events. These included an event on “Addressing biodiversity and climate change synergistically: Scaling up implementation for success” jointly organized by the CBD Secretariat, the GCF, the GEF, the Secretariat of UNFCCC, and UNEP and the event on “Fostering South-South Learning: The collaboration between Cuba, Chile, and Panama under the CBIT-Global Support Programme” showcasing South-South learning experiences by representatives from Cuba, Chile, and Panama.

55. Senior GEF staff also participated in several other high-level or mandated events at COP 28, most notably:

- (a) Environmental Management Group High-Level Dialogue: Strengthening the UN System Climate Action in Support of Parties to the UNFCCC, hosted by UNEP, on December 2, 2023.
- (b) In-session workshop of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches (Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement) organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat, with a special focus on forests and related ecosystems, on December 4, 2023.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

56. During the reporting period,³ GEF Secretariat staff participated in the following additional UNFCCC-related meetings and provided updates on the status of GEF programming, responses to COP guidance, thematic programming, and capacity building, among other topics:

- (a) Fourth Meeting of the Transitional Committee (TC4) on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for Loss and Damage in Aswan, Egypt on 17 to 20 October, 2023.
- (b) 28th Meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on April 16 to 19, 2024 (virtual participation).
- (c) 23rd Meeting of the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) Advisory Board on April 19 to 24, 2024 (virtual participation).
- (d) UNFCCC Meeting “NDC 3.0 – Preparing the next round of NDCs”, in Bonn, Germany, on March 4 to 5, 2024.
- (e) UNFCCC TEC A.3.1. Activity Group (Early Warning System) meeting on March 14, 2024.
- (f) Webinars on “the Support Ecosystem for the next round of NDC”, organized by the UNFCCC’s Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs) on March 21 to 27, 2024.

³ Although some of the activities listed under this section (Additional Meetings and Consultations related to the UNFCCC) took place outside the end of the reporting period (March 31, 2024), they were included in this document given the potential implications it has for the June 2024 GEF Council meeting.

- (g) Ninth Technical Expert Dialogue and the First Meeting under the Ad hoc Work Programme on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance Cartagena, Colombia on April 23 and 24, 2024.
- (h) 45th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG 45) from February 20 to 23, 2023 in Bujumbura, Burundi.
- (i) NAP Expo 2024, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on April 22 to 25, 2024
- (j) 1st and 2nd technical meetings of the G20's Task Force on a Global Mobilization against Climate Change (TF-CLIMA): 4-5 March, virtual, and April 5-6, in person in Brasilia, Brazil
- (k) 1st and 2nd high level meetings of the G20 Sustainable Financing Working Group (SFWG): 5-6 February, virtual, and April 2-3, in person in Brasilia, Brazil

Ramifications and Accessions

57. As of March 31, 2024, there were 198 Parties to the Convention and 195 Parties have signed, 195 ratified, accepted or approved, the Paris Agreement. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found at [this website](#).

National Reporting

58. The following is the total number of NCs submitted from non-Annex I Parties, as of March 31, 2024:

- (a) Initial National Communications: **154**
- (b) Second National Communications: **146**
- (c) Third National Communications: **105**
- (d) Fourth National Communications: **34**
- (e) Fifth National Communications: **5**
- (f) Sixth National Communications: **2**

59. Full details are available at this [UNFCCC website](#).

60. The following is the total number of BURs submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of March 31, 2024:

- (a) First Biennial Update Reports: **101**
- (b) Second Biennial Update Reports: **44**
- (c) Third Biennial Update Reports: **28**
- (d) Fourth Biennial Update Reports: **13**
- (e) Fifth Biennial Update Reports: **4**

61. Full details are available at the [UNFCCC website](#).
62. The following is the total number of BTRs submitted from non-Annex 1 Parties, as of March 31, 2024:
- (a) First Biennial Transparency Reports: **0**
63. Full details are available at this [UNFCCC website](#).

UN CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Summary of Key Activities

64. In the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat continued to follow up on the UNCCD COP 15, held from May 9 to 20, 2022, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in particular on the COP decision regarding collaboration with the Global Environment Facility. Updates to the responses by the GEF Secretariat to these decisions are contained in Annex I, Table 3.
65. Furthermore, the GEF Secretariat followed up on the discussions and recommendation coming out of the UNCCD CRIC 21 from November 13 to 17, 2023 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, specifically on Enabling Activity support for the upcoming reporting cycle.

Ratifications and Accessions

66. As of March 31, 2024, the UNCCD had been ratified or acceded by 197 parties, including 196 States and the European Union. The details can be found from [this link](#).

National Reporting

67. GEF Secretariat will make Enabling Activity funding available to countries up to two years in advance of the reporting deadline to facilitate preparation and data collection for reporting. The funding level per country will be increased from \$100,000 in GEF-7 to \$120,000 in GEF-8 (including agency fees). In addition, GEF secretariat will be supporting parties through a global support project (GSP III) executed by the Global Mechanism to organize regional workshops and support a helpdesk for the online PRAIS reporting system.

Additional Meetings and Consultations

68. The GEF Secretariat participated in the ongoing intergovernmental working group (IWG) on the mid-term evaluation of the UNCCD Strategic framework 2018 - 2030. The IWG supervises the independent assessment of the UNCCD conducted by a consultant. It also ensures linkages and synergies with all parallel processes that are relevant to the evaluation. GEF Secretariat staff participated in a several online meetings and commented on the draft report of the IWG.

69. GEF Secretariat staff participated in the High-Level Event on the “Southern Africa Great Green Wall, scaling up an African Ambition to Solve the World’s Most Pressing Issues”, which took place during the UNFCCC COP 28 on December 2, 2024. In this context, GEF Secretariat is cooperating with the Global Mechanism and other key partners on upstream engagement with the Southern Africa Development commission (SADC), and in cooperation with the GCF, to facilitate enhanced coordination in the planning of this initiative, and its alignment with the goals of objectives of UNCCD, UNFCCC, and CBD.

70. GEF Secretariat staff participated in a consultation workshop on a new GEF-8 program in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative in the Sahel and Sahara convened by UNEP at the margins of UNEA in Nairobi, Kenya on February 22-23, 2024.

- (a) The program titled “Transformation Approach to Large Scale Investment in Support of the Implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative” has been designed as a multi-trust fund program combining GEF Trust Fund and LDCF resources. The consultation workshop was organized by UNEP which is the lead agency for the program to discuss the governance, partnership and technical aspects for designing a transformative program to deliver biodiversity, land degradation and adaptation benefits to communities and ecosystems in GGW countries in an integrated manner.
- (b) Participants of the workshop included GEF Agencies (AfDB, IFAD, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and BOAD) and representatives from Chad and the Gambia including the Co-chair of the GEF Council. Other participants included OSS (Sahel and Sahara Observatory), Future Agri-Business (FAGRIB), and the Ambassador of One billion trees.
- (c) The workshop generated quality inputs and information provided by the GEF partner agencies regarding the strong baseline of activities in the GGW region, facilitated sharing of experience and barriers that the program needs to address and an effective discussion regarding the need for a strong partnership and governance model involving key actors to deliver transformative outcomes through the project including complementarity with GCF’s investment in the GGW region.
- (d) The GEF Secretariat also held a meeting with UNCCD Secretariat in Washington D.C., briefed them about the progress of the program and have requested their inputs on the draft program document.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Summary of Key Activities

71. The Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions addressed the 66th GEF Council held in February 2024 virtually and spoke about the results of the triple COP of Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm as well as linkages with other processes such as CBD, UNFCCC and the Montreal Protocol. He also noted the following elements with implications for the GEF:

- (a) Listing of the three new chemicals to the Convention, Methoxychlor, Dieldrin and UV-328 will trigger the obligation of Parties to conduct a review and update of their National Implementation Plans which for Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition will mean accessing the GEF for resources to conduct these.
- (b) On PCBs, while no guidance was directed towards the GEF, work is ongoing with the BRS Secretariat to develop a program to address residual PCBs.

72. There were 24 new national reports submitted by Parties during the reporting period.

Ratifications and Accessions

73. During the reporting period, there were no new ratifications of the Convention. The current number of ratifications is 186. The status of ratifications is available from this [link](#).

National Reporting

74. Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention states that each Party shall develop and endeavour to carry out a plan for the implementation of its obligations under the Stockholm Convention, which needs to be transmitted to the COP within two years of the Convention's entry into force. Article 7 also calls for a review and update of the plan on a periodic basis and in a manner specified by the Conference of the Parties. As of March 31, 2024, the status of submission of NIPs and updates are as follows:

NIP Phase	Number of Parties that have submitted NIP and NIP updates	Changes since the last report
Initial NIP	177	1
NIP Update for COP 4 amendments	114	4
NIP Update for COP 5 amendments	103	3
NIP Update for COP 6 amendments	72	4
NIP Update for COP 7 amendments	51	5
NIP Update for COP 8 amendments	35	4
NIP Update for COP 9 amendments	20	3

MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY

Summary of Key Activities

75. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention reported on the 5th meeting of the parties of the Minamata Convention and highlighted key decisions of the COP on Indigenous Peoples, accelerating the phase out of mercury in products and new guidance to the GEF.

76. The COP requested the GEF to provide support to eligible Parties to undertake a new enabling activity which will review the implementation of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention. The guidelines for this enabling activity is presented to the 67th GEF Council meeting for approval.

Ratifications and Accessions

77. During the reporting period, Mozambique became party to the Convention.

78. Opened for signature and ratification in October 2013, the Convention has 128 signatures and 148 Parties, as of March 31, 2024. The status of signatures and ratifications can be found on the Minamata Convention website.

National Reporting

79. The Minamata Convention Secretariat has created a website to house national reports from Parties, including Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs), National Action Plans (NAPs) for the ASGM sector, National Implementation Plans (NIPs) and reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 of the Convention.

80. There are currently 75 MIAs submitted, 36 NAPs, 3 NIPs and 99 first full national reports and 82 second short national reports submitted under Article 21.

81. MIAs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).

82. NAPs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).

83. NIPs that have been submitted are available at this [link](#).

84. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 21 are available at this [link](#).

SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

85. The GEF was not requested to attend meetings of the SiP during the reporting period.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME

86. The GEF Secretariat participated in the ninth meeting of the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata convention, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Global Framework on Chemicals that took place in hybrid format in Geneva, Switzerland from April 8 to 10, 2024.⁴

87. The main objective of the meeting was to review the eligible and complete applications submitted for the seventh round of applications for funding from the Special Programme and consider arrangements for the launch of the eighth round of applications.

88. The Executive Board approved eight projects amounting to \$1.9 million.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

89. There are no updates for this reporting period.

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 (BBNJ)

Summary of Key Activities

90. Adopted by consensus on June 19, 2023, 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 (“BBNJ Agreement”)⁵ was opened for signature on September 20, 2023.

91. The BBNJ Agreement identifies the GEF Trust Fund as part of its Financial Mechanism, which also includes a special fund and a voluntary trust fund. In August 2023, the 7th GEF Assembly approved by consensus the corresponding amendment to the Instrument to the Assembly to add the BBNJ Agreement to the list of Conventions served by the GEF.⁶ GEF Council Decision 14/2023 also authorized the use of up to \$34 million from the GEF-8 International

⁴ Although this activity took place outside the end of the reporting period (March 31, 2024), it was included in this document given the potential implications it has for the June 2024 GEF Council meeting.

⁵ [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](#), United Nations, New York

⁶ GEF, 2023, [Amendments to Instrument for the Establishment of a Restructured Global Environment Facility](#), Assembly Document GEF/A.7/08

Waters Focal Area for the funding of ratification support and early action activities for the BBNJ Agreement.

92. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel briefed the GEF 66th Council about the BBNJ Agreement and ongoing cooperation with the GEF in the capacity representing the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, which serves secretariat functions for the BBNJ agreement until such time as the secretariat to be established under the BBNJ Agreement commences its functions.

93. On February 9, 2024, GEF Council Decision 14/2024 approved GEF/C.66/07⁷ that articulated the initial guidelines for enabling activities and ratification support projects to promote early entry into force and implementation readiness for the BBNJ Agreement. Council Document GEF/C.66/07 was developed in close consultation with DOALOS.

BBNJ Meetings Outcomes and GEF Engagement

94. No official BBNJ meetings took place during the reporting period. Relevant information on GEF engagement relative to the BBNJ Agreement is included below.

Additional Meetings and Consultations⁸

95. From January 17 to February 26, 2024, DOALOS and the GEF Secretariat conducted an initial survey of capacity-building and technical assistance needs, to provide States with an initial opportunity to inform the development of future assistance from DOALOS and the GEF in support of becoming party to the Agreement and implementation of the Agreement. The survey comprised eight questions. A total of 80 responses were received and the results can be found in a compilation of results.⁹

96. On March 8, 2024, the GEF Secretariat sent a communication to all GEF Operational Focal Points to inform that GEF-8 funding is now available for BBNJ ratification support and implementation readiness activities. It further explains that the GEF Secretariat has identified a consortium of three GEF Agencies, FAO, UNDP, and UNEP, to provide support in line with GEF/C.66/07. Such support will be closely coordinated and implemented in collaboration with DOALOS. Countries may choose between FAO, UNDP, or UNEP for receiving national umbrella

⁷ GEF, 2024, [Initial Guidelines for Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Projects for 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 \(BBNJ\)](#), Council Document GEF/C.66/07

⁸ Although some of the activities in this section took place outside the end of the reporting period (March 31, 2024), they were included in this document given their relevance to the June 2024 GEF Council meeting.

⁹ DOALOS/OLA and GEF. 2024. [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; Initial survey of capacity-building and technical assistance needs; Compilation of results.](#)

Enabling Activity support. GEF Operational Focal Points were encouraged to contact FAO, UNDP, or UNEP to promptly begin the process of accessing such support.

97. At the occasion of UNEA 6, the Government of Mexico, UNEP, and DOALOS organized a special event titled “Stepping together towards ratification and implementation of the BBNJ Agreement” on February 28, 2024. The event was organized to provide information on the landmark BBNJ agreement, its linkages with other MEAs, and share experiences with Member States on needs and next steps towards swift ratification, early action, and implementation. The GEF Secretariat took part in the panel discussion, and shared how the GEF is supporting ratification and early implementation of BBNJ.

98. Since February 2024, the GEF Secretariat, DOALOS, and FAO, UNDP, and UNEP, have been holding regular virtual meetings to discuss coordination for the GEF-8 BBNJ Agreement support. The GEF Secretariat and DOALOS also co-hosted an informal virtual meeting on April 3, 2024 with governments and organizations to exchange information on on-going and planned support in relation to the BBNJ Agreement.

99. Since February 2024, the GEF Secretariat has held many bilateral conversations with GEF recipient countries related to accessing GEF-8 BBNJ Agreement support. Similarly, GEF Secretariat staff have also participated in multiple virtual sessions to explain the role of the GEF Trust Fund as part of the BBNJ Agreement Financial Mechanism and to explain the process for accessing GEF-8 BBNJ Agreement support. These included recent virtual sessions organized by Tara Ocean Foundation on April 11, 2024 and by CARICOM on April 12, 2024.

Ratifications and Accessions

100. As of March 31, 2024, the Agreement had 88 signatories, including two Parties: Chile, Palau. The Agreement will enter into force 120 days after the date of deposit of the sixtieth instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.

101. During the reporting period, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia, Tonga, and Canada signed the Agreement.

102. The current status of signatures and of ratification, accession, acceptance and approval is available from [this link](#).

RELATIONS WITH MULTILATERAL CLIMATE FUNDS ¹⁰

103. During the reporting period, the GEF Secretariat continued its engagement with the other multilateral providers of climate finance, with the view of advancing the collective efficiency and impact of their efforts to support developing countries finance climate action. Building on

¹⁰ Although some of the activities in this section took place outside the end of the reporting period (March 31, 2024), they were included in this document given the potential implications it has for the June 2024 GEF Council meeting.

collaboration and exchange efforts from the previous years, during an official side event at COP 28 titled “Enhancing access and increasing impact: the role of the multilateral climate funds”, the Heads of the four major MCFs announced their commitment to work together to develop an ambitious and concrete action plan to enhance access to climate finance and increase the joint impact of the MCFs’ work.¹¹

104. The action plan, is included in Annex II to this document and expected to be presented to the other MCFs’ respective Governing Bodies in 2024. Following this consultation period, the plan is expected to be published by the Heads of the MCFs at COP 29. It aims to strengthen the complementarity and coherence between the funds, move towards harmonizing their procedures and streamline access modalities. To develop the action plan, staff from the Secretariats of the GEF, the Adaptation Fund (AF), GCF and the CIFs met in Washington, D.C. at the GEF Secretariat’s offices for a four-day writing workshop, held between April 8 and 11, 2024.

105. Participants from different divisions of the MCFs discussed content organized around four pillars for enhanced collaboration, including: (i) policies and processes, (ii) capacity building and programming, (iii) knowledge exchange and communication and (iv) leveraging of the finance architecture. Specific short (before COP 29), medium (up to 2026) and longer term (from 2027 onwards) actions were identified for each one of the four pillars listed above.

106. The following important principles were agreed upon, as providing a framework for fostering collaboration and guiding decision making in the implementation of the action plan:

- (a) accountability, emphasizing the importance of holding all parties accountable for their commitments and outcomes;
- (b) transparency, stressing the importance of transparent communication, decision-making processes and reporting mechanisms for tracking progress and building trust among MCFs, their governing bodies, and stakeholders;
- (c) flexibility, recognizing the evolving nature of the climate agenda, and the need to adapt actions to changing circumstances and emerging evidence;
- (d) inclusivity, prioritizing active consultations and stakeholder engagement to ensure that diverse perspectives and voices are heard and incorporated into decision-making processes; and
- (e) recognition of diversity, acknowledging and recognizing that each MCF operates with its unique mandate, objectives, and governance structures.

107. To further support this strengthened engagement between the MCFs, specific governance structures were discussed, including regular calls of the Heads of the MCFs and a taskforce comprised several working groups with participants from the funds’ secretariats, covering the key pillars of the prospective work needed to implement the action plan. The first

¹¹ <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/news/enhancing-access-and-increasing-impact-role-multilateral-climate-funds>

meeting of the Heads of the funds took place on April 21, 2024, while a second virtual meeting was held on May 8, 2024. The two meetings provided the principals with the opportunity to discuss their joint and respective priorities, and exchange views on structure and governance of the collaborative effort, the content and objectives of the action plan, the timeline for implementation and the next steps, including the respective consultations with each fund's governing body. In addition, a meeting of the Co-Chairs of the MCFs was also held, on May 24, 2024, as a first step of the consultation process on the action plan with the MCFs' Governing Bodies. The meeting represented the first time Co-Chairs from the four funds met together in a joint setting.

108. Regarding the fund's physical presence at COP 28, building on the successful experience at COP 25, COP 26 and COP 27, where GEF co-hosted a joint pavilion with the GCF, a decision was taken to expand the shared space modality at COP 28, and to collaborate on a joint pavilion hosting the four largest MCFs. The four Funds hosted a pavilion together – gathering resources and helping to reduce high costs of operation of the pavilion space.

109. The MCFs pavilion had multiple positive outcomes, including ease of access for the public to the staff and experts from each fund, the opportunity to host sessions for each fund to show their work and to open the floor to wider and more inclusive participation from the public and civil society, while also allowing MCFs' staff to interact closely between themselves and with their counterparts. The four Funds organized several joint informative sessions, including on gender equality and women empowerment, climate mitigation, climate adaptation and nature-based solutions.

110. The communication units of the four funds strive to collaborate where feasible to enhance complementarity and synergies. All four communication units established a working group to plan, design and implement the above-mentioned effort. The pavilion enhanced visibility of tangible cooperation between funds. The communication units of the four funds also collaborated on joint messaging and side events at COP 28, showing further collaborative activities to enhance climate finance access and climate action on a united front.

Adaptation Fund

111. The Adaptation Fund was established under the Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC. The GEF has functioned, since 2008, as the interim secretariat for the Adaptation Fund Board. By decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, the Adaptation Fund started serving the Paris Agreement under the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) with respect to all Paris Agreement matters, from January 1, 2019. In accordance with decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, once the share of proceeds becomes available under Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, the Adaptation Fund will serve the Paris Agreement exclusively and no longer serve the Kyoto Protocol.

112. In December 2019 in Madrid, Spain, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), at its fifteenth session (CMP 15), decided to adopt the amended and restated memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the CMP and the Council

of the GEF regarding secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB). At its fifty-seventh meeting, the Council of the GEF decided to approve the amended and restated MoU regarding secretariat services to the AFB as in December 2019.

113. In line with decision 9/CMA.1 related to guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, the Adaptation Fund, along with the GCF, the GEF, the Climate Technology Center and Network and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, continued channelling support to developing country Parties for the implementation of their adaptation plans and actions in accordance with the priorities and needs outlined in their adaptation communications.

114. The GEF Secretariat provided the Adaptation Fund with the continued cross-support services supporting the technical review of project and programme proposals submitted for the forty-second meeting of the AFB, which took place on 16-19 April 2024.¹² The organizations also continued collaboration on joint events and other matters as needed.

115. The GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat continued to collaborate on gender. Both secretariats have exchanged information on the recent developments in their gender work, shared lessons and experiences learned through their efforts of gender mainstreaming as well as gender-related knowledge gained. The AFB Secretariat shared with the GEF Secretariat the new developments in the Adaptation Fund's gender work: the development of the AF Gender Scorecard, a monitoring tool to collect and analyse gender-related data and measure gender mainstreaming at the Adaptation Fund portfolio level, at entry, during implementation, and at exit s; the development of an e-course on gender mainstreaming throughout the project and programme cycle. This course represents the first gender-specific course of the AF and is open to the public (will be available also in French and Spanish). This course is aimed at strengthening capacities of Implementing Entities and other partners to effectively address and integrate gender considerations when designing and implementing AF-funded projects and programmes, in compliance with the AF GP. Additionally, both secretariats have collaborated with the gender team of the other two climate funds – GCF and CIFs, and of the UNFCCC Secretariat on gender work and UNFCCC-wide mandates under the Lima Work Programme through, such as the events at COP 28 “Bridging the GAP from Access to Action - NGCCFP training on climate finance and gender” (December 1, 2023), and “Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Climate Finance” (December 4, 2023), as well as “the UNFCCC Gender Collective Impact Gathering Meeting (March 20, 2024).”

116. The reform process of the second phase of the World Bank’s Trust Fund reform is reviewing issues and opportunities for reform relating to the wide range of Trust Funds at the World Bank, including Financial Intermediary Funds, while respecting the governance and operational requirements for funds such as the Adaptation Fund and the GEF. The secretariats continued exchanging information and prepared for discussions with the World Bank

¹² Although the forty-second meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) took place outside the end of the reporting period (March 31, 2024), it was included in this document given the potential implications it has for the June 2024 GEF Council meeting.

management on the new cost recovery measures for the GEF Vice Presidency including the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, which was released in March 2021.

117. The GEF and AFB secretariats negotiated with the landlord and concluded the terms of the lease for the joint office space for the next six years from February 2024, including expansion to another floor of the building.

118. In addition, the secretariats of the GEF and AF have engaged on collaborations to discuss several operational matters including fiduciary standards, knowledge management and results tracking as well as joint events at COP 29.

119. The respective knowledge management teams of the GEF Secretariat and AFB Secretariat exchanged ideas and guidance periodically about potential areas of collaboration, including on common events to be held at COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and participating in each other's virtual events organized around different topics. In addition, the knowledge management team of the GEF was consulted by the AF team in relation to the update of the Knowledge management strategy of AF.

Green Climate Fund

120. The GEF and the GCF have been working closely together over the past several years to enhance synergies and coordination with regards to climate financing, in line with COP guidance on complementarity and coherence. These efforts continued during the reporting period.

121. In the reporting period, the GEF and the GCF organized the second Joint Programming Consultation, which took place in Uganda on November 15 to 17, 2023, and was co-organized by the Uganda Climate Finance Unit and the two funds with support from the Taskforce for Access to Climate Finance, which was launched at COP26. The GEF-GCF Joint Programming Consultations was carried out in the context of the "Collaborative and Coordinated Programming" pillar of the GEF-GCF Long Term Vision (LTV), which includes a specific focus on facilitation of national investment planning.

122. The lessons of this work with pilot countries of the Taskforce were shared during a dedicated side-event held on December 5 at COP 28, 'Streamlining access to climate finance and enhancing impact', together with the results of the results of the independent analysis on complementarity and coherence of the two funds' policies and processes that was concluded in 2023 as part of the LTV engagement between the two funds.

123. The LTV Steering Committee took place in person on April 11, 2024, with the following agenda:

- (a) Stocktake on the Long-Term Vision;
- (b) Long Term Vision future and linkages with Multilateral Climate Funds work;
- (c) Joint investment planning: next steps with pilots;

- (d) Engagement with Taskforce and NDC Partnership;
- (e) Other matters, including steering committee organizational updates.

124. Joint annual LTV progress reports to the GEF Council and GCF board were submitted to the 62nd and 64th GEF Council.¹³ In the reporting period, another annual LTV progress report was prepared and will be submitted to the 67th GEF Council.

125. In the reporting period, GEF continued to invite GCF to contribute to GEF country and regional engagement events, including at the occasion of a panel on coordinated programming at the Caribbean workshop on SCCF programming as part of the LDCF/SCCF Dedicated Programmes. The UNFCCC secretariat was also invited to deliver opening remarks at this workshop, which similarly to GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops invited and sponsored UNFCCC country focal points to attend.

Climate Investment Funds

126. During the reporting period, cooperation and coordination with CIFs continued to be enhanced. The GEF Secretariat staff were formally nominated to be observers to the CIF process, and the reciprocal arrangements have been made. Cooperation as part of the four MCF collaboration was highlighted earlier in this document.

127. In addition, the LDCF/SCCF personnel participated in a workshop organized by CIF in the EBRD Headquarters in London in March 2024 to provide inputs to their adaptation programming strategy titled “Climate Resilience Program (CRP)”. The GEF shared the LDCF/SCCF adaptation programming strategy, elaborated on the current GEF-GCF LTV and provided technical inputs to the strategy to complement GEF’s adaptation strategy. GEF Secretariat offered its continued collaboration with CIFs and other climate funds through its rich experience of implementing adaptation projects over last two decades and shared details of global and country specific projects to inform CIFs’ CRP.

128. During the reporting period, the Sustainable Cities team of the GEF also has been engaged by the CIF for seeking inputs to their new Climate Smart Cities Program which is being designed currently. The GEF Coordinator of Sustainable Cities Program liaised with the CIF Cities Program lead through bilateral and other group consultations involving other climate funds, including GCF and Adaptation Fund. As the first multilateral environment fund with a dedicated cities program funded under GEF-6, GEF-7 and GEF-8 phases, the GEF Secretariat shared valuable lessons learned over last 10 years in designing and implementing the sustainable cities program which follows an integrated approach for delivering climate, biodiversity and land restoration benefits among other co-benefits. The GEF Secretariat shared its programming strategy, details of its

¹³ GEF, 2022, Progress Report on Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, Council Document GEF/C.62/Inf.14.

GEF, 2023, Progress Report on Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, Council Document GEF/C.64/Inf.07.

operations, list of cities and countries and other technical information to inform the CIF Cities strategy. Importantly, it connected the CIF team with the partners of its Global Platform and encouraged the CIF Secretariat to join the platform for strategic collaboration going forward.

Group of 20 (G20)

129. During the period of this reporting, the GEF Secretariat was invited by the Brazilian Government to officially participate in two G20 discussion groups, the Sustainable Financing Working Group (SFWG) and the Task Force Clima (TF CLIMA). Both groups have defined a series of virtual and in-person meetings ranging from February through October 2024 to discuss and prepare recommendations for the G20 Leaders' Summit to take place in Rio de Janeiro, on November 18-19, 2024.

130. The G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) is engaged in accelerating the global sustainable finance agenda. Under the G20 Brazilian Presidency in 2024, the SFWG will build on prior achievements and work on the following four priorities, as agreed by the G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies on December 14, 2023: i) optimizing the operations of the International Environmental and Climate Funds to deliver sustainable finance; ii) advancing credible, robust and just transition plans; iii) analysing implementation challenges related to sustainability reporting standards, including for Small and Medium Enterprises and Emerging Market and Developing Economies; and iv) financing Nature-Based Solutions. The recommendations emerging from the work undertaken under these priority areas as well as information on the progress on the implementation of the SFWG Roadmap will be captured in the 2024 G20 Sustainable Finance Report.

131. The TF-CLIMA aims at establishing a high-level, policy-oriented agenda for structural transformations aligned with the 1.5°C objective of the Paris Agreement. This taskforce was specially created by Brazil's presidency of the G20 and it brings together the Sherpa and Finance tracks to advance technical discussions on further mainstreaming climate change into the global economic agenda. It also builds on and provide a higher status to climate-relevant developments under G20 working groups. The TF-CLIMA aims at strengthening a G20 coordinated response to climate change through 2030 and beyond, particularly by (i) enhancing the role of credible, robust and just national transition plans and country platforms and exploring their associated financial, social and economic challenges, as well as (ii) developing a renewed agenda for the financial sector's engagement in climate action in ways that complement public funding and that contribute to an ambitious investment agenda for mitigation, adaptation and just transitions, aligned with the 1.5°C objective.

132. The GEF Secretariat delegations are actively engaging with both groups and have been providing inputs to the expert group's papers and statements for the respective group meetings. Secretariat staff participated in two virtual and two in person meetings for the two working groups, as well as in a series of side events in Brasilia and Washington. The work of these groups was also considered by MCF during their workshop hosted by the GEF in April 2024.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

UNEA 6

133. The GEF Secretariat attended UNEA 6 in February 2024, and actively involved on items that are relevant to the GEF, engaged with strategic stakeholders through bilateral meetings, shared GEF's work with UNEA participants including the GBFF and GEF legacy in Africa through events, and participate in pre-UNEA strategic events including the Great Green Wall (GGW) program design and sustainable cities summit. On the sidelines of UNEA and associated meetings, the delegation also organized its second GEF communication retreat with GEF Agencies and Convention Secretariats to align the communication strategies.

134. UNEA-6 adopted 15 resolutions, including synergies, cooperation, and collaboration for national implementation of MEAs and other relevant instruments, sustainable mining of critical minerals, those addressing pollution from chemicals and waste, combat desertification and land degradation, environmental management during times of conflict, among others. For the GEF, the key subject was the amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (UNEP/EA.6/Res.2). The resolution was adopted, after negotiations on the preamble text to include the following paragraph: "Acknowledging the need for inclusivity, transparency, accountability, and responsiveness with regard to the projects and programmes that the Global Environmental Facility is financing worldwide, taking into account the eligibility criteria..."

135. The GEF Secretariat organized a briefing session on the GBFF on February 29, 2024, covering the summary of decisions taken by the first GBFF Council including on the GBFF project cycle policy and the policy on allocation of resources for the GBFF, and the launch of the first and second selection rounds of PPG requests. The Acting Executive Secretary of CBD took part in the session, delivering opening remarks. The event was well received and well attended by many countries interested in accessing the funds. A pledge to the GBFF from Luxembourg of seven million euro was announced at the event.

136. The GEF Secretariat participated in the MEA-focused event held on February 29, 2024 titled Decarbonization and Detoxification: Opportunities for Integrated Actions, which brought together senior officials from various MEAs and countries to discuss the co-benefits offered by integrated approaches aimed at addressing climate change and pollution while preventing trade-off. The GEF Lead Environmental Specialist delivered a keynote speech, on behalf of the GEF CEO, focusing on the GEF support to multiple MEAs with synergy and integration.

137. As highlighted in the BBNJ section, the GEF Secretariat participated in a high-level event on February 28, 2024 organized by UN DOALOS and UNEP which aimed to share insights and explore linkages between the BBNJ agreement and other relevant MEAs and frameworks, as reported in the BBNJ section earlier in this report. Heads of CITES, CMS, MAP/Barcelona Convention, and Nairobi Convention took part, along with Ministers and senior representatives from countries. The GEF Lead Environmental Specialist participated in a panel discussion and

presented the GEF support to the BBNJ and potential for cross-linkages with other global environmental priorities served by the GEF.

138. During the UNEA 6, the GEF Secretariat participated in a consultation workshop organized by UNEP to discuss the design and governance of a new Great Green Wall Regional Program submitted by UNEP and BOAD which aims to deliver biodiversity, land degradation and adaptation benefits to communities and ecosystems in the participating countries in an integrated manner. This meeting has been elaborated in the CCD section.

UN Forum on Forests

139. GEF Secretariat staff continued to actively participate in work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), notably contributing to the Midterm Review in 2024 of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

140. During UNFCCC COP 28, the GEF participated as speaker in the CPF side-event “CPF Event: Climate Action Showcase: Beyond Carbon – Realizing Untapped Potential of Forests to Combat Climate Change” held on December 9, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

141. GEF Secretariat staff has been actively engaged in the preparation of the 19th UN Forum on Forest (UNFF19) to be held on May 6-10 and attended three informal consultations (virtually) on the main outputs of UNFF19: The Omnibus Resolution of UNFF19 Midterm Review of the IAF, the Declaration of the High-Level Segment and the Quadrennial Program of work of the UNFF for 2025-2028. These consultations took place on January 30-31, 2024, February 28-29, 2024, and March 26-27, 2024. During these consultations, the GEF paid particular attention to ensure the language in the draft Resolution was consistent with its mandate and modalities.

142. GEF Secretariat staff also participated in two CPF meetings held January 23 and March 28, 2024. The main topics discussed were the contribution to the Midterm Review of the IAF, the preparation of the UNFF19, the CPF Workplan 2025-2028, and planning for major events.

143. The GEF Secretariat finalized with partners the elaboration of the CPF Joint Initiative “Strengthening Conservation of Primary Forests through Partnership Enhancement and Coordination of Support”. This project proposal, supported with \$2 million from the GEF and involving IUCN, UNFF Secretariat, FAO and Griffith University and Wildlife Heritage, is expected to be approved by the CEO in May 2024. In this context, the GEF and its CPF partners has been co-organizing a side-event on primary forests to be held during UNFF19.

Post-SAMOA Pathway

144. The GEF Secretariat continues to follow closely the lead up to the Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4) to be held in May 2024 in Antigua and Barbuda, where the GEF will have a strong presence. Here, the final outcome document- The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), will be adopted to guide a new priority agenda for sustainable development in SIDS. As an active member of the Inter Agency Consultative Group (IAGC) on Small Island

Developing States, the GEF had an opportunity to review and provide inputs in the outcome document. In addition, since November 2023, the GEF has participated (virtually) in several IAGC meetings leading up to SIDS4, where discussions have been held on various topics including the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.

Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)

145. There are no updates during the reporting period.

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop a Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment

146. The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, including in the Marine Environment (INC-4) convened on April 21-29, 2024, in Ottawa Canada.¹⁴ At this meeting negotiations on the revised zero draft, that was the outcome of INC-3, began.

147. The GEF delegation participated as observers in the group which discussed the financial mechanism of the future treaty. There are three main options under consideration for negotiations; i) a new dedicated multilateral fund, ii) an existing mechanism e.g. the GEF, iii) a hybrid model consisting of an existing mechanism and several new funds to address capacity building and management of legacy plastics.

148. The discussion on the financial mechanism made some progress on streamlining of the text of the various options. There was consensus for the need for additional work on this topic in the intersessional period leading up to INC-5.

149. The GEF personnel also had several bilaterals upon request with member States and various institutions to explain about GEF's ongoing support to plastics and to share recent experiences of the provision of financial support, such as the GBFF and BBNJ.

150. INC-5 will convene in Busan, Republic of Korea from November 25 to December 1, 2024.

¹⁴ Although the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee took place outside the end of the reporting period (March 31, 2024), it was included in this document given the potential implications it has for the June 2024 GEF Council meeting.

ANNEX I: DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES TO THE CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, AND GEF'S RESPONSES

Table 1: Decisions adopted by CBD COP 15, and GEF's Response

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p><i>Preambular paragraphs</i> <i>Reaffirming</i> the importance of the full application of provisions of Article 21 and access to the financial mechanism for all eligible Parties for the full implementation of the Convention, and <i>welcoming</i> the valuable role of the Global Environment Facility as the institutional structure operating the financial mechanism of the Convention on an interim and ongoing basis, <i>Recalling</i> Article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention, providing that the Conference of the Parties shall review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, <i>Reaffirming</i> the commitment of the Conference of the Parties to periodically review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in implementing the Convention in the memorandum of understanding with the Council of the Global Environment Facility contained in decision III/8, <i>Reaffirming also</i> decision XI/5, paragraph 7, on the quadrennial arrangement for the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, <i>Recalling</i> decision 14/23, paragraph 13, regarding the terms of reference for the sixth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, <i>Reaffirming</i> the importance of the review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, strategies and programmes,</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>1. <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>2. <i>Takes note</i> of the importance of realistic assessment of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment;^[1]</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>3. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols an explanation of how the eighth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility^[2], through the elements of its programming directions is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework;</p>	<p>Future reports to the COP will explain how GEF-8 Programming Directions have contributed to implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the GBF.</p>
<p>4. <i>Urges</i> the Global Environment Facility to support Parties in their effort to enhance policy coherence as part of biodiversity mainstreaming to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	<p>Elements of the GEF-8 Programming Directions will support policy coherence, and this will also be reported in future COP reports.</p>
<p>5. <i>Adopts</i> the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the Global Environment Facility, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex I to the present decision;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>6. <i>Welcomes</i> the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and notes that its associated programming directions and strategy, including for the biodiversity focal area, have taken into account the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the time of the decision of the eighth replenishment;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>7. <i>Urges</i> relevant Parties to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>8. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Global Environment Facility and related agencies, as appropriate, in:</p> <p>(1) The fast-tracking of the implementation of the GBF, in particular for the intermediate phase (2023-2024) of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and in the reporting of progress of the mobilization of new and additional resources to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting; and</p>	<p>Support is already being provided to implementation of the GBF and elements of the Resource Mobilization Strategy and this will be reported at the next COP.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>(2) The development and implementation of the relevant integrated programmes and the country engagement strategy for the eighth replenishment period, promoting the involvement of biodiversity-related conventions and instruments at national level, and to promote synergies and complementarities with other relevant financial instruments, such as the Green Climate Fund, towards the effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p>	
<p>9. <i>Adopts</i> the consolidated previous guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II A to the present decision, decides to retire the previous decisions and elements of decisions, as related to the financial mechanism and limited only to those provisions related to the financial mechanism and <i>also adopts</i> additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility contained in annex II B to the present decision;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>10. <i>Decides</i> to adopt, at its sixteenth meeting, a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to inform the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030);</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>11. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to prepare elements of a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>12. <i>Requests</i> the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its fourth meeting to prepare proposals for a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in anticipation of</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (2026-2030), for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;	
13. <i>Adopts</i> the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility, as contained in annex IV to the present decision;	Noted. GEF will participate in the assessment as required.
14. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to ensure completion of the assessment according to the terms of reference as contained in annex IV, in time for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;	Noted.
15. <i>Invites</i> developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to identify related national funding priorities, including nationally prioritized funding needs that could be considered as eligible for funding under the financial mechanism specifically for the period July 2026 to June 2030, and submit the results to the Executive Secretary for inclusion in the funding needs assessment;	Noted.
16. <i>Invites</i> the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30 and paragraph 10 of decision XIII/21, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting;	Noted.
17. <i>Further adopts</i> the terms of reference for the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism contained in annex III to the present decision, and requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the report on the sixth quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism to be prepared three months in advance in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.	Note: GEF will participate in the review of effectiveness as required.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>18. <i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to further reform its operations to ensure adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds by establishing easy and effective access modalities, including by scaling fast-track systems, and by facilitating new contributors.</p>	<p>This is consistent with the GEF-8 policy recommendation on streamlining and plans are underway to address this issue. Future reports to the COP will explain how the GEF has reformed and streamlined its operations, both through the GEF TF and the GBF Fund.</p>
<p>Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBF Fund)</p> <p>19. <i>Recognizes</i> the urgency to increase international biodiversity finance, and to establish a dedicated and accessible GBF Fund in 2023 that can quickly mobilize and disburse new and additional resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>20. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to establish, in 2023, and until 2030 unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, a Special Trust Fund to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (“GBF Fund”), to complement existing support and scale up financing to ensure its timely implementation, taking into account the need for adequacy, predictability, and the timely flow of funds;</p> <p>21. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environmental Facility to prepare a decision to be considered by the Council on the approval of a GBF Fund, with its own equitable governing body, to be dedicated exclusively to supporting the implementation of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>22. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to advance the necessary institutional and governance arrangements, to allow for this GBF Fund to receive, in addition to ODA, financing from all sources;</p> <p>23. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to design and implement a project cycle with a simple and effective application and approval process, providing easy and efficient access to resources of the GBF Fund;</p> <p>24. <i>Calls upon</i> the Global Environment Facility to approve these decisions at the next possible session of the Council and its ratification at the next possible session of the Assembly in 2023;</p> <p><i>Calls for</i> immediate substantive contributions from all sources, in line with target 19.1 of the framework;</p>	<p>Currently under development, with two decisions on the Trust Fund establishment and its Programming Directions to be discussed at the 64th Council. These decision paragraphs are duly considered and reflected in the two documents.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>25. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environmental Facility to engage all Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions in the design and operationalization action of the GBF Fund, with the view of leveraging additional resources from and for the Fund and channel them through new and existing biodiversity portfolios, which need to be aligned with the goals and targets of the global biodiversity framework;</p> <p>26. <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to report to future meetings of the Conference of the Parties on the progress in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund;</p> <p>27. <i>Decides</i> to assess the progress made in establishing, and the operations and performance of, the GBF Fund, and to consider and adopt further guidance to the Global Environment Facility and to the governing body referred to paragraph 9 above, on the modalities and operation of the GBF Fund, at its future meetings;</p> <p>28. <i>Decides</i> to undertake and act upon, at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a stocktake review on the operations and performance of the GBF Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements.</p>	
<p>Annex I FOUR-YEAR OUTCOME-ORIENTED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY FOR THE EIGHTH REPLENISHMENT PERIOD (2022-2026) OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TRUST FUND Objective 1. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities provides guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the eighth replenishment period (GEF-8), 2022-2026, and is within the context of the GEF mandate to provide resources to achieve global environmental benefits and the mandate provided to the GEF by the Conference of the Parties. It utilizes the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Convention's Protocols to set priorities for the financial mechanism. In particular, the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provide direction for the outcomes of this four-year framework, bearing in mind that GEF-8 and</p>	<p>Future reports to the COP will explain how GEF-8 Programing Directions have contributed to implementation of the GBF, including from the GEF Trust Fund and the GBF Fund.</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>GEF-9 will together cover the expected eight years to the 2030 deadlines of the targets, while recognizing that the three objectives of the Convention should be considered by the GEF when designing and implementing biodiversity strategy and programming directions.</p> <p>2. In that regard, it is envisaged that following the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the conclusion of the GEF-8 replenishment under their respective processes, the GEF will include in its report to the Conference of the Parties an explanation on how GEF-8, through the elements of its programming directions, is contributing to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, and to each goal and target of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework.</p> <p>3. This four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities recognizes that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is an overarching framework of high relevance to all biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, and seeks to promote the implementation of complementary measures that may enhance programmatic synergies and efficiencies, among the Convention, its Protocols and other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and mandate of the Global Environment Facility.</p> <p>4. The four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the period 2022–2026 consists of the following elements to which effective implementation support is to be provided:</p>	
<p>a) The post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including its goals and targets which define the outcomes being sought;</p>	<p>GEF-8 Programming Directions is geared towards providing support to the GBF.</p>
<p>b) National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);</p>	<p>In GEF-8 resources have been set aside to fund the NBSAP revision, which will build upon the GEF-7 Early Action Grants.</p>
<p>c) National biodiversity finance plans;</p>	<p>A global program of support to fund national biodiversity finance plans was approved in December 2022 Council and all remaining eligible countries will</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
	be added to this program in the first quarter of 2023.
d) The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;	The GEF biodiversity focal area strategy, in combination with the 11 integrated programs, provides a comprehensive level of support to the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD.
<p>e) The implementation support mechanisms adopted under the Convention associated with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to: mobilizing sufficient resources from all sources towards implementing the framework and achieving its goals and targets; mainstreaming; capacity building and development; generation, management and sharing of knowledge for effective biodiversity planning, policy development and coherence, decision making and implementation; and technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and innovation. Examples include:</p> <p>(i) The resource mobilization strategy, including the establishment of a global biodiversity framework fund to be established by the GEF;</p> <p>(ii) The long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development beyond 2020;</p> <p>(iii) The long-term strategic approach to mainstreaming biodiversity;</p> <p>(iv) The updated plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, and;</p> <p>(v)The gender plan of action for the post-2020 period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity finance plans are being funded, GBFF is under development • All GEF investments provide significant support to capacity building (CB) and contribute to the long-term CB framework • Mainstreaming of biodiversity remains a significant priority within the biodiversity focal area strategy and 10 of the 11 IPs will make significant contributions to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, very often through mainstreaming actions • the Sustainable Cities IP will contribute to the plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity • GEF projects are all required to address gender in their design as part of the GEF safeguards policy and therefore the entire GEF portfolio is contributing to the Gender Plan of Action.
f) The mechanisms for planning, reporting, monitoring, assessment and review of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;	As part of the biodiversity focal area strategy, resources have been set aside outside of the STAR to support NBSAP revision and national reporting for the

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
	CBD, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol
g) The enabling conditions outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework required for its implementation;	The section on enabling conditions required for implementation was shortened considerably in the final document. The focus was on "support mechanisms and strategies under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols" and "provision of adequate, predictable and easily accessible financial resources from all sources on a needs basis." It further requires cooperation and collaboration in building the necessary "capacity and transfer of technologies to allow Parties, especially developing country Parties, to fully implement the framework." Most of our strategies are supportive of these elements and we will report on this in the GEF COP report.
h) The implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030) and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2021-2030);	Objective Two of the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy supports capacity building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol
i) The guidance to the Global Environment Facility on programme priorities to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting, contained in appendix I;	Objective Two of the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy supports capacity building and priorities for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
<p><i>Additional strategic considerations</i></p> <p>5. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should support the rapid and effective implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by contributing to resource mobilization from all sources, including through increased GEF funding, which is adequate, predictable, sustainable, timely and accessible and through allocations dedicated to the biodiversity focal area and co-benefits for biodiversity across other focal areas and global programmes, including integrated programmes, recognizing the need for streamlined programming and approval process to enable timely disbursement of resources.</p>	Resource mobilization will be facilitated through GEF support to the development of national biodiversity finance plans, through the GBFF, and through co-financing leveraged through the 11 IPs and the relevant focal area supported projects and programs. In addition, GEF's blended finance program is designed specifically to attract PS investment and has reached very high co-financing ratios historically with high participation of the private sector.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
<p>6. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize the contribution of multi-country, regional, transboundary and global projects, to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including to the implementation of global initiatives adopted under the Convention and its Protocols, and multi-country, regional, transboundary and global initiatives that leverage contributions from biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.</p>	<p>Regional, transboundary, and global projects are eligible for support in GEF-8 to help implement the GBF.</p>
<p>7. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should recognize that the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and agreements in the context of national biodiversity priorities and strategies will contribute to the three objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</p>	<p>GEF-8 biodiversity and programming directions responded to GEF-eligible guidance suggested through the CBD COP to GEF from the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements. The biodiversity related conventions also provided feedback and comments on the programming directions and BD FA strategy as it was being developed during the GEF-8 replenishment process.</p>
<p>8. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should take into account coherence with, and synergies among, country-driven programmes and priorities set out in national biodiversity strategies and action plans to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</p>	<p>GEF-8 supported biodiversity-relevant projects and programs must demonstrate how they are supporting country NBSAP priorities.</p>
<p>9. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should be developed in a fully transparent and inclusive manner, with a view to ensuring that projects to be funded by the GEF during its 8th replenishment in recipient Parties are to be developed on a context-specific and country-driven basis, addressing the priority needs of recipient countries.</p>	<p>The development of the GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions was a fully participatory and inclusive process.</p>
<p>10. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote agreed global environmental benefits and development pathways that benefit biodiversity and are also, carbon-neutral and pollution-free, including through coherence and synergies among the GEF integrated programmes and focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, climate change (both mitigation and adaptation), and chemicals and waste, and</p>	<p>GEF-8 programming directions, including the 11 IPs, the BD FA strategy, and other relevant strategies have emphasized synergies across all focal areas and in particular biodiversity benefits with an estimated 60% of total GEF resources advancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. This will be tracked during GEF-8 and duly</p>

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
within the context of country driven programmes and priorities.	reported in GEF reports to COPs in the future.
11. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote and implement, as appropriate, the ecosystem approach, and/or nature-based solutions as defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session.	The ecosystem approach is central to the biodiversity focal area strategy and Nature-based solutions are identified as priority areas of support in numerous integrated programs of the GEF-8 programming directions including Blue and Green Islands, Ecosystem Restoration, Healthy Oceans, Net Zero Nature Based Accelerator, Wildlife Conservation for Development, as well as the biodiversity and international waters focal area strategies.
12. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote, synergies, cooperation and complementarity in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with those of the other conventions served by GEF, as well as with other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements, recognizing the important contributions that these instruments can make to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and vice versa.	GEF-8 biodiversity and programming directions responded to GEF-eligible guidance suggested through the CBD COP to GEF from the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements. The biodiversity related conventions also provided feedback and comments on the programming directions and BD FA strategy as it was being developed during the GEF-8 replenishment process. The integrated nature of GEF programming in the biodiversity strategy in GEF-8 will also provide co-benefits to other conventions served by GEF.
13. During the GEF-8 period, GEF should further interact and cooperate with multilateral development banks and other public and private financial institutions to integrate the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well as the contributions of the other biodiversity-related conventions within their activities and report on funding contributing to their implementation.	GEF is proactively working with the MDBs that are GEF agencies to secure their engagement in GEF-8 programming that is consistent with their respective comparative advantage. Each MDB has already made their own commitments to integrate the objectives of the CBD into their own programming, thus, they are best placed to report on their efforts. See https://ukcop26.org/mdb-joint-statement/
14. The GEF-8 outcome and impact indicators and associated monitoring processes should be effectively used to assess the contribution of the GEF-8 to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, the Protocols of the Convention, and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,	The GEF report to the COP will map GEF investments, along with the GEF core indicators, to the targets of the GBF.

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
including through measuring the co-benefits for biodiversity across all relevant GEF activities.	
15. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to significantly improve the access to funding for all recipient countries.	The GEF will continue to explore possibilities for improving access to finance through project cycle reforms. Future reports to the COP will explain how the GEF has reformed and streamlined its operations, both through the GEF TF and the GBF Fund.
16. The GEF in its eighth replenishment period should explore ways to improve the access to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities.	GEF-8 biodiversity focal area strategy includes additional funding of \$25 million for the Inclusive Conservation Initiative which provides access to GEF funds for IPLCs. (\$25 million was also allocated to this initiative in GEF-7)
17. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy and programming directions should promote engagement with recipient countries to support national resource mobilization and the development and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans.	A global program of support to fund national biodiversity finance plans was approved in December 2022 Council and all remaining eligible countries will be added to this program in the first quarter of 2023.
18. The GEF-8 biodiversity strategy, programming directions and policy recommendations should reinforce the GEF's efforts to mobilize and engage with different stakeholders including the private sector.	Stakeholder engagement is required of all GEF projects, and a stakeholder participation plan is a requirement for all CEO endorsements. In GEF-8, each of the 11 Integrated Programs its own set of private sector objectives, identifying the major platforms for engagement, key entry points, and expected modalities of engagement that can optimize the contributions of the private sector.
19. To improve its efficiency and effectiveness in delivering sustainable results during the GEF 8 replenishment period, the GEF should continue to improve its policies regarding governance and the standards its implementing partners are held to.	An analysis on the strength of the GEF Partnership along several dimensions including efficiency and effectiveness will be conducted for presentation at the 64 th Council meeting. As discussed during the GEF-8 replenishment, a gap analysis of relevant GEF Policies and Guidelines will be undertaken for the 64 th Council meeting to identify areas that GEF may need to strengthen its approach and guidance, and sustainability of results will be further strengthened through project design and implementation through a number

COP 15 Guidance	GEF's Response
	of initiatives including the GEF-8 Country Engagement Strategy.

^[1] The executive summary is available in CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.2/Rev.1 and the full report is available in CBD/SBI/3/INF/44.

^[2] Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility refers to replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund.

Table 2: Decisions adopted by UNFCCC COP 27 and CMA 4, Conclusion of SBI 57 and SBSTA 57, and GEF's Response

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
COP 28 Decisions (2023)	
Decision 4/CP.28: Long-term Climate Finance	
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Welcomes</i> the recent pledges to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	Noted with appreciation.
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Emphasizes</i> the need for further efforts to enhance access to climate finance, including through harmonized, simplified and direct access procedures, to address the needs of developing country Parties, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 Replenishment Policy Recommendations include a decision to explore areas for streamlining the GEF project cycle, with an objective of reducing transaction costs and facilitating faster access to GEF resources by countries.</p> <p>In response to such decision and similar guidance received from the COP at different sessions, the GEF continues to pursue efforts to enhance access to climate finance both internally, through streamlining of its operations, policies and procedures, and externally through its engagement with the other major multilateral climate funds towards increased complementarity and collaboration.</p>

¹⁵ COP 28 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cop-28>

¹⁶ CMP 18 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cmp-18>

¹⁷ CMA 5 decisions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/cma-5>

¹⁸ SBI 59 conclusions are available at: <https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-59>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>Two related processes are underway. First, the GEF has been actively involved in the mapping the streamlining potential of processes and practices between the multilateral climate funds (MCFs). This exercise, which started with the Long-Term Vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration between the GEF and the GCF (LTV), is now being expanded to include also the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), following the joint declaration by the four heads of the MCFs at COP 28.⁵</p> <p>Second, the GEF partnership has been exploring ways to enhance its internal effectiveness. One important measure that was considered and approved by the GEF Council at its 66th Council Meeting involved increasing the cap on the size of Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) from US\$ 2 to 5 million.⁶ The financing ceiling for MSPs was initially set at US\$ 1 million and was later raised to US\$2 million in 2012.⁷ This most recent increase in the MSP cap is expected to enable a much greater number of projects and value of GEF financing to benefit from the more streamlined one-step approval process.</p> <p>In addition, with the establishment of a simplified project and program cycle for the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which is managed by the GEF Secretariat, it is expected that experiences with the deployment of these further simplified processes will be assessed and will inform the extent to which further simplification measures can be applied to the GEF Trust Fund project cycle.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Also reiterates</i> that a significant amount of adaptation finance should come from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p>	<p>In administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, the GEF stands ready to work with both donors and recipient Parties to increase the share of global adaptation finance that it receives and channels in its</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	capacity of operating entity of the Financial Mechanism.
<p>Paragraph 17: <i>Reiterates</i> that the secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations agencies and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels, will continue to explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country- driven manner, including their technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action.</p>	Noted.
Decision 5/CP.28: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 13: <i>Notes with concern</i> that the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism prepared by the Standing Committee on Finance was not considered owing to a limited number of submissions and requests Parties and other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to provide elements for the draft guidance well in advance of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate in this regard.</p>	Noted.
Decision 6/CP.28: Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund	
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Also requests</i> the Board to continue to enhance coherence and complementarity of the Green Climate Fund with other relevant bilateral, regional and global funding mechanisms and institutions, wherever feasible and to the extent possible, inter alia through joint programmes, outreach, and information-sharing, thereby improving access to climate finance and lowering transaction costs for developing countries.</p>	While this guidance is not directed to the GEF, this is noted. Ongoing efforts to continue to enhance coherence and complementarity with the GCF and with other multilateral climate funds have been outlined above in this table of responses and also in the body of this Report.
Decision 7/CP.28: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session and its addendum, including the response of the Global Environment Facility to the guidance received from the Conference of the Parties;</p>	Noted with appreciation.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Notes</i> the work undertaken by the Global Environment Facility during its reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023), including:</p> <p>(a) Approval of 34 climate change projects and programmes under the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund;</p> <p>(b) Continued integration of climate change priorities into its other focal areas and integrated programmes and the expected avoidance or sequestration of 1,007.4 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent achieved through such integration;</p> <p>(c) Continued implementation of the long-term vision on complementarity, coherence and collaboration with the Green Climate Fund;</p> <p>(d) Actions following cases of mismanagement of funding from the Global Environment Facility in projects managed by one of its implementing agencies;(e) Continued work to implement the recommendations in decision 24/2020 of the Council of the Global Environment Facility;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Welcomes</i> the successful start of the implementation of the eighth replenishment cycle, including the 11 integrated programmes, and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to track and regularly report to the Conference of the Parties the climate-related benefits of the integrated programmes;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation. The GEF continues to track the climate-related benefits of the integrated programmes regularly from initial GEF Council approval of the of the Program Framework Document (PFD) to the terminal evaluation. Climate benefits figures are captured at project, program and portfolio level through Core Indicator 6 (Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated or avoided, reported in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e), and reported in the GEF annual report to COP.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to maximize global environmental benefits through its projects and programmes with a focus on the co-benefits relating to climate change;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its support to developing countries in implementing the</p>	<p>Regarding mobilization of finance for reporting and enabling activities under the UNFCCC, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner during</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
<p>reporting requirements under the Convention, consistent with its current mandates;</p>	<p>the reporting period. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), through the programming of medium-sized and full-sized projects.</p> <p>Following the work conducted in the previous reporting periods to define and communicate modalities of support provision for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. As of March 31, 2024, the GEF has approved BTR support to 103 countries for 144 BTRs, and three additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of March 31, 2024, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 96 projects covering 88 countries, 88 national projects, one regional project (covering four countries), and seven global projects, totaling \$159.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, is presented to the 67th Council in an information document.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to better serve different regions, including by taking into account the needs of and challenges faced by developing countries in implementing the transparency requirements under the Convention;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to engage with recipient countries, agencies and partners to continuously improve the way it serves different regions with the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework. Specific information regarding the support available from the GEF for this purpose are being incorporated in the briefing packages</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>provided to countries during GEF's Country Support Program activities, such as national dialogues and expanded constituency workshops.</p> <p>In addition and in response to guidance received, inter alia, at COP 28, the GEF continues to be actively engaged with a wide range of outreach activities with UNFCCC Secretariat and other partners, to further disseminate to Parties information on support available. This include, most recently, the participation of the GEF Secretariat in the delivery of the four "Regional online workshops on support available to developing country Parties for preparing their biennial transparency reports and enhancing sustainable institutional capacity and national reporting systems within their governments for implementing the ETF, and in providing guidance on the application process for transparency-related projects", organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat between April 15 and 18, as well, as the virtual participation in the 7th Workshop of the Cluster Lusophone, organized by UNDP, in Luanda, Angola, on April 12, 2024.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to strengthen its Small Grants Programme to provide better support for youth, women and girls, local communities and Indigenous Peoples;</p>	<p>The GEF SGP continues to serve as an important element of the GEF's larger and increasing efforts to support inclusion and strong engagement of civil society stakeholders and partners. SGP 2.0 Implementation arrangements for GEF-8, approved by the GEF council¹⁹ incorporates renewed provisions to strengthen support to youth, women, and IPLCs through: (i) targeting women and women groups as SGP grant beneficiaries; (ii) supporting women's voice at all levels including in the SGP national governance structure and SGP project design and implementation; (iii)</p>

¹⁹ GEF/C.63/06/Rev.01: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-11/EN_GEF.C.63.06.Rev_01_GEF%20Small%20Grants%20Programme%202.0%20Implementation%20Arrangements.pdf

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>supporting Indigenous Peoples to benefit from, engage in and lead SGP grant activities; and (iv) accelerating approaches to ensure youth perspectives in community, national and international discourses, promoting youth participation in the SGP project design and implementation, and targeting youth and youth groups as SGP grant beneficiaries.</p> <p>Additionally, emphasis on youth, women, and IPLCs were part of the criteria in the selection of two new GEF SGP Implementing Agencies in 2023, and the finalization of the SGP 2.0 Operational Guidelines as well as the new SGP 2.0 Results Framework that, for the first time, includes SGP-specific indicators with the intention to better reflect and monitor social inclusion and livelihood outcomes. The GEF Secretariat is also launching a new the SGP CSO Challenge Program that is prioritizing youth and youth-led civil society organizations, women and women groups as well as Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and offer financing and opportunities for cross learning and creating new strategic partnerships for the GEF to deliver on GEBs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Welcomes</i> with appreciation the financial pledges to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund made by Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, equivalent to USD 179.06 million;</p>	<p>The GEF takes notes of the appreciation and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Commends</i> the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for their enhanced support to developing countries and in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation of recognition of the work undertaken.</p>
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, to continue to support the least developed countries and small island developing States to utilize programmatic approaches</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF continues to be supportive of programmatic approaches to adaptation in least developed countries and small island developing states, aligned with priorities identified in their NAPs, NDCs and their national priorities. The GEF has also been</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
to implement policies, programmes and projects identified in their national adaptation plans and adaptation components of nationally determined contributions;	organizing regional adaptation strategy and programming workshops in LDCs and SIDS to discuss project based as well as programmatic approaches to utilization of LDCF and SCCF resources.
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to encourage its implementing agencies to facilitate more active engagement of women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the formulation and implementation of its projects and programmes;</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF continues to encourage the Implementing Agencies (IAs) to increase the engagement and support to women, youth, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples. The policies on Stakeholder Engagement, Gender Equality, Environmental and Social Safeguards, and the Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, are designed to complement and reinforce key dimensions of these stakeholders engagement with the GEF, particularly in the design and implementation of GEF projects and programs. The GEF also provides platforms, such as the 7th GEF Assembly, COPs, GEF Seminars and Workshops, for Implementing Agencies to showcase positive results from their projects arising from engaging and supporting women, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples. In addition, programs and initiatives such as the Small Grants Program (SGP) and the Gustavo Fonseca Leadership Program (FLP) specifically focus on youth, women and IPLCs engagements and their empowerment.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Welcomes</i> the continued support by the Global Environment Facility for climate-friendly innovation, and technology development and transfer and related capacity-building, including in partnership with private sector actors and others, and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide such support, in particular for technology needs assessments, and technology action plans and their implementation;</p>	<p>The development and transfer of low-carbon and climate-resilient technology has been a key cross-cutting theme for the GEF since its establishment and continues to be at the core of the programming directions for GEF-8.</p> <p>In this reporting period, the GEF has been working closely with the GEF Agency on the submission and approval of the CEO Endorsement document for Phase V of the Global Technology Needs Assessment Project. Out of the 17 participating countries, twelve countries have used their STAR resources for the development of their TNAs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 13:</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
<p><i>Also requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to enhance its ongoing work to fund activities relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, consistent with its current mandates;</p>	
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to further streamline, consolidate and increase the efficiency of its operations, including by simplifying the information requirements for designing and implementing its projects and programmes;</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat takes note of the encouragement to continue its efforts streamline its operational procedures and increase efficiency of access to its funds, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF implementing agencies. The GEF-8 Replenishment Policy Recommendations include a decision to explore areas for streamlining the GEF project cycle, with an objective of reducing transaction costs and facilitating faster access to GEF resources by countries.</p> <p>In response to such decision and to similar guidance received from the COP at different sessions, the GEF continues to pursue efforts to further simplify information requirements for designing and implementing its projects and programmes. As already reported in the previous reporting period, in the first half of the GEF8 cycle the GEF has revised and streamlined all its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of Project Information Form (PIF) for mid- and full-size projects, the Program Framework Document (PFD) for multi country programs, and the template to request Enabling Activity funding for reporting obligations from the GEF Climate Change Set Aside. From the preliminary observations over the first year of GEF8, the use of the new templates has resulted in substantially shorter project submission documents.</p> <p>In addition, one significant measure that was considered and approved by the GEF Council at its 66th Council Meeting (February 2024) was increasing the cap on the size of Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) from US\$ 2 to 5 million.⁸ The financing ceiling for MSPs was</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>initially set at US\$ 1 million and was later raised to US\$2 million in 2012.⁹ This most recent increase in the MSP cap is expected to enable a much greater number of projects and value of GEF financing to benefit from the more streamlined one-step approval process.</p> <p>In addition, with the establishment of a simplified project and program cycle for the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which is managed by the GEF Secretariat, it is expected that experiences with the deployment of these further simplified processes will be assessed and will inform the extent to which further simplification measures can be applied to the GEF Trust Fund project cycle.</p>
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Welcomes</i> the ongoing efforts of the Global Environment Facility to improve its fiduciary standards, to which its implementing agencies are accountable;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Also welcomes</i> the ongoing efforts of the Global Environment Facility to continue assessing and addressing the risks induced by the current level of funding concentration among some of its implementing agencies;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 17: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue to show appropriate flexibility with respect to geographical restrictions in implementing agencies to reduce agency concentration and enable wider geographical reach of its projects, in a country-driven manner;</p>	<p>In line with the GEF-8 Policy Recommendations, the GEF Secretariat will monitor and report on the achievement of an aspirational ceiling for any one Agency of no more than 30 percent of approved amounts in GEF-8.</p>
<p>Paragraph 18: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to open a targeted round of implementing agency expansion within the Global Environment Facility partnership with a focus on underserved regions, with regard to implementing agency coverage, in line with existing policies and procedures;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to monitor the geographic and thematic coverage of the 18 GEF Agencies, in accordance with the GEF-8 Replenishment Resolution adopted by Replenishment Participants and its Council approved policies and procedures. The GEF has been successful in the diversification of funding among the existing Agencies and rolling out a new Country Engagement Strategy in support of this objective, including further empowerment of Operational Focal</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>Points. The GEF Council took a decision in June 2023 for the GEF to continue to monitor the strength of the partnership along the five dimensions of geographic coverage, thematic coverage, effectiveness, efficiency, and engagement, with an updated analysis to be considered by the GEF Council in advance of the GEF-9 replenishment negotiations.</p>
<p>Paragraph 19: <i>Further encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to enhance the coherence and complementarity with other climate finance delivery channels with a view to enhancing the impact and effectiveness of its work and decreasing transaction costs, inter alia through streamlining and simplifying, where feasible and to the extent possible, its procedures and guidelines and takes note of these ongoing efforts;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to engage actively with the other Multilateral Climate Funds (MCFs), in response to guidance received from the COP at different sessions, and with the view of increasing complementarity and collaboration, towards harmonization.</p> <p>Building on the ongoing engagement with the GCF, which is framed within the “Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration” initiative between the GEF and the GCF (LTV)¹⁰, GEF efforts to increase ease and speed of access to climate finance for developing countries are now being expanded to also include the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs). Concrete elements of these increased efforts include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A Joint Declaration by the four Heads of the MCFs, which was presented at COP 28 during a joint side event and which outlined a series of concrete commitments by the 4 funds to enhance access and increase impact. 2) A joint Pavilion at COP 28 which was co-organized a joint pavilion at COP 28, as a shared space to promote collaboration and to act as a one-stop-shop for countries, partners and stakeholders to interface with the 4 MCFs. 3) A collaborative workshop of the 4 Fund’s Secretariats, hosted by the GEF in Washington DC at the margins of the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings on April 8 to 11, 2024, which had the objective of kickstarting the joint work presented by the Heads at COP 28 and further elaborating on the

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>engagement modalities the between the MCFs. The workshop also served to prepare a specific Action Plan outlining a set of time-bound deliverables for this collaboration, to be submitted by each Fund to their respective Governing Bodies in 2024.</p> <p>In addition to the efforts outlined above, the GEF-GCF LTV bilateral work also advanced in the reporting period. One additional Joint Programming Consultation (JPC) was carried out, as part of the initial pilot in 5 pioneer countries which is co-organized together with the Taskforce for Access to Climate Finance. The three-day event hosted by the Ugandan Government in Kampala, and co-organized by GEF and GCF, highlighted a number of promising areas for co-programming, which are now being pursued, offering important learning opportunities that can later be fed in the broader coordination efforts with all MCFs.</p>
<p>Paragraph 20: <i>Notes</i> the adoption of the private sector engagement strategy of the Global Environment Facility at the 59th meeting of the Council of the Global Environment Facility and <i>encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to reinforce its efforts to mobilize and engage with private sector actors during its eighth replenishment cycle;</p>	<p>GEF's engagement with the private sector during the eighth replenishment cycle focused on the engagement of private sector actors at all scales, with an emphasis on landscape or value chain collaboration in key sectors relevant to the GEF's integrated programs, as well as the stand-alone projects. 93% of GEF projects now engage the private sector.</p>
<p>Paragraph 21: <i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, from existing allocations in the Blended Finance Global Programme, to further explore risk-taking and to foster innovation in the context of its programming in order to use its concessional financing more effectively and mobilize additional private funds;</p>	<p>The programming of resources under the GEF's Blended Finance Global Program continued during the reporting period. As of March 31st, 2024, out of the GEF-8 envelope of US\$ 196 million, US\$ 132 million have now been programmed in 8 highly innovative operations of which 5 projects are under the CCM focal area. The projects selected seek to support new technologies like Green Hydrogen in Chile, support financial structures that target Scope 3 emissions, or focus on replicability and scale up of existing technologies in renewable energy and energy efficiency with high participation of the private sector. The latter is the case of the</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>DBSA's Private Sector Energy Efficiency Programme Phase 2 that will establish a risk-sharing facility to foster commercial lending for energy efficiency improvements by SMEs in South Africa. In this project, the co-financing achieved is above USD 500 million resulting in a co-financing ratio of 1:34 (of which 1:33.4 is from the Private sector).</p> <p>The IFC/GEF Green Global Supply Chain Decarbonization Platform is a first-of-its-kind project that targets Scope 3 emissions across an entire value chain. The platform proposes a financial mechanism that blends the financing from the IFC, a textile and apparel Brand (private sector company) and the GEF to provide long-term, green-linked loans to manufacturers, suppliers of the brand across emerging markets. The project will also take this opportunity to systematically move participating supplier factories to safer chemical alternatives in production and to provide substantial climate mitigation outcomes (3 million tCO₂e), while benefitting 150,000 people.</p>
<p>Paragraph 22: <i>Welcomes</i> the policy on gender equality adopted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility and encourages the Global Environment Facility to ensure that all its implementing agencies apply this policy;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 23: <i>Also encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further explore ways to provide support for assessing the needs and priorities of developing countries in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and for translating climate finance needs into action;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for transparency-related capacity-building through the CBIT, for technology needs assessments (TNAs), and for other support initiatives as part of its Country Support Program, such as national dialogues and expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.
<p>Paragraph 24: <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit to the secretariat their views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility via the submission portal no later than 12 weeks prior to the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2024);</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 25: <i>Requests</i> the Standing Committee on Finance to take into consideration the submissions referred to in paragraph 24 above in preparing its draft guidance for the Global Environment Facility and to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on the steps it has taken to implement the guidance provided in this decision;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 26: <i>Takes note</i> of decision 11/CMA.5 and decides to transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement contained in paragraphs 2–12 of that decision.</p>	Noted.
Decision 9/CP.28: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer through the Technology Mechanism	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Invites</i> Parties to explore ways of enhancing the provision of technical and logistical support to their national designated entities and improving national-level coordination, including of national designated entities with operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund, and designated authorities and national implementing entities of the Adaptation Fund;</p>	Through the CTCN, NDEs have been encouraged to liaise with their respective GEF OFPs and enhance collaboration through scaling up of projects and to develop common approaches to decision making on technology development and transfer-related matters. For example, GEF national dialogues and ECWs have been used as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF OFPs and explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner. Specifically, in the reporting period, the NDEs of Ghana, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Jordan participated in the national dialogues in their respective country.
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Notes</i> the insufficient transfer and deployment of technology in developing countries, <i>encourages</i> the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to continue collaborating with the operating entities of the Financial</p>	The development and transfer of low-carbon and climate-resilient technology has been a key cross-cutting theme for the GEF since its establishment. It continues to be at the core of the programming directions for GEF-8. The GEF continues to explore opportunities for

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
<p>Mechanism and relevant financial institutions with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer and for implement the results of their technology needs assessments and technical assistance of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and strengthening the transfer and deployment of technology, and calls for regional balance in this work.</p>	<p>further collaboration in support of technology development and transfer with the TEC and the CTCN, as consistent with national priorities and based on country demand.</p>
<p>Decision 10/CP.28: Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism</p>	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the enhanced collaboration between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund and invites them to continue their collaboration;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Notes</i> the collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism included in the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism for 2023–2027 and invites the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to use such collaboration to support technology development and transfer in developing countries with measurable, time-bound and result-oriented actions;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Welcomes</i> the funding for technology development and transfer provided and mobilized by the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility in partnership with the Climate Technology Centre and Network;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Notes with appreciation</i> the information provided by the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on the linkages and collaboration between them in their reports to the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Welcomes</i> the ongoing work of the Climate Technology Centre and Network as part of its project selected for support under the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation of the Global Environment Facility as well as the collaboration of the respective national designated</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
entities and operational focal points in the context of the project;	
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Also welcomes</i> the collaboration between the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on identifying ways to enhance information-sharing and streamline coordination processes among national designated entities, national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund and operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility and emphasized the importance of continued coordination among those national focal points;</p>	<p>Through the CTCN, NDEs have been encouraged to liaise with their respective GEF OFPs and enhance collaboration through scaling up of projects and develop common approach to decision making on technology development and transfer-related matters. For example, GEF national dialogues and ECWs have been used as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF OFPs and explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner. Specifically, in the reporting period, the NDEs of Ghana, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Jordan participated in the national dialogues in their respective country.</p>
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Encourages</i> the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to consider opportunities to support developing countries in accessing funding from the Global Environment Facility and/or the Green Climate Fund for work on climate technology incubators and accelerators, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Invites Parties</i>, the UNFCCC constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other relevant stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 1 February 2024 views on maintaining and enhancing collaboration and cooperation between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, including on linkages between the Mechanisms, taking into account the guiding questions contained in the annex;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 12: <i>Also requests</i> the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, in consultation with the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, to organize an in-session workshop at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2024) to take stock of the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the</p>	Noted.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
Financial Mechanism taking into account the views expressed in the submissions referred to in paragraph 10 above.	
Decision 11/CP.28: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2023	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Invites</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	Noted.
Decision 12/CP.28: Terms of reference for the second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Invites</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, representatives of relevant processes under the Convention, and non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 29 February 2024 views on the second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building based on the terms of reference contained in the annex for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixtieth session (June 2024).</p>	Also noted.
CMP18 Decisions	
Decision 3/CMP.18: Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Notes</i> the following information, actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board presented in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above: (k) the continued enhancement of complementarity and coherence with other climate funds and building of linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;</p>	While this guidance is not directly addressed to the GEF, this is noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the Multilateral Climate Funds to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.
<p>Paragraph 15: <i>Welcomes</i> the work of the Adaptation Fund Board on complementarity and coherence with other multilateral climate funds with respect to accreditation and other areas of operations and encourages the Board to continue this work with a view to simplifying its access modalities, as appropriate;</p>	While this guidance is not directly addressed to the GEF, this is noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the Multilateral Climate Funds to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
CMA 5 Decisions	
Decision 1/CMA.5: Outcome of the first global stock take	
<p>Paragraph 50: <i>Recalls</i> the United Nations Secretary-General's call made on World Meteorological Day on 23 March 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change by 2027 and invited development partners, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative;</p>	<p>In line with its adaptation strategy (2022-2026) priority theme of 'Climate information and early warning systems', the GEF Secretariat continues to work closely with partners of the Hydromet Alliance and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) to ensure coordinated and impactful support for LDCs and SIDS that is also aligned with the Early Warnings for All Initiative.</p>
<p>Paragraph 75: <i>Emphasizes</i> the ongoing challenges faced by many developing country Parties in accessing climate finance and <i>encouraged</i> further efforts, including by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to simplify access to such finance, in particular for those developing country Parties that have significant capacity constraints, such as the least developed countries and small island developing States;</p>	<p>The GEF takes note of this guidance and reaffirms its commitment to the ongoing efforts to simplify, improve and increase access. Ongoing activities relevant for these efforts, both in terms of internal operational streamlining and external harmonization with other MCFs are described above in this table, in the section responding to COP guidance to the GEF (see responses to paragraphs 14 and 19 of Decision 7/CP.28: Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environment Facility).</p>
<p>Paragraph 82: <i>Recognizes</i> the importance of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund in the climate finance architecture, <i>welcomes</i> the new pledges to the Fund made at this session, <i>urges</i> all contributors to fulfil their pledges in a timely manner and invites the contributors to ensure the sustainability of the resources of the Fund, including the share of proceeds;</p>	<p>Noted with appreciation for the recognition.</p>
<p>Paragraph 83: <i>Strongly urged</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to make full use of their current replenishment, calls on multilateral development banks and other financial institutions to further scale up investments in climate action and calls for a continued increase in the scale, and effectiveness of, and simplified access to, climate finance, including in the form of grants and other highly concessional forms of finance;</p>	<p>Noted. As of March 31, 2024, with less of two years or 50% worth of programming time within the GEF8 cycle, 44% of the GEF8 Climate Change Focal Area resources have been committed to new projects and programs in developing countries.</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
<p>Paragraph 95: <i>Underscores</i> the importance of reforming the multilateral financial architecture, inter alia, multilateral development banks, acknowledges the updated vision statement by the World Bank to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet and by the multilateral development banks to strengthen collaboration for greater impact, and calls on their shareholders to expeditiously implement that vision and continue to significantly scale up the provision of climate finance in particular through grants and concessional instruments;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Paragraph 105: <i>Encourages</i> the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to enhance the involvement of stakeholders as they take action to strengthen the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism;</p>	<p>The GEF takes note of this guidance and stands ready to support the involvement of stakeholders as consistent with national priorities and the GEF's mandate.</p>
<p>Paragraph 110: <i>Decides</i> to establish a technology implementation programme, supported by, inter alia, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, to strengthen support for the implementation of technology priorities identified by developing countries, and to address the challenges identified in the first periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism, and invites the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixty-first session (November 2024) to take into account the technology implementation programme in its consideration of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, with a view to recommending a draft decision on the matter for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its sixth session;</p>	<p>The GEF takes note of this guidance and reaffirms its commitment to support the implementation of technology options as consistent with national priorities and based on country demand.</p>
<p>Paragraph 120: <i>Requests</i> the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund to further enhance support for capacity-building in developing countries and to provide updates thereon in their annual reports to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and encourages Parties to further enhance support for capacity-building, including through international cooperation;</p>	<p>The GEF continues to support capacity building needs by integrating capacity building elements into its projects and programmes, in a country-driven manner.</p> <p>Enabling activities and CBIT projects are entirely devoted to building and installing capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. In addition, all approved GEF projects and programs, with very few exceptions, include components, outcomes and activities aimed at building</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>and installing capacity to either limit or deal with the impacts or climate change, at national or local level.</p> <p>The large majority of projects with climate mitigation objectives addresses technical training, education and public awareness, enhancement of policies and enabling environments and institutional capacity building. Projects supported by the CBIT focus on institutional capacity building and GHG inventories, emission database management and systems for collecting, managing and utilizing activity data and emission factors. For climate adaptation projects, efforts include capacity building for implementation of adaptation measures in various relevant sectors, education, training and public awareness, and enhancement of enabling environments.</p> <p>Additional capacity support is also made available, specifically for climate change adaptation, through the GEF regional adaptation programming and strategy workshops in LDCs and SIDS, as provided for under its new dedicated program for the GEF 8 cycle.</p> <p>The GEF continues to track and report in its annual report to the COP activities that are related to the UNFCCC capacity-building framework and its 15 priority areas, as listed in in decision 2/CP.7.</p>
<p>Paragraph 188: <i>Encourages</i> the relevant operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the constituted bodies under or serving the Paris Agreement to continue to provide, within their mandates, capacity-building support for the preparation and communication of the next nationally determined contributions.</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to provide capacity-building support for countries to prepare and implement their next round of NDCs. Countries can access resources from their GEF STAR allowances for this purpose and can continue to use CBIT resources for objectives that are closely related. Indeed, as of March 31, 2024, about 59.8 percent of CBIT country projects have included objectives related to NDC enhancement and policy analysis/review.</p> <p>The GEF has been invited by the UNFCCC Secretariat and the UNFCCC Regional</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>Collaboration Centers (RCCs) to participate and contribute to several workshops and events intended to raise awareness and present the type of support available from different international organizations and development partners for the preparation and implementation stages of the new round of NDCs, which is due for submission to the UNFCCC at the end of 2025.</p> <p>In addition, several ongoing GEF projects and programs include activities that are ultimately designed to support the in-country processes contributing to the preparation of the new or updated NDCs. One such example is the Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Program, under which 12 countries have been selected globally to implement national child projects. These countries, representing a balanced regional distribution, are receiving financing from the GEF to prepare or enhance the ambition of their long term low-emission development plans and NDCs through support targeting, inter alia, socio-economic modeling and data analysis, enabling informed decision making and identification of the most cost-effective, socially-just and climate-positive policy reforms, to be prioritized for inclusion in the upcoming or successive rounds of NDC updates.</p>
Decision 2/CMA.5: Global goal on adaptation	
<p>Paragraph 25: <i>Recognizes</i> the importance of the timeliness and predictability of adaptation finance and the need to accelerate efforts to enhance access to adaptation finance, with a focus on facilitating direct access by harmonizing and simplifying access procedures.</p>	Noted.
Decision 4/CMA.5: Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme referred to in decision 4/CMA.4	
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Requests</i> the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of the co-chairs of the work programme, future global dialogues and investment-focused events in a manner that enables effective engagement of participants, including by (c) enhancing the investment-</p>	Noted. The GEF stands ready to participate and contribute to this work programme.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
focused events, with a view to unlocking finance, including through presentations by Parties to potential financiers, and by inviting to the events more multilateral development banks, financial institutions and representatives of relevant multilateral climate funds, including the Green Climate Fund.	
Decision 8/CMA.5: New collective quantified goal on climate finance	
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Invites</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and other stakeholders, including from the private sector, to submit views in advance of each technical expert dialogue and meeting under the ad hoc work programme via the submission portal.</p>	Noted.
Decision 9/CMA.5: Matters relating to the Standing Committee on Finance	
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Invites</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, climate finance institutions, observers and observer organizations, and other stakeholders, particularly from the private sector, to submit via the submission portal by 31 March 2024 their views on the issues to be addressed during the workshops under the Sharm el- Sheikh Dialogue on Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement</p>	Noted.
Decision 11/CMA.5: Guidance to the Global Environment Facility	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Recommends</i> that the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session transmit to the Global Environment Facility the guidance contained in paragraphs 2–12 below;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Welcomes</i> the support provided in accordance with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement through the Global Environment Facility to developing countries in relation to their implementation of the enhanced transparency framework during the reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023), including support for: (a) Preparing biennial transparency reports, including through the combined application process for preparing multiple biennial transparency reports and the expedited process for projects related to biennial transparency reports; (b) Implementing 89 projects under the Capacity-building</p>	Noted with appreciation for the recognition of the efforts by the GEF to support the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
Initiative for Transparency in 87 countries aimed at building national capacity to implement the enhanced transparency framework;	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Underlines</i> the importance of providing adequate and predictable support to developing countries for preparing biennial transparency reports;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue efforts to provide, in an expeditious manner, adequate, predictable and timely financial support to developing countries for preparing biennial transparency reports, and to enhance collaboration with its implementing agencies to promote timely delivery of support;</p>	<p>The GEF has continued to provide timely support to developing countries for the preparation of their BTRs during the reporting period. Following the work conducted in the previous reporting periods to define and adequately communicate modalities of support provision for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. As of March 31, 2024, the GEF has approved BTR support to 103 countries for 144 BTRs, and three additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of March 31, 2024, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 96 projects covering 88 countries, 88 national projects, one regional project (covering four countries), and seven global projects, totaling \$159.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, is presented to the 67th Council in an information document.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Underscores</i> the importance of the Global Environment Facility exploring alternative programming modalities,</p>	The GEF takes note of this guidance and reaffirms its commitment to its ongoing efforts to simplify and increase access to its

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
<p>procedures and processes for facilitating and expediting access to financial resources for enabling activities;</p>	<p>resources, including for enabling activities. Operational improvements implemented in previous reporting periods within GEF8 included: (i) the revision and streamlining of all funding application templates (including the forms available for the submission of PIFs for MSPs and FSPs, PFDs, and the template to request enabling activities), (ii) the introduction of the possibility for Parties to request their entire resource envelope for enabling activities and reporting within one 4-year GEF cycle (which includes one national communication and two BTRs), with one single bundle application, (iii) the establishment of coordination practices between the GEF and its agencies to ensure support is provided to as many developing countries as possible, (iv) the provision of online and in-person workshops together with the UNFCCC, the CBIT Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) and GEF agencies to developing countries about support provided by the GEF to enabling activities and the CBIT, (v) bilateral meetings with developing countries, upon request, to further explain modalities of support and offer advice and troubleshooting as needed.</p> <p>These measures have contributed to shorten application to approval times substantially, with averages for new submission now ranging between 1 and 3 months.</p>
<p>Paragraph 6: Encourages the Global Environment Facility to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session (November 2024) information on lessons learned with respect to enabling activities, in particular the costs, access modalities and delivery of support to prepare the first biennial transparency reports;</p>	<p>Noted, the annual report of the GEF to the COP will include information to address this guidance.</p>
<p>Paragraph 7: Requests the Global Environment Facility in administering the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund to take into account, in the context of its adaptation strategy, the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience</p>	<p>Noted. The GEF appreciates the importance of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation and the review of overall progress in achieving it, as well as guide and strengthen efforts toward reducing</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
referred to in decision 2/CMA.5, and to explore ways to support Parties in achieving the global goal on adaptation;	vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience. As such, the GEF will continue to observe and engage in relative discussions under the UNFCCC process, as relevant, related to the development of this goal, including with a view of informing the GEF's climate change adaptation strategy for the next GEF cycle.
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to consider including in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties information on support provided for research development and demonstration;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 9: <i>Also encouraged</i> the Global Environment Facility to further explore ways to provide support for assessing developing countries' needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and for translating climate finance needs into action;</p>	The GEF continues to provide support to developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technology and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action. Among other efforts, the GEF continues to provide resources for transparency-related capacity-building through the CBIT, for technology needs assessments (TNAs), and for other initiatives such as expanded constituency workshops (ECWs), in an effort to enhance the abilities of developing countries to assess their needs and priorities and to translate climate finance needs into action.
<p>Paragraph 10: <i>Further encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further strengthen its approach to mobilizing private finance, including through blended finance, with a view to de-risking scalable projects in developing countries and contributing to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement;</p>	The programming of resources under the GEF's Blended Finance Global Program continued during the reporting period. As of March 31 st , 2024, out of the GEF-8 envelope of US\$ 196 million, US\$ 132 million have now been programmed in 8 highly innovative operations of which 5 projects are under the CCM focal area. The projects selected seek to support new technologies like Green Hydrogen in Chile, support financial structures that target Scope 3 emissions, or focus on replicability and scale up of existing technologies in renewable energy and energy efficiency with high participation of the private sector. The latter is the case of the DBSA's Private Sector Energy Efficiency Programme Phase 2 that will establish a risk-

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>sharing facility to foster commercial lending for energy efficiency improvements by SMEs in South Africa. In this project, the co-financing achieved is above USD 500 million resulting in a co-financing ratio of 1:34 (of which 1:33.4 is from the Private sector).</p> <p>The IFC/GEF Green Global Supply Chain Decarbonization Platform is a first-of-its-kind project that targets Scope 3 emissions across an entire value chain. The platform proposes a financial mechanism that blends the financing from the IFC, a textile and apparel Brand (private sector company) and the GEF to provide long-term, green-linked loans to manufacturers, suppliers of the brand across emerging markets. The project will also take this opportunity to systematically move participating supplier factories to safer chemical alternatives in production and to provide substantial climate mitigation outcomes (3 million tCO₂e), while benefitting 150,000 people.</p>
<p>Paragraph 11: Encourages the Global Environment Facility to participate in the workshops referred to in paragraph 14 of decision 18/CMA.5;</p>	<p>Noted, the GEF intends to participate to the referenced workshops.</p>
<p>Paragraph 12: Requests the Global Environment Facility to consider ways to enhance the institutional capacity of developing country Parties to assist them in meeting their reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement in accordance with its Article 13, in the context of its enabling activities, and to report thereon in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-ninth session.</p>	<p>The GEF has continued to program resources to assist developing countries in strengthening their institutional capacity in relation to the reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement. As mentioned above in this table, the primary objective of the CBIT is indeed that of building such institutional capacity.</p> <p>Analysis of the CBIT portfolio shows that, as of March 31, 2024, CBIT support is primarily being used by countries to develop the necessary institutional arrangements and build their technical capacity to track mitigation progress (80.4 and 90.2 percent of projects, respectively). Also, 28.3 percent of projects include developing projections or scenario modeling as a component. This is encouraging as it indicates that CBIT is assisting countries with some of the more</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	advanced and complex aspects of the transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.
Decision 12/CMA.5: Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund	
<p>Paragraph 2: Notes the following information, actions and decisions relating to the Adaptation Fund Board presented in the report referred to in paragraph 1 above: (k) the continued enhancement of complementarity and coherence with other climate funds and building of linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;</p>	While this guidance is not directly addressed to the GEF, this is noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the MCFs to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.
<p>Paragraph 15: Welcomes the work of the Adaptation Fund Board on complementarity and coherence with other multilateral climate funds with respect to accreditation and other areas of operations and encouraged the Board to continue this work with a view to simplifying its access modalities, as appropriate.</p>	While this guidance is not directly addressed to the GEF, this is noted as it relates to the ongoing efforts of the MCFs to enhance complementarity and coherence and their collective impact.
Decision 14/CMA.5: Enhancing climate technology development and transfer to support implementation of the Paris Agreement	
<p>Paragraph 5: Invites Parties to explore ways of enhancing the provision of technical and logistical support to their national designated entities and improving national-level coordination, including of national designated entities with operational focal points of the Global Environment Facility, national designated authorities of the Green Climate Fund, and designated authorities and national implementing entities of the Adaptation Fund;</p>	Through the CTCN, NDEs have been encouraged to liaise with their respective GEF OFPs and enhance collaboration through scaling up of projects and develop common approach to decision making on technology development and transfer-related matters. For example, GEF national dialogues and ECWs have been used as entry points to facilitate further coordination with GEF OFPs and explore potential cooperation in a country-driven manner. Specifically, in the reporting period, the NDEs of Ghana, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Jordan participated in the national dialogues in their respective country.
<p>Paragraph 9: Notes the insufficient transfer and deployment of technology in developing countries, encourages the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to continue collaborating with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant financial institutions with a view to enhancing the capacity of developing countries</p>	The development and transfer of low-carbon and climate-resilient technology has been a key cross-cutting theme for the GEF since its establishment. It continues to be at the core of the programming directions for GEF-8. The GEF continues to explore opportunities for further collaboration in support of

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
to prepare project proposals and facilitating their access to available funding for technology development and transfer and to implement the results of their technology needs assessments and technical assistance of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and strengthening the transfer and deployment of technology, and calls for regional balance in this work.	technology development and transfer with the TEC and the CTCN, as consistent with national priorities and based on country demand.
Decision 15/CMA.5: Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity- building for 2023	
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Invites</i> Parties, as appropriate, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies under the Convention, United Nations organizations, observers and other stakeholders to consider the recommendations referred to paragraph 1 above and to take any necessary action, as appropriate and in accordance with their mandates.</p>	Noted.
Decision 16/CMA.5: Agenda Item 12: Terms of reference for the second review of the Paris Committee on capacity-building	
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Invites</i> Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, representatives of relevant processes under the Convention, and non-Party stakeholders to submit via the submission portal by 29 February 2024 views on the second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building based on the terms of reference contained in the annex for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixtieth session (June 2024).</p>	Noted.
Decision 17/CMA.5: Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement and in decision 4/CMA.3	
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Recalls</i> decision 8/CMA.4, paragraph 8, which invited interested Parties, relevant bodies, institutional arrangements and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, including United Nations bodies, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and non-governmental organizations to provide information on financial, technology and capacity-building support available or provided for identifying, developing or implementing non-market</p>	Noted.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
approaches for recording on the UNFCCC web- based platform;	
<p>Paragraph 16: <i>Requests</i> the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, as the convenor of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches, to invite interested Parties, relevant bodies, institutional arrangements and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, including United Nations bodies, multilateral, bilateral and other public donors, and private and non-governmental organizations, to have a focused exchange of views on financial, technology and capacity- building support available or provided for identifying and developing non-market approaches, including on enhancing access to various types of support and identifying investment opportunities and actionable solutions that support the achievement of nationally determined contributions, as part of the in-session workshop referred to in paragraph 15(c) above.</p>	Also noted.
Decision 18/CMA.5: Provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties for reporting and capacity-building	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the action taken by the Global Environment Facility to provide support to developing country Parties for preparing their biennial transparency reports and building their institutional and technical capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement;</p>	Noted with appreciation of the recognition.
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Appreciates</i> the efforts of the Global Environment Facility in developing an expedited process for projects combining multiple reports, including biennial transparency reports and national communications;</p>	Noted with appreciation of the recognition.
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Acknowledges</i> the increase in the allocation to the climate change focal area set aside for enabling activities, including the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, from USD 165 million in the seventh replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility to USD 220 million in the eighth cycle, and welcomes that, within the agreed resource allocation framework for the eighth cycle, USD 75 million has been allocated</p>	Noted.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
to the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, a 36 per cent increase on the allocation in the seventh cycle;	
<p>Paragraph 5: <i>Welcomes</i> the reports by the Global Environment Facility on its progress in supporting implementation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency;</p>	Noted with appreciation of the recognition.
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Appreciates</i> the oral report made by the Global Environment Facility at the fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation under the agenda items on the provision of financial and technical support for developing country Parties for reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Also appreciates</i> the launch of the Climate Transparency Platform, an online tool for facilitating reporting by developing country Parties under the enhanced transparency framework;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 8: <i>Acknowledges</i> the existing financial, technical and capacity-building support for developing country Parties to address challenges in implementing the enhanced transparency framework that is available through bilateral, multilateral and other channels;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 11: <i>Underscores</i> the importance of the Global Environment Facility continuing its efforts to provide adequate and timely support to developing country Parties for implementing the enhanced transparency framework, to further simplify the existing processes for approving projects under the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, and exploring alternative programming modalities, procedures and processes for facilitating and expediting access to financial resources for enabling activities for supporting developing country Parties in meeting their requirements under the enhanced transparency framework and for building and enhancing their institutional and technical capacity for reporting under the Paris Agreement on a continuous basis;</p>	<p>Regarding mobilization of finance for reporting and enabling activities under the UNFCCC, the GEF continued to review and approve projects in a timely manner during the reporting period. The GEF Trust Fund continued to support National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), through the programming of medium-sized and full-sized projects.</p> <p>Following the work conducted in the previous reporting periods to define and communicate modalities of support provision for BTRs, the GEF Secretariat continued to work closely with countries requesting support for BTR preparation, with the view to allow sufficient lead time for countries to prepare and submit their first BTR by the due date of no later than December 31, 2024. As of March 31, 2024, the GEF has approved BTR support to 103 countries for 144 BTRs, and three</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>additional countries have submitted requests for GEF financial support for BTR preparation.</p> <p>The GEF also continued to provide funding to support countries through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Each CBIT proposal submitted to the GEF Secretariat has received support, upon technical clearance, in line with the Paris Agreement decision to provide support upon request. As of March 31, 2024, the entire CBIT portfolio includes 96 projects covering 88 countries, 88 national projects, one regional project (covering four countries), and seven global projects, totaling \$159.7 million, including GEF project financing, Agency fees, and PPGs. Progress made on the CBIT, including portfolio analysis and outlook, is presented to the 67th Council in an information document.</p> <p>Regarding the simplification of existing processes for approving GEF projects, the GEF continues its efforts to streamline its operational procedures and increase efficiency of access to its funds, in consultation with the other GEF partners, particularly the GEF implementing agencies. The GEF-8 Replenishment Policy Recommendations include a decision to explore areas for streamlining the GEF project cycle, with an objective of reducing transaction costs and facilitating faster access to GEF resources by countries. In response to such decision and to similar guidance received from the COP at different sessions, the GEF continues to pursue efforts to further simplify information requirements for designing and implementing its projects and programmes.</p> <p>As reported in the previous reporting period, in the first half of the GEF8 cycle the GEF has revised and streamlined all its funding application templates, including the forms available for the submission of Project</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
	<p>Information Form (PIF) for mid- and full-size projects, the Program Framework Document (PFD) for multi country programs, and the template to request Enabling Activity funding for reporting obligations from the GEF Climate Change Set Aside. From the preliminary observations over the first year of GEF8, the use of the new templates has resulted in substantially shorter project submission documents.</p> <p>In addition, one significant measure that was considered and approved by the GEF Council at its 66th Council Meeting (February 2024) was increasing the cap on the size of Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) from US\$ 2 to 5 million.¹¹ The financing ceiling for MSPs was initially set at US\$ 1 million and was later raised to US\$2 million in 2012.¹² This most recent increase in the MSP cap is expected to enable a much greater number of projects and value of GEF financing to benefit from the more streamlined one-step approval process.</p> <p>In addition, with the establishment of a simplified project and program cycle for the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), which is managed by the GEF Secretariat, it is expected that experiences with the deployment of these further simplified processes will be assessed and will inform the extent to which further simplification measures can be applied to the GEF Trust Fund project cycle.</p>
<p>Paragraph 14: <i>Requests</i> the secretariat to organize an in-person workshop, to be held at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2024), as well as regional online workshops to be held prior to that session, with the relevant stakeholders, such as the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, as appropriate, on support available to developing country Parties for preparing their biennial transparency reports and enhancing sustainable institutional capacity and national reporting systems within their Governments for implementing the</p>	<p>The GEF stands ready to participate and provide inputs into the in-person workshop to be organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2024).</p> <p>In addition, the GEF has participated to four regional workshops organized by the UNFCCC in advance of SB60, covering respectively (i) Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America, (ii) Africa and Europe, (iii)</p>

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
enhanced transparency framework, and in providing guidance on the application process for transparency-related projects.	Asia and Pacific and (iv) the Pacific, which were held between April 15 and 18, 2024.
SBI 59 Conclusions	
Agenda Item 14 of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation: Matters relating to the least developed countries	
<i>Expressed</i> appreciation to the entities undertaking activities to support the Least Developed Countries, including in accessing funding for adaptation action, such as the organization by the Global Environment Facility of workshops for African, Asian and Pacific Least Developed Countries, and requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to contribute to such activities, as appropriate;	Noted with appreciation for the recognition
<i>Noted</i> that as at 4 December 2023, of the 46 Least Developed Countries, 5 had accessed funding related to the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) through the Least Developed Countries Fund during the eighth replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility (2022–2026);	Noted.
<i>Requested</i> the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to convene a meeting with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF and other relevant organizations, as part of NAP Expo 2024, to identify ways to assist the Least Developed Countries in expeditiously implementing adaptation action based on priorities identified in their NAPs, and to include recommendations in its reports to the SBI with a view to addressing the challenges, gaps and needs that the Least Developed Countries continue to face in accessing funding for implementing NAPs;	The GEF appreciated the opportunity to meet with LEG members at the recent NAP Expo 2024 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, held in April 2024, to discuss ways to assist LDCs in expeditiously implementing climate adaptation action.
<i>Welcomed</i> the support provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to the Least Developed Countries for addressing identified data gaps and other gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including through the Open NAPs and NAP Data initiatives, and the continued collaboration of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group with the Adaptation Fund Board, Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility secretariats on enhancing access to funding by the Least Developed Countries for implementing NAPs under the NAP implementation pipeline development initiative and requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to scale up these collaborative efforts;	The GEF looks forward for continued collaboration with LEG and other partners for enhancing access to the LDCF.

COP 28 Decision ¹⁵ / CMP 18 Decision ¹⁶ / CMA 5 Decision ¹⁷ / SBI 59 Conclusion ¹⁸	GEF's Response
<p><i>Noted</i> with appreciation the financial pledges, totalling USD 141.74 million, made by the Governments of Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Spain and Sweden to the Least Developed Countries Fund at the Global Environment Facility pledging conference held on 4 December 2023, and called for additional contributions to the Fund.</p>	<p>The GEF takes note of the appreciation and looks forward to additional contributions to the LDCF and SCCF in the GEF-8 period.</p>

Table 3: Decision on the Collaboration with the GEF Adopted by UNCCD COP 15 and GEF's Response

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ²⁰	GEF's Response
<i>Takes note</i> of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2021, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(20)/4;	Noted.
<i>Welcomes</i> a (i) strong eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility; (ii) a robust increase to land degradation focal area resources; and calls for (iii) a continuous focus on land-based actions through Global Environment Facility Impact/Integrated Programs; and (iv) opportunities to enhance synergies among all focal areas bearing in mind the importance of the land degradation focal area as integral to those areas; (v) consideration of individuals and communities in situations of vulnerability across all sectors;	Noted with appreciation with regard to points (i) and (ii). Regarding to points (iii) and (iv), the GEF-8 programming directions have an increased focus on land-based actions implemented through Integrated Programs and continue to provide opportunities for enhanced synergies among all focal areas through multifocal area programming. Regarding point (v), the LDFA strategy considers and specifically targets those who are vulnerable to a range of issues such as food insecurity, drought, poverty, climate change impacts on land, including through emphasis on vulnerable groups such as women, children and youth.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for countries in programming land degradation focal area resources to combat desertification/land degradation and drought and achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets, including in the context of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes;	The GEF-8 LDFA programming strategy continues to support the UNCCD agenda and is fully aligned with the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept to support countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets. Furthermore, the GEF encourages countries to apply the UNCCD LDN guidelines for the design and implementation of land degradation neutrality transformative projects and programmes.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support Parties to meet their reporting obligations in a timely manner;	The GEF Secretariat participated in official and side events held at the UNCCD CRIC 21 to discuss with parties, GEF agencies, and the UNCCD Secretariat ways to improve timely and efficient delivery of funding to countries in GEF-8 as part of enabling activities. GEF Secretariat received value recommendations, which are currently being followed up in preparation for the 2026 reporting cycle. GEF Secretariat will make Enabling Activity

²⁰ <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/cop23add1-advance.pdf>

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ²⁰	GEF's Response
	funding available to countries up to 2 years in advance of the reporting deadline to facilitate preparation and data collection for reporting. Further, the funding level per country will be increased from \$100,000 in GEF-7 to \$120,000 in GEF-8 (including agency fees). In addition, GEF secretariat will be supporting parties through a global support project (GSP III) executed by the Global Mechanism to organize regional workshops and support a helpdesk for the online PRAIS reporting system.
<i>Recommends</i> the Global Environment Facility to promote, as appropriate, the use of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification-designated World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies database into the Global Environment Facility projects and programmes to support knowledge-sharing and the dissemination of sustainable land management best practices;	Knowledge management is an important topic and is pursued strategically in all GEF projects including those in the LD portfolio, where there is a requirement to build in mechanisms to utilize existing knowledge on best practices in project design and share lessons learned during and after the project implementation. Within this context, GEF encourages project implementing and executing agencies to use the WOCAT database as appropriate, especially in projects applying SLM practices.
<i>Notes with appreciation</i> the Global Environment Facility's engagement to initiate and support the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, and requests continued Global Environment Facility support and partnership engagement;	Noted with appreciation of recognition. The GEF is committed to engage with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and relevant other development partners on a coordinated approach to ensure greater synergy and economies of scale in supporting the GGWI countries, based on the principle of country ownership. This may include support for policy options to unlock market opportunities and innovative financing for diversified livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists. Both GEF and GCF play a supportive role in advancing the initiative. The joint support of GGW is part of the GEF-GCF Long-Term Vision (LTV) on complementarity.
<i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility to support the Southern Africa Great Green Wall Initiative;	GEF Secretariat is cooperating with the Global Mechanism and other key partners on upstream engagement with the Southern Africa Development commission (SADC), and in cooperation with the GCF. GEF Secretariat is advocating enhanced political commitment, and alignment of the initiative with the goals of objectives of other relevant conventions, in particular the UNFCCC. At a side event at the

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ²⁰	GEF's Response
	<p>margins of the GEF Assembly, the GEF Secretariat announced its readiness to help advancing the Southern Great Wall Initiative through a \$2 million medium-sized project, which is currently under development and is expected to be submitted for review in the second half of 2024.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to further align the land degradation focal area strategy implementation with the Convention goals to enable countries to address their desertification/land degradation and drought priorities, in particular through sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded lands;</p>	<p>The GEF-8 LDFA strategy continues to be fully aligned with the UNCCD Strategy and goals. Further the GEF-8 strategy has increased its attention to drought mitigation through including it in the goal statement as well as through a dedicated focal area objective LD-3, to provide countries with enhanced opportunities to address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues, particularly in drylands.</p>
<p><i>Requests</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support the implementation of the national drought plans and other drought-related policies, especially strengthening early warning, preparedness, mitigation and recovery, rehabilitation and monitoring systems and capacity-building;</p>	<p>The results of an internal assessment show that GEF has invested about \$531 million in 107 projects and programs related to drought mitigation and adaptation since GEF-1. The portfolio includes 60 different countries from all UNCCD Annexes, as well as regional and global projects/programs. The investment was peaking in GEF-7 with \$176 million, and with GEF-8 investments likely to be higher at the end of the replenishment cycle. This portfolio of projects and programs is funded by three trust funds: the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund, as well as multi-trust fund combinations of the three funds. Focal area contributions come from Climate Change, Land Degradation, International Waters, and Biodiversity, making the portfolio truly integrated. Indeed, proactive drought management is a complex issue that needs to be addressed through multi-sectoral and integrated approaches, reflecting meteorological, environmental, socio-economic, and development issues. The GEF-8 LDFA strategy, within its mandate, continues to provide countries with the opportunity to the implementation of their national drought plans and other drought-related policies.</p>
<p><i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to assess the feasibility of establishing a focal area for drought in order to increase the</p>	<p>The GEF Secretariat, in consultation with various stakeholders, and based on an assessment of the historical and current support of drought related</p>

UNCCD COP 15 Decision ²⁰	GEF's Response
visibility and financial resources allocated to drought;	projects and programs as mentioned above, concluded that the establishment of a focal area for drought is neither feasible nor purposeful to increase the visibility and financial resources allocated to drought. Instead, GEF Secretariat proposes to continue with the integrated approach of funding drought related projects and programs through various GEF funding windows and to increase the visibility and financial resources through enhanced programming options in GEF-9, to be discussed during the replenishment negotiations as part of the GEF-9 programming strategy. Further, the Land Degradation Focal Area programming strategy does include the mitigation of the effects of drought in its goal statement. It is therefore proposed to change the name of the focal area to "Land Degradation and Drought" to increase the visibility of the topic. Such a change, however, would affect the GEF Instrument and requires approval by the next GEF Assembly.
<i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to further enhance the means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements, observing their respective mandates and goals, as well as with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, at the implementation level, including by encouraging collaboration amongst the national focal points to the Global Environment Facility, as well as the different Rio conventions and other relevant environmental agreements;	Noted. GEF continues to provide these opportunities in particular through the GEF-8 Integrated Programs which encourage countries to meet commitments under multiple conventions. GEF-8 programming also encourages policy coherence within countries, including by encouraging cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration amongst the national focal points.
<i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.	Noted. GEF will report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session.

Table 4: GEF's Response to the Guidance Received from the Online Segment of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

There are no updates for this reporting period.

Table 5: Additional Minamata COP guidance

Decision	GEF Response
Decision MC-2/10 – Effectiveness Evaluation	
<p>Paragraph 7: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to consider, within the guidance given by the Conference of the Parties, supporting eligible parties in the collection of essential data and facilitating the sustainable input of monitoring information at the local, subregional, regional and global levels to contribute towards the effectiveness evaluation, in alignment with the Facility’s guidance.</p>	<p>The GEF in providing funding for the third round of projects under the Stockholm Convention Global Monitoring Plan will fund, as appropriate, activities to contribute to the effectiveness evaluation of the Minamata Convention.</p>
Decision MC-5/2 – Mercury supply sources and trade	
<p>Paragraph 6: <i>Invites</i> parties, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Mercury Partnership and other stakeholders to support the activity set out in paragraph 5 (e) above. (5(e) Develop guidance to assist parties in identifying, managing and reducing mercury trade from primary mercury mining)</p>	<p>The GEF has supported a regional project in Latin America to manage trade in mercury as well as to address primary mercury mining in Mexico.</p>
Decision MC-5/7 – Artisanal and small scale gold mining	
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Invites</i> the Global Environment Facility to include support to parties undertaking their first such reviews as part of the Facility’s enabling activity support available to parties, and, within that activity, to support the development and piloting of review guidance, supplementing the information in the guidance document on developing a national action plan to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, and of an online tool for parties to use when undertaking their reviews;</p>	<p>The GEF secretariat has developed guidelines for the review of the implementation of Article 7 in consultation with the Minamata Secretariat and the global mercury partnership and has presented these guidelines for the approval of GEF council in document GEF/C.67/11 ²¹ . Piloting of review guidance will be done in consultation with the GEF agencies supporting enabling activities for this Convention and will be used to update the guidance document on developing ASGM National Action Plans.</p>
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Calls</i> on parties and the Global Environment Facility to make further efforts to seek opportunities to advance implementation of article 7 in the context of projects relating to biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, and trade, and to continue to advance implementation of national action plans through projects and programmes;</p>	<p>The GEF supports parties to implement Article 7 through addressing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. This work in ongoing.</p>

²¹ Guidelines for the Preparation of the Review of the Implementation of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention

Decision	GEF Response
Decision MC-5/11 – Review of the financial mechanism of the Minamata Convention on Mercury	
<p>Paragraph 1: <i>Welcomes</i> the report on the second review of the financial mechanism, on the basis of which the Conference of the Parties has undertaken the review in accordance with paragraph 11 of article 13;</p>	Noted.
<p>Paragraph 2: <i>Encourages</i> the Global Environment Facility to take into consideration, in the implementation of the programming directions for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, and in the discussions on the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, the recommendations set out in the report on the second review of the financial mechanism;</p>	The programming of resources in GEF-8 will take into consideration the recommendations of the second review and during the ninth replenishment the review will form part of the inputs into the development of the programming strategy for the implementation of the Minamata Convention.
<p>Paragraph 3: <i>Notes</i> the importance of relevant parties working through their operational focal points to make prompt and full use of the programming directions and resource allocation for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund, including with respect to undertaking mercury reduction activities in the integrated programmes and within, in particular, the biodiversity and climate change focal areas, and requests the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to facilitate the exchange of information to enable that use;</p>	The GEF Secretariat will include this information in outreach activities to the GEF OFPs.
<p>Paragraph 4: <i>Provides</i> additional details to supplement the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the Global Environment Facility, as follows</p>	
<p>a. The Global Environment Facility, in planning for its ninth replenishment period, should promote synergies with other focal areas in line with decision MC-1/5, including the biodiversity focal area, as it advances work under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;</p>	Will be taken up during the ninth replenishment negotiations.
<p>b. In developing its programming directions and resource allocations for the ninth replenishment period, and in further developing projects and programmes under the programming directions for</p>	Will be taken up during the ninth replenishment negotiations.

Decision	GEF Response
the eighth replenishment, the Global Environment Facility should take into account the time frames that parties must meet for implementation of mandatory obligations;	

ANNEX II: THE MULTILATERAL CLIMATE FUNDS ACTION PLAN ON COMPLEMENTARITY AND COHERENCE

Prepared by

Adaptation Fund

Climate Investment
Funds

Global Environment
Facility

Green Climate Fund

Consultation draft, May 2024

This draft action plan is prepared for consultations with the governing bodies of the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund.

Following consultations, a final action plan will be published by the Heads of the Multilateral Climate Funds at COP29.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Multilateral Climate Funds have a crucial role in supporting the transition to a low-emission and climate-resilient future. Collectively, the Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, Global Environment Facility, and Green Climate Fund have channeled over US\$47 billion for climate and sustainability action to date, leveraging over US\$240 billion in co-financing.

The action plan is governed by our vision of supporting developing countries' climate goals. Through closer collaboration, we aim to:

1. **enhance access** to climate finance through promoting efficiencies and streamlining processes;
2. **increase the impact** of our support for developing countries' climate goals;
3. **work together as a system**, acting in a coordinated way; and,
4. **play an enabling role** in the international climate finance architecture.

The MCFs are committed to an ongoing, long-term collaboration. We have already agreed on a coordination mechanism to drive this work. The newly established Heads of MCFs Committee provides oversight for our coordination, bringing together our principals on a regular basis. The Committee is supported by the MCF Task Force and working groups in specific areas. The Heads of MCFs Committee will review the implementation of the action plan and, based on the reporting and feedback from the governing bodies, will update the plan as needed.

The MCFs commit to increasing our complementarity, ensuring that our distinct roles and advantages are clearly expressed so that access to finance is simplified. We are committed to harmonizing our procedures and processes where possible, recognizing that each Fund has different modalities and business models. Engagement with governing bodies will be key to success, and each Fund will respect the mandates and guidance those bodies provide.

The MCFs are committed to supporting capacity building to strengthen country ownership of climate activities and align our programming efforts for more effective delivery. We will work to align our capacity-building funding for developing countries while building on existing efforts to strengthen coordinated country planning.

We will promote knowledge exchange and joint communications to raise awareness of our activities and design and execute more impactful climate activities. We will have a joint presence at COP29 to profile our work and engage with our stakeholders.

The MCFs are only one part of the broader financial architecture. To respond to the climate crisis, a whole system approach where all actors work together is needed. We are committed to contributing to enhancing such a system-wide approach, working together as a system, and leveraging our resources to deliver the climate action we urgently need.

Table of Contents

Executive summary	2
Context	4
Strategic vision	6
Action plan	7

CONTEXT

1. The COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in 2023 marked the conclusion of the first global stocktake of the world's efforts to address climate change under the Paris Agreement. The stocktake showed that progress was too slow, and much more is needed to reach net zero and adapt to climate impacts. A rigorous 'all-of-economy, all-of-society' approach is necessary across all systems and sectors.
2. In response, the four multilateral climate funds (MCFs) – Adaptation Fund, Climate Investment Funds, Global Environment Facility, and Green Climate Fund – made a joint declaration on 4 December 2023, pledging to strengthen the complementarity and coherence between the funds and move towards harmonizing the procedures to improve and streamline modalities of access to finance.
3. As part of this declaration, the MCFs committed to developing a concrete action plan with specific proposals for consideration and support from our governing bodies to deliver an endorsed action plan in time for COP29. Both the declaration and the action plan reflect a clear recognition among the MCFs of the urgency to collectively address the growing impacts of climate change on developing countries, and the imperative to put developing countries needs at the centre of MCFs' efforts. This action plan on complementarity and coherence aims to avoid duplication of efforts, enhance collaboration, streamline processes, and ensure that MCFs work together effectively towards common goals and achieve greater collective impact in combating climate change.
4. The action plan will build upon the established partnership on complementarity and coherence between the MCFs, as articulated in our commitment at COP26 to collaborate to accelerate the transition to a green, inclusive, and resilient economy. The partnership has already begun exploring synergies in programming, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), as well as communication and outreach initiatives.
5. The four MCFs have unique mandates and comparative advantages as follows:
 - (a) Adaptation Fund (AF) – has since 2010 committed over US\$ 1.2 billion for 168 concrete climate change adaptation projects and programmes in the most vulnerable communities of developing countries around the world with over 43 million total beneficiaries. The Adaptation Fund serves the Paris Agreement by accelerating effective adaptation action and efficient access to finance, including through direct access, to respond to developing countries' urgent needs and priorities. The Fund does so by supporting country-driven adaptation projects and programmes, innovation, and learning with concrete results at the local level that can be scaled up. It also pioneered Direct Access and Enhanced Direct Access, empowering countries to access funding and develop locally-led projects directly through accredited national implementing entities.
 - (b) Climate Investment Funds (CIF) – For over 16 years, CIF's risk-patient, catalytic approach has been dedicated to accelerating transformational climate action in developing countries through a proven country-led, programmatic model. The CIF operates through six Multilateral Development Banks (*World Bank, International Financial Corporation, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*) to pilot, scale, and replicate investments to stimulate markets for cutting-edge, low-carbon, climate-resilient solutions in support of emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs) including marginalized and vulnerable populations (women, youth, IPLC, etc). To date, donors have pledged over US\$ 12 billion to the Fund, of which its committed capital of US\$7.4 billion has mobilized more than US\$64 billion in additional financing, in over 70 countries. Recognizing the urgency of the climate crisis, successive G7 and

G20 presidencies, in addition to EMDE ministers, have recently reconfirmed their commitment to CIF's mandate.

- (c) Global Environment Facility (GEF) – is a family of funds with 186 member countries dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support help developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions. The GEF serves as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement and several other multilateral environmental agreements. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than US\$25 billion and mobilized US\$138 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 national, regional, and global projects.
 - (d) Green Climate Fund (GCF) – GCF's mandate is to foster a paradigm shift towards low-emission, climate-resilient development pathways in developing countries. GCF operates through a partnership model, working directly with local, national, and regional organizations that are close to the ground in developing countries, as well as with international entities. As well as working with the public and non-profit sectors, GCF works with private sector partners (both international and domestic) to accelerate capital deployment. GCF has a portfolio of US\$ 13.9 billion (US\$ 53 billion, including co-financing), delivering transformative climate action in more than 120 countries through a flexible range of financial instruments, including grants, concessional loans, equity, guarantees and results-based payments. It also has a readiness support programme that builds capacity and helps countries develop long-term plans to fight climate change. GCF is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and serves the 2015 Paris Agreement.
6. Our unique mandates, risk appetite, experience, innovative approaches, and a blend of grants and concessional funds strategically place our institutions in the broader climate finance architecture, contributing to the entire system's efficient and effective delivery.
7. MCFs play a crucial role in the climate finance architecture by providing vital grants and concessional finance that contribute to unlocking much wider resources needed for climate action in this critical decade. MCFs work with a wide range of partners and, through our strategic investment, can catalyze domestic capital through national and regional development banks, private sector finance by de-risking their investment, and MDB finance by contributing to the ongoing reform. Our enhanced complementarity and coherence efforts can contribute to setting up robust climate country platforms built on principles of country ownership and driven by ambitious national climate plans and strategies. Our existing programming efforts in different parts of the world and experience supporting country-wide transition and resilience plans provide a sound basis for this effort.
8. Our enhanced partnership will build on our shared understanding of complementarity and coherence concepts, as described in the sections below. We will work to complement each other in our programming efforts by strategically sequencing our investments and actively seeking opportunities to scale up efforts to produce an enhanced impact for a given country or region. We will also work to build coherence among our policies, processes, and procedures, working towards their harmonization where feasible. We will learn from each other, using best practices to streamline our processes and simplify application procedures.

STRATEGIC VISION

9. The Multilateral Climate Funds' strategic vision is to **enhance access to climate finance** and **increase the impact of our work** in support of developing countries' climate goals. We are committed to **working together as a system** in a coordinated way and playing **an enabling role** in the international financial architecture so that it is fit for responding to the urgent and growing challenges of climate change.

10. In pursuit of this vision, we are guided by the following principles, which provide a framework to steer our collaboration, guide decision-making, and ensure the effective implementation of the action plan.

- (a) **Accountability:** This principle emphasizes the importance of holding all parties accountable for their commitments and outcomes. Engaging with the MCFs' governing bodies ensures oversight and adherence to agreed-upon commitments, enhancing credibility and trust.
- (b) **Transparency:** Transparent communication and decision-making processes are essential for building trust and credibility among MCFs, our governing bodies, and stakeholders. Clear reporting mechanisms demonstrate progress, facilitate informed decision-making, and ensure accountability to all involved parties.
- (c) **Flexibility:** Recognizing the evolving nature of the climate agenda, flexibility is crucial for adapting actions to changing circumstances and emerging evidence. Processes allowing for timely adjustments enable the MCFs to remain responsive and effective in achieving complementarity and coherence amidst evolving challenges.
- (d) **Inclusivity:** Prioritizing active consultations and stakeholder engagement ensures that diverse perspectives and voices are heard and incorporated into decision-making processes. This promotes ownership, legitimacy, and effectiveness of the action plan by considering the needs and priorities of all relevant stakeholders.
- (e) **Recognition of diversity:** Each MCF operates with its unique mandate, objectives, and governance structures. Acknowledging and respecting these differences is essential for promoting effective collaboration and maximizing the collective impact of MCFs. It is understood that specific actions may be implemented by only some MCFs based on their specific mandates and priorities.

ACTION PLAN

11. The action plan is structured in five sections aiming to achieve the following outcomes:
 - (a) **Profiles, policies & processes:** Increased complementarity across the four MCFs by clarifying our investment profiles and identifying policies and processes conducive to streamlining and facilitating access.
 - (b) **Capacity building & programming:** Enhanced coherence and complementarity of MCFs' capacity building and country programming approaches for increased impact.
 - (c) Elevated **knowledge exchange and communications** among MCFs, developing countries, and programming partners to improve access to high-quality climate knowledge and facilitate understanding of how to access climate finance from MCFs.
 - (d) **The international financial architecture:** Collective engagement and leverage of MCF influence and resources within the broader climate finance architecture to contribute to ensuring the system is fit-for-purpose to respond to the climate crisis, mobilizing more resources, and contributing to increasing climate finance delivery to developing countries.
 - (e) **Coordination and implementation:** structured coordination between the MCFs to ensure effective delivery and reporting on the action plan and ongoing cooperation to deliver climate finance to developing countries efficiently.
12. A table within each section divides the actions into three time horizons: short, medium, and longer-term. Short-term refers to activities that are targeted to be undertaken by COP29. Medium-term refers to activities conducted by 2026, whilst longer-term activities are targeted for 2027 and beyond. Most of the actions within the plan will be undertaken by all four funds together. However, given the different mandates and business models of the MCFs, some actions will be undertaken by two or more Funds as indicated. As our work progresses, the MCFs will treat the action plan as a "living document", with a view to modify or include additional actions as agreed on the consensus basis among the MCFs.

I. Profiles, policies, and processes

13. Each Fund has its own distinct mandate, policies, and operational modalities within the climate finance architecture. The MCFs commit to clarifying our distinct and differentiated roles, enhancing complementarity between business models and modalities, and striving to harmonize processes where possible to facilitate and simplify access to climate finance. We will develop a mapping matrix of the operational and programming cycles of each fund and investment profiles that compare the profiles and features of each Fund. This work is expected to facilitate efforts to support harmonization and simplification of procedures between the Funds. The MCFs will build on existing exchanges on indicators and results management, sharing knowledge, analyzing the feasibility of harmonizing indicators, and engaging with other financial institutions to promote common approaches. Policies relating to gender and social inclusion will also be mapped to identify opportunities to ensure meaningful participation.

Area #1: Profiles, Policies and Processes
Short-Term (BY COP29)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Programmatic processes: Develop a mapping matrix of the operational and programming cycles of each Fund based upon common ‘building blocks’ that compare how to access funding from each MCF. ● Results: Existing collaboration will be reinforced by creating an MCF working group on Indicators and Results Management, which will share knowledge between the Funds. ● Results: Strengthened and coordinated engagement of the MCFs with the IFIs/MDBs working group on results, including GHG methodologies and adaptation indicators.
Medium-Term (Up to 2026)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investment profiles: Joint publication providing a comparison of the profiles and features of each MCF. ● Results: Feasibility assessment to identify opportunities to harmonize results indicators, including those related to GHGs, adaptation, just transitions, and gender and social inclusion, and to map better how the MCFs contribute to the achievement of global climate goals, including the Global Goal on Adaptation. ● Gender and Social Inclusion: Mapping policies related to inclusion to articulate common elements and opportunities to ensure meaningful participation, including for indigenous people and women. ● Accreditation and reaccreditation: Based on the ‘building blocks’ comparison analysis, and in the context of the AF-TERG Accreditation Evaluation, GCF accreditation framework/strategy, and the GEF review of accredited agencies, AF, GCF, and GEF will examine and identify opportunities for more significant simplification and harmonization to the accreditation/reaccreditation processes to relevant Funds. CIF will explore accreditation issues as required and consider lessons learned from the other Funds. ● Operational processes: Identify opportunities for simplification and harmonization of processes, including concerning project-related procedures, by convening a working group on operational processes.
Long-Term (2027+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategy development: Strengthen the engagement and consultation processes across the MCFs, including sharing information and providing input, in the context of strategy development and explore synergies to strengthen the strategic development of each Fund.

II. Capacity building and programming

14. The MCFs are committed to supporting capacity building to strengthen country ownership of climate activities and programming efforts for more effective delivery. MCF activities include providing technical and financial assistance to strengthen the capacity of national and regional stakeholders, as well as collaboration on planning and programming efforts. The MCFs will continue to collaborate to enhance the complementarity and coherence of our respective programmes, as well as to build on existing efforts to support the development and implementation of country strategies and plans, including, but not limited to, NDCs, NAPs, and LTS.

Area #2: Capacity building & programming	
Short-Term (BY COP29)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Stronger coordination of capacity-building support for country planning for NDCs, NAPs, and LTS, including enhanced complementarity in using readiness funding and other capacity-building funds.● Supporting country-driven investment planning: Coordinating efforts to support the development of country-owned investment plans.● Collaboration on thematic and geographic programmes: Engage in consultations across the MCFs on coordinating geographic and global thematic programs.	
Medium-Term (UP TO 2026)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Country-led Platforms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Elaborate the added-value of MCFs to the development of and engagement with country platforms in the broad climate finance architecture context.○ Explore opportunities to contribute and/or lead to one or more country platforms in a coordinated manner with public and private stakeholders.● Capacity-building: Leveraging country engagement channels and implementing joint capacity-building / training for stakeholders in countries, including on gender mainstreaming, inclusion, and other priority areas.	
Long-Term (+2027)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Coordinated technical assistance: Align longer-term technical assistance funding, including capacity building and project preparation funds, to provide support to countries for climate investment planning and project preparation, including to local/national partners.	

III. Knowledge Exchange and Communications

15. The MCFs are committed to knowledge exchange and joint communications to raise awareness of our activities and design and execute more impactful climate activities. We undertake to develop

knowledge tools that will facilitate the exchange of information about our respective projects and activities, promote transparency, and share lessons learned. We will create impactful communications that raise awareness about the value and impact of the MCFs. Through a joint pavilion and common events, we will ensure joint visibility for the MCFs at COP29 and other key events. By sharing knowledge and communicating together as MCFs, we aim to increase the impact of our work.

Area #3: Knowledge exchange and communications	
Short-Term (BY COP29)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint engagement at COP29: Organize a joint pavilion and side events at COP29 to profile the work of the MCFs, building on the experience of our collaboration at COP28. 	
Medium-Term (UP TO 2026)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint project explorer platform: Design a common project explorer platform using innovative tools to increase access to and transparency of information regarding MCF projects through a phased approach. This will start with a foundational library platform that gathers information about our ongoing projects. ● Communication and knowledge products: Coordinate the development of and/or jointly develop communication and knowledge products, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Knowledge products to help guide recipients, contributors, and investors to engage with the MCFs to improve understanding and overall engagement. ○ Joint annual reporting of MCFs' contribution to the climate finance architecture and results within countries. ○ Joint dissemination products on case studies and lessons learned on specific sectors/topics, building on evaluative and monitoring evidence. ● Joint public engagement: Coordinate engagement at major international events, such as COPs. ● Gender and social inclusion: Create a knowledge product that analyses evidence on the social, economic and environmental benefits of strong gender and social inclusion elements within climate investments. This will identify success factors, best practices, and lessons learned to improve project design and implementation. 	
Long-Term (+2027)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint project explorer platform: Further development of the platform with innovative tools, building on the experience and lessons learned, including exploring opportunities to use data to support strategic planning and investment decision-making. ● Developing knowledge on innovative approaches: Explore cutting-edge financial and innovative tools and practices to support climate action. 	

IV. The International financial architecture

16. The MCFs recognize that whilst they play an important role in support of global efforts to combat climate change, there is a need for a whole system approach to respond to the climate crisis. The current international climate financial architecture needs to be developed to keep “fit-for-purpose” and address the growing multiple challenges. A shift to a system-wide climate finance architecture where all actors work together and better in a more synergized and harmonious way is needed. As such, the MCFs are committed to increasing complementarity and cohesion between the climate funds and contributing to enhancing the wider system. The MCFs are committed to engaging with other financial institutions to promote complementarity and coherence. More resources must be mobilized for climate mitigation and adaptation, and MCFs must ensure that our resources are used to foster the changes needed to deliver the climate action we need.

Area #4: The International financial architecture	
Short-Term (BY COP29)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Role of MCFs: <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Joint communication to outline MCFs’ role within the broader climate finance architecture and in the framework of the implementation of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) once agreed.</p> 	
Medium-Term (UP TO 2026)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Role of MCFs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Informed by discussions on international climate finance architecture, conduct an analysis on the added-value of MCFs as delivery mechanisms compared with others, including elements of concessionality, ease and speed of access, and mobilizing capital and action in the broader climate finance architecture alongside MDBs and the private sector. ● Capital mobilization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct an analysis of the challenges and opportunities, through the experience of the MCFs, of participating in blended finance and co-financing structure and other innovative financial structures in support of the reforms of the international climate finance architecture. ○ At domestic levels: Conduct an analysis on how MCFs can help capture and leverage the potential of domestic capital mobilization, including local currency funding through domestic financial institutions and pension funds, as well as public spending and green budgeting. 	
Long-Term (+2027)	

V. Coordination and implementation

17. The MCFs are committed to an ongoing, long-term collaboration based upon the Funds working together as a system. An enhanced coordination mechanism is required to ensure the effective implementation of the action plan and promote accountability, transparency, and collaboration among MCFs. Accordingly, the following governance mechanisms are established:

- (a) The **Heads of MCFs Committee** will meet four times a year, two in person and two virtually, to provide strategic oversight and direction, including priorities for implementing the action plan, review collaboration and progress in implementing the action plan, approving revisions to the action plan and address challenges in achieving outcomes. The Committee may organize meetings of the Co-Chairs of the governing bodies of the MCFs to share progress and seek feedback on the implementation and update of the action plan, and on how to strengthen collaboration between MCF governing bodies.
- (b) A **Task Force** is established to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the action plan. It comprises up to three representatives from each of the MCF Secretariats. The Task Force will provide guidance, monitor and review the progress of the action plan, recommend revisions of the action plan to the Heads of MCFs Committee, and address any challenges during implementation via regular meetings.
- (c) The Heads of MCFs Committee may create **working groups** to deliver on specific actions of the plan, building on the current collaboration in place on various topics across the four Funds.

18. Regular joint reporting mechanisms will be established to provide updates on implementing the action plan to MCFs' management, governing bodies, and the wider public. The Committee of MCF Heads will review the implementation of the action plan and, based on the reporting and feedback from the governing bodies, update the plan to develop complementarity and coherence activities to strengthen the coordination of the MCFs.

Area #5: Coordination and Implementation
Short-Term (BY COP29)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination: Establish a coordination mechanism, including agreeing on Terms of Reference for Heads of MCFs Committee, Taskforce, and working groups. ● Coordination: Heads of MCF Committee meetings will be held following the agreed Terms of Reference to steer the finalization and implementation of the action plan. The Task Force and existing working groups, including those on COP/communications, will meet to undertake the first actions under the plan. The Committee may organise meetings of the Co-Chairs of the governing bodies to share progress and seek feedback. ● Implementation: in the period up to COP29 the MCFs undertake to coordinate their activities to ensure delivery of the actions as referenced in the action plan, whilst recognising that revisions may be required to the action plan further to the consultations with governing bodies.
Medium-Term (UP TO 2026)

- **Implementation:** Annual reporting published on the implementation of the action plan. A joint annual progress report will be prepared and submitted to the governing bodies yearly. It will include the progress of the action plan, challenges encountered, and lessons learned. The annual report will include recommendations for adjustments to the action plan (e.g., actions, timelines, responsibilities) as needed based on evolving circumstances and emerging evidence.
- **Implementation:** Further working groups will be created as needed to implement the action plan.

Long-Term (+2027)

- **Coordination:** the Heads of MCFs Committee will continue to review the implementation of the action plan and, based upon the reporting and feedback from the governing bodies, will continue to update the plan to develop complementarity and coherence activities to strengthen the coordination of the MCFs.