

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

THE NEW DELHI STATEMENT
OF THE FIRST
GEF ASSEMBLY



The Assembly of the Global Environment Facility,

Having met for the first time in New Delhi from April 1-3, 1998,

Expressing its utmost appreciation to the Government and people of India for hosting the Assembly and for their generosity, hospitality and the excellent arrangements made available to all Participants,

Taking note of the views expressed by Representatives of GEF Participant states at this Assembly,

Recognizing that the GEF is the multilateral funding mechanism dedicated to promoting global environmental protection within a framework of sustainable development by providing new and additional grant and concessional funding.

Recognizing also that its beneficiaries are all people of the globe, and that the need for the GEF is even greater as we enter the new millennium given the state of the global environment and of underdevelopment,

Stressing that the GEF is a unique and successful example of international cooperation that offers lessons for other endeavors,

Affirming the significant role of the GEF in supporting the objectives of agreed global environmental conventions and protocols, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

Acknowledging the significant progress that has been made by the GEF, its Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank), and the Secretariat, in the four years since its restructuring in its organization and management, in establishing its institutional and operational framework, and in supporting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts for global environmental improvements and in implementing the Rio conventions,

Acknowledging further the excellent work of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) in providing strategic advice and in reviewing projects,

Welcoming the Second Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund of \$2.75 billion which will enable the GEF to continue its successful ef-



forts to promote global environmental goals and sustainable development,

Taking note of Council's decisions and drawing, as appropriate, upon analyses and recommendations from the Study of GEF's Overall Performance, the Study of GEF Project Lessons, the GEF Project Implementation Review, and the CEO's Report on the Policies, Operations and Future Development of the GEF,

Agrees that for the GEF to meet its deepening potential and fulfill its multiple missions:

1. GEF should remain a facility at the cutting edge, innovative, flexible and responsive to the needs of its recipient countries, as well as a catalyst for other institutions and efforts.
2. GEF activities should be country-driven and efforts should be strengthened to achieve country ownership of GEF projects. To achieve this,
 - a. GEF activities should be based on national priorities designed to support sustainable development and the global environment,
 - b. GEF should develop and implement a strategy for greater outreach and communication which targets GEF's multiple constituencies, with a view to enhancing global awareness of the global environment and the GEF, and should increase consultations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities concerning GEF activities,
 - c. GEF should develop and implement an action plan to strengthen country-level coordination and to promote genuine country ownership of GEF-financed activities, including the active involvement of local and regional experts and community groups in project design and implementation.
3. GEF should increase efforts towards ensuring the sustainability of the global environment benefits generated by GEF-financing and should act as a catalyst to bring about longer-term coordinated efforts with other funders for capacity building and training.
4. GEF should streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, transparent and more nationally-driven.
5. GEF should undertake longer-term planning and multi-year support programs with a view to maximizing global environmental benefits.



6. While recognizing the importance of the principle of incremental costs for the GEF, its definition should be made more understandable. GEF should make the process of determining incremental costs more transparent and its application more pragmatic.
7. GEF should be a learning entity and should strengthen its monitoring and evaluation functions and increase efforts to disseminate lessons learned from its experience in implementing its portfolio of projects and to stimulate the transfer and adoption of new technologies by recipient countries.
8. In consultation with the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, GEF should seek to better define the linkages between land degradation, particularly desertification and deforestation, and its focal areas and to increase GEF support for land degradation activities as they relate to the GEF focal areas.
9. GEF Implementing Agencies should promote measures to achieve global environmental benefits within the context of their regular programs and consistent with the global environmental conventions while respecting the authority of the governing bodies of the Implementing Agencies.
10. GEF should build strong relationships and networks with the global scientific community, especially with national scientists and scientific institutions in recipient countries.
11. GEF should promote greater coordination and co-financing of its activities from other sources, including bilateral funding organizations, and should expand opportunities for execution of activities by those entities referred to in paragraph 28 of the Instrument, in particular the Regional Development Banks and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
12. GEF should strive to mobilize additional resources from both public and private sources. The GEF, as a platform for technological change, should also explore new opportunities for private sector partnerships as well as private-public joint ventures.