



# Global Environment Facility

April 25, 2008

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**JOINT SUMMARY OF THE CHAIRS  
GEF COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 22-25, 2008**

**OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The meeting was opened by Ms. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson of the Facility.

**ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON**

2. The Council elected Ms. Mawaheb Aboul Azm, the Council Member representing Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia as its elected Co-Chair.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

3. The Council approved the provisional agenda set forth in document GEF/C.33/1/Rev.2.

**STATEMENTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARIATS OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON  
PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

4. The Council heard statements from Ms. Preeti Bhandari, Coordinator, Financial and Technical Support Programme of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Mr. Donald Cooper, Executive Secretary, of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Printed versions of the statements of Ms. Bhandari and Mr. Cooper were made available at the Council meeting.

**DECISIONS**

5. The Council approved the following decisions with respect to the items on its agenda:

*Decision on Agenda Item 5 Relations with the Conventions*

6. The Council considered document GEF/C.33/3/Rev.1, *Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions*, and welcomed the proposed guidance and decisions that had been approved by the Conferences of the Parties to the global environmental conventions. The Council requested the Secretariat and the GEF Agencies to continue to work with recipient

countries to reflect such guidance and their national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

7. The Council also accepted the invitation of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol asking the GEF to provide Secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund on an interim basis, and directed the GEF CEO and Secretariat to make necessary arrangements to provide such services, consistent with Decision 1/CMP.3.

*Decision on Agenda Item 6 Four Year Work Program and FY09 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office*

8. The Council reviewed document GEF/ME/C.33/1, *Four Year Work Program and FY09 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office*, but postponed adopting a decision on this agenda item pending its discussion under agenda item 16. The text of the decision can be found under agenda item 16.

*Decision on Agenda Item 7 Annual Performance Report 2007 and Management Response*

9. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.33/2, *GEF Annual Performance Report 2007*, and document GEF/ME/C.33/3, *Management Response to GEF Annual Performance Report 2007*, took note of the recommendation and the management response and noted in particular the progress made by the GEF Agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their internal operations and invited the GEF Agencies to provide information on progress in June 2009.

*Decision on Agenda Item 8 Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation 2008 and Management Response*

10. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.33/4, *Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation Report-2008*, and document GEF/ME/C.33/5, *Management Response to the Annual Country Portfolio Evaluation – 2008*, and having taken note of the three Country Portfolio Evaluations in Benin, Madagascar and South Africa (GEF/ME/C.33/Inf. 1-3) requested the Secretariat to:

- (a) continue to strengthen the concept of integrated multi-focal areas approaches, including addressing transboundary issues, and particularly adaptation to climate change and land degradation, to ensure maximization of global environmental benefits,
- (b) further develop specific, proactive and more flexible engagement approaches with countries in Africa, particularly LDCs that have limited capacity to access and implement GEF funding, and
- (c) enhance country ownership through GEF programs that support national integrated policies, in accordance with national processes and institutions.

*Decision on Agenda Item 9 Annual Monitoring Review Report 2007*

11. The Council, having reviewed GEF/C.33/4, *Annual Monitoring Review Report 2007*, welcomed the overall finding that the GEF portfolio under implementation in 2007 performed satisfactorily across all focal areas. The Council also welcomed the progress made on developing tools and methodologies to track GEF-4 focal area indicators and requested the Secretariat to report on progress towards the achievement of expected results as the first substantive portion of GEF-4 projects enters mid-term evaluations.

12. The Council requested that the Secretariat work in close collaboration with the GEF Agencies and Evaluation Office to ensure that its management information system better meets the monitoring needs of the Secretariat. The Council further requested the Secretariat to continue to improve the compilation and collection of data for monitoring.

13. The Council also requested the Secretariat and the GEF Agencies to enhance their efforts toward ensuring complete information to recipient countries regarding projects during all phases of their development and implementation.

*Decision on Agenda Item 10 Evaluation of the Small Grants Programme and Management Response*

14. The Council having reviewed GEF/C.33/5, *Small Grants Program: Follow-up to the 2007 Joint Evaluation*, commended the SGP Steering Committee for the proposals in the report.

15. The Council agreed to the proposal to reallocate an additional 3.817 million dollars to management costs to be re-assigned from the approved grant resources to support the rapid development of 23 new SGP country programmes.

16. The Council agreed to the other proposals outlined in the report, and urged the SGP Steering Committee and UNDP to implement these actions effectively.

17. Regarding alternative execution arrangements for the SGP in GEF-5, Council requested the SGP Steering Committee and UNDP, in consultation with all appropriate stakeholders, to develop detailed options for Council review in June 2009.

*Decision on Agenda Item 11 Clarifying the Programmatic Approach in the GEF Portfolio*

18. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.33/6, *From Projects to Programs: Clarifying the Programmatic Approach in the GEF Portfolio*, endorsed the objectives and basic principles for programmatic approaches and considered programmatic approaches as an option to support more effectively the sustainable development agenda of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

19. The Council also approved the procedures for developing specific Programs using a programmatic approach as outlined in the paper, including the use of the template for presenting the summary of a Program through a Program Framework Document (PFD).

20. The Council adopted the following clarification to paragraph 11 of the Project Cycle paper GEF/C.31/7/Rev. 1 – as approved in June 2007 and revised in November 2007:

Beginning in FY08, programmatic approaches for GEF funding will only be submitted to Council at its meetings, not intersessionally. Documentation for securing approval for, and guiding implementation of, a specific Program developed using a programmatic approach will be a Program Framework Document (PFD). PFDs will be presented to the Council in a work program. Council shall review the PFD and endorse the overall objective and scope of the Program. PFDs will also identify, to the extent possible, all projects to be financed under the Program. These projects must, nevertheless, be presented as PIFs to Council for approval. All available PIFs will be presented for Council approval in the same work program as contains the Program's PFD. Depending on the operational nature of the Program, Council may approve an amount to be set aside for the Program for a specific period, even if not all PIFs for the listed projects under the Program have been presented in the work program. When the remaining PIFs are ready, and have been cleared by the CEO, they will be presented for approval, in future work programs. All approved PIFs will be posted on the GEF web site. PIFs can only be approved once the PFD for the overarching Program has been endorsed by the Council.

*Decisions on Agenda Item 12 Compliance of the GEF Agencies on the Implementation of the Recommended Minimum Fiduciary Standards*

21. Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.33/Inf.6, *Report on the Compliance of the GEF Agencies on the Implementation of the Recommended Minimum Fiduciary Standards*, expressed appreciation for receipt of the information conveyed through the document and its annexed Agency reports.

22. Council, noting the sheer volume and technical complexity of the information conveyed in the document, requested the Secretariat to contract a consultant to draft a summary and comparative analysis of the annexed reports, in consultation with the Agencies. The consultant will also assess whether the Agencies are meeting the recommended minimum fiduciary standards enumerated in GEF/C.31/6.

23. A report will be provided to Council by its Spring meeting in 2009.

*Decision on Agenda Item 13 Strategic Program to Scale-up the Level of Investment in the Transfer of Environmentally-friendly Technologies*

24. Council agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a report comprising:

- (i) a description of its work to date on financing technology transfer, and
- (ii) a description of current financing options for technology transfer.

25. Council noted that further guidance would be needed regarding its mandate in respect of decision 4/CP.13. Pending further guidance, Council will continue to work on this issue in light of views expressed at the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) of the UNFCCC.

26. The report will be circulated to Council for approval to forward to the SBI.

*Decision on Agenda Item 14 Review of Administrative Expenses Allocated to GEF Implementing Agencies*

27. Council reviewed document GEF/C.33/8, Review of Administrative Expenses Allocated to GEF Implementing Agencies, and requested:

- (a) the Secretariat to convene an inter-agency working group to develop a glossary of terms and reporting guidelines that would enable comparability between the Agencies with respect to reporting on administrative expenses and that would allow a consistent approach to tracking actual administrative costs across Agencies;
- (b) the Secretariat to provide recommendations from the working group to Council in Spring 2009;
- (c) each GEF Agency to provide to the Secretariat on an annual basis a list of staff (in Headquarter, as well as in field offices) that work full time or part time for the GEF, or if such data is not available, to provide an estimate of the number of staff years spent on corporate activities and project cycle management for the GEF;
- (d) each GEF Agency to report annually on services provided and actual aggregated expenditures on corporate activities and project cycle management with breakdowns by the categories of staff, consultants, travel, and other expenditures (e.g. office space, IT, etc.);
- (e) the Secretariat to collect this information and include it in the business plans presented to Council.

*Decision on Agenda Item 15 (a) Work Program*

28. The Council reviewed the proposed work program submitted to Council in document GEF/C.33/9 and approved the work program<sup>1</sup> comprising of 48 project concepts<sup>2</sup> and endorsed

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<sup>1</sup> The Council Member representing the United States of America, in light of its national legislation regarding its country's voting position for development projects financed by certain development institutions, opposed the following projects: *Cuba: Application of a Regional Approach to the Management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Cuba's Southern Archipelagos (UNDP)*; *Iran: Facilitating Sustainable Mobility in Tehran (UNDP)*; *Regional (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan): The Caspian Sea: Restoring Depleted Fisheries and Consolidation of a Permanent Regional Environmental Governance Framework (UNDP)*; *Iran: MENARID Institutional Strengthening and Coherence for Integrated Natural Resources Management (UNDP)*.

<sup>2</sup> UNDP notified the Secretariat of its decision to withdraw the project, *Regional (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran) : Reducing Transboundary Degradation in the Kura-Aras Basin (UNDP)*, leaving 48 PIFs in this work program, as opposed to 49 originally submitted.

the concepts and objectives of the 10 programmatic approaches, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted to the Secretariat by May 9, 2008.

29. Total resources requested in this work program amounted to \$283.27 million which included GEF project grant and Agency fees. The approved work program is comprised of the following 48 Project Identification Forms (PIFs), 21 of which are submitted under ten programmatic approaches:

#### *Biodiversity*

- **Regional (Antigua And Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts And Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago) :** BS Regional Project for Implementing National Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Sub-region - under the GEF Biosafety Program (UNEP) (GEF Grant : \$ 3.34 m)
- **Regional (Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Islands) :** PAS The Micronesia Challenge : Sustainable Finance Systems for Island Protected Area Management - under the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (UNEP) (GEF Grant : \$ 5.45 m)
- **Cameroon :** BS Development and Implementation of a National Monitoring and Control System (Framework) for Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and Invasive Alien Species (IAS) - under the GEF Biosafety Program (UNEP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.40 m)
- **Colombia :** Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Coffee Sector in Colombia (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.00 m)
- **Colombia :** Mainstreaming Traditional Knowledge Associated with Agrobiodiversity in Colombian Agroecosystems (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.50 m)
- **Cuba :** Application of a Regional Approach to the Management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Cuba's Southern Archipelagos (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 5.71 m)
- **Ecuador :** Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Conservation (IADB) (GEF Grant : \$ 4.00 m)
- **Honduras :** Conservation of Biodiversity in the Indigenous Productive Landscapes of the Moskitia (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.02 m)
- **Mexico :** SFM Transforming Management of Biodiversity-rich Community Production Forests through Building National Capacities for Market-based Instruments - under the Sustainable Forest Management Program (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 6.90 m)
- **Venezuela :** Strengthening the Financial Sustainability and Operational Effectiveness of the Venezuelan National Parks System (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 7.18 m)

#### *Climate Change*

- **Chile :** Promoting and Strengthening an Energy Efficiency Market in the Industry Sector (IADB) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.64 m)

- **India** : IND Chiller Energy Efficiency Project - under the Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 6.30 m)
- **Iran** : Facilitating Sustainable Mobility in Tehran (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 5.33 m)
- **Malaysia** : Buildings Sector Energy Efficiency Project (BSEEP) (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 5.00 m)
- **Mexico** : Mexico Rural Development (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 10.50 m)
- **Russian Federation** : RUS Improving Efficiency in Public Buildings in the Russian Federation - under the Energy Efficiency Umbrella Program (EBRD) (GEF Grant : \$ 9.21 m)
- **Russian Federation** : RUS Improving Urban Housing Efficiency in the Russian Federation - under the Energy Efficiency Umbrella Program (EBRD) (GEF Grant : \$ 9.67 m)
- **Turkey** : Market Transformation of Energy Efficient Appliances in Turkey (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.71 m)
- **Turkey** : Promote Energy Efficiency in Buildings (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.62 m)
- **Uzbekistan** : Promoting Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 3.25 m)

#### *International Waters*

- **Global** : CTI GEF IW: LEARN: Portfolio Learning in International Waters with a Focus on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands and Regional Asia/Pacific and Coral Triangle Learning Processes - under the Coral Triangle Initiative (UNDP/ADB) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.70 m)
- **Regional (Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea)** : CTI Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Programme (ATSEA) - under the Coral Triangle Initiative (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.50 m)
- **Regional (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines)** : CTI Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management Project (SCS) - under the Coral Triangle Initiative (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.89 m)
- **Regional (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa)** : Development and Adoption of a Strategic Action Program for Balancing Water Uses and Sustainable Natural Resource Management in the Orange-Senqu River Transboundary Basin (resubmission) (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 6.30 m)
- **Regional (Belarus, Ukraine)** : Implementation of The Dnipro Basin Strategic Action Program for the Reduction of Persistent Toxics Pollution (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.04 m)

- **Regional (Russian Federation, Mongolia) :** Joint Actions to Reduce PTS and Nutrients Pollution in Lake Baikal through Integrated Basin Management (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.63 m)
- **Regional (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) :** PAS Implementing Sustainable Integrated Water Resource and Wastewater Management in the Pacific Island Countries - under the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (UNDP/UNEP) (GEF Grant : \$ 9.03 m)
- **Regional (Argentina, Uruguay) :** Reducing and Preventing Land-based Pollution in the Rio de la Plata/Maritime Front through Implementation of the FrePlata Strategic Action Programme (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.85 m)
- **Regional (Africa) :** Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund in the Large Marine Ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa (Tranche 1, Installment 2) (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 15.60 m)
- **Regional (Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana):** Sustainable Fisheries Development Projects in nine West African Countries - under Strategic Partnership for a Sustainable Fisheries Investment Fund in the Large Marine Ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank)
- **Regional (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan) :** The Caspian Sea: Restoring Depleted Fisheries and Consolidation of a Permanent Regional Environmental Governance Framework (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 4.70 m)

#### *Land Degradation*

- **Peru :** Promoting Sustainable Land Management in Las Bambas (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 4.00 m)

#### *Multi-focal Areas*

- **Regional (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Micronesia, Fiji, Timor Leste, Vanuatu) :** PAS Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific - under the Pacific Alliance for Sustainability Program (ADB) (GEF Grant : \$ 8.34 m)
- **Regional (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines) :** CTI Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle: Southeast Asia - under the GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (ADB) (GEF Grant : \$ 10.31 m)
- **Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay) :** SFM Sustainable Forest Management in the Transboundary Gran Chaco American Ecosystem - under the Sustainable Forest Management Program (UNEP/UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 6.86 m)
- **China :** PRC-GEF An IEM Approach to the Conservation of Biodiversity in Dryland Ecosystems - under the PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystem Program (IFAD) (GEF Grant : \$ 4.55 m)



- **Colombia** : Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Sustainable Cattle Ranching (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 7.00 m)
- **Iran** : MENARID Institutional Strengthening and Coherence for Integrated Natural Resources Management (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 4.32 m)
- **Jordan** : MENARID Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management Practices (IFAD) (GEF Grant : \$ 6.45 m)
- **Morocco** : MENARID Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in the Arid and Semi Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of Eastern Morocco (IFAD/UNIDO) (GEF Grant : \$ 6.00 m)
- **Philippines** : Mindanao Rural Development Program Phase II - Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Conservation Component (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 6.49 m)
- **Tunisia** : MENARID Support to Sustainable Land Management in the Siliana Governorate (IFAD) (GEF Grant : \$ 5.00 m)
- **Vietnam** : SFM Sustainable Forest Land Management - under the Country Program Framework for Sustainable Forest Land Management (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 4.20 m)

*Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)*

- **Regional (Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)** : DSSA Demonstrating and Scaling Up Sustainable Alternatives to DDT for the Control of Vector Borne Diseases in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia (UNEP) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.05 m)
- **Belarus** : Persistent Organic Pollutant Stockpile Management and Technical/Institutional Capacity Upgrading (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 5.50 m)
- **Brazil** : Establishment of PCB Waste Management and Disposal System (UNDP) (GEF Grant : \$ 4.73 m)
- **China** : Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Obsolete POPs Pesticides and other POPs Wastes (UNIDO) (GEF Grant : \$ 9.96 m)
- **Mongolia** : Capacity Building For Environmentally Sound PCBs Management and Disposal (UNIDO) (GEF Grant : \$ 2.65 m)
- **Philippines** : Integrated POPs Management Project: Dioxins and Furans, PCB and Contaminated Sites Management (World Bank) (GEF Grant : \$ 8.64 m)

30. With respect to the programmatic approaches, the Council endorsed their objectives and requested that future full-sized project PIFs to be financed under these programmatic approaches be included in work programs submitted to Council for approval:

*Biodiversity*

- Biosafety Program

### *Climate Change*

- Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency in India
- Umbrella Program for Promoting Energy Efficiency in Residential and Commercial Buildings

### *Multi-focal Areas*

- Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (PAS)
- MENARID-Integrated Nature Resources Management the Middle East and North Africa Region
- Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI)
- PRC-GEF Partnership on Land Degradation in Dryland Ecosystems
- Sustainable Forest Management - Programmatic Framework (SFM)
- Vietnam - Country Program Framework for Sustainable Forest Land Management

### *Persistent Organic Pollutants*

- Demonstrating and Scaling-up of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT in Vector Management (DSSA)

31. With respect to any PIF approved in this work program, either under one of the programmatic approaches or as a stand alone PIF, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council Members to receive a copy of the draft final project document that is submitted to the CEO for endorsement. Council Members may transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO endorsing a project document for final approval by the GEF Agency. Such projects may be reviewed at a further Council meeting at the request of at least four Council Members.

### *Decision on Agenda Item 15 (b) Status Report on the Brazil: Externally-fired Combined Cycle (EFCC) Advanced Technology Cogeneration Project*

32. Having reviewed the document GEF/C.33/10, Status Report on the Brazil: Externally-fired Combined Cycle (EFCC) Advanced Technology Cogeneration Project, the Council noted with satisfaction the achievements of the PDF phases of the Brazil EFCC project (PMIS #1039) and agreed that the project should be allowed to continue, as sufficient progress has been made by IFC towards achievement of financial closure. Therefore, the Council agreed that Tranche I (\$3m) of the project, designed to complete the process of inducting a strategic equity partner, be submitted for CEO endorsement prior to June 30, 2008. The Council also agreed that Tranche II (\$41 million) of the project, intended to implement the EFCC investment, be submitted for CEO endorsement prior to June 30, 2009. If either of these deadlines are not met, the project will be considered cancelled, and the funding will be returned to the GEF Trust Fund.

*Decision on Agenda Item 16 GEF Business Plan FY09-10 and FY09 Corporate Budget and Agenda Item 6 Four Year Work Program and FY09 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office*

33. The Council, after having reviewed the *GEF Business Plan for FY09-10 and the FY09 Corporate Budget* (GEF/C.33/11), took note of the business plan and approved a FY09 Corporate Budget of \$22.099 million comprising:

- (a) \$13.726 million for the Secretariat;
- (b) \$2.047 million for the STAP;
- (c) \$2.419 million for the Trustee; and
- (d) \$3.907 million for the Evaluation Office.

34. In approving the FY09 budget for the Trustee, the Council agreed with the proposal to resume the financing of audit costs incurred by the GEF Agencies that receive less than \$100,000 in annual fee income, in respect of audits of the financial statements on GEF resources received by Agencies for projects and project preparation activities.

35. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.33.1 "*Four-Year Work Program and FY09 Budget of the GEF Evaluation Office*" approved a budget of \$3,907,167 for FY09 to cover the cost of operating the GEF Evaluation Office and implementing its work program, including work for OPS4 to be included in the TOR for OPS4.

36. Regarding FY10 through FY12, Council took note of the proposed work program and activities and requested the Office to prepare annual budgets for Council consideration and approval in each of its June meetings.

37. The Office will prepare Terms of Reference for OPS4 for Council consideration, review and approval by mail before July 2008.

*Decision on Agenda Item 17 Operational Policies and Guidelines for the Use of Non-grant Instruments*

38. The Council reviewed GEF/C.33/12, *Operational Policies and Guidance for the Use of Non-grant Instruments*, and endorsed the approach outlined in the document as regards the use of non-grant instruments in GEF-financed projects.

*Decision on Agenda Item 21 Proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Reconstitution of STAP*

39. The Council, having reviewed the *Proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Reconstitution of STAP* (document GEF/C.33/13/Rev.1), approved the composition of STAP proposed by the Executive Director of UNEP on the basis of the recommendations put forward by the Search Committee for the Reconstitution of STAP.

40. The Council supported the recommendation that Thomas Lovejoy be appointed as the Chair of STAP for a term of two years with the possibility of renewal for a further two years.

41. The Council welcomed the new members of STAP and expressed its sincere appreciation to the outgoing members, especially the Chairperson of STAP, Yolanda Kakabadse, for her outstanding contribution to the work of the GEF.

**REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF STAP**

42. Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse, Chair of STAP, reported on activities of the STAP since November 2007, and she included an early outlook on the science for GEF-5. She thanked the Council for its support to the reform of the Panel and its improved operation.

**CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

43. The meeting closed on April 24, 2008.