



Global Environment Facility

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**Statement to the
Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

by

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At the other extreme, drought-driven famine looms in many parts of Africa where the health and well-being of millions are at risk. As complicated formulas on emissions trading and offsets are tabled and debated, we should not ignore what is at stake for the most vulnerable people.

People the world over look to this meeting for new directions, a turning point. Now is our chance to move forward. The Global Environment Facility stands ready to help make that happen. Through June of this year, GEF approved grants of more than \$1 billion and mobilized \$5.8 billion more for 133 projects and 139 enabling activities addressing climate change in more than 130 countries. GEF's experience as the financial mechanism of the Convention, together with the broader experience of its Implementing and Executing Agencies, positions it to assist developing countries as no other entity can.

It is popular to talk of the "digital divide," but we must also bridge the "electricity divide" that separates two billion people from modern energy services. GEF is a major leader in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy for developing countries. Our \$2.5 billion portfolio of clean energy projects responds to COP guidance that GEF resources help provide the know-how, institution building, and financial support needed by developing countries to identify and obtain environmentally sound technologies responsive to national and local priorities.

GEF has supported the submission of initial national communications by 42 Non-Annex I Parties, 10 of which are from least developed countries. At least ten more are expected shortly. GEF's Capacity Development Initiative, launched last year, is expected

The Council also recognized GEF's potential for doing more with regard to capacity building, adaptation, and technology transfer -- three key items on your meeting's agenda. As many of you correctly argue, continued progress depends on additional resources. We have begun a new round of replenishment discussions to galvanize new resources, and the Participants recognized that convention guidance emerging from this COP will influence replenishment decisions.

So, much is at stake here. Let's be candid. Proposals to fragment and dilute the focus and funding capacity for the global environment threaten much more than a single institution. They may even undermine sorely needed strides toward sustainable development that are getting off the ground in more than 150 nations. Narrowly focused funding channels will not result in an increase in total funds, but will add to the costs and complexity of doing business. One thing is certain: the GEF will continue to do its best to assist the international community in the fight against climate change on behalf of current and future generations.

Thank you.