



# Global Environment Facility

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

**by**

**Leonard Good  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairman  
Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

**Milan, Italy  
December 10, 2003**

- Mister President, Excellencies, Madame Executive Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Non-Governmental Organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- I am pleased to address for the first time the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC as the CEO of the Global Environment Facility.
- As this is my first opportunity to meet many of you, I would note by way of introduction that I have followed the climate change negotiations since their inception, initially as Canada's Deputy Environment Minister and subsequently as head of the Canadian International Development Agency.
- Since becoming GEF CEO in July, I have gained appreciation for the role the GEF serves as the financial mechanism for the Climate Change Convention in assisting developing countries to achieve the objectives of the Convention.
- I am pleased to be able to report to you a number of decisions taken since the last COP to advance these objectives in very operational terms.
- Before doing so, I want to acknowledge that our progress owes a great deal to the close working relationship between the secretariats of the Climate Convention and the GEF.

- ❖ The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Mrs. Joke Waller Hunter, was among the first officials to meet with me in my new capacity.
- ❖ I know she and her staff have worked hard to support this relationship.
- As the GEF reports to each COP on the status of its activities in support of the UNFCCC, I will only summarize a few key facts before describing some important recent developments.
- ❖ Since its establishment in 1991, the GEF has become a significant source of financial support to developing countries and economies in transition for clean energy projects in three basic areas: renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable transportation.
- ❖ As of June 2003, the GEF has committed approximately \$1.6 billion to 214 projects and Enabling Activities in the climate change focal area, which leveraged more than \$9 billion in co-financing.
- ❖ In its most recent *Business Plan*, presented to the Council two weeks ago, the GEF targeted \$764 million for climate change projects for the four fiscal years 2003 – 2006.

- Since the last COP in Delhi, several steps have been taken to significantly advance the objectives of the Climate Convention, in the areas of Second National Communications, Capacity Building, Adaptation and the LDC Trust Fund.

1. Support for Second National Communications is available.

- Support for national communications for non-Annex 1 Parties is one of the most important mandates assigned to the GEF as financial mechanism.
  - ❖ To date, GEF support for this purpose has exceeded \$67 million.
- The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties in November 2002 adopted revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications
  - ❖ and in November of this year the GEF Council authorized the expedited financing of projects for the preparation of subsequent national communications at the level of \$58.5 million.
  - ❖ This is to provide resources and more streamlined procedures for the support of national requests up to \$405,000.
  - ❖ The simplified review process should reduce processing time by several months.

- ❖ It also contains funding for a Technical Support Programme to assist all non-Annex-I countries in the preparation of their subsequent national communications.

2. *A new Strategic Approach to Capacity Building*

- Recent decisions of the Convention have steadily added to the emphasis on capacity building as a critical factor in meeting the needs of developing country parties and advancing convention goals.
- The GEF has always provided support for capacity building through its funding of enabling activities, national communications and as components of GEF projects.
- We will continue to provide this support.
- However, this approach has not always been sufficient to meet all capacity building needs, particularly for countries where the pipeline of regular projects is weak.
- At its last meeting two weeks ago, the Council agreed to an expanded role in support of free-standing capacity building projects, both within and across focal areas.

- The intent is to provide support for nationally determined and prioritized capacity building needs, consistent with Convention guidance and the Marrakech capacity building framework.
- We will pay special attention to LDC's and SIDS through the development of country programs.
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3. *Support for pilot adaptation measures*

- At COP7, the GEF was requested to provide support for establishing pilot or demonstration projects to show how adaptation planning and assessment can be translated into projects, and integrated into national policies and sustainable development planning.
- The Delhi Declaration adopted at COP 8 reflected growing Convention support for developing country efforts to identify and avoid the adverse impacts of climate change.
- In response, the GEF has included a new strategic priority "Piloting an Operational Approach to Adaptation" in its Business Plan for the next three fiscal years and allocated \$50 million for it.

- By piloting approaches to adaptation, it is expected that the GEF will be well placed to operationalize future guidance from the Convention on adaptation.
- The nature of the problem of adaptation leads us in the direction of cross-linkages to other conventions and focal areas, especially Biodiversity, Land Degradation and International Waters.
- The Secretariats of some of the major global environmental conventions have established a working group to look at synergies across the Conventions
- I think this is absolutely the right direction in which to be moving
- We will of course continue to strongly support the individual conventions, but the more commonalities, cross linkages, synergies we can build on, the more efficient we will be in achieving our objectives

#### 4. *Implementing the LDC Fund and the NAPAs*

I am also pleased to report on the Least Developing Country Fund which is presently funding the preparation of the National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs).

- The GEF Trustee has consolidated the legal and administrative arrangements necessary for the operation of the LDC fund.
- To date, contributors to the LDC fund are Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
- The total paid contributions amount to over \$11 million, with additional pledges exceeding \$22 million.
- As of early November, NAPAs have been approved for 28 countries.  

This week, I know you are looking at guidance with respect to implementation of these NAPAs. We are looking forward to receiving it.
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- You are also having discussions this week about another fund the GEF has been asked to administer, the Special Climate Change Fund  

We know the discussions have been difficult.

And that political differences are sometimes addressed through carefully chosen wording.
- Nevertheless, from the GEF's point of view, the clarity and rationale underlying your guidance are fundamental to successful implementation
  - -and as well, as the basis for mobilizing resources



- Let me conclude by saying that in my experience to date the GEF and the Climate Convention Secretariat have worked extremely well together, and more broadly, the GEF, in support of the convention and its objectives is making a significant contribution.
  - Best wishes for a good outcome at this COP and thanks for the invitation to address you in our ongoing dialogue.
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