



GEF COUNCIL DECISIONS 2020

GEF Council Decisions 2020

Decisions by Mail – January 2020	1
Decision 1/2020 Climate Change Adaptation STAP Panel Member	1
Decision 2/2020 Revised GEF CEO Terms of Reference	1
Decision by Mail – April 2020	1
Decision 3/2020 58 th GEF Council: Consultations with Civil Society	1
58th Council Meeting – June 2020	1
Decision 4/2020 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund.....	1
Decision 5/2020 GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY21	8
Decision 6/2020 Work Program and Budget for the GEF Independent Evaluation Office.....	9
Decision 7/2020 Report of the Selection and Review Committee (on Selection of the new CEO)	9
Decision 8/2020 Private Sector Engagement Strategy	10
Decision 9/2020 Approach Paper of the 7th Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF.....	10
Decision by Mail – July 2020	10
Decision 10/2020 Appointment of Interim GEF CEO/Chairperson, August 1-31, 2020	10
Decisions by Mail – September 2020	11
Decision 11/2020 Mandate and Membership of the Working Group on Governance	11
Decision 12/2020 GEF Report to UNFCCC COP26.....	11
Decisions by Mail – November 2020	11
Decision 13/2020 Strategic Country Cluster Evaluations	11
Decision 14/2020 Membership of the GEF Council Ethics Committee.....	12
Decision 15/2020 New Member of the Selection and Review Committee	12
Decision 16/2020 New Member of the Selection and Review Committee	12
Decision 17/2020 GEF Submission on the Status of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports to the UNFCCC.....	12
59th Council Meeting – December 2020	13
Decision 18/2020 The GEF Monitoring report 2020.....	13
Decision 19/2020 Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.....	13
Decision 20/2020 GEF’s Private Sector Engagement Strategy	13
Decision 21/2020 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund.....	13
Decision 22/2020 Report of the Working Group on Governance	20
Decision 23/2020 Mandate of the Working Group on Governance.....	21
Decision 24/2020 Evaluation of GEF Engagement in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations.....	21

Decision 25/2020	Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector	22
Decision 26/2020	Evaluation of the Role of Medium Size Projects (MSP) in the GEF Partnership Knowledge Management.....	22
Decision 27/2020	Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF (2020).....	22
Decision 28/2020	Proposal for Responsible Investment Options for the GEF Trust Fund	23
Decision 29/2020	The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from across the GEF Partnership.....	23
Decision 30/2020	Report on the Assessment of GEF Agencies' Compliance with the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards.....	23
Decision 31/2020	Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions	25
Decision 32/2020	Update on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund	25
Decision 33/2020	Report of the Selection and Review Committee	25
Decision 34/2020	Dates for the 62 nd and 63 rd Council Meetings	25
Decision 35/2020	Matters Related to UNDP	25

Decisions by Mail – January 2020

Decision 1/2020 Climate Change Adaptation STAP Panel Member

1. The Council, having considered the proposal by the Executive Director of UNEP, approves the appointment of Dr. Edward Carr as a Member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel.

Decision 2/2020 Revised GEF CEO Terms of Reference

1. The Council approves the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for the GEF CEO position.

Decision by Mail – April 2020

Decision 3/2020 58th GEF Council: Consultations with Civil Society

1. The Council, noting that the Consultations with Civil Society that are held prior to each Council Meeting cannot be held at the 58th Council Meeting, decides to modify its decision on dates to discuss the selected topics as follows:
 - a) The Application of Traditional Knowledge by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Stewards of the Global Environment to be discussed at the 59th Council meeting in December 2020; and
 - b) Enhancing Climate Resilience and the Role of Civil Society, Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples to be discussed at the 60th Council meeting in June 2021.

58th Council Meeting – June 2020

Decision 4/2020 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.58/04/Rev.01, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 63 projects and 5 programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 3, 2020¹.

¹ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that are state sponsors of terrorism; and in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, opposes the following projects and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: GEF project 10388 in Burundi; 10414 in Sudan; 10500 in China, Sudan, and Equatorial Guinea; 10566 in Burundi; 10533 in China; 10564 in China; 10444 in Mauritania; and 10572 in the Gambia. Further, the United States, in light of its policies related to development projects in Belarus, and in lights of its policies for certain development projects in countries

2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$ 645.4 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), Program Framework Documents (PFDs), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity:
 - 1) **Global, Guinea, Nicaragua, Uzbekistan, Kenya:** Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program- Addendum II, World Bank/ FAO (GEF Program Financing: \$26,200,000) (GEF ID: 10576²)
 - 2) **Global, Bhutan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa:** GEF -7 Global Wildlife Program -Addendum, World Bank, UNDP/ IUCN/ UNEP (GEF Program Financing: \$16,922,937) (GEF ID: 10561³⁴)
 - 3) **Global, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Albania, Grenada, Indonesia, Jordan, Philippines, South Africa, Tunisia:** Global Programme to Support Countries with the Shift to Electric Mobility – Addendum, UNEP/ ADB/ EBRD/ UNDP/ UNIDO/ DBSA (GEF Program Financing: \$20,118,605) (GEF ID: 10544⁵)
 - 4) **Global:** Common Oceans - Sustainable utilization and conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, FAO/ UNEP/ UNDP (GEF Program Financing: \$26,719,744) (GEF ID: 10548)
 - 5) **Global, Bolivia, Congo, Ghana, Honduras, Madagascar, Nigeria, Suriname, Uganda:** Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) Sector Plus - GEF GOLD +, CI/ UNIDO/ UNEP/ UNDP (GEF Program Financing: \$43,832,830) (GEF ID: 10569)
 - 6) **Global:** AGR13 A Forest Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture Fund for Developing Countries (NGI*), CI (GEF Project Financing: \$13,461,468) (GEF ID: 10497)
 - 7) **Global:** Livelihoods Carbon Fund 3 (LCF3) (NGI*), CI (GEF Project Financing: \$13,461,468) (GEF ID: 10500)

that do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, abstains from participating in the decision on GEF project 10462 in Belarus. Finally, the United States, in light of its policies related to development projects in Nicaragua, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 10576 in Nicaragua.

² Program 10576 is an addendum to program 10201 which was approved by Council in its June 2019 meeting. Therefore, program addendum 10576 in its entirety will be merged into program 10201 upon Council approval of the June 2020 Work Program

³ China opposes and does not join the Council decision on this project.

⁴ Program 10561 is an addendum to program 10200 which was approved by Council in its June 2019 meeting. Therefore, program addendum 10561 in its entirety will be merged into program 10200 upon Council approval of the June 2020 Work Program

⁵ Program 10544 is an addendum to program 10114 which was approved by Council in its June 2019 meeting. Therefore, program addendum 10544 in its entirety will be merged into program 10114 upon Council approval of the June 2020 Work Program

- 8) **Thailand:** Integrated Forest Landscape Management for Strengthening the Northeastern and Eastern Forest Corridors, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$3,137,671) (GEF ID: 10390)
- 9) **Indonesia:** Crop Diversity Conservation for Sustainable Use in Indonesia, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$6,192,694) (GEF ID: 10511)
- 10) **Papua New Guinea:** Enabling Sustainable Production Landscapes in Eastern Highlands and Western Highlands Provinces for Biodiversity, Human Livelihoods and Well-being, FAO/ UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$6,463,097) (GEF ID: 10515)
- 11) **South Africa:** Capacity Strengthening for Management of Invasive Alien Species in South Africa to Enhance Sustainable Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihoods Improvement, UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$3,411,644) (GEF ID: 10524)
- 12) **Regional, Botswana, Congo, Mozambique:** The Deployment of EarthRanger, a Data Visualization and Analysis Software to Strengthen Protected Area Management Effectiveness in Africa's National Parks, CI (GEF Project Financing: \$2,407,360) (GEF ID: 10551)
- 13) **St. Vincent and Grenadines:** SVG: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening Project, World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$3,652,968) (GEF ID: 10549)
- 14) **Seychelles:** Prioritizing Biodiversity Conservation and Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of Seychelles' Blue Economy, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$4,955,023) (GEF ID: 10535)
- 15) **Tuvalu:** Integrated Agro-ecosystem Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Climate Resilience in Tuvalu, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$2,365,753) (GEF ID: 10517)
- 16) **Jordan:** Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets Through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Land in Northern Jordan, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$4,000,000) (GEF ID: 10528)
- 17) **China:** Degraded Natural Forest Use Land Restoration and Management in Typical Water and Solid Erosion of China, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$2,986,758) (GEF ID: 10533)
- 18) **Global, Mongolia:** Managing Peatlands in Mongolia and Enhancing the Resilience of Pastoral Ecosystems and Livelihoods of Nomadic Herders, UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$3,757,991) (GEF ID: 10545)

- 19) **Global, Indonesia, Jordan, Peru, Serbia, Uganda, Ukraine:** The Global Greenchem Innovation and Network Programme, UNIDO (GEF Project Financing: \$12,600,000) (GEF ID: 10353)
- 20) **Viet Nam:** Reduce the Impact and Release of Mercury and POPs in Vietnam through Lifecycle Approach and Ecolabel, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$4,600,050) (GEF ID: 10519)
- 21) **Mexico:** Eliminate Mercury Use and Adequately Manage Mercury and mercury wastes in the chlor alkali sector in Mexico, UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$12,000,000) (GEF ID: 10526)
- 22) **China:** Environmentally Sustainable Development of the Iron and Steel Industry, World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$25,000,000) (GEF ID: 10564)
- 23) **Regional, Brazil, Uruguay:** Binational and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Merín Lagoon Basin and Coastal Lagoons, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$4,850,000) (GEF ID: 10550)
- 24) **Regional, Cambodia, Viet Nam:** Enhancing Sustainability of the Transboundary Cambodia - Mekong River Delta Aquifer, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$15,000,000) (GEF ID: 10520)
- 25) **Regional, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay:** Transboundary Cooperation for the Conservation, Sustainable Development and Integrated Management of the Pantanal - Upper Paraguay River Basin, IADB/ UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$8,190,000) (GEF ID: 10554)
- 26) **Kenya:** Eldoret-Iten Water Fund for Tropical Water Tower Conservation, IFAD (GEF Project Financing: \$2,630,139) (GEF ID: 10209)
- 27) **Madagascar:** Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Integrated Sustainable Development of Lower Mangoky and South-Mananara watersheds, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$7,334,246) (GEF ID: 10371)
- 28) **Turkey:** Strengthening the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Forest Landscapes in Turkey's Kazdağlari Region, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$4,657,534) (GEF ID: 10369)
- 29) **Peru:** Sustainable Management and Restoration of the Dry Forest of the Northern Coast of Peru, FAO/ IUCN (GEF Project Financing: \$ 7,666,491) (GEF ID: 10541)
- 30) **Papua New Guinea:** Integrated Land Management, Restoration of Degraded Landscapes and Natural Capital Assessment in the Mountains of Papua New Guinea, UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$3,512,100) (GEF ID: 10580)

- 31) **Guinea-Bissau:** Strengthening Ecological Connectivity in the Dulombi-Boé Tchetché complex (DTB), IUCN (GEF Project Financing: \$4,773,101) (GEF ID: 10556)
 - 32) **Mexico:** Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Rural Landscapes of Mexico, CI (GEF Project Financing: \$8,974,312) (GEF ID: 10574)
 - 33) **Yemen:** Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods for Rural Yemen^{**}, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$7,051,742) (GEF ID: 10562)
 - 34) **Mexico:** Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$4,481,210) (GEF ID: 10504)
 - 35) **Indonesia:** Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Indonesia, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$3,561,644) (GEF ID: 10510)
 - 36) **Global:** GEF SGP 7th Operational Phase – Core (Part 2), UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$61,538,462) (GEF ID: 10414)
 - 37) **India:** Preparation of India's Fourth National Communication (4NC) and Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR4) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$4,566,000) (GEF ID: 10493)
3. With respect to the following 31 projects, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council member to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency:
- 38) **South Africa:** Wildlife Conservation Bond (NGI^{*}), World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$13,761,468) (GEF ID: 10330)
 - 39) **Regional, Africa, Burundi, Congo DR, Tanzania, Zambia:** Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land Management and Enhanced Water Security in Lake Tanganyika basin, UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$14,599,083) (GEF ID: 10388)
 - 40) **Regional, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Asia/Pacific:** Reducing Uses and Releases of Chemicals of Concern, Including POPs, in the Textiles Sector, UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$8,850,000) (GEF ID: 10523)
 - 41) **Regional, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru:** Integrated Watershed Management of the Putumayo-Içá river basin, World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$12,844,037) (GEF ID: 10531)

^{**} These are multi-trust fund projects. Only the GEF Trust Fund component is presented in this Work Program. The LDCF or SCCF components are presented separately in the LDCF/SCCF Work Program

^{*} Projects with Non-Grant Instrument

- 42) **Mexico:** From Bait to Plate: Strengthening Sustainable Fisheries to Safeguard Marine Biodiversity and Food Security, FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$9,005,609) (GEF ID: 10540)
- 43) **Maldives:** Conservation of Atoll Ecosystems Through an Effectively Managed National Protected Area Estate (CATENATE), IUCN (GEF Project Financing: \$2,110,358) (GEF ID: 10542)
- 44) **Regional, Lesotho, Madagascar, South Africa:** Promotion of Circular Economy in the Textile and Garment Sector Through the Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste in Lesotho, Madagascar and South Africa, UNIDO (GEF Project Financing: \$7,400,000) (GEF ID: 10543)
- 45) **Indonesia:** "Plastik Sulit": Accelerating Circular Economy for Difficult Plastics in Indonesia, ADB (GEF Project Financing: \$7,123,288) (GEF ID: 10546)
- 46) **Regional, Colombia, Jamaica, Panama:** Reduce Marine Plastics and Plastic Pollution in Latin American and Caribbean Cities Through a Circular Economy Approach, UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$7,000,000) (GEF ID: 10547)
- 47) **Regional, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro:** Sava and Drina Rivers Corridors Integrated Development Program, World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$8,000,000) (GEF ID: 10553)
- 48) **Regional, Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine:** Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea - (FishEBM BS), FAO (GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000) (GEF ID: 10558)
- 49) **Regional, Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey:** Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM MED), FAO/ UNEP (GEF Project Financing: \$7,273,973) (GEF ID: 10560)
- 50) **Regional, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine:** Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA), World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$6,392,694) (GEF ID: 10563)
- 51) **Regional, Burundi, Congo DR, Rwanda:** Lake Kivu and Rusizi River Basin Water Quality Management Project, AfDB (GEF Project Financing: \$5,736,073) (GEF ID: 10566)
- 52) **Colombia:** Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in the Tourism Sector of the Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina islands, WWF-US (GEF Project Financing: \$2,652,294) (GEF ID: 10578)
- 53) **Bosnia-Herzegovina:** Improved Financial Sustainability and Strengthened Resilience of Protected Areas Through Development of Sustainable Recreation and

- Partnership with Private Sector, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$2,640,000) (GEF ID: 10344)
- 54) **India:** Accelerating Adoption of Super-Efficient Technologies for Sustainable Thermal Comfort in Buildings in India, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$4,416,210) (GEF ID: 10370)
 - 55) **Samoa:** Enhancing Integrated Sustainable Management to Safeguard Samoa's Natural Resources, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$3,502,968) (GEF ID: 10410)
 - 56) **Togo:** Sustainable Management of Drylands in Northern Togo, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$5,448,173) (GEF ID: 10416)
 - 57) **Tajikistan:** Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Arid Ecosystems in the Lower Amu Darya Basin, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726) (GEF ID: 10439)
 - 58) **Belarus:** Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Freshwater Ecosystems in the Western Dvina/Daugava Transboundary River Basin, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$3,826,941) (GEF ID: 10462)
 - 59) **Pakistan:** Strengthening Community-managed Protected Areas for Conserving Biodiversity and Improving Local Livelihoods in Pakistan, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$2,338,356) (GEF ID: 10529)
 - 60) **Philippines:** Securing Long-Term Sustainability of Multi-functional Landscapes in Critical River Basins of the Philippines, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$3,273,990) (GEF ID: 10532)
 - 61) **Philippines:** Protecting Priority Coastal and Marine Ecosystems to Conserve Globally Significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Marine Wildlife in Southern Mindanao, Philippines, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726) (GEF ID: 10536)
 - 62) **Sri Lanka:** Partnerships and Innovative Financing to Mainstream Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management in the Wet and Intermediate Climatic Zones, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$4,005,251) (GEF ID: 10537)
 - 63) **Viet Nam:** Sustainable Forest and Forest Land Management in Viet Nam's Ba River Basin Landscape, UNDP (GEF Project Financing: \$2,183,105) (GEF ID: 10539)
 - 64) **Mauritania:** Development of an Integrated System to Promote the Natural Capital in the Drylands of Mauritania, IUCN (GEF Project Financing: \$3,913,626) (GEF ID: 10444)
 - 65) **Lao PDR:** Lao PDR Landscapes and Livelihoods Project, World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$7,366,976) (GEF ID: 10499)

- 66) **Global:** IFC-GEF Greener Shipping Investment Platform (NGI*), World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$13,500,000) (GEF ID: 10501)
- 67) **Tunisia:** Oasis Landscape Sustainable Management project, World Bank (GEF Project Financing: \$2,739,726) (GEF ID: 10538)
- 68) **Gambia:** Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project, IFAD (GEF Project Financing: \$4,708,582) (GEF ID: 10572)
4. With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP review comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
5. With respect to any PIF and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.
6. With respect to the PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the final child project documents fully incorporating and addressing the Council's and STAP reviews shall be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.
7. The detailed funding decisions taken by the Council during this 58th session of the work program is part of the associated [Annex 1](#) appended to this Summary of the Chair.

Decision 5/2020 GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY21

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.58/03, [GEF Business Plan and Corporate Budget for FY21](#), takes note of the business plan, and approves an FY21 corporate budget from the GEF Trust Fund of US\$29.257 million, comprised of:
- (a) US\$23.478 million for the GEF Secretariat;
 - (b) US\$2.725 million for STAP; and
 - (c) US\$3.054 million for the Trustee

2. The Council also approves a total FY21 administrative budget for the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) of US\$18,800, comprised of the following allocations from the NPIF to cover the Secretariat's and Trustee's expenses for NPIF administration and implementation:
 - (a) US\$13,500 for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$5,300 for the Trustee
3. The Council also approves a total FY21 administrative budget for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) from the CBIT Trust Fund of US\$435,500, comprised of:
 - (a) US\$400,000 for the GEF Secretariat; and
 - (b) US\$35,500 for the Trustee
4. The Council requests the Secretariat, in consultation with STAP and the Trustee, to present a combined FY22 corporate budget and business plan for discussion at its June 2021 meeting.

Decision 6/2020 Work Program and Budget for the GEF Independent Evaluation Office

1. The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/E/C.58/01, the [Work Program and Budget Report of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office: May 2020](#), acknowledges the progress made by the Independent Evaluation Office in the reporting period, and approves the IEO budget for FY21.

Decision 7/2020 Report of the Selection and Review Committee (on Selection of the new CEO)

1. The Council, having followed the procedures adopted in document GEF/C.56/11/Rev.01 ([Report of the Selection and Review Committee: Preparing to Launch an Executive Search for the GEF CEO/Chairperson](#)), decides to appoint Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez as CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility for a four-year term beginning August 1, 2020 ([Report of the Selection and Review Committee on the Appointment of the GEF CEO and Chairperson](#)).
2. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.58/07, *Report of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC)*:
 - (a) Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF CEO's FY20 performance and its recommended performance rating. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resources Department.

- (b) Agrees with the SRC's assessment of the GEF IEO Director's FY20 performance and its recommended performance rating. The Council requests the SRC to communicate this decision to the World Bank Human Resources Department.

Decision 8/2020 Private Sector Engagement Strategy

1. The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.58/05, [GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy](#), takes note of the significant progress made in the formulation of the Private Sector Engagement Strategy. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to prepare an Implementation Plan to be presented for consideration and approval by the Council at the 59th Council Meeting alongside a revised Private Sector Engagement Strategy. To support this work, the Council further requests that a Working Group of interested Council Members and the GEF Secretariat be created to support the development of both elements of the Strategy.

Decision 9/2020 Approach Paper of the 7th Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF

1. The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/E/C.58/02, [Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF \(OPS7\): Approach Paper](#), approves this approach paper. The Council requests the Independent Evaluation Office to conduct the Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation (OPS7) and to provide the evaluation reports to the replenishment process and to the Council according to the schedule presented.

Decision by Mail – July 2020

Decision 10/2020 Appointment of Interim GEF CEO/Chairperson, August 1-31, 2020

1. The Council, having been informed that the incoming duly appointed CEO, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, has requested a one-month delay to his start date, thus necessitating the appointment of an interim GEF CEO/Chairperson for the month of August, decides to appoint Gustavo Alberto Fonseca, GEF Director of Programs, to serve as interim GEF CEO/Chairperson during August 1-23, 2020; and Françoise Clottes, GEF Director of Strategy and Operations, to serve as interim GEF CEO/Chairperson during August 24-31, 2020. Therefore, the Council decision adopted on June 3, 2020, concerning the Report of the Selection and Review Committee on the Appointment of the GEF CEO and Chairperson (document GEF/C.58/06: ([Report of the Selection and Review Committee on the Appointment of the GEF CEO and Chairperson](#))), is hereby amended to appoint Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez as CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility for a four-year term beginning September 1, 2020.

Decisions by Mail – September 2020

Decision 11/2020 Mandate and Membership of the Working Group on Governance

1. Following its decision adopted at the 54th meeting, the Council extends the mandate of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Governance till the end of December 2020. The Council further approves the Membership of the Working Group as follows:
 - a) Stefan Schwager, Switzerland -Council Member of the Constituency of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
 - b) Mathew Haarsager, United States –Council Member
 - c) Brenda Ciuk Cano, Mexico –Council Member of the Constituency of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela.
 - d) Kordula Mehlhart, Germany –Council Member
 - e) Yoshitomo Kondo, Japan –Council Member
 - f) Aparna Subramani, India –Council Member of the Constituency of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
 - g) Gillian Guthrie, Jamaica –Council Member for the Constituency of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, and Trinidad and Tobago
 - h) Julio Inglês Ferreira, Angola –Council Member of the Constituency of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Decision 12/2020 GEF Report to UNFCCC COP26

1. The Council, having reviewed [the Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#), approves the Report.

Decisions by Mail – November 2020

Decision 13/2020 Strategic Country Cluster Evaluations

1. The Council, having reviewed documents GEF/E/C.58/Inf.02/Rev.1 [Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation: Sahel and Sudan-Guinea Savanna Biomes](#), and GEF/E/C.58/Inf.03/Rev.1 [Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation of the Least Developed](#)

[Countries](#), takes note of the conclusions of the evaluations and endorses the recommendations.

Decision 14/2020 Membership of the GEF Council Ethics Committee

1. The Council, as prescribed in the [GEF Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest](#), approves the updated Membership of the Ethics Committee as follows:
 - a) Ms. Jeanne Josette Acacha Akoha, Alternate Council Member for Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo, as member of the Committee; replacing Ms. Adriana Leticia Flachier Troya, Council Member of Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador for a term of two years [until December of 2022] or until the expiration of her term as Council Member, whichever comes first.
 - b) Mr. Joe Gallagher, Alternate Council Member for Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain as member of the Committee; replacing Mrs. Marita Olson Council Member for Sweden, for a term of two years [until December of 2022] or until the expiration of his term as Council Member, whichever comes first.
 - c) Ms. Yoshiko Motoyama, Alternate Council Member of Japan, as Chair of the Ethics Committee.

Decision 15/2020 New Member of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council, as prescribed in the relevant Council decisions, endorses Ms. Hoda Elshawafdy, representing Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, as member of the SRC until December of 2022.

Decision 16/2020 New Member of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council, as prescribed in the relevant Council decisions, endorses Mr. Rajesh Khullar, representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka as member of the SRC until December of 2021.

Decision 17/2020 GEF Submission on the Status of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports to the UNFCCC

1. The Council, having considered the GEF submission on the Status of [National Communications](#) and [Biennial Update Reports](#) to the 53rd session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, approves the submission and requests the GEF Secretariat to transmit it to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

59th Council Meeting – December 2020

Decision 18/2020 The GEF Monitoring report 2020

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/03/Rev.01, [The GEF Monitoring Report 2020](#), welcomes the report, its framework tracking effectiveness and efficiency, as well as progress in reporting on results. The Council requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with Agencies, to continue to assess implementation progress made by projects and programs to ensure the timely delivery of expected global environmental benefits and to engage with Agencies on ways to improve and adapt to the current operating context affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision 19/2020 Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/04, [Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), requests the Trustee, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to initiate the discussions on the eighth replenishment of resources of the GEF Trust Fund.

Decision 20/2020 GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy

1. The Council, having reviewed Document GEF/C.59/07/Rev.01, [GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy](#), endorses the Private Sector Engagement Strategy and notes the Implementation Plan contained in the Information Document GEF/C.59/Inf.18. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat to report annually on its implementation. Recognizing that international conditions will evolve over time, the Council agrees to review the GEF Private Sector Engagement Strategy as appropriate and needed.

Decision 21/2020 Work Program for GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/06/Rev.02, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), approves the Work Program comprising 60 projects and 2 programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 11, 2021⁶.

⁶ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that are state sponsors of terrorism; and in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments (i) are not addressing trafficking in persons; (ii) have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; or (iii) do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, opposes the following projects and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support: GEF project 10655 in Belarus, China, Cuba, Eritrea, and Zimbabwe; projects 10673, 10701, 10707, 10710, 10711, and 10722 in China; and project 10670 in Cuba. Further, the United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, and policies related to development projects in Nicaragua, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 10674 in Nicaragua.

2. Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$409.2 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), Program Framework Documents (PFDs), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity:
 - 1) **Global (Madagascar):** Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program- Addendum III⁷, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$ 9,874,117] [GEF ID: 10726]
 - 2) **China:** Yangtze River Basin Biodiversity Conservation Programme, IUCN, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,422,018] [GEF ID: 10710]
 - 3) **Regional (Africa):** COVID-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform, AfDB, [GEF Project Financing: \$13,000,000][GEF ID: 10667]
 - 4) **Regional (Congo DR, Madagascar, Namibia):** Strengthening the Implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Southern Africa (SINBF), UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$2,858,390] [GEF ID: 10584]
 - 5) **Colombia:** Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, IADB, [GEF Project Financing: \$8,219,178][GEF ID: 10567]
 - 6) **Fiji:** Safeguarding Marine & Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji (SAMBIO), CI, [GEF Project Financing: \$7,255,491][GEF ID: 10675]
 - 7) **Gambia:** Effective Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing of the Nagoya Protocol and Integration into Planned Co-management Arrangements in the Nyambai Forest Park of The Gambia, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,074,886][GEF ID: 10677]
 - 8) **India:** Mainstreaming Natural Capital Values into Planning and Implementation for Sustainable Blue Economic Growth in Indian Coastal Districts, UNEP, [GEP Project Financing: \$3,046,347][GEF ID: 10385]
 - 9) **Mexico:** Green and Inclusive Recovery in Mexico (GreenMex): Making High-value Ecosystems and Rural Livelihoods More Resilient and Sustainable in a Post COVID-19 Scenario, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$10,103,670][GEF ID: 10717]
 - 10) **Philippines:** Philippine Rise Integrated Conservation for Enduring Legacies through Ecosystem Support Services (PRICELESS), CI, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,662,844][GEF ID: 10568]

⁷ Program 10726 is an Addendum to Program 10201 which was approved by Council in its June 2019 meeting. Therefore, Program Addendum 10726 in its entirety will be merged into program 10201 upon Council approval of the December 2020 Work Program

- 11) **Sao Tome and Principe:** Improving Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the Agro-forestry and Fishery Sectors in São Tomé and Príncipe, IFAD, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,543,379][GEF ID: 10570]
- 12) **Senegal:** Promoting cleantech innovation for climate action in Senegal, UNIDO, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 2,342,018][GEF ID: 10715]
- 13) **Azerbaijan:** Towards a Land Degradation-Neutral Azerbaijan, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 2,091,781][GEFID: 10708]
- 14) **Bahamas:** Integrated Landscape Management for Addressing Land Degradation, Food Security and Climate Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452][GEF ID: 10694]
- 15) **Lesotho:** Regeneration of Livelihoods and Landscapes (ROLL) Project, IFAD, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 3,502,968][GEF ID: 10723]
- 16) **Pakistan:** Combating Land Degradation through Integrated and Sustainable Range and Livestock Management to Promote Resilient Livelihoods in Northern Punjab, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$2,183,105][GEF ID: 10693]
- 17) **Global (Albania, Burkina Faso, India, Montenegro, Uganda):** Phasing Out Mercury Measuring Devices in Healthcare, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$7,980,000][GEF ID 10716]
- 18) **Ethiopia:** Promotion of Circular Economy in the Textile and Garment Sector through the Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste in Ethiopia, UNIDO, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,000,000][GEF ID: 10683]
- 19) **Paraguay:** POPs and Mercury-free Solutions for Environmentally Sound Waste Management in Paraguay, UNIDO, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,000,000][GEF ID: 10682]
- 20) **Regional (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Montenegro, Tunisia):** Build a Blue and Stronger Mediterranean, through the Mediterranean Network of Effective and Sustainable MPAs, CI, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000][GEF ID: 10685]
- 21) **Regional (Fiji, Indonesia, Madagascar, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tanzania):** Reefs, Resilient Communities, WWF-US, [GEF Project Financing: \$7,000,000][GEF ID: 10575]
- 22) **Regional (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu):** Enhancing Water-Food Security and Climate Resilience in Volcanic Island Countries of the Pacific, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000][GEF ID: 10712]

- 23) **Regional (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau):** Integrated Natural and Water Resources Management Project in the Corubal River Basin, IUCN, [GEF Project Financing: \$6,300,000][GEF ID: 10508]
- 24) **Regional (Indonesia, Timor Leste):** Management of Indonesian and Timor-Leste Transboundary Watersheds (MITLTW), CI, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 4,999,541][GEF ID: 10679]
- 25) **Regional (Philippines, Viet Nam):** Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture, WWF-US, [GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000][GEF ID: 10573]
- 26) **Regional (Afghanistan, Tajikistan):** Institutionalising Transboundary Water Management between Tajikistan and Afghanistan for the Panj River Sub Basin, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 7,991,781][GEF ID: 10714]
- 27) **Chile:** Restoration of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at the Landscape Scale on Productive Agroforestry Areas and their Natural Environment, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,674,032][GEF ID: 10718]
- 28) **China:** Innovating Eco-Compensation Mechanisms in Yangtze River Basin (YRB), ADB, [GEF Project Financing: \$8,073,396][GEF ID: 10711]
- 29) **Iraq:** Promotion of Integrated Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation Neutrality in Highly Degraded Landscapes of Iraq, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,538,128][GEF ID: 10672]
- 30) **Philippines:** Sustainable Management of Natural Resources towards Rehabilitation and Preservation of the Key Biodiversity Area along Bataan Province to Manila Bay, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 2,731,050][GEF ID: 10704]
- 31) **Sri Lanka:** Natural Capital Values of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Sri Lanka Integrated into Sustainable Development Planning, IUCN, [GEF Project Financing: \$2,656,194][GEF ID: 10552]
- 32) **Benin:** Strengthening Human and Natural Systems Resilience to Climate Change through Mangrove Ecosystems Conservation and Sustainable Use in Southern Benin⁸, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 2,689,726][GEF ID: 10166]
3. With respect to the following 8 projects, the Council requested the Secretariat to arrange for Council members to receive draft final project documents and to transmit to the CEO within four weeks any concerns they may have prior to the CEO's endorsing the project document for final approval by the GEF Agency.

⁸ This is a multi-trust fund project. Only the GEF Trust Fund component is presented in this Work Program. The LDCF component is presented separately in the LDCF/SCCF Work Program.

- 1) **Madagascar:** Inclusive Conservation of Sea Turtles and Seagrass Habitats in the North and North-west of Madagascar, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 3,370,320][GEF ID: 10696]
 - 2) **Venezuela:** Integrated Management of Multiple Use Landscapes and High Conservation Value Forest for Sustainable Development of the Venezuelan Andean Region, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452][GEF ID: 10678]
 - 3) **Nicaragua:** Sustainable Integrated Management of Biodiversity in the Indio-Maiz Biological Reserve, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$2,977,626][GEF ID: 10674]
 - 4) **Brazil:** Strengthening Participatory Natural Resource Management Processes for Sustainable Economic Development, Conservation of Biodiversity and Maintenance of Carbon Stocks in Amazon Wetlands, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,411,644][GEF ID: 10706]
 - 5) **Indonesia:** Strengthening Capacities for Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species (SMIAS) in Indonesia, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,416,210][GEF ID: 10705]
 - 6) **Thailand:** Accelerating the Adoption and Life-cycle Solutions to Electric Mobility in Thailand, UNIDO, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 2,913,465][GEF ID: 10681]
 - 7) **Panama:** Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development through Productive Innovation and Competitiveness of the Rural Sector, World Bank, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,505,936][GEF ID: 10709]
 - 8) **Madagascar:** Evaluation of Natural Capital to Support Land Use Planning, Improved Management Effectiveness of Terrestrial Protected Areas, Deployment of SLM Practices and Creation of Eco-Villages in Central Madagascar, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,653,425][GEF ID: 10389]
4. In light of the recent audit report by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) of UNDP GEF Management, all projects [below] included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP shall be circulated by email for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval. This shall take place as actions of the Management Action Plan that address the OAI recommendations are being implemented, as well as the independent, risk-based third-party review of compliance by UNDP with the GEF Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards is being completed. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the external audit and the management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to council during the 4-week review period.

- 1) **China:** Transformational Wildlife Conservation Management in China, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,786,073][GEF ID: 10701]
- 2) **Haiti:** Improving the Flow of Ecosystem Services in Biologically-rich Watersheds of the Southern Region of Haiti, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,055,479] [GEF ID: 10684]
- 3) **Indonesia:** Investing in the Komodo Dragon and other Globally Threatened Species in Flores (IN-FLORES), UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 6,284,018][GEF ID: 10728]
- 4) **Mexico:** Fostering Sustainable, Legal and Traceable Use and Trade of Wild Native Species in Mexico, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$9,791,743][GEF ID: 10689]
- 5) **Tanzania:** Building the resilience of forest biodiversity to the threats of climate change in Tanzania's Nature Forest Reserves, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,837,010][GEF ID: 10690]
- 6) **China:** Facilitating Cleaner and Energy Efficient Phosphate Chemicals Industry in China (PhosChemEE) Project, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 9,343,379][GEF ID: 10722]
- 7) **Pakistan:** Combating Climate Change through the Promotion and Application of Sustainable Biomass Energy Technologies in Pakistan (PASBET), UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,439,041][GEF ID: 10720]
- 8) **China:** Green Production and Sustainable Development in Secondary Aluminum, Lead, Zinc and Lithium Sectors in China, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$15,750,000][GEF ID: 10673]
- 9) **Panama:** Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes Containing POPs and Mercury, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing:\$ 2,730,000][GEF ID: 10721]
- 10) **Peru:** Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs, Mercury and Other Toxic Chemicals in Peru, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 4,725,000][GEF ID: 10419]
- 11) **Philippines:** Reduction of POPs and UPOPs through Integrated Sound Management of Chemicals, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 6,562,500][GEF ID: 10686]
- 12) **Regional (Angola, Namibia):** Enhanced Water Security and Community Resilience in the Adjacent Cuvelai and Kunene Transboundary River Basins, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 11,167,890][GEF ID: 10565]
- 13) **Regional (Ecuador, Peru):** Implementation of the Strategic Action Programmes and the National Strategic Action Plans for the Integrated Water Resources Management in the Puyango-Tumbes, Catamayo-Chira and Zarumilla Transboundary Aquifers and River Basins, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$8,000,000][GEF ID: 10700]

- 14) **Bangladesh:** Community-based Management of Tanguar Haor Wetland in Bangladesh, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,050,913][GEF ID: 10702]
- 15) **Cuba:** Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation in Sustainable Tourism Development in Cuba, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 3,598,630][GEF ID: 10670]
- 16) **Kyrgyz Republic:** Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Mountain Ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for Multiple Benefits, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 2,639,726][GEF ID: 10692]
- 17) **Myanmar:** Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Restoring Forest Landscape Connectivity in Bago Region, Myanmar, UNDP/WWF-US, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 7,122,693][GEF ID: 10699]
- 18) **Solomon Islands:** Safeguarding Solomon Islands Endemic and Globally Threatened Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services from Key Threats, particularly Invasive Alien Species and Unsustainable Land Use Practices (SAFE project), UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 7,845,662][GEF ID: 10698]
- 19) **Benin:** Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality and Securing Climate Resilience in the Niger Valley, Alibori Sud-Borgou Nord-2KP and Zou-Couffo Agricultural Development Areas of Benin⁹, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,566,667][GEF ID: 10688]
- 20) **Mali:** Climate Security and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Central Regions of Mali for Peacebuilding, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726][GEF ID: 10687]
- 21) **Global (Afghanistan, Argentina, Bahamas, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela, Togo, Tonga, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zimbabwe, China, Palau, Nepal):** GEF SGP 7th Operational Phase - Strategic Implementation using STAR Resources Mainly in LDCs and SIDs (Part 3), UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 43,235,008][GEF ID: 10655]

⁹ This is a multi-trust fund project. Only the GEF Trust Fund component is presented in this Work Program. The LDCF component is presented separately in the LDCF/SCCF Work Program.

22) **China:** Enabling China to Prepare Its Fourth National Communication, and Biennial Update Reports on Climate Change, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 4,566,210][GEF ID: 10707]

5. With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.
6. With respect to any PIF and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.
7. With respect to the PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the final child project documents fully incorporating and addressing the Council's and STAP reviews shall be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.
8. The detailed funding decisions taken by the Council during this 59th session of the Work Program is part of the associated [Annex 1](#) appended to this Joint Summary of the Chairs.

Decision 22/2020 Report of the Working Group on Governance

1. The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.59/08/Rev.01, [Report of the Working Group on Governance](#), endorses the suggested recommendations of the Working Group on Governance. The Council requests the GEF Secretariat and the Independent Evaluation Office to report to the Council on the implementation of the recommendations no later than the 60th Council Meeting. In line with the recommendations, the Council decides to: 1) Receive and consider, rather than endorse, future evaluation reports and related recommendations and discuss the Management Responses and Management Action Records to evaluations in the Council before deciding to endorse them – or not. 2) Pilot for one year an adjusted co-chairing arrangement and to appoint the elected Chairperson from among its Members for the duration of one year instead of just one meeting, in order to facilitate a stronger involvement of the elected Chairperson in providing input into agenda, the chairing of

the meeting and the meeting report. 3) Consider at its 61st Meeting an assessment of the pilot and proposed options for the future including but not limited to recommending to amend paragraph 18 of the Governing Instrument.

Decision 23/2020 Mandate of the Working Group on Governance

1. The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.59/08/Rev.01, [Report of the Working Group on Governance](#), further decides to extend the mandate of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Governance till June 30, 2022. The Working Group will:
 - a. Monitor the implementation of the decision adopted by the Council based on the recommendations of that document and make any additional recommendations, if deemed necessary.
 - b. Follow the pilot on co-chairing arrangements and make recommendations to the Council at its 61st session as may be necessary.
 - c. Propose any additional actions that contribute to an improved and strengthened governance of the GEF partnership including accountability, transparency in programming decisions, review criteria and selection of agencies and of projects, respective roles and functions of and interaction between the GEF Assembly, GEF Council, GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies and GEF focal points.

Decision 24/2020 Evaluation of GEF Engagement in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/E/C.59/01, [Evaluation of GEF Support in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#), and the [Management Response](#), endorses the following recommendations:
 - a. The GEF Secretariat should use the project review process to provide feedback to Agencies to identify conflict and fragility-related risks to a proposed project and develop measures to mitigate those risks.
 - b. To improve conflict-sensitive programming while also providing flexibility to Agencies and projects, the GEF Secretariat could develop guidance for conflict-sensitive programming.
 - c. To improve conflict-sensitive design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GEF projects, the GEF Secretariat together with the Agencies should leverage existing platforms for learning, exchange, and technical assistance.
 - d. The current GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards could be expanded to provide more details so that GEF projects address key conflict-sensitive considerations. 5.

The GEF Secretariat could consider revising its policies and procedures so that GEF-supported projects can better adapt to rapid and substantial changes common in fragile and conflict-affected situations

Decision 25/2020 Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector

1. The Council, having reviewed the document GEF/E/C.59/02, [Evaluation of GEF Interventions in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining Sector](#), and the [Management Response](#), endorses the following recommendations:
 - a. The GEF partnership and the Minamata Convention should continue to encourage high mercury use countries to become more involved in the Convention.
 - b. The GEF partnership should increase project focus on policy interventions that help governments put into place the necessary framework to formalize artisanal and small-scale gold miners and monitor the sector
 - c. The GEF partnership should seek opportunities for multi-focal area ASGM interventions and measure co-benefits beyond the Chemicals and Waste focal area.
 - d. The planet GOLD global platform should make available results and lessons learned from completed ASGM projects and provide more detailed information on NAP and GOLD program child projects.

Decision 26/2020 Evaluation of the Role of Medium Size Projects (MSP) in the GEF Partnership Knowledge Management

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/E/C.59/03, [Evaluation of the Role of Medium-sized Projects in the GEF Partnership](#), and the [Management Response](#), endorses the following recommendations:
 - a. The MSP should continue to be primarily used for developing innovative projects.
 - b. Midterm and final evaluations should be conducted on MSPs designed as innovative or transformative, to provide lessons for scaling up or replication.

Decision 27/2020 Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF (2020)

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/E/C.59/04, [Evaluation of Knowledge Management in the GEF \(2020\)](#), and the [Management Response](#), endorses the following recommendations:
 - a. The GEF partnership should develop a clear KM strategy

- b. The GEF partnership should invest in a technical solution that strengthens the KM system.

Decision 28/2020 Proposal for Responsible Investment Options for the GEF Trust Fund

1. The Council, having reviewed the document GEF/C.59/12, [Proposal of Responsible Investment Options for the GEF Trust Fund](#), prepared by the Trustee, provides its consent to the Trustee to implement the proposed Sustainable Bond Strategy for the GEF Trust Fund. The Council also notes that the proposed Sustainable Bond Strategy and the default ESG Integration approach, already in implementation since July 2019, collectively address the GEF-7 policy recommendation for the Trustee to develop options for a responsible investment strategy for the financial management of the GEF funds held in trust.

Decision 29/2020 The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from across the GEF Partnership

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/11, [The Impact of COVID-19 on GEF Project Preparation and Implementation: Overview of Responses from Across the GEF Partnership](#), takes note of the report, and approves an exceptional authorization for the CEO to grant exceptions to the Project Cancellation Policy, as follows:
 - a. The CEO may grant extensions to cancellation deadlines for all project types for a total of up to 24 months, replacing the references to extensions of 12 months and 6 months in paras 5(d) and 6(d) respectively of the Cancellation Policy
 - b. This authorization is effective through the final day of the 60th Council meeting.
2. The Council further requests that the Secretariat continue to monitor the impacts of the pandemic on GEF operations, report to Council and take necessary actions within its authority.

Decision 30/2020 Report on the Assessment of GEF Agencies' Compliance with the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards

1. The Council, having reviewed document, GEF/C.59/05/Rev.02, [Report on the Assessment of GEF Agencies' Compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards](#), welcomes the assessment and takes note of the findings, including the agency certificates of compliance as well as agency action plans to address areas of non-compliance (in Annex 1).

2. The Council approves the action plans submitted by Agencies to achieve full compliance as summarized in paragraphs 28-67 of this document and further detailed in the letters provided by Agencies in Annex 1 and decides that these Agencies may continue to act in their full capacity as GEF Agencies and seek GEF financing while they implement their timebound action plans.
3. The Council approves AFDB's request for additional time to complete its self-assessment.
4. The Council also requests that:
 - a. those agencies which have self-assessed as not in full compliance with the minimum standards start implementing their agreed action plans according to the timelines set out in the plans and provide biannual updates to the Secretariat, ahead of every Council meeting, on implementation progress, until they have completed implementation of the action plans and come into full compliance with each minimum standard;
 - b. the Secretariat report to the Council on progress made by GEF Agencies in implementing their action plans, based on the updates provided by the Agencies and, as needed, further expert assessment and consultation with the Agencies; and to provide a summary of overall progress to Council at its subsequent meetings on the implementation of the GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards.
 - c. the Secretariat notify Council when GEF Agencies have met their commitments set out in their respective action plans to achieve full compliance.
 - d. In the light of recently available audit information relating to GEF-funded projects implemented by UNDP, the Council requests the following further actions prior to its consideration of a compliance assessment relating to UNDP:
 - i. In accordance with GEF Policy on Monitoring Agency Compliance with GEF Policy, but on an accelerated time frame, the Secretariat will initiate the steps for an independent, Risk-Based, Third-Party Review of compliance by UNDP with the GEF Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards. The Review will be completed by October 1, 2021.
 - ii. The Review will be carried out by an independent expert or experts as per paragraph 9 of the Policy on Monitoring Agency Compliance, and follow the scope set out in paragraphs 10 – 12. As one input to this Review, UNDP will submit to the Secretariat an updated self-assessment of its compliance by May 1, 2021.

- e. The Secretariat will report back to Council on the results of this Review at the 61st meeting of Council in December 2021, with a decision for Council consideration.
- f. UNDP will provide regular (monthly) progress reports of the implementation of high-risk recommendations of the OAI's audit report to the GEF CEO. The CEO will update Council on implementation recommendations and identify any concerns or delays in their implementation.

Decision 31/2020 Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/10, [Relations with the Conventions and Other International Institutions](#), welcomed the report and requested the GEF network to continue to work with recipient countries to reflect the guidance and national priorities in their GEF programming and activities.

Decision 32/2020 Update on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/09, [Update on the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund](#), took note of the good progress made by the GEF Secretariat in managing the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF), and decided to extend the operation of the NPIF until December 31, 2023 to allow the Completion (terminal evaluation) and Closure of all the 13 projects funded by the NPIF.

Decision 33/2020 Report of the Selection and Review Committee

1. The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.59/13, Report of the Selection and Review Committee (SRC):
 - a. Takes note of the FY 2021 performance objectives for the GEF CEO; and
 - b. Requests the SRC to present the performance evaluations of the IEO Director and the GEF CEO for the Council's review at its 60th meeting.

Decision 34/2020 Dates for the 62nd and 63rd Council Meetings

1. The Council decides that it will hold its 62nd meeting back to back with the 7th GEF Assembly the week of May 22nd, 2022 and the 63rd meeting during the week of December 6, 2022.

Decision 35/2020 Matters Related to UNDP

1. The Council requests that matters related to UNDP will be on the agenda of the 60th meeting of the Council in June 2021. Council will be informed by UNDP and by the GEF Secretariat about the latest developments on the matter.