

65th GEF Council

October 10, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Opening of the Meeting

Introductory Remarks by

Carlos Manuel Rodríguez,

GEF CEO and Chairperson

As Delivered

Thank you so much, William, and good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everybody joining us on the 65th GEF Council meeting.

I would like to salute all Council members, alternates, GEF Secretariat staff, agencies, interpreters, and many other friends for joining us; thanks once more. It was a great, great pleasure to see you all in Vancouver during the 7th GEF Assembly.

And once more, our eternal gratitude to Tom Bui and the Canadian government for supporting such a successful, productive GEF Assembly.

As you all know, Tom, the elected Chairperson, will join me today in his capacities and this will be the last time that Tom Bui will join us as a Chairperson, and I think this will be the last time that Tom Bui will join us as a Council Member from Canada. We'll hear more from Tom throughout the day.

I would like to recap the history of this Council meeting. As you will recall, negotiations at the 64th Council, especially on GBFF, [Global Biodiversity Framework Fund] took more time than we had expected.

Therefore, the Council decided that the three issues that remain pending on the agenda for that meeting will be taken up at an additional meeting in October 2023.

This will become the 65th Council meeting.

The Council further decided that the 66th meeting, originally scheduled for December 2023, will be held early in 2024.

On this basis, the Council adopted decision 20/2023 by mail that modified decision 6/2023 and set the date for the 65th meeting on October 10th, 2023, in virtual format. This is today.

Under other business, we will be discussing the dates and format for the three meetings to be held in 2024. These are the 66th, 67th, and 68th Council meetings.

We'll get back to our regular two Council meetings a year in 2025.

With this, I would like to open the floor to Council members to see if there is any observation, comments, or questions to what I just mentioned with regards to updating you all on this, the 65th GEF Council meeting.