



Statement by Monique Barbut  
at the GEF-China Joint Book Launching of the  
Global Environment Facility in China

GEF-China Joint Book Launching  
May 25, 2010

Thank you, Mr. Zheng Xiaosong, and the Chinese delegation for coming here today to celebrate this publication at the GEF Assembly. This book, Global Environment Facility in China, is an excellent testimony of the close collaboration between the GEF and China in what is now nearly two decades. As the world's largest public fund to protect the global environment, the GEF provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries and today China is our single largest partner. So the story we are telling here is that together we have an impressive track record, a history of solid results on the ground, and we expect to keep building on that momentum for the future as we enter a new funding cycle.

To give you a snapshot of what we are talking about here: during the past 19 years, the GEF has funded about 100 projects in China, representing \$820 million in grant financing with another \$7 billion leveraged by the government, businesses, civil society, and other partners. Along the way we've delivered on the ground results time after time, whether it is mitigating or adapting to climate change, preserving biodiversity, reducing dangerous pesticides in our food and water, or protecting food security through better land management.

On the climate change front, with GEF support, China became the first developing country to demonstrate commercial operation of clean, efficient, fuel-cell bus, first in Beijing at the Olympics and now in Shanghai at the World Expo. These demonstrations have spurred interest from both the public and the private sector to invest in low-carbon alternatives for public transportation throughout China.

Outside urban centers, GEF is also making dramatic impacts in villages and towns by investing in energy efficiency solutions that keep local manufacturing plants open while slashing toxic pollution and carbon dioxide emissions. Projects like this help keep the land and water clean and improve the quality of life for millions, if not billions of people.

I could quote a lot of numbers all day of what we have done. But the bottom line is that GEF projects in China have helped push forward sustainable development in a meaningful way, both for local impact and global benefit.

I am very proud of our achievements in China. We have done this together with the government, with our partner agencies, with civil society, and with the private sector. Strong ownership of GEF projects by all stakeholders in the country holds the key to our success. In this regard, I would like to thank the

Chinese Ministry of Finance in particular for your unwavering support to the GEF for the past 19 years, not only at the policy level but also at the project level.

As we embark on a new journey to GEF-5, I look forward to furthering our partnership with you to achieve even greater impact in protecting the global environment and improving the quality of life of your citizens and the people of this planet.

Thank you