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**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

## **Opening Remarks**

**Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson**

**Global Environment Facility**

**LDCF SCCF Council meeting**  
**May 26, 2011**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to start the 10th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting with the news that the two funds managed by the GEF that finance adaptation actions in vulnerable countries, the LDCF and SCCF, are now at the half billion dollar mark. As you know, financing adaptation is a GEF priority and reflects our strong commitment under the United Nations' Climate Convention, whose parties are looking for a more equitable distribution of resources between adaptation and mitigation.

Adaptation to climate change is a growing concern among decision-makers in both developed and developing countries alike, so I want to thank personally each donor country for honoring and increasing their commitment to these funds, even with the ongoing financial crisis.

At this meeting we will present our latest work program under the SCCF that was made possible thanks to recent encashments and contributions. In particular, I would like to emphasize two groundbreaking initiatives that for the first time combine sustainable land management resources under the GEF trust fund and adaptation resources under the LDCF and SCCF together in one programmatic approach. This is what is often called in the media as the Great Green Wall Initiative in western Africa.

What is being proposed of course is something much more nuanced than simply a wall of trees. I would like to thank our Council who gave us the opportunity to address the needs of these countries by maximizing our own resources and impact, as well as my staff and that of the World Bank, who we have collaborated with to ensure this program follows the purposes and standards of all the different trust funds and focal areas involved.

A similar collaboration within the GEF network has been carried out by the ADB and UNEP to establish technology transfer centers, with the support of the GEF Secretariat.

As you know at the GEF Council over the past few days we have worked on a rich agenda, and we are continuing on that track today with this meeting.

An area I want to highlight for you is the Annual Monitoring Report for our young adaptation portfolio which is showing its first successes and lessons learned.

What we see in particular is that a combination of initial capacity building with a subsequent investment and implementation phase is the right path to reduce

vulnerability and increase the adaptive capacity of countries, communities and ecosystems.

At this meeting the LDCF/SCCF Council will also be invited to make a decision on the inclusion of a new STAP member fully dedicated to adaptation issues. This is, we believe, a useful step to ensure consistency and quality standards of all GEF-managed trust funds. The scientific community has been consistently interested in the cutting-edge projects that the GEF finances, and today is particularly keen to support the scientific rigor and integrity of our adaptation portfolio.

Further to the good results we have seen so far in our portfolio, I am pleased to report that vulnerable countries have been accessing resources from the LDCF and SCCF faster than ever before. The project cycle has been successfully streamlined and the “access” papers are unanimously considered to be very useful tools to understand our rules and procedures.

In closing, I want to thank you again for your active role in shaping and supporting the establishment and the growth of these funds which provide crucial adaptation benefits for those who need it the most: the world’s most vulnerable. I look forward to sharing our progress with you today.

Thank you