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## **Talking Points**

**Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson  
Global Environment Facility**

**Dedication of Bicycles for Public Use  
December 6**

You already know by now that making progress in the fight to deal with climate change will require everyone of us to make changes. Some changes must be national and global in scope to address the magnitude of the problems we face. Other changes can be local or even individual. Certainly we know that local governments and individuals can make change must faster than national governments—indeed, it is something we highly value.

So this is why we celebrate bike-riding and all its benefits. This is why we are here today to salute those who are making a difference.

So if you are here today to celebrate the choice of individuals to use bicycles to save time and money, we salute you. If you are here today to celebrate the local commitment of the eThekweni municipality to supply bicycles for public transit to reduce congestion and air pollution, we salute you. If you are here to acknowledge the important global environmental benefits that bicycles provide by reducing fossil fuel use and reducing harmful emissions, we salute you. For every 3.5 kilometer you ride a bike instead of take an auto, you reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 1 kilogram. That's just one round-trip from the beach to the COP17 venue at the Convention Center!

For all of us who still need encouragement, we are reminded of what Gandhi said: “You may never know what results come of your action, but if you do nothing there will be no result”

The GEF was pleased to help support this local initiative to help procure at least 300 bicycles for public use. These bikes will be available to for those attending COP17 but more importantly will stay here in the community after the COP is over. The GEF support also together with a generous commitment from KfW helped expand and upgrade the bicycle path network with new signs to improve safety; establish new rental stations; and help hire staff and maintenance technicians.

I will tell you a secret. Everyone in his audience can ride a bike better than me! You did not see me on those bikes! But instead, many of my GEF staff are happy bikers as you can see.

We salute our partners, including the Government of South Africa, the City of Durban and eThekweni municipality. We salute the KfW for its leadership

in support of clean transport options, especially for schools. And we salute all the riders! Congratulations!

Hand off of bikes to MAYOR JAMES NXUMALO (David will bring bike forward).