



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/ME/C.28/8

Proposals to Fully Reflect the Independence of the Evaluation Office in the Main Documents of the GEF

Recommended Council Decision

The Council is recommended to take one or two of the three decisions indicated below.

Option 1

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.28/8, *Proposals to Fully Reflect the Independence of the Evaluation Office in the Main Documents of the GEF*, recommends to the Third GEF Assembly the following amendment (in bold and italic) to the *Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility*:

Paragraph 20(b) of the Instrument be amended to read:

*[The Council shall] ensure that GEF policies, programs, operational strategies and projects are **monitored and independently evaluated on a regular basis, according to modalities decided by the Council;***

AND/OR

Option 2

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.28/8, *Proposals to fully reflect the independence of the Evaluation Office in the main documents of the GEF*, decides that the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council be amended to reflect the new Evaluation Office status and functions, as shown below.

Changes to Council Rules of Procedure

Council Rules by Paragraph, with Inclusion of M&E changes

2. Under **DEFINITIONS**, new sub-heading:

r. "Evaluation Office" means the independent Evaluation Office of the GEF.

17. Council meetings shall be open to Members, Alternates, the CEO or his/her representative **and the Evaluation Director or his/her representative**. Two advisors may accompany each Member.

AND/OR

19. Representatives of the Implementing Agencies, the Trustee, **the Evaluation Office** and STAP shall be invited to attend the Council meetings.

23. Executive sessions of Council meetings may be held by decision of the Council. Executive sessions shall be open to Members, Alternates, advisors, and the CEO or his/her representative **and the Evaluation Office Director or his/her representative**. The Council may invite representatives of bodies referred to in paragraphs 19 to 21 to attend an executive session. The CEO may designate an official of the Secretariat to serve as the Secretary of an executive session.

24. A provisional agenda for each regular meeting of the Council shall be prepared by the CEO, and a copy of such provisional agenda, together with the notice of the meeting, shall be transmitted to all those invited to the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 17 to 22 of these rules. **For items related to evaluation matters, the Evaluation Office Director shall prepare the agenda and provide it to the CEO for transmission.**

26. An agenda for each special meeting of the Council shall be prepared by the CEO, and a copy of such agenda, together with the notice of the meeting, shall be transmitted to all those invited to the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 17 to 22 of these rules. **For special meetings including the consideration of evaluation matters, the Evaluation Office Director shall prepare the agenda for such items.**

29. The CEO shall transmit the documentation relating to items on the provisional agenda to all those invited to the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 17 to 22 of these rules at least four weeks before the start of a regular meeting and as soon as possible before a special meeting. The CEO shall transmit documentation relating to new items on a final agenda at the time of transmitting that agenda. **For items related to evaluation matters, the Evaluation Office Director shall transmit the documentation directly to the Council without prior clearance by any other party.**

43. Whenever, in the judgment of the CEO **or the Evaluation Director** on matters related to monitoring and evaluation, a decision must be taken by the Council which should not be postponed until the next regular meeting of the Council but does not warrant the calling of a special meeting of the Council, the CEO **or Evaluation Director** shall transmit to each Member by any rapid means of communication a proposed decision with an invitation to approve the decision on a no objection basis. Such communication shall also be transmitted to all those who would be invited to a meeting in accordance with paragraphs 17 to 22.

44. Each Member's comments on the proposed decision on behalf of his/her constituency shall be sent to the CEO **or Evaluation Director** during such period as the CEO **or Evaluation Director** may prescribe, provided such period is not less than two weeks.

45. At the expiration of the period prescribed for comments, the decision shall be approved unless there is an objection. If there is an objection raised by any Member or if replies are not received from at least two-thirds of the Members, the CEO **or Evaluation Director** shall include consideration of the proposed decision as an item on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council. The CEO **or Evaluation Director** shall notify all those that received the communication referred to in paragraph 43 of the action he/she takes pursuant to this paragraph.

46. Before the end of each meeting, the Chairs shall present a joint summary of the main discussions and conclusions of the meeting. **On matters related to evaluation, the Chairs shall consult the Evaluation Office Director prior to finalization of the summary.** Any decision approved by the Council at a meeting shall be appended to the Chairs' joint summary. The Chairs' joint summary and the Council decisions shall be a public document.

OR

Option 3

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/ME/C.28/8, *Proposals to fully reflect the independence of the Evaluation Office in the main documents of the GEF*, reiterates its adoption of the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and decides to address any issues arising from the changed status of the Evaluation Office through the adoption of new decisions if and when these are appropriate.

Executive Summary

1. Pursuant to the Instrument (the "Instrument") for the establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (the "GEF"), the GEF governance is assured by an Assembly, a

Council and a Secretariat, to which a Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (the “STAP”) provides appropriate advice. The Evaluation Office is not a separate organ. When the Instrument was last amended, the monitoring and evaluation (“M&E”) unit was part of the Secretariat. In July 2003, the Council started the process of separating the M&E Unit from the Secretariat by adopting the terms of reference (the “TOR”) for an independent M&E unit. This process has culminated in a fully independent Evaluation Office and a new GEF M&E policy, as approved by the Council in February 2006. This independence now needs to be reflected as the Council decided at its meeting of November 2005, “in the main documents of the GEF, such as through the Instrument”.

2. At present, independence is based on a Council decision. The Council can in theory restrict or withdraw this independence at any Council meeting, by adopting a decision to that effect. While, in practice, this situation may not cause any problem in the operation and efficacy of the Evaluation Office, the Council may want to consider alternative options aimed at ensuring the continuation of the Evaluation Office as an independent entity.

3. Three options are being presented to the Council for consideration; one whereby the Instrument would be amended (Option 1); one whereby the Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council (the “Rules of Procedure”) would be amended (Option 2); and one whereby the Council, having already affirmed the independence of the Evaluation Office, would make ad hoc decisions on how to operationalize independence if and when specific issues arise (Option 3). Option 1 and 2 can be adopted together. More particularly:

Option 1

4. This would require a minor modification of the Instrument, recognizing the independence of the evaluation function, but leaving the details of how this will be secured to the Council.

Option 2

5. Pursuant to this option the Instrument would not be changed, but Council would amend its Rules and Procedures to reflect the new Evaluation Office’s status and functions.

Option 3

6. This option assumes that the transition to an independent Evaluation Office has been broadly accepted by all stakeholders through its reflection in the Council’s decision on the new M&E policy. That decision states that the Evaluation Office will be “accountable directly” to the Council. Any subsequent issues arising in the implementation of the system can be adequately addressed when they arise, by means of ad hoc requests to Council for further relevant decisions. No immediate action is required other than a decision to this effect.