



Submission by the Czech Republic and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Subject: Views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Global Environment Facility

Prague, 7th September 2022

1. The EU and its Member States welcome the approval by the GEF Council of several ambitious work programs since guidance to the GEF was provided last time. We also welcome the successful replenishment of the GEF for its 8th replenishment period (GEF-8), with a total allocation of US\$5.33 bn, a substantial increase and record pledge compared to GEF-7.
2. The EU and its Member States welcome the actions taken by the GEF on incorporating innovation and technology development and transfer into the GEF-8 Programming Directions. The shift towards low-GHG-emission and climate-resilient development pathways to support the overall mitigation targets of and adaptation efforts under the Paris Agreement is of utmost importance.
3. The EU and its Member States stress the importance of coherence and integration at the national and regional levels between the different planning processes, such as TNAs, NDCs, Long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and NAPs, which are relevant to climate technologies. We welcome the GEF's continued support to Parties for these efforts. The EU encourages the GEF to further enhance its reporting on whether and how Parties have used their System for Transparent Allocation of Resources allocation for the development and revision of technology needs assessments and action plans and their implementation.
4. Being an important operating entity of the UNFCCC's financial mechanism, but also the operating entity of the financial mechanisms of four other UN Conventions, the GEF is the only multilateral financial instrument covering the various dimensions of the global climate, biodiversity and environmental crisis. The EU and its Member States hence recognize the GEF as a key instrument to support projects benefiting both climate action



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and action in other key areas, such as biodiversity or land and ocean degradation as well as integrated chemicals management. We welcome that the GEF, in its programming directions for GEF-8, promotes and pursues an integrated vision through various integrated programmes and a coherent approach between focal areas. We encourage the GEF to support projects in the area of climate change that also provide co-benefits in the areas of environment preservation, climate adaptation and biodiversity and ocean conservation. We would appreciate further elaboration/discussion about how the integrated programmes will be operationalized.

5. In order to improve its effectiveness in delivering sustainable results during GEF-8, the EU and its Member States call on the GEF to continue improving its governance framework related to partner agencies and the standards its implementing partners are held accountable to. We welcome the actions undertaken by the GEF following cases of mismanagement of GEF funding in projects managed by one of its implementing agencies. We call on the GEF to ensure that recipient countries have appropriate access to the GEF resources through its diverse network of implementing agencies, and that special attention is given to those most in need, such as LDCs, SIDS. The EU and its Member States call on the GEF to assess and limit the risks induced by the current level of funding concentration on some of its Agencies.

6. The EU and its Member States underline the potential of GEF's funding to contribute to the broader resource mobilization for climate change, including through enhanced mainstreaming of climate objectives in projects. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the "Private Sector Engagement Strategy" by the GEF Council at its 59th meeting and encourage the GEF to reinforce its efforts to mobilize and engage with the private sector during GEF-8.

7. The EU and its Member States welcome the adoption of the "Sustainable Bond Strategy" by the GEF Council during its 59th meeting and look forward to additional steps to ensure that the asset management by the trustee is aligned with the goals set in the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda and the Global Biodiversity Framework.



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8. We welcome the actions taken by the GEF to ensure that support is and will continue to be available for the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and underlines the importance of providing support to developing countries for the preparation of BTRs as part of the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

9. We welcome the « Policy on Gender Equality » adopted by the GEF Council at its 53rd meeting, and the « Gender Implementation Strategy» adopted at its 54th meeting and underline our support to its aim to ensure equal opportunities for women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from GEF-financed activities in support of the GEF's efforts to achieve global environment benefits. We encourage the GEF to ensure all its implementing partners fully comply with this policy in the implementation of GEF-supported projects for climate action, following also the Gender Implementation Strategy.