

54<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
June 24 – 26, 2018  
Da Nang, Viet Nam

Agenda Item 11

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE**

**Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.54/17, *Terms of Reference and Membership of the Working Group on Governance*, establishes an ad-hoc working group to follow up on the findings of OPS6 with regard to the governance of the GEF Partnership and to make recommendations for consideration by Council to further improve efficiency, accountability and transparency. The Working Group will operate between June 2018 and December 2019, when it will present the final draft recommendations to Council.

## GEF Ad Hoc WORKING GROUP ON GOVERNANCE – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

### Background: GEF-7 Policy Recommendations and Findings of OPS-6

1. Reflecting the findings and recommendations of OPS-6<sup>1</sup> and the discussions during the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, the GEF-7 Policy Recommendations (GEF/R.7/18)<sup>2</sup> state that “the GEF Council establish an ad-hoc working group to follow up on the findings of OPS6 with regard to the governance of the GEF Partnership and to make recommendations for consideration by Council to further improve efficiency, accountability and transparency.” Those were according to OPS-6 the areas that survey respondents had identified, while seventy-three percent of them also noted that the GEF is effectively governed overall.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, OPS-6 observed that the GEF Instrument<sup>4</sup> and current Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council<sup>5</sup> do not fully and accurately reflect the way in which the GEF partnership is actually functioning.
2. Against the above background, these terms of reference describe the focus of work of the ad-hoc working group on governance (the Working Group) as well as the composition and modalities of work, including timelines.

### Focus of Work

3. The Working Group shall utilize relevant documents and past decisions to inform its work, and shall base its work on the existing stock of information, i.p. information gathered and analysis undertaken by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).
4. The Working Group will review the governance aspects of the following main matters and make recommendations:
  - (a) Efficiency of decision making
  - (b) Accountability
  - (c) Transparency in programming decisions, review criteria and selection of agencies and of projects.
  - (d) Respective roles and functions of and interaction between the GEF Assembly, GEF Council, GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies.
5. The Working Group will draft a report to Council with the results and recommendations of its work.

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<sup>1</sup> The document can be accessed at: [https://www.gefief.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/ops6-report\\_1.pdf](https://www.gefief.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/ops6-report_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The document can be accessed at: [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF-7%20Policy%20Recommendations%20-%20GEF\\_R.7\\_18.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF-7%20Policy%20Recommendations%20-%20GEF_R.7_18.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> OPS-6, p.127.

<sup>4</sup> The document can be accessed at: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/instrument-establishment-restructured-gef>

<sup>5</sup> The document can be accessed at: <https://www.thegef.org/publications/rules-procedure-gef-council>

## **Composition and Modalities of Work**

6. The Working Group will be comprised of eight Council members or alternates (4 from recipient constituencies, 4 from non-recipient constituencies).
7. The Working Group will select a chair from amongst its members. The chair will facilitate the process, including calling for meetings of the Working Group and preparing the agenda. The GEF Secretariat will assist the chair, including by providing the following services: providing background information, preparing working papers, taking notes and drafting the meeting minutes.
8. The Working Group will hold regular meetings, in-person and virtually, and further its work by way of written procedure.
9. The Working Group will devise a work plan to guide its work. It is to conduct its duties in an orderly, fair, and transparent manner as needed and regularly inform GEF Council and GEF Secretariat, including during GEF Council meetings and, as appropriate, by means of written updates.
10. The members of the Working Group are expected to commit to the following:
  - (a) Attend meeting regularly (including both in-person and virtually)
  - (b) Prepare substantive inputs on activities outlined in the work plan agreed in the first meetings of the Working Group.
11. In particular cases, a member of the Working Group can be substituted by a registered adviser, if necessary.
12. The Working Group will closely cooperate with the GEF IEO, the GEF Secretariat, and the GEF Agencies.

## **Timeline**

13. The Working Group will operate between June 2018 and December 2019, when it will present the final draft recommendations to Council.