

- (iv) Facilitating national/regional access to the information provided by international centres and networks, and for working with those centres for the dissemination of information, information services, and transfer of environmentally-sound technologies and know-how in support of the Convention;
- 2. *Requests* the GEF to continue to provide, and developing country Parties to avail themselves of, funding to translate, reproduce, disseminate and make available their initial national communications electronically;
- 3. *Encourages* the GEF to:
 - (a) Further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, less prescriptive, more transparent and country-driven;
 - (b) Further simplify and expedite its procedures for the approval and implementation of GEF-funded projects, including disbursements for such projects;
 - (c) Make the process for the determination of incremental costs more transparent, and its application more pragmatic;
- 4. *Requests* the GEF to ensure that its implementing/executing agencies are made aware of Convention provisions and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties in the performance of their GEF obligations and are encouraged, as a first priority, whenever possible, to use national experts/consultants in all aspects of project development and implementation.
- 5. *Further requests* the GEF to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties the specific steps it has undertaken to implement the provisions of this decision.

*8th plenary meeting
14 November 1998*