



Second informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

GEF Background information and comments on Cluster C guiding questions

September 23, 2026

Support to Address Plastic Pollution in the GEF-9 Period¹

- The GEF is a family of six funds, serving as financial mechanism for six multilateral environmental agreements. Initiatives to address plastic pollution have been supported by the GEF Trust Fund.
- To date, the GEF has programmed approximately \$1 billion of grant resources, which has leveraged \$7.8 billion in co-financing including \$1.3 billion from the private sector. These investments have reduced 24.6 million tons of plastics entering the waste stream, as well as other global environmental concerns.
- For the GEF-9 period (July 2026 to June 2030), the [GEF-9 Programming Directions](#) for the GEF Trust Fund continue investments to address plastic pollution, primarily through the Chemicals and Waste Focal Area and a new Integrated Program on circular solutions that expands the range of plastics to be covered by the program to address plastic pollution. The Programming Directions align with emerging international momentum, including the negotiations of a new global plastics instrument and several new Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are plastic additives that were recently added to the chemicals controlled by the Stockholm Convention, to catalyze an ambitious and comprehensive response to the plastic pollution crisis.
- The GEF-9 Programming Directions also include support to Convention obligations for a potential plastics instrument, should member States decide to designate the GEF as or part of the financial mechanism. Resources will be made available only after the conclusion of the negotiations, designation of the GEF as part of the financial mechanism, and with approval from Council.

¹ Global Environment Facility, 2026, [Draft Summary of Negotiations of the Ninth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council Document GEF/C.71/02/Rev.03.

- To better track results for plastics investments in GEF-9, a dedicated core indicator has been developed and captures data from four categories:
 1. Single Use Plastics not containing or contaminated with hazardous chemicals
 2. Single Use Plastics containing or contaminated with hazardous chemicals
 3. Durable plastics that can be recycled
 4. Durable plastics that contain, or are contaminated with, hazardous chemicals.

Steps for Financial Mechanism Designation and Operationalization²

The steps to be taken for the designation and operationalization of the GEF as the financial mechanism for the plastic treaty, upon such agreement among member States in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), are presented in an [information document](#) for the 8th GEF Assembly.

- Should the INC reach an agreement, and decide to designate the GEF as, or part of, the financial mechanism, the GEF Council will deliberate on the designation and its operationalization. As this is a new treaty, the Council will discuss the amendment of the GEF Instrument, which will be recommended to the Assembly. The GEF Instrument, in its Basic Provisions section, references all multilateral environmental agreements that the GEF serves as the financial mechanism.
- Should the INC process conclude with an agreement, including the designation of the financial mechanism including the GEF, well before the ninth GEF Assembly, which is expected to take place in 2030, the proposed amendment to the GEF Instrument will be shared with the Representatives of the Participants for approval through a written non-objection procedure. Under the Assembly's Rules of Procedure, there is no prohibition on matters being approved by Representatives of the Participants through written consultations, and this would represent the most expedient pathway to put in place the amendments necessary to allow the GEF to serve as a financial mechanism under the treaty. Alternatively, should a written procedure not be pursued, the amendment to the GEF Instrument could be approved by the ninth GEF Assembly.

² Global Environment Facility, 2026, [Update on Plastics Negotiations and Potential Instrument Amendment](#). Assembly Document GEF/A.8/Inf/04.



- Programming support to address plastic pollution has been included as part of the GEF-9 Programming Directions, as described further in the section above. Resources to support the treaty may also be set aside to be made available, subject to the conclusion of the negotiations, the GEF being designated as part of the Financial Mechanism, and with the Council agreement.
- Similar arrangements were made in the GEF-8 period for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which was agreed in June 2023 with the GEF designated as part of the financial mechanism. Following the agreement, the Council agreed to release the resources set-aside for the ratification support and early implementation in June 2023, in line with the Programming Directions, and to recommend the GEF Instrument amendment.

Cluster C guiding questions and comments from the GEF

Question 1. What elements must be considered to ensure that all available financial sources, including public finance, are effectively mobilized for the implementation of the instrument?

GEF support combines predictable grant-based public finance with approaches that mobilize complementary domestic, international, public, private, and philanthropic resources. In the GEF-9 period, leveraging of additional resources with blended finance is a key priority.

The GEF Trust Fund operates through regular replenishment cycles of four years. As such, countries have predictability in the financial envelope and eligible activities over each four-year replenishment period. The GEF is based on the incremental cost principle which is derived from the Conventions, such as the Stockholm Convention³ and Minamata Convention⁴, which asks the financial mechanism to support the agreed incremental costs of activities to implement the

³ Stockholm Convention, Article 13(2): “The developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill their obligations under this Convention...”

⁴ Minamata Convention, Article 13(7)(a): “The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund shall provide new, predictable, adequate and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of implementation of this Convention as agreed by the Conference of the Parties. (...) The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund shall provide resources to meet the agreed incremental costs of global environmental benefits and the agreed full costs of some enabling activities.”

Convention. . There is expectation that additional co-financing support is to be leveraged and mobilized from other sources.

In addition, some MEAs undertake needs assessments on funding needs and priorities to meet the goals of the Convention/treaty. This information is made available to help inform the replenishment.

Parties to the future plastics instrument may consider eligibility and allocation criteria, such as for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), differentiated support for countries with capacity constraints, and mechanisms that ensure complementarity among funds and avoid duplication.

Question 2. What role should the private sector have in facilitating the mobilization of financial resources, capacity building and technical assistance, and what elements could be considered under the financial mechanism to promote such a role?

The private sector has been mobilized on the issue of plastic pollution in recent years and is working with the GEF on shared objectives. Companies have been piloting and incubating solutions, advocating for policy development, and investing in projects with measurable impact. GEF is working to leverage this momentum and effectively engage with the private sector. It does so by:

- Participating in sectoral initiatives
Example: The GEF CEO serves on the Governing Council of the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) alongside major global brands, international organizations, and NGOs, helping align public and private sector efforts on plastic pollution.
- Mobilizing resources, including new technologies, through multistakeholder platforms and running investment incubator and business challenge programs for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
Example: Plastic Reboot mobilizes private-sector expertise and financing through its Private Sector Collaboration Group and has secured co-financing from 24 private-sector sources, including US\$15 million from Circulate Capital.
- Mobilizing investment in infrastructure
Example: The Shifting to Zero Waste Against Pollution (SWAP) program invests in recycling, sorting, and material recovery facilities and supports city-wide waste management infrastructure that integrates informal waste pickers into formal systems

- Launching revolving funds and green loan products
Example: Uruguay + Circular introduces financial and market incentives, including green loan products, to help SMEs and local cooperatives finance recycling and upcycling ventures.
- Innovative financing mechanisms: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and fees and insurance schemes
Example: The Circular and POPs-Free Plastics in Africa program promotes Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) frameworks, requiring plastic producers to share responsibility for collection and recycling.

GEF's experience shows that projects with sectoral and multistakeholder initiatives were able to leverage the most co-finance, often with the private sector contributions in the form of grants, equity investments and recurring expenditures.

Collective efforts demonstrate the GEF private sector engagement aim for whole of economy approaches to plastics that can leverage significant co-finance from the private sector, harmonize standards and practices, share risks and build collaborative business relationships through value chains and private sector entities at all scales.

Importantly, by working with sectoral initiatives, the GEF can more clearly discern where targeted public investment can best complement private sector resources and where catalytic finance is needed.

Question 3. What provisions related to technology transfer could foster international cooperation, considering the capacity differences between countries?

All GEF implementation projects include components on technology transfer and capacity building of implementing partners and relevant institutions.

Projects introduce new technologies for various sectors and funding includes identification of the most appropriate technology, testing and validation of the technology and creation of long-term funding for continued uptake of these technologies. Examples include planetGOLD where technologies are introduced along with access to finance from private and commercial sources for long term uptake of new technologies. More recently in the chemicals and waste focal area the emphasis has shifted to incubating and accelerating local/nationally developed technologies which are more appropriate to fit the local context.



The future plastics instrument could specify modalities and/or windows for technology transfer. For example, for climate change, the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) has a dedicated window to support technology transfer, private sector, and innovation.