

Organization. The main organs are the Conference, the Board of Governors and the Secretariat. The Conference, which is the supreme authority meeting at least twice a year, consists of delegations from each member country, normally headed by the respective minister of oil, mines or energy. All decisions, other than those concerning procedural matters, must be adopted unanimously.

Headquarters: Helderstorferstrasse 17, A-1010 Vienna, Austria.
Website: <http://www.opec.org>
Secretary-General: Abdullah Salem al-Badri (Libya).

Publications. *Annual Statistical Bulletin; Annual Report; OPEC Bulletin* (monthly); *OPEC Review* (quarterly); *OPEC General Information; Monthly Oil Market Report; OPEC Statute.*

Further Reading

Parra, Francisco, *Oil Politics: A Modern History of Petroleum*. 2010
Skeet, I., *OPEC: 25 Years of Prices and Policies*. 1988
Yergin, Daniel, *The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World*. 2011

OPEC Fund for International Development

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) was established in 1976 as the OPEC Special Fund, with the aim of providing financial aid on concessional terms to developing countries (other than OPEC member states) and international development agencies whose beneficiaries are developing countries. In 1980 the Fund was transformed into a permanent autonomous international agency and renamed the OPEC Fund for International Development. It is administered by a Ministerial Council and a Governing Board. Each member country is normally represented on the Council by its finance minister, or if not then by another designated person.

The initial endowment of the fund amounted to US\$800m. By the end of April 2010 OFID's total approved commitments (including public sector operations, private sector operations, trade finance operations, grants and contributions to other institutions) stood at US\$11,926m. OFID had approved 2,656 operations by the end of April 2010, including US\$7,326m. for project financing, US\$724m. for balance-of-payments support, US\$333m. for programme funding and US\$270m. for debt relief under the *Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative*. In addition, and through its private sector window, OFID had approved financing worth a total of US\$1,190m. in 144 operations in support of private sector entities in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe. Through its grants programme OFID had also committed a total of US\$483m. in support of a wide range of initiatives, ranging from technical assistance, research and emergency aid to dedicated operations to combat HIV/AIDS and hardship in Palestine.

Headquarters: Parkring 8, POB 995, A-1011 Vienna, Austria.
Website: <http://www.ofid.org>
Email: info@ofid.org
Director-General: Suleiman Jasir al-Herbish (Saudi Arabia).

Environmental Organizations

Friends of the Earth International

Origin. Friends of the Earth was founded in 1971 by a network of environmental activists from France, Sweden, the UK and the USA.

Mission. The organization aims to 'collectively ensure environmental and social justice, human dignity, and respect for

human rights and peoples' rights so as to ensure sustainable societies'.

Organization. Friends of the Earth International comprises 74 national member groups, with a combined membership of individuals exceeding 2m. around the world in some 5,000 local activist groups. A small, central secretariat operates out of Amsterdam in the Netherlands and co-ordinates major campaigns, but grassroots activities are tailored by the relevant national or regional group.

Headquarters: Nieuwe Looiersstraat 31, 1017 VA Amsterdam, Netherlands.
Website: <http://www.foei.org>
Chair: Jagoda Munić (Croatia).

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Origin. The Global Environment Facility is an independent financial organization that brings together 183 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society bodies and the private sector to address global environmental issues and support national development initiatives. It was established in 1991 under the aegis of the World Bank, becoming a permanent, separate institution in 1994.

Activities. As of Feb. 2015 the GEF had provided US\$13.5bn. in grants and co-financed over 3,900 projects in some 165 countries totalling US\$65bn. since 1991. It also serves as the financial mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Minamata Convention on Mercury (an agreement to protect human health and the environment from the effects of mercury emissions).

Organization. There is a GEF Assembly comprising representatives of each member country that meets every three to four years. The GEF Council is the main governing body, developing, adopting and evaluating specific programmes. The secretariat is based in Washington, D.C., and there are also a scientific and technical advisory panel, an evaluation office and a number of agencies managing particular projects.

Headquarters: 1818 H St., NW, Mail Stop P4-400, Washington, D.C., 20433, USA.
Website: <http://www.thegef.org>
Chief Executive Office and Chair: Dr Naoko Ishii (Japan).

Greenpeace International

Origin. Greenpeace evolved out of a series of environmental and anti-nuclear protests in Canada in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1985 it became the focus of international attention when agents of the French security services blew up the organization's flagship, *Rainbow Warrior*, while it was in Auckland Harbour, New Zealand.

Mission. Greenpeace is an independent global environmental organization that aims to secure a planet 'that is ecologically healthy and able to nurture life in all its diversity'. It campaigns to: prevent pollution and abuse of the Earth's land, oceans, air and fresh water; end all nuclear threats; and promote peace, global disarmament and non-violence.

Organization. Greenpeace International has its headquarters in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, from where it co-ordinates worldwide campaigns and monitors and advises 28 national and regional offices. These provide a presence in over 40 countries.

Financial contributions from governments, political parties and commercial organizations are not accepted. Funding is provided by