
**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS
21ST LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 27, 2016, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The following is a record prepared by the GEF Secretariat of comments, understandings, and clarifications of certain points made by Council Members. These points are supplemental to the Joint Summary of the Chairs, which records the decisions agreed by the Council.

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting

1. The 21st meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund Council was opened by Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Facility. In her opening remarks, the CEO highlighted that the Paris Agreement is expected to enter into force on November 4, 2016, and the role of the LDCF and the SCCF to support its implementation. She further emphasized that about one third of the funding pledges from Paris in 2015 have materialized so far, while the pipeline of technically cleared projects has been growing. Ms. Ishii also delineated the linkage between adaptation and the global commons agenda, as well as its relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. The Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group, Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, addressed the Council to thank the CEO and the GEF Council members for their continued efforts in ensuring smooth functioning of the LDCF. He highlighted the LDCF as the only dedicated funding stream to support the special circumstances and specific needs of the LDCs in addressing climate change and thanked the countries and sub-national entity that have contributed to the fund to date. In his statement, Mr. Mpanu-Mpanu further emphasized that the LDC Group urges developed countries to enhance their support to the LDCF to clear the backlog of projects and to enable future projects to be implemented without delay. The LDCs would also continue to face challenges vis-à-vis limited absorptive capacity for climate finance, implying a potential need for the LDCF to fund tailored capacity building in addition to other projects.

Agenda Item 3

Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund

3. Council members welcomed the Progress Report and expressed appreciation for the progress made under the LDCF and SCCF. One Council member welcomed the LDCF support toward the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process and highlighted the need to utilize NAP processes to implement the adaptation components in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of the Paris Agreement, and to ensure that the appropriate cross-references between project documents and NDCs are visible.

4. Several Council members noted with concern that a significant share of the pledges made to the LDCF at COP 21 still have to be translated into contributions. One Council member announced a new pledge to the LDCF to the amount of EUR 24 million, and laid out that this amount be paid in tranches of EUR 8 million each over three years in an effort to enhance predictability of resource availability under the LDCF. The CEO and several Council members acknowledged the contribution.

5. Several Council member noted the importance of the ongoing work and the results expected and achieved under the LDCF, as discussed in the Progress Report. Several Council members reiterated their countries' pledges, as announced at COP 21 and noted that these were either in the process of being paid or have already been paid into the LDCF Trust Fund. The support provided by the Province of Quebec to the LDCF was acknowledged.

6. The Council noted that there is a need to keep the technically cleared pipeline up to date, taking into account that important international and national processes have been ongoing. The GEF Secretariat clarified that proposals are updated at various stages of the project cycle, and that the relationship between individual proposals with their country's NDCs are reflected at the earliest possible stage for each project, as appropriate.

7. The Civil Society Organization (CSO) representative noted the significant commitment by the international community to the LDCF, including through pledges announced at COP21, and urged the Council to increase its ambition for both the LDCF and the SCCF.