
23rd LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
November 30, 2017

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS 23rd
LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 30, 2017, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

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

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting

1. The 23rd meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council was opened by Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility. In her opening remarks, the CEO highlighted the recent focus on the role of adaptation and resilience, including discussions leading up to and at the 23rd UNFCCC Conference of the Parties that took place in November 2017. She also underscored opportunities for partnership and ongoing efforts to increase private sector engagement through the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Finance and Technology Transfer Facility (CRAFT) project. The CEO also reminded the LDCF/SCCF Council of the high level of interest and requests for support from LDCs, while the LDCF remains under-resourced, and urged contributions.
2. Council members from Belgium, Germany, and Sweden confirmed the pledges made by their governments to the LDCF, which were announced at COP23. They reiterated their support for the critical work of the LDCF, while emphasizing the need for more predictability of funding, and encouraging other donors to contribute.
 - Belgium: EUR 7 million
 - Germany: EUR 50 million
 - Sweden: SEK 185 million
 - Walloon Region of Belgium: EUR 2.9 million
3. Switzerland announced a new pledge of CHF 1.98 million to the LDCF and CHF 500,000 to the SCCF. Switzerland also commended the GEF on supporting innovation and private sector engagement, as displayed by its support to the CRAFT project.
4. Cumulatively, the pledges amounted to USD 95.3 million.

Agenda Item 3 Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund

5. Council Members had no comments or questions regarding the progress report, and approved the decision.

Agenda Item 4 Strategic Alignment of the LDCF Pipeline Information Document

6. Council members welcomed the information document, citing the need for a more strategic approach to LDCF pipeline management. Various Council members voiced support to the proposed approach to consider and elaborate on the pipeline management further in the development of the Programming Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation for the period of July 2018 and June 2022, indicating that this document is the beginning of the process. In particular, many recommended that the GEF Secretariat undertake wide consultations with countries, LDCs and relevant stakeholders, and to ensure alignment with the needs and priorities of LDCs and SIDS.
7. One Council member welcomed the criteria/factors outlined in the document, and suggested to consider the possibility for issuing calls for proposals, which could allow a clearer definition of priorities for project selection, raising the question on whether a rolling basis was really the most appropriate approach.
8. Another Council member supported the batch approval approach, which would require a work program, while acknowledging that this approach could trigger other questions, such as whether there would be a minimum number of projects to constitute a work program, and what that minimum would be. The Council member indicated that while it was that country's position that a batch approach could allow for comparisons, in order to ensure that the most innovative and high quality proposals were being chosen, projects could potentially still be chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis; but that the work program would be built on "money in the bank." The Council member indicated that going forward, establishing criteria would be important to this process, and recommended that two that should be prioritized: 1) Alignment with needs identified in national priorities and planning of LDCs; and 2) The level of LDCF resources utilized per country. The Council member welcomed input from LDCs.
9. Many Council members expressed eagerness and willingness to be engaged in the process of elaborating the pipeline management and adaptation strategy development. One Council member asked for the Secretariat to clarify the next steps between now and the next Council.
10. One Council member representing a constituency with LDCs expressed appreciation for the ongoing work on adaptation done by the GEF Secretariat, commending the Progress Report and the information document. The Council Member reiterated that LDCs are counting on the LDCF, given the financing gap for adaptation needs. The Council member commented that the Secretariat and donors should be made aware that the LDCF requires more "proximity," in that recipient countries need to be informed on the status of funding, being that many countries are approaching the funding ceiling. Donors must continue to provide support, given that other instruments born since 2007 have not and cannot replace the importance of the LDCF to the LDCs.
11. The GEF Secretariat encouraged countries and stakeholders interested in the consultation process to express their willingness to engage to the Secretariat. The Secretariat also indicated its intention to further clarify the timeline of strategy development and consultations to take place before the 24th LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2018.

Meeting closure