

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS  
27TH LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 19, 2019, 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 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council was opened by Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairperson. In her opening remarks, the CEO strongly emphasized the importance of systematic approach to the adaptation actions by referring to the report entitled 'Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience' published in September 2019 by the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA). The CEO highlighted how the cohort of projects in this Work Program, which was strategically developed with multi trust fund (MTF) projects, is expected to strengthen the actions in the areas identified in the report as the key 'systems' affected by the climate change.

2. The CEO also emphasized the importance of integrating private sector into the adaptation actions. In this context, the CEO highlighted the newly launched Challenge Program of the GEF, which aims to leverage experience and knowledge from the private sector. The Program was extremely successful, attracting more than 400 proposals worth more than \$500 million for the \$10 million call for proposals held in August 2019. The CEO pointed out that the ideas on adaptation and vast interest from the private sector already exist, and the actual issues are the finance and mechanism to integrate these ideas, which the GEF is aiming to breakthrough by various efforts including the Challenge Program.

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

3. One Council member welcomed the report and expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts made by the GEF Secretariat and progress made by the LDCF and the SCCF, particularly ongoing support for immediate and long-term planning for adaptation and National Adaptation Plans. The Council member also mentioned her continued support for the LDCF and the SCCF.

**Agenda Item 4            Work Program of the Least Developed Countries Fund**

4.        The Council welcomed and expressed its support for the proposed Work Program for the LDCF, noting efforts made by the GEF Secretariat, particularly on: integrated and complementary approaches including those with private sector; alignment with national priorities; gender considerations; close cooperation with the GCA; and geographical balance.

5.        One Council member requested the GEF Secretariat to elaborate further on the approach the GEF is considering to continue collaborating with the GCA, and its contributions for the upcoming 2020 as the Super Year for nature and people. The CEO responded that through close discussion and communication with the other 32 Commissioners of the GCA, whose backgrounds range from national and local governments to the CSOs (civil society organizations) and private sector, the GEF is focusing on the actions pertaining to three specific areas identifies by the GCA as key systems affected by the climate change. These key systems are: food, natural environment, and cities. The CEO also emphasized that she sees Super Year 2020 as a significant opportunity to collectively work together with various actors, including GCA Commissioners, and mentioned that the GEF is ready to take a leading role in these areas to galvanize the actions.

6.        One Council member asked about the LDCF distribution concentrating in a certain GEF Agency. The GEF Secretariat representative responded that while the concentration of resources was observed until the GEF-6 period, the situation has evolved in the GEF-7 period with much more equitable distribution of resources among different Agencies, as depicted in the Progress Report.

7.        One Council member questioned about the graduation of the LDC status. The GEF Secretariat representative replied that the GEF Secretariat is working closely with graduating LDCs, so that these countries can fully utilize LDCF resources. As a result, the two countries that are scheduled to graduate during the GEF-7 period have already fully accessed their allocation with the approval of the December 2019 Work Program.

8.        One Council member highlighted the importance of discussions during the GEF Council regarding durability and private sector to the LDCF and remarked that a strong theory of change continues to be important, as well as a high emphasis on sustainable income generating activities that depend on the ecosystems that the LDCF/SCCF aim to protect.

**Agenda Item 5            Pledging Session**

9.        The Ambassador of Belgium to the United States, His Excellency Dirk Wouters, addressed the Council and announced Belgium's pledge to the LDCF. Council members representing the governments of Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden made statements expressing their support for the critical work of the LDCF and presented their pledges, some of which made earlier this year, to the LDCF on behalf of their governments.

10.      Cumulatively, the new pledges were equivalent to a total amount of \$188.29 million.

***Agenda Item 6      Other Business***

11. There was no other business.