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28<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting  
June 3, 2020

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS**  
**28<sup>th</sup> LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 3, 2020, Virtual Meeting**

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 Summary of the Chair, which records the decisions agreed upon by the Council.

***Agenda Item 1            Opening of the Meeting***

1. The 28<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). In her opening remarks, the CEO shared her reflections of her tenure. First, the CEO highlighted the achievements of the two funds. In 2012, the total number of projects were approximately 130 with the committed funding of \$500 million. The number has now grown to more than 380 projects, with \$1.8 billion in total committed funding. The CEO expressed her appreciation for the support, guidance, and commitment of LDCF/SCCF Council Members.
2. The CEO also highlighted the growing importance and role of the climate adaptation partnership, as exemplified by the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), for which she serves as a commissioner. In addition, she shared her observation that resilience has become a central topic for the environment as well as the international development agenda in general; and which has only been further reinforced by the current COVID-19 crisis. Finally, the CEO expressed her satisfaction in the increased engagement and interest from the private sector in climate adaptation.
3. The CEO concluded by emphasizing that the mission of the LDCF and SCCF is even more critical to supporting the most vulnerable economies and societies today, and asked for further support toward the capitalization of these two important funds.

***Agenda Item 3    Work Program of the Least Developed Countries Fund***

4. The Council welcomed and expressed its support for the proposed Work Program for the LDCF, commending efforts made by the GEF Secretariat despite the difficult circumstances. One Council member expressed her appreciation particularly for the gender disaggregated reporting and geographical balance of the Work Program. One Council member mentioned that the LDCF is crucial for aiding green recovery in LDCs from the COVID-19 crisis.
5. Some Council members encouraged the GEF to promote and raise visibility of the LDCF and of LDCs. The GEF Secretariat responded by presenting an example of how the GEF will continue to build on past efforts in this regard – such as the Ministerial Dialogue and a pledging session for the

LDCF in September 2019, co-hosted by the German government. The GEF Secretariat expressed that it is keen to continue such efforts, in partnership with donors and LDCs.

6. One Council member requested a clarification on a technically cleared project that was not included in the Work Program. The GEF Secretariat representative responded that it received two proposals from Haiti, one of which was included the Work Program as it addressed more immediate issues of basic service provision and impact. The GEF Secretariat also discussed priorities for adaptation with the Operational Focal Point of Haiti, who indicated that the enhancement of climate resilience in basic service provision such as drinking water was a priority for the country.
7. One Council member asked about the impact of COVID-19 on project implementation. The GEF Secretariat responded that during the project preparation stage, Agencies are expected to assess these risks and identify mitigation options.
8. One Council member asked about how the Strategic Country Cluster Evaluation (SCCE) will be reflected in the LDCF and SCCF strategy. The GEF Secretariat responded that SCCE will be reviewed, along with the program evaluation of the LDCF and SCCF, which is expected to be published later this year, and both of which will be considered in the forthcoming strategy formulation for GEF-8.
9. One Council member questioned the baseline data related to COVID-19, including sex disaggregated data. The GEF Secretariat responded that the issue is being considered within the GEF, and that a COVID task force has recently been formed with leading specialists in this field.
10. One Council member asked about co-financing from the private sector. The GEF Secretariat representative responded that although the private sector contributions vary from project to project, and Work Program to Work Program, the GEF will continue to work to seek increased and closer engagement with private sector partners.

***Agenda Item 4                      FY21 Administrative Budget for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund***

11. The LDCF/SCCF Council approved the budget for the GEF Secretariat, STAP, the Trustee and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).
12. One Council member requested clarifications on the workflow regarding the GEF-8 replenishment and LSCF/SCCF programming directions development. The GEF Secretariat representative responded that both GEF-8 and 2022-2026 LDCF/SCCF programming directions will be presented to Council at the same time, in May/June 2022. The GEF Secretariat representative mentioned that having some elements, such as the Technical Advisory Group meetings, organized in parallel for the GEF Trust Fund and the LDCF/SCCF may enable cost savings as well as cross-fertilization of ideas among the funds. She also responded positively to once again setting up a working group of donor countries for the LDCF/SCCF programming directions discussions.

***Agenda Item 5***            ***FY21 Work Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF under LDCF and SCCF***

13.    The LDCF/SCCF Council approved the budget for the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO).

***Agenda Item 6***            ***Other Business***

14.    There was no other business.