

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS  
25TH LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 20, 2018, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The following is a record prepared by the GEF Secretariat of comments, understandings and clarifications 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 25<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 recognized the importance of climate change adaptation and highlighted the strong momentum for adaptation action at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Katowice, Poland. The CEO emphasized that action should be forward-looking and make use of a systems approach to climate change mitigation interventions. The CEO further emphasized that transformational change requires consensus and political support. The CEO also highlighted the importance of private sector engagement, noting that adaptation presents new business opportunities in areas such as insurance. She reiterated GEF's support to innovative private sector initiatives, such as CRAFT, which was approved in 2017 to support a private equity fund to catalyze market for adaptation solutions.

***Agenda Item 3        Project Showcase***

2.        The Technical Advisor of the Ministry of Environment of Haiti and GEF Operational Focal Point, Mr. Moise Jean-Pierre, made a presentation on a coastal community adaptation project supported by the LDCF. Mr. Jean-Pierre highlighted how the project is providing critical climate information and implementing water management measures to reduce vulnerability of the agriculture sector and increase food security. The project has led to integration of climate adaptation into national policies and budgets, ensuring long-term sustainability. Mr. Jean-Pierre expressed his appreciation for the support of donors to the LDCF, which is vital for Haiti to reduce climate vulnerability.

***Agenda Item 4        Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund***

3.        Several Council members asked how the GEF Secretariat is managing the pipelined projects from the GEF-6 period. The GEF Secretariat clarified that, in line with the Council

decision, it is in close consultation with the countries to ensure that they are aligned with national priorities and GEF's 2018-2022 Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF.

***Agenda Item 5    Least Developed Countries Fund Work Program***

4.     The Council welcomed the innovative proposals in this first Work Program, in line with the Council-approved Programming Strategy on Adaptation. Many council members indicated their intention to submit suggestions and questions of clarifications on certain projects after the council meeting.

5.     The GEF Secretariat clarified that the Work Program has taken into account the newly approved GEF gender policy, reflected, for example, in the sex disaggregation data on project beneficiaries included in the Project Identification Form (PIFs).

***Agenda Item 6    Update on Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation under the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund***

6.     The LDCF/SCCF Council was invited to consider the information document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.25/Inf.04, *Update on the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation under the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund*.

7.     The update on the Challenge Program, which was included in the Council-approved Programming Strategy on Adaptation, was welcomed by the Council. A Council member representing an LDCs constituency expressed their support for project innovation in LDCs, including when dealing with food security. The Council member also expressed his constituency's support for increased engagement with the private sector. Several Council members welcomed the GEF's continued efforts to drive innovation.

8.     One Council member highlighted that limited LDCF funding should prioritize country-level initiatives. The GEF Secretariat clarified that the Challenge Program will draw on US\$5 million each from the SCCF and LDCF, for a total initial envelope of \$10 million, hence consistent within the pre-allocation agreed by Council for regional/global initiatives as stipulated in the Programming Strategy on Adaptation.

***Agenda Item 7    Pledging Session for the LDCF and the SCCF***

9.     Council members representing Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the Walloon Region of Belgium presented the following pledges made to the LDCF, some of also announced during COP24. Many donors reiterated support for the critical work of the LDCF, while emphasizing the need for more predictability of funding, and encouraging other donors to contribute.

10.    Cumulatively, the new pledges amounted to \$70.3 million.

**Agenda Item 8 Other Business**

11. The GEF Secretariat provided clarification on the information document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.25/Inf.06 pertaining to LDCs graduation. The Secretariat will be prepared to provide further information on the subject during upcoming climate negotiations, upon request from Parties. The Secretariat is also in contact with the countries with foreseeable graduation and keeping them informed of critical timelines and other relevant information.