
30th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
June 17-18, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS
30th LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 17-18, 2021, VIRTUAL MEETING

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

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting

1. The 30th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council was opened by Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chairperson. In his opening remarks, Mr. Rodriguez highlighted the critical importance of climate adaptation and resilience and underscored the role of LDCF and SCCF to deliver transformative outcomes.

Agenda Item 3 Opening Remarks by the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Fund

2. Following the opening of the meeting, the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group of the UNFCCC, Mr. Sonam Phuntsho Wangdi, provided opening remarks. In his remarks, Mr. Wangdi reiterated that the LDCF is the only fund dedicated to support the LDCs and that the LDCF as a main partner of choice for channeling resources for LDCs. He emphasized that the need for support is urgent, and resources should be significantly increased, being that an estimated USD 40 billion per annum is needed to finance adaptation needs in LDCs. He also indicated his deep concern regarding the lack of predictability of both the LDCF and the SCCF and predicted that at least US\$1 billion in financing is needed to fully capitalize the LDCF in GEF-8.

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

3. The Council conveyed appreciation for the progress being made by the LDCF and SCCF. In doing so, several Council members highlighted and emphasized the critical importance of further enhancing the visibility of these Funds and their achievements, some articulating the need for this to be separate from that of the GEF Trust Fund.

4. One Council member voiced the need to strengthen the long-term predictability of the funds to allow for better complementarity with other funds and suggested to somehow incorporate this into the new programming strategy.
5. One Council member requested more information regarding coordination with the GCF's National Adaptation Plan processes (including the Readiness Program) and whether this will be included in the Long-term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.
6. Several Council members asked whether reporting on expected key indicators disaggregated by annum is possible. The GEF Secretariat responded positively to the inclusion of key indicators disaggregated by annum going forward.
7. Several Council members expressed concern regarding the concentration of projects being implemented by one GEF Agency, while other Council members expressed that the agency choice rests solely with the countries. The Secretariat responded that while this has been the case historically, GEF-7 agency statistics are trending in a different direction and showing that a more diverse spread of agencies implementing LDCF projects.
8. A Council member expressed appreciation for the LDCF's continued commitment to fragile states.
9. The Secretariat indicated that efforts will be made to post the Progress Report in a timely manner in the future, while also reiterating that financial reports from the Trustee need to be finalized before the Progress Report can be posted.

Agenda Item 5 FY20 Annual Monitoring Review of the Least Developed Countries and Special Climate Change Fund

10. The Council welcomed the Annual Monitoring Review of the LDCF and SCCF and commended the progress in fund utilization, its high performance ratings, and the integration of gender in the projects. Council members encouraged the GEF Secretariat to continue reporting on the gender integration aspects.
11. Council members also appreciated the regional distribution of funding with good focus on the Africa region which is going through difficult circumstances currently. GEF Secretariat appreciated the comment and mentioned that the distribution is also due to large number of LDCs being in the Africa region.
12. One Council member also appreciated the major focus on agriculture sector for supporting climate change adaptation.
13. Some Council members also requested for more information on how COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the projects. GEF Secretariat responded that the impact of the pandemic has been analyzed by reviewing risk rating of projects, and the FY20 risk ratings did not show major differences to those

from FY19. The Secretariat also informed the Council that the qualitative impacts of COVID-19 on specific projects have been summarized in the AMR.

14. Some Council members expressed concern about the performance of the LDCF compared to the previous fiscal year, to which the GEF Secretariat responded that a closer look on this will be given and a trend analysis will be presented at the next Council with the aim of fostering a better understanding of the performance over the years.

Agenda Item 6 *Work Program of the Least Developed Countries Fund*

15. The Council welcomed and expressed its support for the proposed Work Program for the LDCF, commending efforts made by the GEF Secretariat and partners in continuing to support LDCs in their most urgent adaptation needs, and conveying how critical LDCF is to LDCs – which is even more apparent during times in crises. Council members expressed the importance of equitable access and the importance of ensuring the remaining countries which have not yet accessed resources in GEF-7 do so before the period ends.

16. Several Council members voiced their appreciation for the high number of African countries with projects included in this Work Program.

17. Two Council members reiterated concern associated with perceived domination by one agency and encouraged countries to explore mobilizing the support of other agencies which could add value to the portfolio.

Agenda Item 7 *Planning Note for the Development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements: July 2022 to June 2026*

18. Council members welcomed the planning note and invited the Secretariat to initiate the development process of the Programming strategy while offering suggestions to optimize this process.

19. One Council member proposed the establishment of a donor working group on the development of the strategy, which was supported by several other Council members. Another Council member suggested aligning the scheduling of the third meeting with the replenishment meetings of the GEF Trust Fund. The GEF Secretariat agreed to facilitate the establishment of a donor working group, based on the good experience from the LDCF/SCCF programming strategy discussion for the GEF-7 period. The Secretariat also will look into the feasibility of schedule alignment for the third meeting as proposed. This working group would also address questions related to raising the visibility and profile of LDCF/SCCF.

20. The CSO Network representative suggested including two CSO representatives in this Working Group.

Agenda Item 8 *FY22 Administrative Budget and Business Plan for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund*

21. The LDCF/SCCF Council approved the budget for the GEF Secretariat.

22. Two Council members requested clarifications on staffing and travel costs, and suggested more clarity articulated in future budget documents. The GEF Secretariat clarified that the number of staff will not change, but the 'percentage' of time staff devote to the LDCF/SCCF will increase due to anticipated work related to preparation for GEF-8, for staff who also support the GEF Trust Fund. On costs relating to travel and meetings, the GEF Secretariat clarified that most of the meetings are associated with the development of the forthcoming strategy, and while meetings are expected to increase in the lead up to GEF-8, the Secretariat will follow World Bank Group travel guidelines, and as such, overall travel costs are expected to remain constant with the FY21 budget.

Agenda Item 9 FY22 Work Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF under the LDCF and SCCF

23. The LDCF/SCCF Council approved the FY22 Work Program and Budget for the IEO of the GEF.

Agenda Item 10 Any Other Business

24. Council members representing the governments of Germany and the Netherlands made statements of support for the critical work of the LDCF and reiterated their continued commitment to supporting the LDCF, including reiterating pledges and contributions previously made. Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland also voiced their support for the LDCF and indicated that additional contributions will be announced later this year, with Switzerland also pledging to contribute to the SCCF.

Closure of the Meetings

25. The meeting was closed.