



GEF/LDCF.SCCF.31/inf.04
November 30, 2021

31st LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
December 9, 2021
Virtual

Agenda Item 6

**UPDATES ON 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**

BACKGROUND

1. The [30th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting](#) approved a decision for GEF Secretariat to initiate the process to develop the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund and Policy Enhancement for its Operational Improvement: July 2022 to June 2026. As outlined in the planning note¹, the GEF Secretariat held a series of informal consultations, leading up to the first strategy meeting. This Council information document provides an update on the consultations held to date and presents an updated schedule of second and third meetings.

FIRST MEETING OF THE PROGRAMMING STRATEGY ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

2. The first meeting on 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, was held virtually on October 19, 2021. The GEF Secretariat presented the proposed Programming Strategy draft², which was posted online ahead of the meeting. The meeting was attended by donors as well as non-donor recipient country Participants representing the least developed countries (LDCs), Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Observers from the GEF Agencies, GEF CSO network, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) also attended the meeting.

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the GEF, followed by Mr. Nigel Topping, High Level Champion of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and HE Sonam Wangdi, Chair of the LDC Group at the UNFCCC process.

4. The participants to the meeting discussed strategic positioning of the two funds, thematic and priority areas, options for resource mobilization for the LDCF and SCCF, options for SCCF optimization, as well as dedicated programs.

5. The draft chair's summary has been circulated to the participants on November 8, 2021, and the final version was posted on November 22, 2021.³

¹ GEF, 2021, [Planning Note for the Development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements: July 2022 to June 2026](#), LDCF/SCCF Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.30/07.

² GEF, 2021, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF and Operational Improvements July 2022 to June 2026](#), Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF SM.1/01.

³ GEF, 2021, [Chair's Summary](#), Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF/SM.1/Summary.

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

6. Formulation of the strategy document was informed by a series of informal consultations, first of which was the technical dialogue held virtually on September 16, 2021. This informal technical dialogue was attended by key stakeholders including leading scientists, technical experts, and practitioners in climate change adaptation, and provided rich information on the latest science and current knowledge/practice from the field. Similar to the Technical Advisory Group meeting for the GEF-8 replenishment process, this meeting was held under the Chatham House Rule.

7. The GEF Secretariat then organized informal consultations with donor countries on September 27, 2021 to exchange views among interested donors on the thematic and operational priorities, financing modalities, and enhancing visibility of the funds. The meeting also responded to the request made during the 30th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting to the GEF Secretariat to facilitate the establishment of a donor working group. All countries that have expressed an interest to participate in the Strategy development process have been invited to participate.

8. In addition, the GEF Secretariat held series of informal consultations with the recipient countries, comprising of SIDS and LDCs in the week of October 11, 2021. The meeting responded to the process as outlined in the planning note for preparing the strategy document, and also accommodated a request from the LDC Group to discuss their thematic and operational priorities and financing modalities.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE AND PLEDGING EVENT

9. Resource mobilization has been one of the key issues discussed during the first strategy meeting. Some donors expressed an interest to organize a pledging session at COP 26 to the UNFCCC. The GEF Secretariat organized a [Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session](#) for the LDCF and SCCF on November 9, 2021.

10. The meeting was attended by Ministers from Bhutan, Cambodia, Senegal, and Timor Leste from the LDCs. Ministers and other delegates from donor countries participated and shared their perspectives on the importance of adaptation support to the LDCs.

11. The event presented a high profile opportunity to generate optimism and create positive momentum at COP 26. In a show of strong support for those most at risk from climate change, 12 donor governments have pledged \$413 million in new funding for the LDCF. The donors are: Belgium, the Belgian region of Walloon, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. A media note, along with a press release, was issued⁴.

⁴ GEF, 2021, [Donors pledge \\$413 million to help most vulnerable cope with climate crisis](#), Press Release

12. Since COP 26, a new donor has also expressed an interest to contribute to the LDCF.

UPDATED SCHEDULE FOR SECOND AND THIRD MEETINGS

13. During the first Strategy meeting, participants were requested to provide feedback on the scheduling of second and third meetings. None was received. Accordingly, the GEF Secretariat proposes to organize the second and third meetings on the GEF Programming Strategy on Climate Adaptation for the LDCF/SCCF as follows:

- Second meeting: Virtual, either on February 16 or 23, 2022. The exact date of the meeting will be confirmed by early January 2022
- Third meeting: in person, back-to-back with the fourth replenishment meeting.