

## **31<sup>st</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting**

**December 9, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Opening of the Meeting**

**Remarks by**

**Carlos Manuel Rodriguez,  
GEF CEO and Chairperson**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Colleagues and Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to this penultimate Council Meeting for the LDCF and the SCCF for the GEF-7 period.

Much has happened since we last met in June.

The IPCC released initial findings of its 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report in August, confirming just how serious the state of climate change is, and a grim reminder of just how important the LDCF and SCCF are and will continue to be to many nations.

Another big advance since we met was that after a two-year gap, the UK was able to host a very successful in-person climate COP in Glasgow. This COP focused largely on finance needs, climate actions, with many countries calling for \$100 billion to be provided in climate finance annually.

I am thrilled by the immense success of the pledging event organized by the GEF Secretariat at the COP last month for the LDCF and SCCF. Thanks to you and your governments, we received record pledges for the LDCF, totaling \$413 million, from 12 donor governments and one donor region.

This successful pledging event is the start of an excellent and promising start for ambitious adaptation work for GEF-8!

While the pledges are excellent news for the LDCF and for vulnerable LDCs, it is my firm belief that the international community needs to continue to support all the adaptation funds under the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, including the SCCF, which can support the adaptation needs of non-LDC small island developing states.

It is important to emphasize that LDCF and SCCF support for adaptation falls far short of the large demands and needs placed upon LDCs and SIDS. In our draft adaptation programming strategy for GEF-8, you will find that we have further refined and focused the SCCF strategy to align with the guidance and comments received from you. It is my hope that we will be receiving pledges for the SCCF soon as well.

We have a small but impactful Work Program lined up for your approval today, which will bring three additional LDCs to the \$10 million access mark for GEF-7: Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Solomon Islands.

During this meeting, we will also be hearing about important strategic topics, such as the evolving strategy for the LDCF and SCCF for the 2022-2026 period, and on the IEO's evaluation of the SCCF.

Before I close, I would like to say a few words of appreciation and gratitude towards the outgoing LDC Chair and dear friend and supporter of the GEF, Dasho Sonam Wangdi, Secretary of the National Environment Commission of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Sonam has been heavily involved and has shared his personal insight on LDC needs and priorities this past year, showcasing Bhutan as a strong friend and partner to the GEF. On behalf of the entire GEF Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for devoting his time and sharing his vision on much needed adaptation action.

At the same time, I would like to congratulate Senegal on assuming the LDC Chair starting next month and would like to warmly welcome Ms. Madeleine Diouf Sarr as the next LDC Chair.

We look forward to working with you Madeleine.

With this, I would like to conclude and to officially commence the 31<sup>st</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting.

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