
31st LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
December 9 - 10, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS
31st LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING
December 9 - 10, 2021, 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 31st meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council was opened by Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Chief Executive Officer (CEO). First, the CEO shared his reflections on the COP 26 in Glasgow and immense success of the pledging event organized by the GEF Secretariat for the LDCF. The GEF has received record pledges for the LDCF, totaling over \$413 million, from 12 donor governments and one donor region. The event and the pledges made have received high visibility through both the GEF and the donor communications channels. On behalf of LDCs, the CEO expressed his appreciation to the Council members and their governments.
2. The CEO also highlighted the needs 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 (SIDS). He emphasized that LDCF and SCCF support for adaptation is falling very far short of demand and needs, especially for LDCs and SIDS. In light of this, the CEO also expressed his hope of also receiving pledges for the SCCF.
3. The CEO concluded by thanking outgoing LDC Chair, His Excellency Sonam Wangdi of Bhutan for his deep insight on LDC needs and priorities. The CEO congratulated Senegal on assuming the LDC Chair, and warmly welcomed Ms. Madeleine Rose Diouf Sarr as the next LDC Chair.

Agenda Item 3 Opening Remarks by the incoming LDC Chair

4. The incoming LDC Chair, Ms. Sarr, provided opening remarks. In her remarks, Ms. Sarr appreciated the positive collaboration and partnership between the LDC Group and the GEF, in particular the LDCF, building upon the strong momentum that her predecessor, His Excellency Sonam Wangdi, has helped to gain. She also congratulated the GEF Secretariat under the dynamic leadership of CEO and Chairperson, for organizing very successful Ministerial Dialogue and Pledging Session at COP26 in Glasgow. In closing, she emphasized the need to collectively, as the international community, renew

our efforts to ensure both the LDCF and SCCF are more strongly and predictably resourced than ever and ensure the support they provide targets greatest climate adaptation impact possible.

Agenda Item 4 *Work Program of the Least Developed Countries Fund*

5. Council members welcomed the LDCF Work Program. Some Council members expressed concern over its small size, which the Secretariat explained was due to limited resource availability at time of Work Program constitution.

6. Some council members inquired into actions the GEF Secretariat is taking to ensure that the three remaining LDCs that have not yet accessed the LDCF are able to do so before the conclusion of GEF-7. The GEF Secretariat responded that they are in contact with these countries. All of these countries are likely to submit concepts for the June 2022 Work Program.

7. One Council member requested a clarification on how this Work Program will help close gender gaps. The GEF Secretariat described the various ways in which the concepts will deliver benefits to women, contribute to their empowerment, and engage them as active partners in project design and implementation, with further analysis to be undertaken during project preparation.

8. Council members expressed overall support for several aspects of the Work Program that include geographic balance, level of impact, gender considerations, COVID-19 context and risk mitigation, locally-led action, and private sector engagement. Support was also expressed for the GEF's coordination with the GCF.

Agenda Item 5 *Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund*

9. The Council welcomed and conveyed appreciation for the progress being made by the LDCF and SCCF. In particular, Council members and the CSO Network commended the GEF Secretariat's efforts on and success regarding visibility, gender mainstreaming, pledging session at COP26 and the Challenge Program. In light of lack of recent donor contributions for SCCF, Council members recognized progress made on communications and urged the GEF Secretariat to continue to advance visibility.

10. One Council Member inquired about any limitations the GEF Secretariat faced regarding the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation. The GEF Secretariat responded that although they see the innovation and impact potential of expanding this Challenge Program, the level of funding currently available for it, particularly from the SCCF, had implications on the scale of support the Challenge Program has been able to provide through its first two rounds. This said, the GEF Secretariat also mentioned the pre-concept submission modality which invited proponents to submit short initial concepts made the process reasonably efficient for both the proponents and the GEF Secretariat.

11. Several Council members and the CSO Network asked whether age disaggregated reporting is available. The GEF Secretariat responded that although measuring and monitoring age-disaggregated data could be complex matter, they will look into it. The Secretariat will also look into the inclusion of expected key indicators disaggregated by annum, as requested at the 30th LDCF/SCCF Council.

12. The GEF Secretariat indicated that efforts are made to post the Progress Report in a timely manner, and noted there was a time improvement from the previous report despite the challenging commitments associated with COP26, as well as emphasized that they will continue to strive towards timely posting of the Progress Report.

Agenda Item 6 **Update on 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**

13. The Council welcomed and conveyed appreciation for the presentation on the update on the Development of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and the SCCF and Operational Improvements: July 2022 to June 2026. Council members particularly welcomed the efforts made in enhanced visibility, gender and private sector innovation.

14. Several Council members inquired about the relationship between LDCF/SCCF and Adaptation Fund and encouraged collaboration with other international climate funds. The GEF Secretariat responded that the LDCF/SCCF are actively coordinating with GCF, the Adaptation Fund, the CIFs and also the NAMA Facility. This was exemplified by an ongoing discussion platform on coordination and collaboration on monitoring and results. The Secretariat noted the Adaptation Fund is housed within the GEF and there is close collaboration at the Secretariats level, including on programming strategy along with GCF.

15. A Council member expressed her willingness to continue supporting SCCF if other donors would do so. The Council member also thanked the GEF Secretariat for putting together a strategy that fits the needs and focus needed, particularly on SIDS and private sector innovation. Other Council members indicated they are considering possibilities to support the SCCF moving forwards. Another Council Member commended the successful LDCF pledging event at COP26.

Agenda Item 7 **2021 Program Evaluation of the Special Climate Change Fund and Management Response**

16. The Council welcomed the Program Evaluation of SCCF, took note the findings, and endorsed the management response, including the GEF Secretariat's point that removal of windows SCCF-C and SCCF-D would require a UNFCCC COP decision. Good results were particularly welcomed, especially sustainability ratings which were significantly higher than the GEFTF.

17. A Council member requested the GEF Secretariat to articulate and communicate the needs and complementary role SCCF can play in closing the gap in the international climate finance architecture. The Council member exemplified with two SCCF projects that have demonstrated SCCF's needs and distinctive roles in the climate finance architecture, by showcasing technology transfer and innovation for adaptation. The GEF Secretariat welcomed the examples, and further responded that these points will be refined for better articulation in the next 2022-2026 LDCF/SCCF Strategy draft.

18. A Council member noted the need for predictable funding for the SCCF, as stated in the Management Response, and requested options in this regard, while also expressing support for the

proposed focus on SIDS and innovation for the SCCF during 2022-2026. The GEF Secretariat responded that the options will be shared in the draft programming strategy for adaptation for 2022-2026.

19. A Council member highlighted a phrase 'a closer interaction with the IEO' in the management response and underscored the importance of the independence of the IEO. The CSO Network asked whether the IEO can develop a monitoring tool kit and provide pertinent capacity building for the national government. The IEO replied that its primary role is on evaluation.

Agenda Item 8 Other Business

20. There was no other business.