

**THIRD MEETING ON 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  
CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

The third meeting on 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-June 2026 was held virtually on April 26, 2022. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Gustavo Fonseca, Director of Programs of the GEF.

Contributing Participants were joined by non-donor recipient participants representing the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group; non-donor recipient countries representing Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, Latin America, and the small island developing States (SIDS); observers from the designated representatives of GEF Agencies, UNFCCC Secretariat, GEF CSO network, Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund; and the Trustee.

Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez Echandi, CEO and Chairperson of the GEF opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. He highlighted the fact that adaptation is central to the very existence of many communities across the planet, including low-lying islands and countries with populations living below the poverty line. He emphasized that for many people on this planet, adaptation is not an option but a necessity. He also reminded the participants that this meeting is taking place after very successful and record replenishment for the GEF Trust Fund for the upcoming GEF-8 period, where donors have shown a very strong commitment to support the global environmental, and expressed his expectation that the strong commitment participants demonstrated in the replenishment will also be evident for adaptation. He also conveyed that he hoped by the time this meeting concludes, participants will consider this strategy to be in its final, or very near-final, form, and ready to be presented for LDCF/SCCF Council Approval in June. Mr. Rodriguez urged for robust financial support, particularly for the SCCF.

Mr. Daniele Violetti, Senior Director of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), highlighted the critical need to increase climate adaptation finance. He noted the Glasgow Pact, which decided to double the climate adaptation finance by 2025, has put priority on the climate adaptation. He commended GEF Secretariat for their work and underscored three points to highlight the importance of their work. First, as funding for climate adaptation becomes more urgent, he mentioned that LDCF's and SCCF's role as a 'multiplier' of investment is becoming more critical than ever. Second, he noted that a better access to funding is also becoming important, particularly for developing countries and mentioned that LDCF and SCCF have a potential to bridge this gap. Third, by referring to the successful LDCF

pledging event which took place during the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, he emphasized the importance of the contribution of financial resources.

Ms. Madeleine Diouf Sarr, Chair of the LDC Group of Countries, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage in the strategy development process, and indicated her support to the programming strategy presented. She underscored that four thematic areas in the articulated in the strategy are all well aligned with the priorities of the LDCs: i) Agriculture, Food Security, and Health; ii) Water; iii) Nature based solutions; and iv) Early Warning and Climate Information Systems. She also emphasized that strategy is strong on taking whole-of-society approach. On the financial scenarios for LDCF and SCCF, the LDC Chair encouraged all developing partners to do their best towards more ambitious scenarios.

### ***Discussions on Contributions towards Enhanced Predictability: Briefing by the Trustee of the LDCF and SCCF***

Mr. Praveen Desabatla, Senior Financial Officer, World Bank, briefed and provided his insights with the participants on contributions towards enhance predictability and the multi-year contribution modality that the LDCF is poised to adopt. He highlighted how greater predictability from a multi-year pledging can result in better pipeline management and a robust financial framework. He also emphasized the flexibility the Trustee can provide in their LDCF/SCCF contribution agreement for multi-year pledges; that is, form of payment; timing; and drawdown schedule.

### ***Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF and Operational Improvements***

Ms. Chizuru Aoki, Lead Environment Specialist, presented the Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements. In doing so, she highlighted revisions and enhancements that had been made based on comments from Council members during the second meeting, written comments received, and findings of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports. She conveyed how this strategy is consistent with COP and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) guidance, addresses country priorities, and is complementary to other sources of climate adaptation finance.

Virtually all donor and recipient representatives present conveyed their agreement with the strategy, citing its focus on high priority areas and strong design for transformative impact. Many conveyed their appreciation that their comments and questions have been addressed in a constructive manner. Some participants also expressed their satisfaction with the inclusive and participatory nature of the process.

A number of donor representatives expressed their intentions of continuing to and/or enhancing their LDCF/SCCF support in the GEF-8 period. One donor asked about the course of action if the contributions to the SCCF fall short of the scenarios by COP 27. The GEF Secretariat

responded that the lower scenario of \$200 million is to be considered as the floor for the programming strategy to be viable, requesting donors to consider strong support for the SCCF. The GEF Secretariat also mentioned the recent COP and CMA guidance on doubling of adaptation finance and the SCCF support, and to send positive signals at the pledging event at the June 2022 Council to enable the operations of the first two years of the GEF-8 period. The GEF Secretariat also underscored the need to strive for parity in support under Window A and Window B of the SCCF for the fund to fulfil its role.

### ***The Way Forward***

Mr. Gustavo Fonseca provided an account of the major deliberations and conclusions reached at this meeting, and explained the proposed way forward. Participants indicated their agreement and support for the new LDCF and SCCF Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements. At the 32<sup>nd</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting in June 2022, Council members will be requested to welcome and endorse the strategy as a basis for programming resources under the LDCF and the SCCF from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026.

A pledging session will take place at the same 32<sup>nd</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting, at which time donors will be invited to make voluntary contributions to both the LDCF and SCCF. The GEF Secretariat also informed the participants that they may issue a press release or statement on the LDCF/SCCF Strategy and donor support upon conclusion of the Council meeting.

The GEF Secretariat will circulate the Chair's Summary of this meeting by May 10, 2022, for review and comments by May 17, 2022.

### ***Reflections and Closing of the Third Meeting***

Mr. Rodriguez shared his reflection on the meeting. He expressed his excitement and satisfaction that meeting has reached a convergence on the strategy and operational improvements. He also emphasized that multi-lateralization and global collaboration are needed in the center of the climate actions more than ever, and expressed his strong faith in the success of the GEF partnership for climate change adaptation during the GEF-8 period.

Ms. Diouf closed the meeting by sharing her reflections. The LDC Chair expressed her satisfaction that participants were able to agree on the strategy and operational improvements, which she conveyed reflects LDCs needs and priorities well. The LDC Chair also urged all development partners to provide ambitious contributions that will enable the translation of the strategy into concrete actions on the ground.

Mr. Fonseca closed the meeting and thanks all participants for a very successful outcome reached on the new LDCF and SCCF Programming Strategy and Operational Improvements.