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32<sup>nd</sup> LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting  
June 23, 2022

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS**  
**32<sup>nd</sup> LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 23, 2022, Washington D.C.**

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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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). The CEO thanked Council Members and participants for their support towards development of the LDCF and SCCF strategy for the 2022-2026 period.
2. The CEO also highlighted the need for scaled-up and predictable financing for both the LDCF and the SCCF, to meet country expectations and address time-critical adaptation needs. As such, he urged participants to demonstrate their commitment for small islands as well as to innovation and private sector engagement by generously resourcing the SCCF on an urgent basis. He also expressed his hope to see continued support to the LDCF.
3. The CEO concluded by giving a snapshot of the impressive results achieved for the LDCF for GEF-7. The CEO expressed his confidence that the GEF is ready to do much more to support climate adaptation priorities in GEF-8, building on the successful LDCF programming in GEF-7.

***Agenda Item 3            Opening Remarks by the LDC Chair***

4. The LDC Chair, Ms. Sarr, provided opening remarks. In her remarks, Ms. Sarr commended the GEF Council Members, countries, and agencies for successful implementation of GEF-7 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and offered Special thanks to GEF Secretariat for the proactive outreach to LDC that has reached the utilization rate for LDCF resources for national projects in the GEF-7 period over 99 percent.
5. She also highlighted the importance of endorsing the new GEF-8 climate adaptation programming strategy by the council and thanked the GEF Secretariate for ensuring inclusive, participatory and transparent strategy preparatory process. She welcomed doubling of the LDCF cap for

countries from \$10 million to \$20 million and expressed full support for the special funding window for SIDS under SCCF.

6. In closing, she called for contribution for both the LDCF and SCCF to further improve predictability and flexibility of the fund for effective implementation of the new strategy.

***Agenda Item 4                    GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026 and Operational Improvements***

7. Many Council members expressed their appreciation and support for the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026 and Operational Improvements.

8. Council Members conveyed appreciation for various aspects of the Strategy and Operational Improvements, including multi-year pledging, whole of society approach, innovation, a window on SIDS, and the increased LDCF country cap aligned with Glasgow Pact of doubling the climate change adaptation financing by 2025.

9. Many Council Members and the CSO Network urged Donors to join the only donor country that financially supported SCCF in GEF-7, and which conveyed it is ready to continue supporting SCCF if only at least one other donor will also do so in GEF-8.

10. One Council Member asked about the parity under different SCCF windows. The GEF Secretariat responded that donors will have the option to support both of the priority areas of the SCCF in GEF-8, or earmark funds for one of the two areas.

11. One Council Member asked about coordination with GEF Trust Fund Impact Programs. The GEF Secretariat responded that while LDCF/SCCF will not be providing resources into Impact Programs, parallel financing through multi-trust fund projects is possible.

***Agenda Item 5                    Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund***

12. Council members welcomed the LDCF Work Program. Council Members expressed their appreciations by highlighting several aspects of the Work Program, including contribution to green and blue recovery, collaboration with GCF, gender consideration, increased number of Agencies involved, geographical balance, stakeholder engagement, innovation such as application of the latest concepts, for example nature based solutions.

13. Council Members appreciated GEF Secretariat for supporting all LDCs under GEF-7 LDCF programming with this Work Program, leaving no LDCs behind. Council Members also expressed their gratitude towards very high LDCF utilization rate.

**Agenda Item 6**                    ***FY21 Annual Monitoring Review of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund***

14. Council member welcomed the performance results of both the funds especially the SCCF during the reporting period.

15. While appreciating the reporting of sex-disaggregated data in AMR, one Council member requested the GEF Secretariat to provide sex-disaggregated data for training related results of the two funds. The Secretariat responded that this can be considered for projects which report segregated results.

16. Once Council member enquired about lower target achieved by LDCF and SCCF for the indicator of climate resilient land management. The Secretariat responded by indicating that this seems to be a general trend, as similar results – lower achievement rate for indicators related to land management, are also reported in the previous AMR as well as in GEF Trust Fund Monitoring Report.

17. Another Council member highlighted the lower performance of projects implemented by UNDP. GEF Secretariat responded that this could be due to the tendency that UNDP's projects having more concentration in the LDCs or countries that tend to face more difficult situation in which project implementation and execution are more difficult.

**Agenda Item 7**                    ***Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund***

18. There were no comments nor questions from the floor. Council Members approved the Progress Report.

**Agenda Item 8**                    ***FY23 Administrative Budget for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund***

19. One Council Member asked about the relationship of the budget and the different financial scenarios regarding SCCF, to which GEF Secretariat responded that adjustment will be made by dedicated programs depending on the available resource towards SCCF.

**Agenda Item 9**                    ***FY23 Work Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund***

20. There were no comments nor questions from the floor. Council Members approved the FY23 Work Program and Budget for the Independent Evaluation Office under the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.

**Agenda Item 10**      **Other Business**

21. Finland pledged to contribute EUR 2 million to the Least Developed Countries Fund for the year 2022.

22. Denmark pledged to contribute DKK 150 million for the year 2022 and DKK 150 million for 2023 to the Least Developed Countries Fund.