

Meeting Summary
Consultations on the GEF Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2018-2022
for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund
29 April 2018, Bonn, Germany

Meeting Objective

1. The GEF Secretariat organized a meeting with representatives of donors and recipient countries on April 29, 2018, as part of the consultation process to develop a new GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the period of 2018 to 2022. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and receive feedback on the document titled *Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Options for Operational Improvements* for the period 2018 to 2022, and to brief the participants on the proposed way forward. The list of participants is included in Annex I.

Strategy Development and Consultation Process

2. The meeting was organized as a key step in the strategy development and consultation process to take place in the first half of 2018. The initial discussion on the new strategy development and consultations took place at the twenty-third LDCF and SCCF Council held on 30 November 2017, under the agenda item on the Strategic Alignment of the LDCF Pipeline. The GEF Secretariat encouraged countries and stakeholders interested in the consultation process to express their willingness to engage to the Secretariat.
3. The GEF Secretariat prepared a tentative consultation schedule, and shared it in mid-January 2018 requesting countries and stakeholders to confirm their interest to engage. A number of confirmations of interest was received through February 2018.
4. The GEF Secretariat held informal bilateral consultations with interested country representatives in March and April 2018. Their feedback informed the draft strategy, which was circulated on 17 April 2018 to the invitees to the consultation meeting.
5. The GEF Secretariat also circulated a draft strategy for technical review to key stakeholders on 13 April to solicit comments. Key stakeholders for the technical review included relevant adaptation-related funds, expert institutions on adaptation, Least Developed Countries Expert Group, UNFCCC and UNCCD Secretariats, and select GEF Agencies (see Annex II for list).

6. A briefing with representatives of least developed countries to present the draft strategy and to solicit feedback was also held in Bonn on 2 May 2018.

Summary of Discussions

7. Ms. Chizuru Aoki of the GEF Secretariat opened the consultations, and thanked the participants, which included representatives of Belgium, Germany, the LDC chair and members of the LDC group, Sweden, Switzerland the United States, and UNFCCC Secretariat.
8. The LDC Chair, Mr. Gebru Jember Endalew, offered introductory remarks, noting the valuable support provided by the LDCF for LDCs and their long-held trust in, and partnership with, the LDCF. He requested the donors to continue to support the LDCF as the only fund dedicated to LDCs to address adaptation challenges, recognizing its catalytic role to help LDCs chart the paths towards sustainable development; to ensure fairness and transparency while ensuring the LDCF to have more flexibility to address urgent and immediate needs; to build opportunities for partnership to help and support the LDCs, including with the private sector and other funds, with capacity support; and to ensure that non-LDCs and other vulnerable countries, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are not forgotten, including support for graduating LDCs, with a strong SCCF.
9. Mr. Jozef Buys of Belgium offered remarks on behalf of the donors present, expressing appreciation for the LDCF and Belgium's intention of continuing to support it, as well as his view that the primary priority for the LDCF must remain serving the needs of the LDCs.

Programming Directions

10. Ms. Fareeha Iqbal of the GEF Secretariat presented an overview of the proposed programming strategy and current status of the LDCF and SCCF operations to the participants.
11. There was overall appreciation for the proposed programming directions and options for operational improvements among those present, and statements confirming the relevance and importance of these funds for implementing the Paris Agreement. Both donor and recipient participants voiced agreement with many elements of the strategy and priorities. A number of participants expressed support for the added focus on climate security, gender empowerment, and integration.
12. Some participants indicated that the strategy needs to reflect distinct elements for the LDCF and for the SCCF, rather than a combined approach for both the funds. The GEF Secretariat agreed to enhance the distinction in the next iteration.
13. Participants also discussed the proposed emphasis on innovation, technology transfer, and private sector. Some expressed the closer alignment of the innovation and technology transfer agenda as more relevant for the SCCF goals compared to the LDCF, and requested

clarification on the envisaged scope of innovation and private sector engagement in the context of the LDCF. The LDC Chair stated that innovation, technology transfer, and private sector engagement were important within the context of LDCs also. Some questions were also raised on the appropriateness of non-grant instruments for the LDCF. The GEF Secretariat responded to clarify these points further.

14. Some participants stated that it is important for these funds, particularly the LDCF, to be distinct and maintain uniqueness to serve the LDCs and vulnerable populations, as part of the financial mechanism for UNFCCC.
15. Many expressed support for opportunities to enable integrated and multi-focal area programming, based on country needs. Different perspectives were offered by participants on proposed joint adaptation programming with the Impact Programs, as well as on adaptation support for platforms. Some also expressed that the primary purpose of the funds is not to mainstream adaptation for the GEF Trust Fund. The GEF Secretariat will clarify the linkages and opportunities further.
16. Some participants also called for further clarity on the proposed programming elements for the LDCF from those of the Green Climate Fund. The LDC representative stated that he would like the GEF to facilitate private sector engagement, sharing concerns with the GCF and other adaptation-related funds to address LDC-specific priorities and constraints. The GEF Secretariat responded that the GCF has been requested to review the strategy, and their feedback on this point will also be useful for the further refinement of the strategy.
17. There was broad support for the proposed SCCF programming emphasis on addressing the needs of non-LDC SIDS as well as targeted interventions for women.
18. As the LDCF is also mandated to support the LDC work programme, participants discussed how linkages with possible elements of the updated LDC work programme¹, under negotiation, could be anchored in the adaptation strategy. One donor requested the LDC Chair to provide feedback on general alignment between the proposed work programme and the strategy elements, particularly on matters related to capacity building and regional/global support. The GEF Secretariat reiterated its readiness to continue to respond to guidance to support elements of the LDC work programme.
19. An LDC representative indicated that they are conducting an analysis of the funding gap for adaptation for LDCs, stating that the financing scenarios presented for the LDCF fell far below the assessed financial need for LDCs. He stated that the gap between needs and support need to be included in the document.
20. Some participants stressed the need to communicate results of adaptation interventions by using metrics that are able to demonstrate impact. They also suggested framing the strategy in a manner that shows it as having evolved from the previous adaptation strategy, reflecting evaluation findings from the Independent Evaluation Office.

¹ The possible elements of the updated LDC work programme are presented in FCCC/SBI/2018/4.

Operational Improvements

21. There was consensus among participants on several aspects of the proposed operational improvements for the adaptation program. Regarding the project selection and approval processes, all participants who spoke stated that the selection of a batch of projects based upon transparent strategic prioritization criteria, presented for Council approval as a Work Program with a cover note, would be a preferred option (presented as Option 6 in the draft strategy). One representative said Option 4, along with Option 6, would also be acceptable.
22. Regarding factors to consider for enhanced strategic LDCF prioritization, all speakers stated that country adaptation needs and priorities would be the foremost consideration and the most important factor.
23. On support for Regional and Global Initiatives, the LDC representative stated the importance of regional capacity building initiatives. He mentioned a two-pronged approach, with clustered activities and institutional anchors, such as universities and research institutions, and the merit of integrating capacity building into projects. Further, he commented on the role of capacity building and technology as an enabler of adaptation, and the need to consider them as part of the project package.
24. On the options presented to manage the current LDCF pipeline of technically approved projects, those who offered comments were in favor of Option 2, for the GEF Secretariat to consult with countries with projects in the pipeline to define national priorities GEF-7. There was broad support for a consultative approach with countries with pipelined projects at the beginning of GEF-7, aligned with broader GEF national planning discussions, to assess whether and how the pipelined project(s) would remain viable and respond to national priorities, and also in light of the new strategy and opportunities offered in GEF-7.
25. Regarding the matter of the LDCF ceiling and country access, participants who offered comments were in favor of Option 2, which proposed a ceiling of \$50 million and a cap of \$10 million, with the primary consideration being to maximize the number of countries that could access LDCF resources in GEF-7. One participant suggested that as part of the prioritization process for proposals, the GEF consider demographic factors in addition to geographic. In order to better understand the proposed ceiling options and access modalities, participants requested further information on the current status of LDCF access by country. The GEF Secretariat offered to provide this information, as it is already presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council as part of the Progress Report.
26. Participants discussed the constitution of inter-sessional Work Programs, while acknowledging that this option may be more relevant to consider with the constitution of the GEF Trust Fund inter-sessional, to consider multi-trust fund projects.
27. Some participants emphasized the need for enhanced capacity building and technology transfer, and enabling closer interaction with universities and research centers through

projects, with a view to developing capacity through projects, rather than doing capacity-building activities.

Next Steps

28. Participants of the consultation were encouraged to submit additional comments in writing by 7 May 2018. The GEF will revise the draft to reflect feedback from technical experts as well as donors and recipients, and share with key constituents by mid to late May.
29. Participants also requested the GEF Secretariat to consider organizing a video or teleconference later in May, so that they, along with additional interested countries, will have an opportunity to provide further feedback. The GEF Secretariat will organize a second consultation via teleconference on 23 May 2018.
30. The GEF Secretariat plans to post the final document by 28 May 2018 for consideration and decision by the twenty-fourth LDCF/SCCF Council, which will take place on 26 June 2018.
31. Ms. Aoki of the GEF Secretariat thanked all the participants for their active engagement and constructive feedback on the strategy, and close the meeting.

ANNEX I: Meeting Participants

No	Name and affiliation
1	Mr. Jozef Buys, Belgium
2	Ms. Andrea Kuhlmann Germany (GIZ)
3	Ms. Paula Rolffs, Germany (GIZ)
4	Mr. Gebru Jember Endalew, Chair, LDC Group
5	Ms. Achala Abeysinghe, Advisor to Chair of LDC Group
6	Mr. Manjeet Dakaal, Advisor to Chair of LDC Group
7	Mr. Sebastian Carbonari, Sweden
8	Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Sweden
9	Ms. Gabriela Blatter, Switzerland
10	Ms. Samah El Bakri, UNFCCC
11	Mr. Paul Desanker, UNFCCC
12	Ms. Miwa Kato, UNFCCC
13	Ms. Laureline Krichewski, UNFCCC
14	Ms. Annett Möhner, UNFCCC
15	Mr. Youssef Nassef, UNFCCC
16	Mr. Farhan Akhtar, USA
17	Ms. Hayley Gillooly, USA
GEF SECRETARIAT	
1	Chizuru Aoki
2	Fareeha Iqbal
3	Katya Kuang Idba
4	Milena Gonzalez Vasquez
5	Akio Takemoto

ANNEX II: Technical Reviewers of LDCF/SCCF Strategy 2018-2022

No	Name and affiliation
1	Ms. Rosina Bierbaum, Chairperson, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
2	Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
3	Mr. Naresh Sharma, LDC Expert Group Chair
4	Mr. Andrew Steer, President and CEO, WRI
5	Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary, UNCCD
6	Mr. Benito Mueller, Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy
7	Mr. Maarten van Aalst, Director, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
8	Mr. Saleemul Haq, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Environment and Development
9	Mr. Jay Koh, co-Founder and Managing Director, Lightsmith Group
10	Mr. Leonard Nurse, IPCC lead author on SIDS
11	Mr. Patrick Verkooijen, Advisor, World Bank
12	Ms. Kelly West, GEF Coordinator, UNEP
13	Ms. Emilia Battaglini, GEF Coordinator, World Bank
14	Ms. Adriana Dinu, GEF Coordinator, UNDP
15	Mr. Howard Bamsey, executive Director, Green Climate Fund
16	Ms. Mafalda Duarte, Manager, Climate Investment Funds
17	Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Manager, Adaptation Fund