

Meeting Summary
**Consultations with Least Developed Countries on the GEF Climate Change
Adaptation Strategy 2018-2022 for the Least Developed Countries Fund and
Special Climate Change Fund**
2 May, Bonn, Germany

Meeting Objective

1. The GEF Secretariat organized a meeting with Least Developed Country (LDC) representatives present at the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body (SB) meetings in Bonn on May 2, 2018, as part of the consultative review process to inform the draft *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 2014-2018. The goal of the meeting was to consult with the LDC representatives on the proposed strategy and operational enhancements and to receive their feedback, so that priorities and perspectives of this primary stakeholder group can be understood and reflected in the strategy development process.
2. The consultations also respond to recommendations to the GEF Secretariat to undertake wide consultations with countries, LDCs, and relevant stakeholders, and to ensure alignment with the needs and priorities of LDCs and SIDS, made by several Council members at the twenty-third LDCF and SCCF Council, held in 30 November 2017,
3. Approximately 50 participants representing various LDCs participated in the meeting.

Strategy Development and Consultation Process

4. 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, 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.
5. The GEF Secretariat prepared a tentative consultation schedule, and shared it in mid-January 2018 requesting countries and stakeholders, including the LDC Group, to confirm their interest to engage. A number of confirmations of interest was received through February 2018.

6. The GEF Secretariat held informal bilateral consultations with interested representatives in March and April 2018. Their feedback informed the draft strategy, which was circulated on 17 April 2018 to those expressed interest in the consultation process, including the LDC Group.
7. The GEF Secretariat also circulated a draft strategy for technical review to key stakeholders on 13 April 2018 to solicit comments. Key stakeholders for the technical review included relevant adaptation-related funds, expert institutions on adaptation, Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), UNFCCC and UNCCD Secretariats, and select GEF Agencies
8. The GEF Secretariat organized a consultation on the draft strategy on April 29, 2018 in Bonn, Germany, that was attended by Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the US on the donor side, the LDC Group Chair and members of the LDC Group on the recipient side.
9. The GEF Secretariat organized consultations with LDCs on the draft strategy on May 2, 2018, also in Bonn.

Summary of Discussions

Programming Directions

10. Ms. Chizuru Aoki of the GEF Secretariat opened the meeting and welcomed participants. The LDC Group Chair, Mr. Gebru Jember Endalew, gave opening remarks, underscoring the value of the LDCF in addressing priority adaptation needs of LDCs, and the need to ensure this fund can continue to deliver against these needs.
11. Ms. Fareeha Iqbal of the GEF Secretariat then presented an overview of the current status of the LDCF and SCCF operations, followed by the proposed programming directions and operational improvements. Participants were largely supportive. Several LDCs reiterated the value of the LDCF in addressing critical adaptation needs in their countries, and expressed their hope that changes in the climate finance landscape – particularly the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund – would not affect the ability of the LDCF to provide continued, reliable support. They highlighted the fact that they had, over time, built experience and capacity in accessing and implementing LDCF support, and were keen to continue to see of the results this effort and experience gained.
12. There were requests for further clarification on how the LDCF would support adaptation mainstreaming in their GEF Trust Fund portfolio. Participants were highly interested in the proposed emphasis on private sector engagement, and posed questions that included: whether the LDCF would continue to disburse grants (rather than loans); how the GEF could support micro enterprises; and whether the LDCF would de-risk private sector engagement in important areas such as agriculture, which was often found to be too risky to invest in. A few participants shared that targeting the private sector was a key aspect of

their national development planning. There was also support for the proposed focus on innovation, with some countries underscoring the importance of innovation in delivery of appropriate climate information services and modeling infrastructure to predict climate impacts, as well as support for planning them, and in meaningfully supporting resilience of livelihoods, health and agriculture. There were questions on how the proposed innovative partnerships would be operationalized.

13. Some participants were interested in knowing how the 2018-2022 LDCF/SCCF strategy would take into account the new elements of the proposed LDC work programme, under negotiation at the time. Countries were also interested in knowing whether they would be able to access the SCCF, which is open to all developing countries. The GEF Secretariat representative provided clarification, including how the LDCF will continue to respond to COP guidance on supporting the LDC work programme, and eligibility of access to SCCF by all developing countries.



Operational Improvements

14. Ms. Chizuru Aoki of the GEF Secretariat provided an overview of proposed operational improvements. Discussion took place on pipeline management, with countries in favor of Option 2 as proposed in the draft strategy, i.e., revising and/or reformulating their projects as appropriate, in consultation with the GEF, rather than dissolving the pipeline. Countries' rationale for this approach was that a lot of effort had gone into developing the existing proposals, and that they may still be national priorities.
15. Countries were amenable to Option 2 regarding the proposed ceiling and cap. While questions were asked around the ability to achieve impactful programming if a cap was set, there was also recognition that this approach would enable the maximum number of LDCs to be able to access the LDCF in the GEF-7 period.
16. The GEF Secretariat representatives also provided clarifications on a number of questions on the operational modalities of the LDCF and SCCF, such as access to project

preparation grants, graduation policy, and engagement in the national portfolio formulation exercise.



Next Steps

17. Participants of the consultation were encouraged to submit any additional comments in writing by May 7, 2018. The GEF will revise the draft strategy to reflect feedback from technical experts as well as donors and recipients, and share with key constituents prior to the next consultation via teleconference on May 23, 2018.
18. The final draft of the strategy will be posted on the GEF website by May 30, providing the LDCF/SCCF Council with four weeks to discuss and approve. The LDCF/SCCF Council meeting will take place on June 26, 2018.