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Report on the activities of the Information Appeals Panel

Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of the Information Appeals Panel (IAP) constituted under the GCF Information Disclosure Policy as in decisions B.12/35 and B.BM-2018/05. The reporting period is from 1 June to 30 September 2019.

I. Introduction

1. The Information Appeals Panel (IAP) is constituted under the GCF Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) as in Board decisions B.12/35, paragraph 28 and B.BM-2018/05. The IAP receives and decides on appeals submitted under the IDP of the GCF and in relation to decisions made by the GCF Secretariat on information requests.
2. This report on the activities of the IAP covers the period from 1 June to 30 September 2019.

II. IAP Chairperson

3. Paragraph 28 of the IDP states that the “IAP Chair will be selected from amongst, and by, the IAP members”. The three members of the IAP are the Heads of the Independent Integrity Unit (IIU), the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM), and the Independent Evaluation Unit (IEU) of the GCF.
4. As decided by the IAP Members, the Chair of the IAP shall rotate amongst them following a fixed annual term. Accordingly, the Head of the IIU assumed office on 4 June 2019 until 3 June 2020.
5. The Registrar of the IRM remains in the capacity of the Administrator to the IAP, which position involves managing the processing of information appeals via the IRM’s case management system.

III. Information Appeals

6. The IAP did not receive any appeals during the reporting period.
7. The IAP has continued to follow up with the Secretariat on the implementation of the IAP decision on its first appeal dated 19 November 2018. The Secretariat notified the IAP on 14 October 2019 that the matter was brought to the attention of the Board at its twenty-third meeting for their information. In response to a communication from the IAP, the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) stated that OGC has had “consultations with OGA [Office of Governance Affairs] on the issue, but [has not] decided on a clear path. The issue is not free from difficulty. We will continue having consultation with OGA and SMT [Senior Management Team] to decide how the issue will be resolved and brought before the Board”.
8. The IAP requested a meeting with OGC to discuss the matter but OGC responded indicating that they would revert to the IAP. However, OGC had not done so up to the time of writing this report. The Secretariat has failed to implement the IAP decision for over 11 months. The IAP wishes to alert the Board of this unsatisfactory situation, which has resulted in frustrating the authority and effect of the IAP decision that was also unanimously endorsed by the Ethics and Audit Committee (EAC) of the Board.

IV. Case Management System

9. The custom-built Case Management System (CMS), which the IRM developed to incorporate IAP appeals, became fully operational at the end of July 2019. The Registrar of the IRM is designated as its system administrator. On the public reporting side, IAP appeal information and decisions will continue to be housed on the GCF website: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/disclosure/appeals>.