

4.7. Early Endorsement of Concept Notes

Accredited entities may wish to seek early endorsement of a concept note prior to full proposal development. The Fund's proposal approval process, which is detailed in chapter four of the Operations Manual, places early endorsement of concept notes into context. Concept development is a voluntary step and offers accredited entities a channel to seek feedback on a concept note prior to the development of a full funding proposal. Accredited entities should also inform and commence consultations with the relevant national designated authority (NDA) or focal point with a view of confirming that the proposed activities are in line with the country's strategic framework and priorities.

At the concept development stage, the Secretariat, in consultation with the NDA, provides feedback and recommendations to the accredited entity. Early endorsement is intended to indicate whether a proposal broadly aligns with the Fund's investment framework and results management framework, and is an important feedback tool. The final funding decision, however, belongs to the Board or delegated approving authority, and early endorsement shall not be seen as pre-empting the Board on its funding decision.