

STATEMENT | 2015



Global Partnership and the three dimensions of sustainable development

Remarks

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Taking decisive action on climate change is critical to protecting the social and economic development gains achieved by the developing countries over the last decades.

Climate Change is accelerating due to human economic activities; it has become incumbent upon us all to de-couple our social and economic development from greenhouse gas emissions, while investing to protect our current and future socio-economic assets from climate change adverse impacts.

The increasing number of extreme weather events like Typhoon Haiyan are an indication of the damage caused by a changing climate, claiming a human cost, with fishing communities in the Philippines losing their livelihoods and struggling to rebuild their local economies.

Land degradation in Africa reduces the earth's ability to absorb carbon emissions, contributing to further global warming – and equally wreaks devastation on farmers, increasing the risk of crop failure and famine.

Rising sea levels in the Pacific are a wake-up call showing how climate change is causing the oceans to rise – and they represent a localised and immediate threat to the lives and homes of Pacific islanders in countries such as Tuvalu.

That's why fighting climate change is an integral and essential part of sustainable development.

And that's why I am delighted to be here today to explore the connection between social, economic, and climate-sensitive development with you, and to map a way ahead to a truly sustainable development.

Let me tell you a little about the Green Climate Fund's progress to date.

The Fund was established by the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC, and it is the only multilateral financing institution set up with the sole goal of supporting the UNFCCC's objective of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

The Fund will contribute to the achievement of a majority of the Sustainable Development Goals. We promote a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development, taking into account the needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including SIDS, LDCs and African states.

We have made significant strides recently.

In 2014 we raised \$10 billion USD equivalent in pledges from 35 countries – including both developed and developing states

By now, 24 of those countries have already converted their pledges into action, signing agreements with the Fund, for about 60 percent of the pledged amount.

We really appreciate this strong country support - let me give just some examples of countries that signed their contribution arrangement. Sweden is the largest contributor to the Fund per capita at \$60 for a total of \$580 million, whilst Japan is the largest signed contributor in nominal amount with \$1.5 billion USD.

The Fund is poised to support action on the ground in developing countries through the deployment of targeted grants, concessional loans to governments, and private sector instruments.

I've just come from the GCF Board meeting at our headquarters in South Korea, where we've made even more progress.

We now have nearly 130 countries that have selected focal points in government to liaise with the Fund and ensure a country-driven approach.

Alongside this, the network of institutions through whom we will work is growing as well. We already have 20 accredited entities, national, regional, international, public, private and non-governmental, who will be key partners for the Fund. And we continue to review more requests for partnership.

The funds are starting to flow.

Over 70 countries have requested preparatory support – which we call readiness funding – to build their capacity to access resources from the Fund effectively and efficiently.

We are already committing readiness funds to 9 countries to help them build their capacity to engage with the Fund.

We are launching several pilot programmes for a total investment envelope of up to \$900 million— one to enhance direct access to increase country ownership, another to support micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, and a third to mobilise funding at scale from the private sector.

And I am pleased that the Board will take financing decisions on the Fund's first project proposals at our next meeting in Livingstone, Zambia, in November, immediately before COP 21.

This will be a highly symbolic moment, sending a strong signal from Africa to Paris that developing countries are building sustainable pathways with the Fund's support.

The Green Climate Fund is moving forward at great speed and its investments will contribute to the majority of the new Sustainable Development Goals which will guide global efforts to finance developing countries between 2015 and 2030.

As a main operating entity under the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, the GCF will play a key role in channelling and catalysing climate investment in developing countries.

The \$10 billion USD equivalent mobilised by the GCF so far is a good start, but let's be clear: we need to raise much more concessional climate finance going forward if we are to have the impact that we seek. The GCF is open for new contributors to come forward and pledge resources.

The climate funding that we will channel and catalyse needs to be new, additional, and adequate as USD 400 billion per annum is needed to green and make the long term investments of developing countries resilient.

Industrialised countries have committed that climate finance should reach at least \$100B USD per year by 2020, - a goal that was reiterated recently by G7 leaders, who equally noted that the GCF is a key institution of the future climate finance architecture.

I hope that the Addis text and, later on, the Paris Conference of Parties recognise climate finance as essential to sustainable development and as a key part of an equitable and ambitious global climate agreement.

As we move from Addis Ababa, to Livingstone, and on to Paris this year, I am optimistic that we can, and must, unlock the global climate financing needed to support low-emission, climate-resilient development - a truly sustainable development for people and for the planet.

Thank you.