

STATEMENT | 2015



Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Rolling Out GCF Projects

Keynote Speech

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I am delighted to be here in Stockholm today to mark World Water Week, and I would particularly like to thank the citizens of Sweden and their government for their strong support to the Green Climate Fund.

Sweden is the largest contributor to the Fund per capita. Swedish citizens have contributed at a rate of \$60 per person, for a total of \$580 million equivalent. Excellency Minister Lövin, the leadership of your government is unmatched.

Ladies and gentlemen, successfully managing our water resources, and providing access to safe drinking water and sanitation in developing countries is of paramount importance.

Today more than one billion people live without access to safe drinking water or sanitation. Global demand for water, irrigation, domestic needs, manufacturing, and electricity is projected to increase by over 50% by 2050. And at the same time, the risks to our water ecosystem are increasing substantially as global GHG emissions continue to rise. Water is a central issue, both for climate change action and for sustainable development.

The community assembled here today has a key role to play in making sure that the critical facts on water management are known by the international community.

Water infrastructure projects must support both the goals of sustainable development, and build resilience in the face of inevitable climate change.

Together, we need to ensure that quick access will be given to finance water projects that are both sustainable and replicable. We need to work in partnership, scaling up the investment in water management, and ensure integrated projects and programmes that address infrastructure and recurrent operation and maintenance costs.

This conference comes at a critical time. We come here just after the Addis Financing for Development Conference last month, with the UN Sustainable Development Summit taking place next month in New York, and then the UNFCCC COP 21 meeting in Paris at the end of the year.

From the perspective of the Green Climate Fund, this last stretch on the road to Paris will be decisive in making the Paris Universal Climate Agreement a success.

We raised in 2014 some initial resources of about \$10 billion equivalent in pledges from 35 countries – 60% of which have already been converted into signed contributions. And we are

now reviewing the very first funding proposals. Partners are already requesting billions from GCF to roll out low-emission and climate resilient projects, including for water management systems.

GCF is the only international financing institution set up with the sole goal of supporting the UNFCCC's objective of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

Our ambitious mandate is to 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 are now poised to support action on the ground in developing countries through targeted grants, concessional loans to governments, and private sector instruments.

The funds are already starting to flow. A small grants programme is currently under implementation – we call it “readiness support,” focused on preparing countries to mobilize GCF funding. Resources have been requested by over 70 governments, and we are already committing funds to the first ten countries.

We are also launching several pilot programmes with a total budget of \$900 million to increase country ownership, support small- and medium-sized enterprises, and to mobilize funding at scale from the private sector.

As a next step, the GCF Board will take financing decisions on the Fund's first project proposals at our next meeting in Livingstone, Zambia, which will take place in November, immediately before COP 21.

This will be a symbolic moment, sending a strong signal from Africa to Paris that GCF is fully operational, and that developing countries are starting to access the Fund's support to their priority projects. And we are confident this will have a positive impact on what we hope will be a successful Universal Climate Agreement in Paris.

For GCF, the significance of water is clear. Sustainable water investment is climate investment. As such, water is one of our key results areas, and the theme of water is embedded across most of the investment areas of the Fund.

So how are we going to make this principle a reality in our investments?

We have already identified the opportunity for high-impact investments in more sustainable water systems in cities, agriculture, Small Island Developing States, and clean energy.

We will explore options to anticipate and manage water stresses in vulnerable small islands in regions such as the Pacific and Caribbean.

We will explore opportunities to work with cities and municipal governments to improve urban systems for water management and sanitation.

We will use GCF's truly innovative Private Sector Facility to build partnerships with private corporations alongside public sector operations, in order to support water investments.

And in all this work we are committed to ensuring that our projects and programmes are country-driven, by working in partnership with the nearly 130 countries that have already selected focal points to advise us on their climate investment decisions.

Ladies and gentlemen, I invite you to learn more about the Green Climate Fund – we want to work in partnership with you all.

The Fund makes use of a wide range of established institutions to deliver its results – we have already accredited 20 such entities: international, regional, national, public, private, and non-governmental – and there will be many more partners to join GCF.

Our goal at the Fund is to support a true paradigm shift towards low-emission, climate-resilient development.

We hope that you will follow the Swedish government and join us to support these aims, to ensure that high quality investments are made in water management, to build climate resilient water systems, and to secure access to clean, safe water for every human being on this planet.

Thank you.