



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

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# Country Ownership

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**GCF/B.10/Inf.07**

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**Meeting of the Board**

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Provisional Agenda item 13\*

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\* The agenda item number will be determined when the final sequence of items in the provisional agenda is confirmed by the Co-Chairs.

## Country Ownership

### I. Purpose and scope

1. The purpose of this document is to enable the Board to take stock of decisions related to country ownership, the role of the national designated authorities (NDAs) or focal points, and multi-stakeholder engagement in order to consider ways in which it can effectively monitor the implementation of these decisions, and areas where further work can be undertaken to help to strengthen country ownership.

### II. Context

2. Country ownership and a country-driven approach are core principles of the Fund.

3. The Governing Instrument for the Green Climate Fund provides that:

*“The Fund will pursue a country-driven approach and promote and strengthen engagement at the country level through effective involvement of relevant institutions and stakeholders.”<sup>1</sup>*

4. Furthermore, in its operational modalities, the Governing Instrument notes that:

*“The Fund will provide simplified and improved access to funding, including direct access, basing its activities on a country-driven approach and will encourage the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups and addressing gender aspects”<sup>2</sup>*

5. Several decisions of the Board, referenced below throughout the document, specify the role of NDAs or focal points in the context of the operational modalities of the Fund, and also recommend measures to strengthen country ownership in the operations of the Fund.

### III. Country engagement and readiness

6. The Governing Instrument notes that “countries may designate a national authority”<sup>3</sup> and decision B.04/05 further notes that “countries may alternatively mandate a focal point” and that they “should have flexibility in relation to the location, structure, operation and governance of NDAs or focal points”.

7. To date, through regular interactions with the Secretariat, 127 countries have communicated the nomination of their respective NDA or focal points to the Fund.

#### 3.1 Role of NDAs and focal points

8. In decision B.04/05, paragraph (e), the Board decided that the NDA or focal point will:

- (a) Recommend to the Board funding proposals in the context of national climate change strategies and plans, including through consultation processes;
- (b) Facilitate the communication of nominations of entities to the Fund;

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 3 of the Governing Instrument.

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 31 of the Governing Instrument.

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 46 of the Governing Instrument.

- (c) Seek to ensure consistency of funding proposals from national, subnational, regional and international intermediaries and implementing entities with national plans and strategies;
- (d) Implement the no-objection procedure; and
- (e) Act as the focal point for Fund communication.

9. Furthermore, in decision B.08/10, the Board endorsed the initial best-practice guidelines for the establishment of NDAs and focal points. In order to further orient NDAs and focal points on the operations of the Fund and their roles and responsibilities within them, the Secretariat has developed and sent all NDAs and focal points a guide titled *Engaging with the Green Climate Fund* that also communicates the guidelines endorsed by the Board.<sup>4</sup>

10. In decision B.08/10, the Board also endorsed initial best-practice options for country coordination and multi-stakeholder engagement for the development of country strategic frameworks as well as funding proposals. This information has also been included in the above-mentioned guide.

## 3.2 Readiness funding to NDAs and focal points

11. Through decision B.08/11, the Board has made available readiness funding to NDAs and focal points in order to:

- (a) Strengthen their capacities to fulfil their roles and responsibilities with respect to the Fund, which includes engagement with regional, national and sub-national government, private sector and civil society stakeholders with regard to the priorities of the Fund, taking a gender sensitive approach; and
- (b) Develop a strategic framework that identifies priorities for the country's engagement with the Fund, which may be in the form of a country programme; it will build on existing strategies and plans, including low-emission development strategies, nationally appropriate mitigation actions, national adaptation plans, national adaptation programmes of action and intended nationally determined contributions, and may follow the Fund's initial general guidelines for country programmes as in Annex XVII to document GCF/B.08/45.

12. NDAs and focal points lead the deployment of readiness and preparatory support funding, and to date, the Secretariat is in the process of responding to requests from countries for support in the activities referred to paragraph 11 (a) and (b) above, and further details are included in the *Progress Report on the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme* (GCF/B.10/Inf.06). The outputs of the funding support include the development of country programmes, which will be published where they are submitted to the Fund.

## IV. Country role in accreditation and proposal development

### 4.1 Accreditation process and monitoring of accredited entities

13. NDAs or focal points facilitate the nomination of entities applying for accreditation under the direct access track. Furthermore, through decision B.09/07, accredited entities intending to operate outside the country that nominated them have been encouraged to engage

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<sup>4</sup> See <[http://issuu.com/greenclimatefund/docs/gcf-elements-guide-to-ndas?utm\\_source=conversion\\_success&utm\\_campaign=Transactional&utm\\_medium=email](http://issuu.com/greenclimatefund/docs/gcf-elements-guide-to-ndas?utm_source=conversion_success&utm_campaign=Transactional&utm_medium=email)>.

with the NDAs and focal points in those countries. The Secretariat communicated the Board's decision on this matter to all accredited entities on 13 April 2015.

14. At the tenth meeting of the Board, in document GCF/B.10/05 *Additional Modalities that further Enhance Direct Access: Terms of Reference for a Pilot Phase*, the Board will consider additional modalities that further enhance direct access, including through funding entities with a view to enhancing country ownership of projects and programmes. Furthermore, at the same meeting, in document GCF/B.10/02 *Monitoring and Accountability Framework for Accredited Entities*, the Board will also consider the role of NDAs, focal points and other country-level stakeholders in the monitoring and accountability of accredited entities.

15. In decision B.08/11, the Board decided that the Fund, in close coordination with the relevant NDA(s) or focal point(s), will deploy readiness funding to potential subnational, national or regional implementing entities and intermediaries who wish to be accredited to the Fund, consistent with the fit-for-purpose accreditation approach of the Fund, and will prepare them to apply for accreditation. The Secretariat has provided in-kind support to several entities, including with the support of other international organizations, and is also in the process of responding to specific requests from countries for the provision of readiness support to the direct access entities they have nominated. Further details on this support are included in the *Progress Report on the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme* (GCF/B.10/Inf.06).

## 4.2 Project and programme development and approval

16. In decision B.07/03 on the Fund's initial proposal approval process, the Board decided that a country may submit a country programme, and the NDAs or focal point may also recommend spontaneous funding proposals in the context of their national climate change strategies and plans, including through consultation processes. To date, the NDAs or focal points of a few countries have recommended proposals to the Fund by submitting concept notes using the template published on the Fund's website.

17. In decision B.07/03 on the Fund's initial proposal approval process, the Board also decided that the Secretariat, in consultation with NDAs or focal points, provides feedback and recommendations to accredited entities that may submit concept notes. The NDAs or focal points will also raise no objections on funding proposals submitted to the Fund by accredited entities in accordance with the Fund's no-objection procedure approved by the Board.

18. The no-objection procedure of the Fund, as adopted in decision B.08/10, has been communicated to NDAs and focal points through the guide mentioned in paragraph 9 above, and is also included in the operations manual of the Fund available on the Fund's website.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, based on the guidance provided in the no-objection procedure, the Secretariat is developing a template letter for NDAs and focal points as a means by which they can communicate their no-objections stance on funding proposals submitted to the Fund.

19. In decision B.08/11, the Board decided that NDAs and focal points can request funding to develop project and programme pipelines consistent with the Fund's objectives. Further details on readiness support for this activity can be found in the *Progress Report on Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme* (GCF/B.10/Inf.06).

## V. Next steps

20. There is high demand from NDAs and focal points for information about the Fund. The Secretariat has responded to this demand through one-on-one engagement, participation in

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<sup>5</sup> See < <http://www.gcfund.org/operations/resource-guide.html> >.

workshops and other events, and through organizing two regional workshops, one in San Salvador, El Salvador, for the Central America region, and one in Songdo, Republic of Korea, for the Asia region and Eastern European countries. The Secretariat is planning further events in 2015 for Africa, the Pacific and South America. Additionally, the Secretariat has planned a series of webinars targeting NDAs, focal points and other stakeholders in all regions.

21. For 2016, the Secretariat is developing a more structured approach to its ongoing engagement activities with countries, which will include regional workshops, webinars, NDA or focal point visits to the Fund's headquarters, case studies on programmes and projects approved by the Fund, and other such activities. The objective of these engagement activities is to strengthen countries' understanding of the Fund's operations, provide them with platforms to communicate their priorities to the Fund, and to facilitate knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning. Elements of the structured plan for these engagement activities are included in the *Progress Report on the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme* (GCF/B.10/Inf.06). The engagement activities planned and undertaken will be reviewed by the Board as part of the readiness progress reports, which will enable the Board to monitor the Fund's strategic engagement with NDAs, focal points and other stakeholders in countries.

22. A key challenge encountered in communicating with NDAs or focal points is that the Fund's communication materials are in English. Using readiness and preparatory support funding, the Secretariat is in the process of procuring translation services in order to translate the Fund's information materials and templates into some of the most frequently spoken languages, notably French and Spanish initially. For translation into other local languages, support will be available to NDAs and focal points under the country-specific readiness activities to procure such translation capacity, as needed.

## VI. Conclusion

23. This document summarizes relevant Board decisions on country ownership, provides an update on actions taken by the Secretariat to put into practice the Board's guidance so as to enable NDAs and focal points to perform their responsibilities in the most effective manner and to strengthen country ownership.

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