



**GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND**

**Meeting of the Board**  
2 – 5 November 2015  
Livingstone, Republic of Zambia  
Provisional Agenda Item 6\*

**GCF/B.11/Inf.04**

10 October 2015

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# Reports from committees and panels of the Board of the Green Climate Fund\*\*

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## Summary

This document contains the reports on the activities of the following committees and panels of the Board:

- (a) Accreditation Committee;
- (b) Accreditation Panel;
- (c) Investment Committee; and
- (d) Independent Technical Advisory Panel.

These reports cover the reporting period July to September 2015, and in some cases indicate activities planned to be undertaken by the committees and panels in advance of the eleventh meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund.

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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.

\*\* The reports contained herein are those received from the committees and panels mentioned in the document. Other committees and panels may report to the Board during its eleventh meeting.

## A. Introduction

1. This document contains the written reports from the following committees and panels of the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF):
  - (a) Accreditation Committee (AC);
  - (b) Accreditation Panel (AP);
  - (c) Investment Committee (IC); and
  - (d) Independent Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).
2. The reports herein cover the reporting period July to September 2015, and in some cases indicate activities planned to be undertaken by the committees and panels in advance of the eleventh meeting of the Board (B.11).
3. At the time of publication of this document, the Secretariat had not received written reports from the following committees, group and panels, and therefore these are not included in this document:
  - (a) Appointment Committee (APC);
  - (b) Ethics and Audit Committee (EAC);
  - (c) Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG); and
  - (d) Risk Management Committee (RMC).
4. The committees and panels listed in paragraph 3 above may report to the Board at B.11.
5. Due to the expiration of the initial term of Board membership on 23 August 2015 and the ongoing selection of Board members to serve on the second term, the composition of the committees is subject to change. In this regard, a proposed decision to appoint members to committees and panels of the Board was transmitted in-between meetings on 29 September 2015. A comment was received from a Board member on 6 October. As of the date of publication of this document, the comment received is being worked through in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.
6. Sections B – E contains the reports referred to in paragraph 1.

## **B. Report on activities of the Accreditation Committee**

### **I. Introduction**

7. The AC is comprised of four Board members, including the Chair of the AC. The Board members who are members of the AC are Mr. Jan Cedergren (Chair), Mr. David Kaluba, Mr. Patrick McCaskie and Mr. Arnaud Buisse.

8. The AC is consulted by the Secretariat on accreditation-related policy matters.

9. At the tenth meeting of the Board (B.10), through decision B.10/06, paragraph (q), the Board decided to revise the membership of the AC, as contained in annex IV to decision B.07/02 (annex IV to document GCF/B.07/11). The revised membership of the AC will comprise three Board members or alternate members of the Board from developing country Parties and three from developed country Parties. As at the date of publication of this report, this change had not yet been implemented.

10. At the same Board meeting, it was also decided that the AC, with the support of the Secretariat, should work on a strategy for accreditation to be considered at the next meeting of the Board (B.11).

### **II. Activities during the reporting period**

5. The AC has held three virtual meetings between B.10 and B.11 with the purpose of discussing the outstanding issues related to accreditation policy and procedures. It took the opportunity to discuss and comment on documents related to the launch of the enhanced direct access pilots and accreditation-related documents and draft decisions that will be considered by the Board at B.11, including the following:

- (a) Document GCF/B.11/03 titled “Consideration of accreditation proposals”;
- (b) Document GCF/B.11/Inf.08 titled “Strategy on accreditation”; and
- (c) Document GCF/B.11/05 titled “Initial monitoring and accountability framework for accredited entities”.

### **III. Next steps**

6. The AC will continue to be engaged in policy matters related to the accreditation process of the GCF. The short-term focus will be on the strategy on accreditation and the enhanced direct access pilots.

## C. Report on activities of the Accreditation Panel

### I. Introduction

7. The AP is comprised of six expert members, namely Mr. Peter Carter (Chair), Ms. Isna Marifa, Ms. Penelope Herbst, Ms. Anastasia Northland, Mr. Max Contag and Mr. Wolfgang Diernhofer.

8. The AP is in charge of conducting the accreditation process in accordance with its terms of reference which were adopted by the Board through decision B.07/02, paragraph (h).

9. The AP, coordinated and represented by its Chair, works in consultation with the Secretariat on accreditation-related matters.

### II. Activities during the reporting period

#### 2.1 Organizational activities

10. The members of the AP are located remotely in relation to GCF headquarters and utilize a variety of methods in order to undertake the work of the AP. They are in regular communication with each other through both virtual and in-person meetings and such meetings are usually held jointly with the Secretariat. However, the members of the AP also hold their own virtual meetings independently.

11. During the reporting period (the period between B.10 and B.11), the AP held four virtual meetings. Additionally, it took part in 11 virtual interviews with applicants during the stage II (step 1) accreditation review. The AP took the opportunity to meet these applicants virtually and to clarify/discuss stage II questions and requests issued to these applicants for clarification. Moreover, for the first time, the AP undertook one field visit as part of its review process. In order to finalize its review of accreditation applications and to prepare its recommendations on accreditation for consideration by the Board at B.11, the AP met in person at GCF headquarters in Songdo, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 11 September 2015.

12. The majority of the day-to-day operational work of the AP is conducted via e-mail and the Online Accreditation System<sup>1</sup> – the portal through which applicants submit their applications for accreditation.

#### 2.2 Activities addressing the mandate of the Accreditation Panel and requests from Board decisions

13. Following the opening of the call for accreditation applications by the Secretariat on 17 November 2014,<sup>2</sup> the applications received that have satisfied the stage I institutional assessment and completeness check conducted by the Secretariat have been forwarded to the AP for review. The AP, in accordance with its mandate and terms of reference, assesses these applications in relation to stage II (step 1), accreditation review, of the accreditation process.

14. The AP submitted its first recommendations on accreditation to the Board at its ninth meeting; the Board adopted these recommendations and approved seven entities for

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<sup>1</sup> See <<http://www.gcfund.org/operations/accreditation/applications.html>>.

<sup>2</sup> Press release, “Green Climate Fund opens Online Accreditation System for implementing entities and intermediaries”, 17 November 2014. Available at <[http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00\\_customer/documents/Press/GCF\\_Press\\_Release\\_2014\\_11\\_17\\_accreditation.pdf](http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Press/GCF_Press_Release_2014_11_17_accreditation.pdf)>.

accreditation to the GCF through decision B.09/07. Following further recommendations by the AP at B.10 an additional 13 entities were accredited through decision B.10/06.

15. Since then, the AP has continued to focus on the assessment of entities that have applied for accreditation to the GCF and that have successfully completed stage I of the accreditation process as conducted by the Secretariat. External technical experts, in the form of independent and recognized professionals and a specialized consultancy firm, contracted by the GCF, have assisted the AP in its in-depth review of individual applications for accreditation.

16. Document GCF/B.11/03 contains, for the Board's consideration at B.11, the findings of the accreditation review of applications and recommendations on accreditation made by the AP.

17. The AP has also provided input on a number of accreditation-related policy issues that will be considered by the Board at B.11, such as the initial monitoring and accountability framework for accredited entities and the strategy on accreditation.

### **III. Next steps**

18. The accreditation process is an ongoing one, and in this context the AP is continuing its review of accreditation applications that have completed stage I, with the aim of providing recommendations on accreditation to the Board for consideration at its subsequent meetings.

19. Following the first three cycles of the accreditation assessment and review process, the AP, the Secretariat and the external technical experts are continuing to discuss the lessons learned from the accreditation process to date with a view to improving and refining the operation of the accreditation framework in future accreditation cycles. This includes technical matters related to the review of applications and the longer-term human resources requirements of the AP.

20. The AP continues to learn by doing, gaining experience and knowledge as it assesses a wide diversity of applicants. Across multiple time zones and geographic locations, members of the AP continue to learn to work together, and to develop, test and effectively and efficiently implement new working methods and tools.

## **D. Report on activities of the Investment Committee**

### **I. Introduction**

21. The IC is comprised of six Board members namely, Mr. Shri Dipak Dasgupta, Mr. Henrik Harboe, Mr. Cristián Salas, Ms. Kate Hughes, Mr. Yingming Yang and Mr. Ewen McDonald.

### **II. Activities during the reporting period**

22. Since B.10, significant progress has been made in the operationalization of the TAP and the recruitment of the two remaining TAP members. The Secretariat has carried out substantial follow-up work and informed the IC of the progress.

#### **2.1 Operationalization of the independent Technical Advisory Panel**

23. Since B.10, the Secretariat has been interacting with the current members of the TAP and has made progress in establishing consultancy contracts. Moreover, the Secretariat has organized several conference calls to brief members of the TAP on the overall proposal review process and its timeline, introducing them to GCF operational guidelines, policies and procedures, in particular, the investment framework and proposal approval process. In addition, the Chair of the TAP was nominated.

24. The TAP has been operational since early September. It has reviewed the funding proposals that have gone through the Secretariat's second-level due diligence. A meeting of the TAP was held in Songdo in the week of 21 September 2015, the objective of which was to exchange views on the funding proposals and form its assessment findings.

#### **2.2 Recruitment of remaining members of the independent Technical Advisory Panel**

25. In accordance with decision B.10/09, the Secretariat has contacted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat regarding its roster of experts. While the UNFCCC secretariat has stated that it is not in a position to share the experts' contact information, it has agreed to circulate the GCF call for experts among the experts on its roster.

26. A call for experts was prepared by the Secretariat based on the previous version and new guidance from the Board as contained in decision B.10/09. The Secretariat provided the IC with the draft call for experts on 16 September, seeking IC members' feedback and guidance. After the review and no-objection by the IC, the call for experts was posted on the GCF website and circulated among the members of the UNFCCC roster of experts through the UNFCCC secretariat. The recruitment process is still ongoing.

27. The IC proposes to meet on 1 November 2015, prior to B.11, to review the progress made to date. It will then convey to the Board its views on progress achieved and put forward any matters requiring Board guidance.

## **E. Report from the independent Technical Advisory Panel**

### **I. Introduction**

28. According to decision B.07/03, the Board decided to establish the TAP in order to provide an independent technical assessment of, and advice on, funding proposals. The TAP will operate as an independent technical advisory body, and will be accountable to the Board.

29. The TAP is expected to comprise six expert members, including its Chair, with balanced representation between developing country Parties and developed country Parties, and an appropriate range of expertise, and gender balance, nominated by the IC and endorsed by the Board.

30. The TAP, coordinated and represented by its Chair, works in consultation with the Secretariat on matters relating to the technical assessment of funding proposals.

### **II. Activities during the reporting period**

#### **2.1 Organizational activities**

31. In decision B.10/09, the Board endorsed the nomination by the IC of four out of six experts to the TAP for one three-year term. Three members have already taken up their positions as members of the TAP and the fourth is in the process of finalizing some pending issues. As a result, the TAP is currently operational with three members.

### **III. Activities addressing the mandate of the independent Technical Advisory Panel and requests from Board decisions**

32. As reflected in its terms of reference in decision B.09/10, the TAP is in charge of conducting technical assessments of funding proposals submitted through the Secretariat by accredited entities of the GCF at the analysis and recommendations to the Board stage of the project and programme activity cycle of the GCF. The TAP independently assesses the performance of the funding proposals submitted to the GCF against the activity-specific criteria in accordance with the initial investment framework as described in decision B.07/06.

33. During the reporting period, the TAP held numerous virtual meetings among the members of the TAP and with the Secretariat.

34. Two introductory virtual meetings were held with the Secretariat in August 2015 in order to discuss the work arrangements of the TAP. On 20 – 26 September 2015, the TAP visited GCF headquarters in Songdo in order to hold assessment meetings to discuss with the Secretariat funding proposals submitted by GCF accredited entities. In the meetings in Songdo, the TAP completed the review and discussion of six proposals. Subsequently, the TAP held two virtual meetings, one of them with the Secretariat, to discuss and complete the assessment of three additional proposals in total, the TAP received nine proposals for assessment.

### **IV. Next steps**

35. The TAP has gained some experience through the first round of the assessment of proposals. It wishes to discuss, with the Secretariat and Board, issues relating to the resources and work schedule of the TAP. The TAP would like to emphasize the importance of mobilizing

additional resources before the next round of assessment. With regard to this next round, external technical support may be mobilized to supplement the work of the TAP. The TAP would like to seek practical arrangements and procedures in order to allow sufficient lead time and ensure the quality of the assessments.

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