



GREEN
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Relationship with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change thematic bodies

Summary

This document provides an overview of present and possible future engagement opportunities between the Green Climate Fund and relevant United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change thematic and external bodies at the Board and the Secretariat levels.

I. Introduction

1. In decision B.04/15, in relationship with the thematic bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and external bodies, the Board,
 - (a) Decided that, in the short term, the Fund should commence its engagement with UNFCCC thematic bodies, with a view to reassessing this engagement as the Fund and UNFCCC thematic bodies evolve;
 - (b) Requested the Interim Secretariat to invite the Global Environment Facility Secretariat, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds to take up observer status with the Green Climate Fund;
 - (c) Further requested the Interim Secretariat to engage informally with other external bodies by exchanging information, as required.”
2. The Board sought to revisit the matter at its eighth meeting (in October, 2014), but did not have the opportunity to consider it. The Secretariat produced document GCF/B.08/34 titled “Relationships with relevant United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change thematic bodies, as well as other climate finance entities and external bodies, including corporate foundational partnerships” as input for the meeting.
3. Consistent with decision B.04/15, the GCF has started to engage incrementally with UNFCCC thematic bodies. In parallel, several of these UNFCCC thematic bodies have invited the GCF to collaborate on many of their activities. There have also been several specific requests from UNFCCC decisions.
4. Efforts to engage with and learn from relevant UNFCCC thematic bodies and international institutions are ongoing, with an increasing number of events and technical workshops held by the UNFCCC thematic bodies being attended by representatives of the GCF.
5. This document provides an overview of present and possible future collaboration opportunities between the GCF and relevant UNFCCC thematic and external bodies at the Board and the Secretariat levels. It also identifies a set of criteria for the engagement with such bodies.

II. Mandates from the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change

6. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC requested the GCF Board to initiate a process to collaborate with the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Executive Committee, as well as with other relevant UNFCCC thematic bodies, and to define linkages between the Fund and these bodies, as appropriate.¹ The COP subsequently requested the Board to report on the implementation of this request.
7. The COP in its twenty first session further encourages the Board to improve complementarity and coherence with other institutions, per paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Governing Instrument for the GCF, including by engaging with relevant bodies of the Convention, such as the Standing Committee on Finance.²

¹ COP Decision 3/CP.17, paragraph 17.

² COP 7/CP.21, paragraph 26.

III. Current engagement with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change thematic bodies

8. Since June 2013, the GCF has been engaging with relevant thematic bodies of the COP. Collaboration and interaction has been initiated with the following UNFCCC bodies:

- (a) The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF);
- (b) The Adaptation Committee (AC);
- (c) The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG);
- (d) The Technology Mechanism (the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN));
- (e) The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associate with Climate Change Impacts (ExCom)

9. The engagement between the GCF and these bodies has so far focused on exchanging information. Most bodies, in the light of their mandates and existing programme of work, have also started to reflect on how to continue enhancing their collaboration with the GCF.

10. Discussions and exchanges of information between the GCF and other UNFCCC thematic bodies is continuing on various technical aspects, at both Co-Chair and Secretariat levels. These include consultations with:

- (a) The Standing Committee on Finance on promoting consistency and coherence of financial mechanism entities, and the fifth review of the Financial Mechanism;
- (b) The Adaptation Committee on supporting adaption activities in developing countries;
- (c) The Least Developed Countries Expert Group on helping the least developed countries to access GCF resources;
- (d) The Technology Executive Committee on the continued engagement as bodies of the Financial Mechanism and the Technology Mechanism; and
- (e) The Global Environment Facility; the Adaptation Fund; the Climate Investment Funds and the Multilateral Fund on lessons learned and best practices.

11. The engagement activities mentioned above have been reported in previous GCF reports to the COP.

IV. Proposed approach for engagement

4.1 Proposed principles for engagement

12. In accordance with decision B.04/15, the Secretariat has engaged informally with other external bodies by exchanging information, as required. Such engagements have been reported in the report of the Secretariat presented at every Board meeting. In the light of experience, the following are some suggested elements to help to prioritize and orient engagement and linkages. Engagement and linkages should be:

- (a) Results-oriented and time-specific;
- (b) Mutually-beneficial and practical;
- (c) Help to achieve the objective of the GCF;

- (d) Fit-for-purpose and in accordance with respective mandates and functions;
- (e) In line with the GCF business model, strategic plan, and other relevant decisions; and
- (f) Subject to the availability of resources.

4.2 Board level engagement

13. Paragraph 6 of the GCF Governing Instrument states that “arrangements will be concluded between the COP and the Fund, consistent with Article 11 of the Convention, to ensure that the Fund is accountable to and functions under the guidance of the COP”. In order to ensure accountability to the COP, the Board will:

- (a) Receive guidance from the COP, including on matters related to policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria, and matters related thereto;
- (b) Take appropriate action in response to the guidance received; and
- (c) Submit annual reports to the COP for its consideration and receive further guidance.”

14. The Board is therefore positioned to make appropriate decisions in response to specific COP guidance regarding establishing and enhancing linkages with the UNFCCC thematic bodies, and to instruct the Secretariat to implement relevant decisions through collaborating with thematic bodies and through their proposed work programmes.

15. It is proposed to establish a mechanism that will enable the GCF to go beyond existing practice by providing structured opportunities for engagement with UNFCCC thematic bodies. The proposed mechanism will help the Board to identify opportunities for closer cooperation and engagement with the thematic bodies and to address relevant COP guidance.

16. The modality of the mechanism is envisaged as follows:

- (a) An annual Board level engagement forum between the GCF and the UNFCCC thematic bodies;
- (b) The Forum is to be chaired and led by the Co-Chairs of the GCF Board and organized by the Secretariat on an annual basis to be held in conjunction with the COP;
- (c) The participation in the Forum will be open to the chairs of the various technical bodies, and the chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the COP Presidency, members of the GCF Board, and members of the thematic bodies;
- (d) The GCF Co-Chairs would set the focus of each Forum, in consultation with the GCF Board and the thematic bodies; and
- (e) The outcome of the Forum would be an oral and written report to the COP.

4.1 Secretariat level engagement

17. The Secretariat, under the authority of the Board, proposes to further strengthen its current approach of engaging with thematic bodies through exchanging information and participation at events and meetings held by various bodies. In addition, the Secretariat will standardize the engagement process:

- (a) To identify and participate in flagship activities held by each thematic body, including technical workshops and events;

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- (b) To identify components from the programmes and work plans of the thematic bodies that are related to the GCF, and where appropriate, updating the work programme of the Secretariat to improve coordination; and
 - (c) To report the outcome of engagement with the thematic bodies to the Board in its Report on the activities of the Secretariat.
18. An analysis of the mandates, flagship activities, and work programme elements that are related to the GCF from thematic bodies mentioned above is provided in table 1 below.

Table 1: Flagship activities and work programmes elements related to the GCF from relevant UNFCCC thematic bodies

Thematic Bodies	Flagship activities	Work programme elements related to the GCF
Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Annual forum of the Standing Committee on Finance and/or virtual forum, for communication and continued exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance in order to promote linkages and coherence; (b) Providing to the COP draft guidance and recommendations for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention to improve the consistency, coherence, and coordination for greater effectiveness and efficiency; (c) Biennial assessments and overview of climate finance flows, and the measurement, reporting and verification of support beyond the assessment; and (d) Providing expert input into the preparation and conduct of the periodic reviews of the Financial Mechanism by the COP. 	<p>SCF work plan for 2016 – 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Co-chairs of the SCF to inform presiding officers of the thematic bodies of the Convention about the activities of the SCF and establish working relationships in 2016/2017; (b) Ongoing work to enhance linkages with the SBI and the thematic bodies of the Convention; (c) Draft the COP guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism; (d) Work on expert inputs to the sixth review of the Financial Mechanism for COP 23; (e) Work for the second biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows in 2016, and; (f) An in-session workshop on long-term finance in 2016.
Adaptation Committee (AC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties; (b) Sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices; (c) Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks; (d) Providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the COP when providing guidance on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building; and 	<p>Revised AC workplan 2016 –2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Update map of mandates, workplans and/or decisions with adaptation relevance under the Convention, which involve engagement with the GCF and other institutions to reach a clear division of work on common issues; (b) In producing guidance to the Parties on adaptation planning and implementation at the national level, the NAP task force of the AC may provide information on accessing funding from the GCF for the NAP process in close collaboration with the LEG; (c) In producing guidance on ways to enhance support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, in particular related to

Thematic Bodies	Flagship activities	Work programme elements related to the GCF
	<p>(e) Considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received.</p>	<p>access, institutional arrangements and enabling environments, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, AC will engage continuously with the GCF to understand its policies and programmatic priorities as they relate to adaptation and as they evolve;</p> <p>(d) Develop an information paper, in collaboration with the LEG, the SCF and the GCF, on experiences of countries in accessing the GCF readiness programme in supporting adaptation, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs;</p> <p>(e) Collaborate with the GEF, the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, United Nations agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and NGOs supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs to enhance communication, awareness, coordination and complementarity of donors and funds; and</p> <p>(f) Organize a workshop for the engagement of relevant stakeholders, experts on NIEs, NDAs, etc., to advance understanding and overcome challenges related to the establishment of NIEs and accessing the GCF readiness programme for adaptation.</p>
Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)	<p>The LEG has been exercising its functions through several flagship activities, including:</p> <p>(a) Meetings of the LEG that are convened twice a year;</p> <p>(b) NAP Expos that serve as a platform for NAP teams, organizations, agencies and other stakeholders to exchange experience, lessons learned and ideas on the NAP process;</p> <p>(c) Regional training workshops to enhance technical capacity of LDCs to address adaptation through the NAPAs, the LDC work programme and the NAP process.</p>	<p>LEG work programme for 2016 – 2017</p> <p>Work area 3 – ‘Engaging with the Green Climate Fund secretariat on accessing funding from the fund for the process to formulate and implement NAPs’, including activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inviting GCF secretariat to attend meetings of the LEGs, NAP Expo, and regional training workshops, • promoting information exchange between the GCF and the LEG and promote mutual understanding of each other’s working modalities,

Thematic Bodies	Flagship activities	Work programme elements related to the GCF
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seeking for inputs from the GCF when develop LEG's training materials and share relevant products and outcomes to the GCF; and • collecting information on experiences and challenges faced by the LDCs in accessing to the GCF resources.¹
Technical Executive Committee (TEC)	<p>Facilitate the implementation of enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation. Flagship activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing a series of technical papers/briefs on specific policies and technical issues, including those arising from technology needs assessments (TNAs); • Submit joint annual report with the CTCN to the COP; • Recommending to the COP, or other relevant bodies under the Convention, actions to promote technology development and transfer and to address barriers; • Annual meeting of the TEC 	<p>Rolling workplan of the TEC for 2016-2018</p> <p>In its workstream 2: Catalyse support and facilitate and promote technology cooperation and partnership to scale up implementation of actions, under thematic area of Climate technology finance, TEC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.1 Continue to consult and further elaborate the linkages between the TM and the FM • 15.2 Consider follow-up activities on climate technology financing following the outcomes of COP 22 (November 2016) on linkages between the TM and the FM • 16.1 Provide input for the in-session workshop on long-term finance • 16.2 Provide input into the draft guidance of the operating entities of the FM
Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing advice and support related to the identification of technology needs and the implementation of environmentally sound technologies, practices and processes • Facilitating the provision of information, training and support for programmes to build or strengthen capacity 	<p>As a result of the 6th Meeting of the Advisory Board, the Secretary of CTCN has been tasked to prepare a paper on the CTCN approach to engaging the GCF, including any involvement of UNEP as host of the CTCN.</p>

¹ See detailed work programme of the LEG for 2016 – 2017 at: http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/detailed_leg_wp_2016-2017_12april.pdf

Thematic Bodies	Flagship activities	Work programme elements related to the GCF
	<p>of developing countries to identify technology options, make technology choices and operate, maintain and adapt technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating prompt action on the deployment of existing technology in developing country Parties based on identified needs • Facilitating a network of national, regional, sectoral and international technology centres, networks, organization and initiatives • Identifying, disseminating and assisting with developing analytical tools, policies and best practices for country-driven planning to support the dissemination of environmentally sound technologies 	
Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM ExCom)	<p>To guide the implementation of functions of the Warsaw international mechanism on loss and damage by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate support of actions to address loss and damage; • Improve coordination of the relevant work of existing bodies under the Convention; • Convene meetings of relevant experts and stakeholders; • Promote the development of, and compile, analyse, synthesize and review information; • Provide technical guidance and support; • Make recommendations, as appropriate, on how to enhance engagement, actions and coherence under and outside the Convention, including on how to mobilize resources and expertise at different levels. 	<p>Initial two-year workplan of the WIM ExCom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action area 2: Enhance the understanding of, and promote, comprehensive risk management approaches (assessment, reduction, transfer, retention), including social protection instruments and transformational approaches, in building long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities • Activity 2: Engage United Nations agencies, multilateral financial institutions, bilateral channels and the private sector to identify how to enhance the implementation of comprehensive risk management approaches related to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change • Action area 7: Encourage comprehensive risk management by the diffusion of information related to financial instruments and tools that address the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change to facilitate finance in loss and



Thematic Bodies	Flagship activities	Work programme elements related to the GCF
		damage situations in accordance with the policies of each developing country and region, taking into account the necessary national efforts to establish enabling environments.

Annex I: Draft Decision of the Board

The Board, having reviewed document GCF/B.13/07 titled “Relationships with relevant United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change thematic bodies”,

- (a) Agrees to establish a mechanism to enhance cooperation and coherence of engagement between the GCF and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change thematic bodies;
- (b) Decides that the modality of the mechanism will be an annual Board-level engagement Forum between the GCF and the UNFCCC thematic bodies;
- (c) Decides that the Forum will be chaired and led by the Co-Chairs of the GCF Board and organized by the Secretariat on an annual basis to be held in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (d) Decides that the Forum will include the Chairs of the various thematic bodies, and the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies, the COP presidency, and will be open to all members of the GCF Board and the thematic bodies;
- (e) Requests the GCF Co-Chairs to propose the focus of each Forum, in consultation with the GCF Board and the Co-Chairs of the thematic bodies;
- (f) Decides that the outcome of the Forum shall be an oral and written report to the COP;
- (g) Requests the Secretariat to strengthen its current approach to engaging thematic bodies, including through:
 - (i) Exchanging relevant information;
 - (ii) Participating in flagship activities of the thematic bodies, including in relevant technical workshops and events;
 - (iii) Identifying components of the programmes and work plans of the thematic bodies that are related to the GCF, and, where appropriate, updating the work programme of the Secretariat to improve coordination;
 - (iv) Reporting the outcome of engagement to the Board in the Report on the activities of the Secretariat;
- (h) Decides, in accordance with paragraph 38 of the Rules of Procedures of the Board, to invite:
 - (i) The Chair of the Technology Executive Mechanism and the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network to present to the Board during its consideration of technology matters at the fourteenth meeting of the Board; and
 - (ii) A representative of the Executive Board of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries to present to the Board at the fourteenth meeting of the Board during its consideration of matters related to operationalizing REDD+.