

**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board

6 – 8 July 2019

Songdo, Republic of Korea

Provisional agenda item 25

GCF/B.23/08

14 June 2019

Dates and venues of upcoming meetings of the Board

Summary

This document has been prepared to assist the Board in:

- (a) Confirming the dates and duration for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Board;
- (b) Deciding the dates for meetings of the Board in 2020; and
- (c) Deciding on the venues for the twenty-fourth meeting, and meetings of the Board in 2020; and
- (d) Requesting the Secretariat to develop for the Board's consideration: a cost-benefit analysis for Board meetings held outside of the GCF Headquarters, including non-cost related elements; options for engaging with stakeholders and understanding the realities experienced in developing countries; and Guidelines for selecting venues and hosting Board meetings outside the GCF headquarters at B.25.

Comments received from Board members during the B.23 Board document consultation period were considered in the finalization of this document.

I. Introduction

1. This document has been prepared to assist the Board in:
 - (a) Confirming the dates and duration for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Board (B.24);
 - (b) Deciding the dates for meetings of the Board in 2020; and
 - (c) Deciding on the venue for B.24, and meetings of the Board in 2020.
2. Comments received from Board members during the B.23 Board document consultation period were considered in the finalization of this document.

II. Considerations

2.1 Dates for B.24 and meetings of the Board in 2020

3. By decision B.BM-2018/18, the Board decided that B.24 will take place from Tuesday, 15 October to Thursday, 17 October 2019. The Board also decided that the dates for the Board meetings for 2020 will be decided no later than the twenty-third meeting of the Board (B.23), taking into account official United Nations holidays observed at the United Nations headquarters and at the GCF headquarters.
4. Paragraph 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board provides that “At each meeting, the Board will confirm the date and duration of the following meeting.” It is therefore recommended that the Board confirms the dates of B.24.
5. The following dates are proposed for meetings of the Board in 2020:
 - (a) The twenty-fifth meeting of the Board (B.25) to take place on 10 – 12 March 2020;
 - (b) The twenty-sixth meeting of the Board (B.26) to take place on 23 – 25 June 2020; and
 - (c) The twenty-seventh meeting of the Board (B.27) to take place on 22 – 24 October 2020.
6. A list of key events in 2020 is provided in annex II for reference.

2.2 Further considerations

7. During the Board consultation period some comments were received regarding the dates of B.24 vis-à-vis the GCF replenishment pledging session. The date of the pledging conference has not yet been set but it is currently expected to take place between 21 and 31 October 2019. The Co-Chairs are consulting with members on this matter and may put forward a proposal prior to the Board Meeting. As a result, the draft decision included in this paper does not at this stage confirm the dates for B.24.
8. A comment was received noting that the 2020 dates would be tentative and need to be confirmed in line with rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure. A comment was received suggesting the amendment of paragraph 17 of the Rules of Procedure for future Board meetings not to be reconfirmed by the Board, as no other Board decision is reconfirmed at a later meeting. Given the totality of matters relating to Board meeting dates and venues at B.23, it is proposed this matter is considered at a future Board meeting.

2.3 Venues for B.24 and meetings of the Board in 2020

9. As communicated to the Board at B.20 (document GCF/B.20/23), B.21 (document GCF/B.21/06) and B.22 (document GCF/B.22/19), the Secretariat received an offer from the

Government of Papua New Guinea to host a meeting of the Board in 2019 or 2020 through a letter signed by Ambassador Andrew Yamanea and dated 27 April 2018. The offer was repeated through a letter dated 17 May 2019 also signed by Ambassador Yamanea, appended in annex III.

10. In the absence of guidelines, all offers received by the Secretariat to host Board meetings are promptly communicated to the Board at the next Board meeting. It is the Board who then decides the location of Board meetings. As mentioned above, the offer from the Papua New Guinea government dated 27 April 2018 was brought to the attention of the Board at B.20, B.21 and B.22. The Secretariat follows on the organization of Board meetings with host countries only after the Board has taken a decision on the matter.

11. Given the proximity of B.24, it is recommended that B.24 take place at GCF Headquarters in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea, other than at an alternative location, noting that the offer from Papua New Guinea government extends to 2020. It is also recommended that B.25 and B.26 take place at the GCF Headquarters. This is in line with the practice followed in past years to meet at least twice a year at the seat of the Secretariat, and to consider holding the third meeting of the year 2020 at an alternative location.

III. Meetings held at alternative locations

12. Paragraph 15 of the Rules of Procedure provides that “the Board will meet in person at least twice every year at the seat of the Secretariat or at an alternative location agreed by the Board.” There is no provision on the number of meetings to be held at any particular location. In line with the Board discussions related to this matter and in particular at B.21 and B.22, it is recommended that the Board requests the Secretariat to present the following for consideration by the Board at B.25:

- (a) A cost-benefit analysis for Board meetings held outside of the GCF Headquarters, including non-cost related elements;
- (b) Options for engaging with stakeholders and understanding the realities experienced in developing countries.
- (c) Guidelines for selecting venues and hosting Board meetings outside the GCF headquarters.

13. During the consultation period a comment was received suggesting that no funding proposals from the host country should be considered in order to avoid potential conflict of interest. This and other related matters can be addressed a later time as part of the guidelines in paragraph (c) above.

IV. Recommended action by the Board

14. The recommendations outlined above are presented in the draft decision in annex I for the Board to consider and adopt.

Annex I: Draft decision of the Board

The Board, having considered document GCF/B.23/08 titled “Dates and venues of upcoming meetings of the Board”:

- (a) Decides that the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board will take place from Tuesday, 10 March to Thursday, 12 March 2020 in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea;
- (b) Decides that the twenty-sixth meeting of the Board will take place from Tuesday, 23 June to Thursday, 25 June 2020 in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea;
- (c) Decides that the twenty-seventh meeting of the Board will take place from Thursday, 22 October to Saturday, 24 October 2020;
- (d) Requests the Secretariat to present the following for consideration by the Board at its twenty-fifth meeting:
 - (i) A cost-benefit analysis for Board meetings held outside of the GCF Headquarters, including non-cost elements;
 - (ii) Options for engaging with stakeholders and understanding the realities experienced in developing countries; and
 - (iii) Guidelines for selecting venues and hosting Board meetings outside the GCF Headquarters.

Annex II: Key events in 2019 and 2020 and slots for GCF Board meetings

2019

Dates	Event	Location
OCT		
1	<i>Chinese national day</i>	
2 - 4	<i>Available</i>	
7 - 18	UNCCD COP 14	New Delhi, India
7 - 11	Adaptation Fund Board – 34 th meeting	Bonn, Germany
8 - 10	UNFCCC Pre-COP 25 meeting	San Jose, Costa Rica
9	<i>Yom Kippur*</i>	
15 - 17	GCF - B.24	
19	C40 Mayors Summit	Copenhagen, Denmark
18 - 20	World Bank, IMF – 2019 Annual Meetings	Washington, DC
20 - 23	IPCC – 51 st session	Monaco
21-31	GCF - Pledging conference during this period	
31 - [4]	35 th ASEAN Summit (October/November 2019)	Thailand
NOV		
4 - 8	31 st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 31)	TBA
7 - 8	<i>Available</i>	
11 - 15	<i>Available</i>	
12	<i>Gurpurab*</i>	
18 - 21	CIFS Trust Fund Committee meetings	Washington D.C., USA
22 - 23	G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting	Nagoya, Aichi Pref
25 - 27	<i>Available</i>	
28	<i>Thanksgiving Day**</i>	
DEC		
2 - 13	UNFCCC – COP 25	Santiago, Chile
9 - 12	GEF – 57 th Council meeting	Washington D.C., USA
25	<i>Christmas day***</i>	

Abbreviations: CIFS = Climate Investment Funds, B.22 - B.24 = the twenty-second – twenty fourth meeting of the Board, G.20 = Group of Twenty, UNGA = United Nations General Assembly, IMF = International Monetary Fund, UNISDR = United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, IPCC = Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, GEF = Global Environment Facility, UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN ECOSOC = United Nations Economic and Social Council, TBA = to be announced, TBD = to be determined.

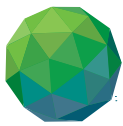
* UN floating holidays

** Official holidays observed at the UN Headquarters that are national holidays

*** Official holidays observed at the UN Headquarters that are not national holidays

2020

Dates	Event	Location
JAN		
1	<i>New Year's Day***</i>	
7	<i>Orthodox Christmas*</i>	
24 - 26	<i>Lunar New Year (observed in Korea & far East Asia)</i>	
FEB		
17	<i>President's day*</i>	
MAR		
10 - 12	<i>Available</i>	



17 - 20	Adaptation Fund Board – 35 th meeting	Bonn, Germany
24 - 26	GCF – B.25 proposed dates	
APR		
10	<i>Good Friday***</i>	
17	<i>Orthodox Good Friday*</i>	
17 - 19 [TBC]	2020 World Bank & IMF Spring Meetings	
23	<i>Beginning of Ramadan</i>	
MAY		
7	<i>Day of Vesak*</i>	
23/24	<i>Eid al-Fitr***</i>	
25	<i>Memorial Day**</i>	
26 - 28	Sustainable Energy for All Forum 2020	Kigali, Rwanda
JUN		
1 - 5	GEF – 58 th Council meeting	Washington D.C., USA
1 - 11	UNFCCC – 52 nd sessions of the subsidiary bodies	Bonn, Germany
8 - 11	CIFS Trust Fund Committee Meetings	Washington DC, USA
23 - 25	GCF – B.26 proposed dates	
JUL		
[30] - 2	<i>Available</i>	
4	<i>Independence Day**</i>	
7 - 16 [TBC]	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2020	New York, USA
31	<i>Eid al-Adha***</i>	
AUG		
SEP		
7	<i>Labour Day**</i>	
15 - 30	UNGA – 75 th Session	New York, USA
28	<i>Yom Kippur*</i>	
OCT		
1 - 2	<i>Chuseok (Autumn Eve festival observed in Korea)</i>	
1	<i>Chinese national day</i>	
13 - 16	Adaptation Fund Board – 36 th meeting	Bonn, Germany
16 - 18 [TBC]	2020 World Bank & IMF Annual Meetings	
21 - 23	GCF – B.27 proposed dates	
NOV		
9 - 20	UNFCCC – COP 26	TBC
26	<i>Thanksgiving Day**</i>	
30	<i>Gurpurab*</i>	
DEC		
7 - 11	GEF – 59 th Council meeting	Washington DC, USA
14 - 18	CIFS Trust Fund Committee Meetings	Washington DC, USA
25	<i>Christmas day***</i>	

Abbreviations: CIFS = Climate Investment Funds, B.25 – B.27 = the twenty-fifth – twenty seventh meetings of the Board, G.20 = Group of Twenty, UNGA = United Nations General Assembly, IPCC = Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, GEF = Global Environment Facility, UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN ECOSOC = United Nations Economic and Social Council, TBA = to be announced, TBC = to be confirmed, TBD = to be determined.

* UN floating holidays

** Official holidays observed at the UN Headquarters that are national holidays

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Annex III: Offer to host a meeting of the Board in 2019 or 2020



EMBASSY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA Seoul

17 May 2019

Mr Yannick Glemarec
Executive Director
Green Climate Fund
175 Art Center-daero
Yeonsu-gu, Incheon 22004
Republic of Korea

Dear Mr Glemarec,

SUBJECT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S BID TO HOST GCF BOARD MEETING 2019/2020

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea to congratulate you on your appointment as the Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund.

I also take this time to convey further advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Papua New Guinea's National Designated Authority (NDA)-the Office of Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) relating to the Government's offer to host a GCF Board Meeting in 2019/2020. This offer was listed for the agenda for deliberation during the 22nd Board Meeting but we believe it was deferred to the 23rd Board Meeting.


Recently the Government of Papua New Guinea reviewed its earlier position and reaffirmed the Government's offer to host a Board Meeting in 2020 instead of 2019 and committed PGK 1 million to assist with expenses as host to the board meeting should the bid be approved by the GCF Board.

In this respect, we would appreciate if PNG's offer to host a Board Meeting in 2019 can be removed from the agenda but included for consideration in 2020.

With regards to the GCF Privileges and Immunities (P&I) Agreement, the Department of Foreign Affairs and PNG National Designated Authority are working closely with the Department of Justice and Attorney General in prescribing a regulation for GCF to be recognized as an International Organization to allow for tax exemption.

The Department of Foreign Affairs maintains its advice that GCF although still a mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has already been accorded Privileges and Immunities (P&I) by the Government of Papua New Guinea, therefore does not prevent GCF from entering and pursuing development cooperation activities in Papua New Guinea.

Yours Sincerely,


Andrew Yamanea, MBE
Ambassador

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