



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board

10 – 12 March 2020

Geneva, Switzerland

Provisional agenda item 7(a)

GCF/B.25/Inf.11

25 February 2020

Report on the activities of the Co-Chairs

Summary

This document contains the report on the activities of the Co-Chairs from October 2019 to February 2020. The report is in two parts:

- a) Report of the 2019 Co-Chairs (late October to December 2019: Part A); and
- b) Report of the 2020 Co-Chairs (January to February 2020: Part B).

PART A: REPORT OF THE 2019 CO-CHAIRS

I. Introduction

1. This part presents the report on the activities of the 2019 Co-Chairs from late October to December 2019.

II. Engagement with the Secretariat

2. Acting on behalf of the Co-Chairs, the advisers to the Co-Chairs held weekly conference calls with the Secretariat to begin preparations for the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board (B.25). The engagement covered decisions proposed for approval without a Board meeting; the initial draft of the B.25 provisional agenda on the basis of which the Secretariat and independent units began to prepare documents for B.25; and issuance of the invitation to Board members and stakeholders for the submission of inputs to the updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2020–2023.

III. Decisions without a Board meeting

3. The Co-Chairs facilitated the approval of the decision without a Board meeting electing the 2020 Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs also considered requests by the Secretariat to transmit for approval between Board meetings draft decisions pertaining to the implementation of the Policy on the Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment adopted by the Board at B.23, and major changes to funding proposals FP027 and FP028. While they endorsed the proposals, the Co-Chairs opted not to transmit the proposals to the Board over the December 2019 holiday period owing to the availability of Board members over this time, but instead they communicated their endorsement of the proposals to the incoming Co-Chairs so that they could take the proposals forward in 2020.

IV. The fourth annual meeting between the GCF and the constituted bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

4. In line with paragraph 70 of the Governing Instrument for the GCF and decision B.13/11, annual meetings are held between the GCF and the constituted bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in order to enhance cooperation and coherence of engagement. The fourth annual meeting between the GCF and UNFCCC thematic bodies was held on 7 December 2019.

5. The meeting was chaired by the developed country Co-Chair on behalf of the two Co-Chairs of the Board of GCF supported by the Deputy Executive Director. In attendance were the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance; the Co-Chair of the Adaptation Committee; the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group; the Vice-Chair of the Technology Executive Committee; the Chair of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network; a member of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts; and the Co-Chair of the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building.

6. The meeting focused on identifying opportunities for cooperation during the first replenishment period of the GCF (GCF-1) from 2020–2023, which could help support countries' submission and implementation of their 2020 nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

During the meeting, participants discussed how the constituted bodies and GCF can collaborate, according to their respective roles and mandates, to support developing countries' NDCs during GCF-1, and in this context to focus on how the relationship between GCF and the constituted bodies can support countries.

7. The fourth annual meeting served as an important milestone that took stock of the relationship between the constituted bodies and GCF at a time when GCF was concluding allocation of its initial resource mobilization period (2015–2019) and reported on the successful replenishment of the fund as it enters 2020, as well as the representatives bodies' achievements in working with GCF in the past four years, with a particular focus on the strong ties built since the annual meeting in 2018. The meeting underlined successful joint work on technology development and transfer, support for adaptation, and capacity-building. The gathering also promoted discussions that identified areas for continued and enhanced work between bodies and the GCF, including agility in the support for least developed countries through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme; identification of avenues for supporting issues of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change; and more coordinated engagement for collaborating on addressing capacity gaps for the development of project proposals.

PART B: REPORT OF THE 2020 CO-CHAIRS

I. Introduction

8. This part presents the report on the activities of the Co-Chairs from January to February 2020.

II. Updating the Strategic Plan for the GCF 2020–2023

9. In accordance with decision B.24/03, the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, continued developing the updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2020–2023, with a view to presenting it for consideration and approval by the Board at its twenty-fifth meeting (B.25), taking into account decision B.22/06 and relevant B.24 decisions, further inputs by Board members at B.24 and submissions by GCF stakeholders. Also, by decision B.24/03, the Board decided to hold an informal meeting of the Board on 5–7 February 2020 in Monrovia, Liberia, with a view to presenting a final draft of the updated 2020–2023 Strategic Plan. The Board also requested the Secretariat to distribute to members and alternate members of the Board and active observers, at least two weeks prior to the informal meeting, an updated draft of the 2020–2023 Strategic Plan, along with guiding questions on issues requiring further consideration by the Board, as input to the informal meeting.

10. The Co-Chairs approved circulation of the updated draft of the 2020–2023 Strategic Plan and prepared the agenda for the informal meeting, including guiding questions. Following discussions at the informal meeting, the Co-Chairs provided guidance to the Secretariat to refine the 2020–2023 Strategic Plan based on the inputs provided by Board members at the meeting, including those submitted in writing.

11. Document GCF/B.25/Inf.11 titled “Updated Strategic Plan for the Green Climate Fund: 2020-23” is presented for consideration and approval by the Board at B.25.

III. Preparations for the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board

3.1 Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board

12. Following the Co-Chairs’ consultations with the Secretariat and independent units, the provisional agenda for B.25 was transmitted to the Board as document GCF/B.25/01/Drf.01 on 13 February 2020 and published on the GCF website.

3.2 Engagement with the Secretariat and independent units

13. The Co-Chairs supported by their advisers engaged on a continuous basis with the Secretariat via calls, email and in person in Monrovia, Liberia in February 2020, to advance preparations for B.25. The Co-Chairs and their advisers also engaged with the Heads of the Independent Units on independent unit-led items scheduled for Board consideration at B.25. These collaborations resulted in: the issuance of the B.25 provisional agenda; decisions proposed for Board approval as decisions without a Board meeting; guidance provided by the advisers acting on behalf of the Co-Chairs to the Secretariat and the independent units in the finalization of B.25 documents, and Co-Chairs’ clearance of documents for publication for B.25.

IV. Decisions without a Board meeting

14. Responding to requests by the Secretariat and endorsements by the 2019 Co-Chairs, the Co-Chairs approved the transmission of decisions that they determined must be taken by the Board that should not be postponed to the next Board meeting.
15. The decisions proposed for approval are captured in document GCF/B.25/Inf.11/Add.01 titled “Report on the activities of the Co-Chairs – Addendum: Decisions proposed between the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth meetings of the Board”. In accordance with paragraph 44 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board, decisions approved between meetings shall be recorded in the report of the following Board meeting.

V. Venue for the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board

16. Pursuant to decision B.23/18, paragraph (b), the Board decided that B.25 will take place from Tuesday, 10 March to Thursday, 12 March 2020 in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea. In line with paragraph 17 of the Rules of Procedure, the Board, by decision B.24/16, confirmed that B.25 will take place on these dates.
17. Following the outbreak of the coronavirus, 2019-nCov, Board members, on the sidelines of the informal Board meeting in Monrovia, Liberia, enquired about the impact on the hosting of B.25 in Songdo and expressed support for the option of identifying an alternative location for B.25.
18. In response, the Co-Chairs requested the Secretariat to look into the possibility of changing the location for B.25. The Secretariat reached out to the Korean authorities on the matter, also given the implications of considerable travellers to Korea, and looked into several options for an alternative location for B.25, considering a number of criteria that take into account the concerns and needs of Board members, as well as cost and capacity considerations.
19. Given the views expressed in Monrovia, the prevailing uncertainty of the situation, the continuing spread of the coronavirus, and the need to ensure arrangements are in place for the full participation of members and alternate members of the Board as well as ensuring an effective Board meeting, the Co-Chairs decided to invoke paragraph 10 of the Rules of Procedure, which provides that the Co-Chairs, in carrying out their functions, shall be guided by the best interests of GCF. The Co-Chairs considered it prudent and concluded that under these extraordinary circumstances and on an exceptional basis, the venue for B.25 be changed, and, given the proximity of B.25 and the need to act promptly to advance arrangements, decided on Geneva, Switzerland, as the meeting venue, after considering all options presented by the Secretariat.
20. Accordingly, the Co-Chairs requested the Secretariat to communicate to Board meeting participants the new venue for B.25, noting the venue capacity constraints to accommodate the usual number of participants to a Board meeting and conveying appreciation of participants’ flexibility, understanding and support considering the extraordinary circumstances surrounding B.25, noting also that this serves as a reminder of the need to minimize the carbon footprint of GCF meetings and encourage a wider use of the live webcasting service that enhances GCF transparency. The Co-Chairs requested the Secretariat to proceed with organizational arrangements and legal agreements with the host country necessary for hosting a meeting of the Board outside of the GCF Headquarters.
21. The above was communicated in a Co-Chairs note transmitted to the Board and published on 15 February 2020 and made available on the GCF website.

VI. Board mandates to the Co-Chairs

6.1 Status of Co-Chair mandates

22. Table 1 presents open Board mandates to the Co-Chairs and their status; table 2 lists mandates to the Secretariat to be carried out under the guidance of the Co-Chairs and their status; table 3 presents Co-Chair mandates that have been closed; and table 4 lists standing Co-Chair mandates.

Table 1: Open mandates to the Co-Chairs

	Matter	Status
1	Review of committees, panels and groups <i>Decision B.24/04, para. (m)</i>	On the B.25 agenda
2	Policy guidelines for programmatic approach <i>Decisions B.14/07, para. (k) and B.15/02, para. (a)</i>	On the B.25 agenda
3	Updating the 2020–2023 workplan of the Board <i>Decision B.24/04, para. (d)</i>	Updated Board workplan presented at B.25
4	Privileges and immunities <i>Decisions B.19/02, para. (d) and B.21/04, para. (d)</i>	Matter to be taken up under the agenda item on COP guidance
5	Co-Chairs proposal on the next steps in the event that a Board member expresses the view that they are unable to join consensus regarding the outcome of a confidential ballot <i>Decisions B.23/03, para. (c)</i>	Co-chairs will undertake consultations based on the draft presented at B.24, with a view to conclude this matter as soon as possible
6	Decision-making between Board meetings <i>Decisions B.12/12, para. (a), B.15/02, para. (a), B.17/09, para. (m) and B.18/06, para. (c)(ii)</i>	Co-chairs will undertake consultations based on the draft presented at B.23, with a view to conclude this matter as soon as possible

Table 2: Open mandates to the Secretariat carried out under the guidance of the Co-Chairs

	Matter	Status
1	Updating the Strategic Plan for 2020–2023 <i>Decision B.24/03, para. (a)</i>	Update provided in Part B, section II of this report. Item on the B.25 agenda
2	Incremental cost calculation methodology <i>Decision B.17.10, para. (c)(i)</i>	Planned to be addressed at B.26
3	Level of concessionality for the public sector <i>Decisions B.12/17, para. (b) and B.17.10, para. (c)(iv)</i>	Planned to be addressed at B.26
4	Project and programme eligibility and selection criteria <i>Decision B.17/10, para. (b)</i>	Planned to be addressed at B.26
5	Guidance on the approach and scope for providing support to adaptation activities <i>Decision B.17.10, para. (c)(ii)</i>	Planned to be addressed at B.26

Table 3: Co-Chair mandates closed

	Matter	Status
1	Co-financing matters <i>Decisions B.13/05, para. (a), B.15/02, para. (a) and B.17.10, para. (c)(iii)</i>	Policy on co-financing adopted at B.24

Table 4: Standing Co-Chair mandates

	Matter	Status
1	Enhance the effectiveness of pre-Board meeting consultations <i>Decision B.23/03, para. (c)</i>	Ongoing
2	Participation in the Performance Oversight Committee of the Executive Director and Heads of Independent Units <i>Decision B.21/13, para. (b), Annex XIV</i>	Ongoing
3	Chairing the GCF annual meeting with the UNFCCC Bodies, including proposing the agenda <i>Decision B.13/11</i>	Update on fourth annual meeting with UNFCCC thematic bodies provided in Part A of the report