



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board

16 – 19 March 2021

Virtual meeting

Provisional agenda item 12

GCF/B.28/15/Add.01

4 March 2021

Update on the operations of the independent Technical Advisory Panel – Addendum I

Status of consultations

Summary

This document contains the status update of the consultations between the Secretariat, the independent Technical Advisory Panel, and the Investment Committee on the development of the policy proposal following on decision B.25/09, which:

- (i) *“Requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the Investment Committee and the independent Technical Advisory Panel, to propose updates to the operational modalities of the independent Technical Advisory Panel to accommodate the increased workload by the twenty-sixth meeting of the Board”.*

1. The development of the present policy proposal has been carried out in close consultation between the Secretariat, the independent Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and the Investment Committee. A first draft was prepared by the Secretariat in July 2020 on the basis of discussions with the TAP and Investment Committee in 2019, resulting from the finalization of the report “Revision of the structure and operations of the independent Technical Advisory Panel”.
2. The draft was subject to internal consultation by all divisions within the Secretariat, and shared with the independent TAP for initial feedback.
3. Subsequent versions of the draft were shared with the Investment Committee and the independent TAP between September 2020 and February 2021 to seek and incorporate further feedback on the proposed options. A trilateral call took place on 11 February 2021, where the three parties converged on how the key pillars of the proposal – reviews on a rolling basis, smaller peer review groups and virtual meetings – could be implemented. The Secretariat worked on the final draft of the document under the Investment Committee’s guidance, and shared a final draft with the Investment Committee on 19 February 2021.
4. The Investment Committee was satisfied with the updated procedures described in the paper. In their final review, however, the Investment Committee identified a matter that may warrant further discussion and guidance from the Board, concerning whether TAP assessments for non-endorsed proposals should be shared with the Board.
5. Under the current procedures, and following Board decision B.17/09 (k), stating:
 - (k) *Requests the Secretariat to inform the Board at each Board meeting on the status of funding proposals that either the Secretariat or the independent Technical Advisory Panel do not recommend for approval and do not submit to the Board;*the Secretariat shares with the Board a list of non-endorsed projects and a brief summary of the causes for non-endorsement. The draft assessment by the TAP is only shared with AEs for their consideration and further action. There is currently no defined procedure for other stakeholders, including the Board, NDAs, and independent units, to access assessments, limiting their ability to undertake oversight and redress.
6. This document presents the option of sharing the finalized TAP assessment for non-endorsement proposals with the AE, the NDAs of target countries and the Board, as well as the GCF Independent Units (if requested in line with their work) as a limited distribution document under the GCF Information Disclosure Policy.
7. This option does not imply sharing the non-endorsed funding proposal with the Board for consideration for approval, keeping in line with decision B.17/09 (i), stating:
 - (k) *Decides that the Secretariat shall only submit to the Board for its consideration those funding proposals (stage 5 of the updated project and programme activity cycle) whose approval has been recommended by the independent Technical Advisory Panel and the Secretariat.*
8. The Investment Committee understands the advantages of the procedure in terms of transparency, oversight and the ability to provide further feedback to the TAP, but also notes possible effects in the institutional balance between the Board, the TAP, AEs and NDAs.
9. Because of this, the Investment Committee was unable to provide guidance to the Secretariat regarding the specific procedure noted in annex III, section 3.2.2.1 on non-endorsement, subitem 5.5., which notes that (emphasis added):
 - *The Secretariat will share the edited assessment in confidence with (i) the AE, (ii) the NDAs of the target countries, and (iii) the Board, through a confidential document to be submitted prior to each Board meeting.*

