



**GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND**

Meeting of the Board

28 June – 1 July 2021

Virtual meeting

Provisional agenda item 19

GCF/B.29/11

23 June 2021

Dates and venues of upcoming meetings of the Board

Summary

This document has been prepared to assist the Board in confirming the dates and deciding on the modality for the thirtieth meeting of the Board, and in starting the process to consider the dates for Board meetings in 2022.

I. Introduction

1. This document has been prepared to assist the Board in confirming the dates and deciding on the modality for the thirtieth meeting of the Board (B.30), and in starting the process to consider the dates for Board meetings in 2022.

II. Considerations

2.1 Dates for the thirtieth meeting of the Board and for meetings of the Board in 2022

2. By decision B.28/06, the Board decided the dates for B.30 as 4–7 October 2021.¹

3. By decision B.17/24, paragraph (c), the Board recommended that the Secretariat propose, at the second Board meeting of each calendar year, the schedule of Board meetings for the following calendar year. Based on the calendar of events in 2022 provided in annex II, GCF Board meetings in 2022 could be held during the following slots: 14 – 17 March 2022 for B.31, 27 – 30 June 2022 for B.32, and 17 – 20 October 2022 for B.33. However, given the uncertainty created by the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Co-Chairs consider that it is difficult to set these dates at B.29, and suggest making this decision at B.30.

2.2 Venue for the thirtieth meeting of the Board

4. The Board has recognized that the unique circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are continuing to impact the ongoing operations of GCF (including the Board, Secretariat, independent units, accredited entities and national designated authorities). The strict health guidelines continue to include, but are not limited to, avoiding large groups such as in-person business meetings, and limitations on international travel. In light of these ongoing restrictions, the Board reaffirmed in decision B.BM-2020/07 the importance of GCF remaining operational to implement its mandate, given the current exceptional circumstances.

5. The Co-Chairs note that since the last Board meeting the situation has remained serious both around the world and in the Republic of Korea. As of mid-June 2021, around 6% of Koreans are fully vaccinated, and 22% of Koreans have received their first of two inoculations. Vaccinations are currently available to those over age 60. Beginning in July, there are plans to allow vaccinations to those older than age 50, however such plans are subject to confirmation according to vaccine supply. Vaccination appointments for those younger or on a wider scale will likely be available in the fall. By the month of October 2021, the majority of citizens in the Republic of Korea would still be unvaccinated, or having only had their first of two doses. Cases in the Republic of Korea remain in the range of 450-750 per day, with authorities noting the ongoing risk and unpredictability of sporadic cluster infections. Social distancing restrictions remain in place. Mask-wearing is mandatory. There is a national ban on gatherings of more than four people (outside of the home) and local curfews are in place covering Seoul and Incheon. Local authorities are reviewing the restrictions on a monthly basis and have just extended the current measures until July.

6. Significant travel restrictions persist in the Republic of Korea. The central government requires a mandatory two-week quarantine period for most visitors with mandatory testing at both the start and end of that period. Starting in July, those who have been fully vaccinated can apply for an exemption at their local Korean Embassy or Consulate from quarantine requirements if their travel is for essential business, public interest, or academic reasons.

¹ See annex II to document GCF/B.28/06.

However, several countries do not qualify for this exemption due to the presence of variant strains of COVID-19 within their borders. The list of countries that do and do not qualify may change with little notice based on current case numbers. Those who are granted the quarantine exemption must also still submit a COVID-19 negative confirmation certificate issued within 72 hours of departure and undergo two COVID-19 tests after entering Korea. Considering the uncertainty of the situation and the anticipated comparatively low levels of vaccination, social distancing and travel restrictions are likely to remain in place by October and subsequent months.

7. Taking all the above into consideration, and noting the changing nature of the restrictions, guidelines and vaccination programmes around the world, the Co-Chairs deem that the current circumstances do not allow for B.30 to be held in person, though recognizing the need to continue to carefully monitor events for a resumption of Board meetings held in person as soon as feasible. The Co-Chairs therefore recommend that B.30 also be held as a net-meeting.

8. The Co-Chairs also recommend that the Board once again request the Co-Chairs to continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of GCF, and to report to the Board appropriately. Accordingly, the Board may further evaluate the situation to take a decision for the venues and/or the modality of future Board meetings. Taking into account decision B.24/04, by which the Board endorsed the policy cycle for 2020-2023 and adopted the workplan of the Board for 2020-2023, and noting the delay encountered in implementing this workplan, the Co-Chairs are currently considering the possibility of organizing a fourth Board meeting in 2021, should it be possible to resume in-person meetings towards the end of the year.

III. Recommended action by the Board

9. It is recommended that the Board consider and adopt the draft decision in the annex to confirm the dates of 4–7 October 2021 for B.30 as a net meeting.

Annex I: Draft decision of the Board

The Board, having considered document GCF/B.29/11 titled “Dates and venues of upcoming meetings of the Board”:

- (a) Confirms that the thirtieth meeting of the Board will take place from Monday, 4 October to Thursday, 7 October 2021 and that this be held as a net-meeting;
- (b) Underscores the importance of the full participation and involvement of the entire Board from all constituencies in the Board meetings and pre-Board meeting consultation process as an essential condition for holding an effective and full participatory meeting;
- (c) Requests the Secretariat, where applicable, to take appropriate steps to ensure the full and effective participation of all Board members, alternate members, advisers and active observers in the net-meeting, including testing the technology and providing support to developing countries in particular; and
- (d) Also requests the Co-Chairs to continue to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of GCF, and to report to the Board appropriately.



Annex II: Key events in 2022 and slots for GCF Board meetings

Dates	Event	Location
JAN		
3	<i>New Year's Day***</i>	
7	<i>Orthodox Christmas*</i>	
FEB		
1 – 3	<i>Lunar New Year (observed in Korea & most of East Asia)</i>	
15 – 18	<i>Easter</i>	
21	<i>Presidents' Day*</i>	
28 – 2	UNEA-5	Nairobi, Kenya
MAR		
14 - 17	GCF - B.31	
21	<i>Nowruz*</i>	
APR		
1	<i>Beginning of Ramadan</i>	
15	<i>Good Friday***</i>	
30	<i>Orthodox Good Friday*</i>	
MAY		
3	<i>Eid al-Fitr***</i>	
6	<i>Day of Vesak</i>	
23 – 25	GEF – 62 nd Council meeting	Washington DC, USA
30	<i>Memorial Day**</i>	
JUN		
27 - 30	GCF - B.32	
JUL		
4	<i>Independence Day of the United States of America**</i>	
9 – 13	<i>Eid al-Adha***</i>	
AUG		
SEP		
1	UNCCD COP 15	TBC
13 – 27	UNGA – 77 th Session	New York, USA
4 – 5	<i>Yom Kippur*</i>	
9 – 12	<i>Chuseok (autumn harvest festival observed in Korea)</i>	
OCT		
1	<i>National Day of the People's Republic of China</i>	
14 – 16	2022 World Bank & IMF Annual Meetings	Marrakech, Morocco
17 - 20	GCF - B.33	
24	<i>Diwali*</i>	
NOV		
8	<i>Gurpurab*</i>	
24	<i>Thanksgiving Day**</i>	
DEC		
6 – 8	GEF – 63 rd Council meeting	Washington DC, USA
25	<i>Christmas day***</i>	



Events to be Confirmed:

Potential date	Event	Location
APR	2022 World Bank & IMF Spring Meetings	TBC
APR	Adaptation Fund Board – 38 th meeting	Bonn, Germany
JUN	UNFCCC – 53 rd sessions of the subsidiary bodies	Bonn, Germany
JUN	CIFs Trust Fund Committee Meetings	Washington DC, USA
JUL	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	New York, USA
JUL	UNFCCC – Standing Committee on Finance	TBC
NOV	Adaptation Fund Board – 39 th meeting	Bonn, Germany

Abbreviations: B.31–B.33 = the thirtieth to thirty-first meetings of the Board, CIFs = Climate Investment Funds, COP = Conference of the Parties, G20 = Group of Twenty, GEF = Global Environment Facility, IMF = International Monetary Fund, UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNGA = United Nations General Assembly, TBC = to be confirmed.

** 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*