

Venue of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Board

Note from the Co-Chairs of the Board of the Green Climate Fund

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Dear members of the Board,

Pursuant to decision B.23/18, paragraph (b), the Board decided that the twenty-fifth meeting of the Board (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 of the Board, the Board, by decision B.24/16, confirmed that B.25 will take place on these dates.

In response to the outbreak of the coronavirus, 2019-nCov, the Republic of Korea has implemented a number of public health response measures, including: scaling up on 27 January 2020 the national infectious disease alert level to “orange”, the third highest readiness level in its four-tiered system; putting into operation a Central Disaster Relief Headquarters led by the Health Minister; making use of defence and police forces for manning quarantine checkpoints at the nation’s airports and seaports for better screening of inbound travellers; and restricting entry of visitors who have travelled from the affected areas.

On the sidelines of the informal Board meeting in Monrovia, Liberia, Board members enquired about the impact on the hosting of B.25 in Songdo and expressed support for the option of an alternative location for B.25. In response, the Co-Chairs requested the Secretariat to look into the possibility of changing the location for B.25.

The Co-Chairs, with the assistance of the Secretariat, have looked into several options for an alternative location for B.25, considering a number of criteria that takes into account the concerns and needs of Board members, as well as cost and capacity considerations.

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 Board and alternate members as well as an effective Board meeting, the Co-Chairs have decided to invoke paragraph 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board, which provides that the Co-Chairs, in carrying out their functions, shall be guided by the best interests of the Fund.

The Co-Chairs have considered it prudent and have concluded that, under these extraordinary circumstances and on an exceptional basis, the venue for B.25 will be changed, and, given the proximity of B.25 and the need to act promptly to advance arrangements, have decided on a new location for the meeting, after considering all options presented by the Secretariat.

We hereby inform that Geneva, Switzerland, has been identified as a viable alternative and decided by the Co-Chairs as the location for B.25 on the dates already decided by the Board (Tuesday, 10 March to Thursday, 12 March 2020). We take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for their support in the organization of the meeting within a short time period.

We also take the opportunity to inform you that the identified B.25 venue offers limited capacity to accommodate the usual number of participants to a Board meeting. We therefore ask meeting participants for their understanding and support in the implementation of the following measures:

- Presence within the Boardroom will be limited to one adviser per Board and alternate member.
- Limited space is available for constituency and committee meetings. The work of the Board will need to be adjusted accordingly.
- The observers room has a capacity to accommodate up to one hundred participants. Registration will therefore be limited and managed on a first come basis.

We appreciate your flexibility considering the extraordinary circumstances surrounding B.25. We trust this serves as a reminder of the need to minimize the carbon footprint of our meetings and encourages a wider use of the live webcasting service that enhances the transparency of our process.

Accordingly, the Co-Chairs have requested the Secretariat to communicate to Board meeting participants the new venue for B.25 and 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. A meeting notification and a logistics note for the meeting will be issued promptly by the Secretariat.

We regret any inconvenience and look forward to a successful Board meeting.

Best regards

Nauman Bhatti and Sue Szabo
Co-Chairs of the Board of the Green Climate Fund