

## **Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Albania**

National Designated Authority / Focal Point for interaction with GCF

***Subject:*** *Input to the Strategic Plan of the Green Climate Fund*

***To:*** *Green Climate Fund*

### **Input to the Strategic Plan of the Green Climate Fund**

The initial Strategic Plan of the Green Climate Fund was adopted by the Board at its twelfth meeting to cover the GCF initial resource mobilization period (2015 - 2018), guiding the GCF as a continuously learning institution with a view to achieving its overarching objectives outlined in the Governing Instrument.

Furthermore, the strategic plan seeks to articulate to the world the vision and operational priorities of the GCF, thereby making it more accessible to countries and strengthening its partnerships with national designated authorities/focal points and accredited entities.

The GCF Board intends to review the strategic plan as part of the first replenishment process with a view to revising the strategic vision if and as needed and to update the core operational priorities and underlying action plan for the coming replenishment cycle taking into account evolving priorities.

**Strengthening country ownership and integrating efforts to meet country-specific needs, requirements, and circumstances**

In the initial Strategic Plan, the Board intends to prioritize pipeline development by providing enhanced readiness support by:

- following a focus strategy to engage and support NDAs/FPs in developing country programmes, concept notes and funding proposals that have the potential to yield an impact at scale and contribute to the implementation of countries' priorities as identified in INDCs or other national strategies and plans;
- facilitating and supporting a structured dialogue involving the Secretariat, NDAs, relevant AEs, and other country stakeholders, including the private sector, to develop country programmes and determine which priorities identified by country strategies (INDCs, LEDS, NAPAs, NAMAs, etc.) are the best match for GCF support.

The structured dialogue will aim to help NDAs to identify the best AE and other partners and help them design programming that meets the investment criteria of the GCF;

- offering NDAs a standardized template with questions guiding the development of country programmes;

For the purpose of strengthening the country ownership of the GCF mandate, and integrate efforts to meet specific needs, requirements and circumstances, considering also the complex institutional capacities necessary for developing country strategies and programming, the above measures are found valuable and encouraged to be further operationalized in order to become accessible from National Designated Authorities.

#### Enhancing accessibility and inclusiveness on the frontlines of country and partner engagement

Based on the Synthesis of Board submissions on the update of the Strategic Plan of the Green Climate Fund, on Updating the Operational Priorities and related Action Plan, paragraph 10, suggesting to set the bar high through policies, project selection criteria and effective as well as efficient project cycle management, it is worth pointing out that, as Green Climate Fund aims at a gold standard organization for the whole issue of world climate change, commensurate high bars must be set through its process of enhancing the accessibility of its resources, from the National Designated Authorities and its direct access entities. This is considering specifically that the Fund's work is based in developing countries and is implemented through their institutions and private sector entities, which gaps of institutional and human resource capacities to stand the high bars need to be filled.

#### Motivating and supporting country-driven and paradigm-shifting actions to drive towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways

Based on the Synthesis of Board submissions on the update of the Strategic Plan of the Green Climate Fund, on maximizing impact and realizing the transformational aspirations of GCF, paragraph 14, it may be of worth not to include the impact and quality of investments in the Strategic Plan. Because the Green Climate Fund is a new organization, it necessitates strategic planning in two dimensions:

1. its institutional development and operationalization
2. the fulfillment of its mission, purpose and objectives within the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement

The two dimensions are clearly different in nature, while the initial Strategic Plan aggregates both of them. It is our opinion that they should be strategically planned in two different processes and documents, as the Fund advances well into pipeline project/program

implementation, country-driven and within the overall framework of the sector, and also into further operationalization. This would help keep the overall strategic planning of GCF clear and easily readable from Fund itself as well as every stakeholder and partner. It would particularly allow for a clear integration of the scientific information with the paradigm-shifting investment plan and project pipelines towards low-emission and climate-resilient development for each developing country. Of course, these processes and documents would be fully correlated with each other.

Following this reasoning, the definition of the impact of investments would be directly related to the second dimension.

On the other hand, the definition of the quality of investments in the Strategic Plan, with no regard to the above separation of dimensions, might overload the document, and might better be subject to Terms of References.

#### Supporting capacity development of national institutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation project pipeline development and successful implementation of funded activities

The Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme is currently very much needed for National Designated Authorities to reinforce the institutional capacity to transform the national climate adaptation and mitigation plans, in the nationally determined contributions and national plans on the sector, into GCF investment plans and project pipelines. The quality of the national climate adaptation and mitigation plans is crucial for the GCF to fulfill its mission, purpose and objective at the quality which it aims.

In addition, the need becomes bolder in view of the proposed Project-Specific Assessment Approach for accrediting of entities, which should apply for accreditation with a specific project/program which has to derive from these documents. A further operationalization of the Program may be possible in order to facilitate its access from the National Designated Authorities and entities.

#### Sustaining support for countries to invest in knowledge, institutional and human capacity development

This disaggregation of the overall support for country capacity development is not expressively present in the initial Strategic Plan, not in the report on the first implementation period 2015-2018, and not in the synthesis of submissions on the update of the Plan. A further operationalization of this support is important.