

Dear colleagues,

Many thanks for the opportunity to provide written comments on the draft updated Strategic Plan. Canada and Belgium would like to suggest the following edits (red) in the text.

Re: GCF as a global thought leader and building a knowledge hub

- Para 84: Emerging **evidence-based** lessons learned from projects and portfolios will inform operations on an annual basis and be consolidated in line with replenishment cycles. Project reviews and evaluation will be undertaken by the Secretariat and Independent Evaluation Unit as needed, feeding into the GCF knowledge management systems.
- Para 116: This will in turn inform strategic programming work, which will assess further the opportunities to advance GCF strategic programming in the second replenishment period. This will take into consideration areas the GCF's portfolio is most active in and **evidence-based** lessons learned, under-represented focus areas as well as sectors covering greatest country needs and potential to generate highest impact in light of evolving global context and climate change pathways.
- Para 7: GCF will, in parallel, seek to respond to feedback requesting a more proactive GCF role in guiding programming and supporting the development of pipelines of projects and programmes **with increased climate rationale** that fit the GCF investment criteria.
- Para 15: The GCF proposes to report annually on progress towards delivering the 2020-23 Strategic Plan, challenges encountered, and lessons learned, with overall progress to be considered as part of a formal mid-cycle performance review. This reporting will serve as a checkpoint for the Board and the Secretariat to reflect short-term course corrections during the period 2020–2023 and inform the **climate rationale-based** development of strategic direction for the second and subsequent replenishment periods of GCF.
- Para 34h: Proactively gathering and disseminating knowledge of lessons learned from readiness, the PPF and targeted country technical support **and science-based sectoral advice** to better inform future operational cycles **and strengthen programming**.
- Para 43: The GCF programming ambition for 2020–2023 is to deliver greater mitigation and adaptation impact for developing countries by targeting investments to the areas of greatest need and impact potential and working to expand the total financing that is channelled towards successful climate investments in developing countries. Tapping into lessons learned from the IRM, the GCF recognizes that achieving this requires programming approaches and tools that target areas with the greatest need at country level and with the greatest **climate rationale** potential for impact, and then utilize GCF funding to innovate, field-test and scale up new investment approaches that have the potential to attract wider climate and conventional finance.
- Para 53b: Instituting a GCF-led knowledge hub to capture results and lessons learned from readiness and portfolio implementation, with a particular focus on sharing **science-based learning and** information on climate investment innovation;

- Para 71a: The Secretariat will further enhance technical assistance for SAP development and deploy dedicated PPF technical assistance based on evolving operations and lessons learned to help entities turn concept notes into SAP proposals and develop SAP guidance in line with evolving **science-based** sector guidance.

Re: rapid and adaptative planning

- Para 53c: Actively **using learning-oriented real-time impact assessment (LORAT) of on-going projects**, evaluations and results management as a means to improve the GCF knowledge base, support its evidence-based programming approach and guide its evolution as a learning institution.

Re: Country allocations – we suggest adding the following new paragraph

- **Para 29: In order to achieve geographical balance and a reasonable and fair allocation across a broad range of countries, the GCF will closely monitor this as the GCF portfolio progresses. The GCF will also work on a system of country allocations, especially for the most vulnerable countries.**

Re: Financial planning approach

- Para 103: As set out above, GCF proposes that, once the quantum of resources available for 2020– 2023 are known, GCF will develop a financial planning approach **and accompanying timeline** based on the agreed Strategic Plan to guide the predictable allocation of GCF resources.

Re: Gender

- Para 88: GCF will continue to advance gender mainstreaming, recognizing that ~~women as well as men~~ **both women and men** significantly contribute to combating climate change.
- Para 68: Realizing deeper gains in efficiency and effectiveness over the medium term will involve a more **comprehensive review of GCF policies and frameworks** with a view to better harmonizing, simplifying and streamlining the accreditation process, project approval process and post-approval process, and clarifying the GCF policies and standards applied at each stage, such as the GCF Policy on Prohibited Practices, the GCF Environmental and Social Policy, the Indigenous People’s Policy and the **updated Gender Policy and Action Plan**. Reducing the frequency of policy change by moving towards regular and structured policy review cycles and critically assessing gaps and duplications in the set of GCF policies (as proposed by the FPR), as well as assessing policy impacts and cost-benefit analyses, would greatly help improve predictability and reduce engagement costs.
- para 87: The Independent Evaluation Unit FPR acknowledged that the presence of approved **rights-based policies**, including the environmental and social safeguards, Gender Policy, Indigenous Peoples Policy and Independent Redress Mechanism procedures and guidelines, represent emerging best practices within climate finance. GCF will also enhance its institutional profile by continuing to advance **evidence-based** best practices and standards across its operations, enabling wide stakeholder participation, promoting transparency, mainstreaming gender in its operations and programming, and the highest standards of integrity.
- Annex 1 Para 6: Programming will be guided by the principles and provisions of the Governing Instrument, guidance from the Conference of the Parties and Paris Agreement, agreed resource

allocation parameters decided by the Board, and strategic goals for 2020-23. Programming will also continue to be based on a country-driven approach, placing countries' identified national and regional priorities, **including supporting the importance of gender considerations in combating climate change**, at the heart of the investment programming.

- Annex 1 Para 7: GCF will, in parallel, seek to respond to feedback requesting a more proactive GCF role in guiding programming and supporting the development of pipelines of projects and programmes that fit the GCF investment criteria. GCF will work through strategic dialogue with developing countries and accredited entities (AEs) to utilize information about climate risks, developing country needs, market conditions and the comparative advantage of GCF to help identify prospective areas for high-impact potential programming across its eight results areas and develop sector guidance. These represent areas where GCF can help shift the dial on climate change by working with its partners on the **gender-responsive**, transformational, innovative and catalytic investments that must happen at scale in the next 10 years if the world is to stay on track in tackling climate change.
- Annex 1 para 18: Across each of the above programming areas, GCF will ensure alignment between country priorities and sector guidance; explore potential for cooperation and complementarity with other climate funds and financiers; and explore options to catalyse sustained private sector investment. The Fund will continue elaborating sectoral guidance through country and entity consultations and this is expected to be finalized by early 2020. Further work will also be done to refine relevant results indicators under an updated results management framework, **including gender-disaggregated indicators and result statements**.

Please do let me know if I can clarify anything. Wishing everyone at the Secretariat a very happy holiday season!