

35th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
February 8, 2024
Washington D.C., USA

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS
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The following is a record prepared by the GEF Secretariat of comments and clarifications of key points made by Council Members. This record is supplemental to the Summary of the Co-Chairs, which records the decisions agreed upon by the Council.

Agenda Item 1 Opening of the Meeting

1. The 35th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) Council was opened by Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, GEF's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Council Co-Chair.
2. The CEO noted the recent devastation caused by recent extreme climate events over the world, emphasizing the importance of the LDCF and SCCF in building resilience and adaptation in the world's most vulnerable countries. He thanked donors who made pledges to these two funds at the donor pledging event held at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and urged greater levels of donor support for multilateral climate finance, including the LDCF and the SCCF.
3. The CEO recognized the unusually large size of the LDCF/SCCF Work Program presented to Council for approval, especially the high demand for SCCF-A funding to support adaptation in non-LDC SIDS.

Agenda Item 3 Opening Remarks by the LDC Chair

4. The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group Chair, Mr. Evans Njewa, provided opening remarks via video. Mr. Njewa appreciated the continued collaboration and partnership between GEF and the LDC Group. He also expressed appreciation to the GEF for mobilizing resources for the LDCF,

especially for the recent donor pledges made at the COP 28.

5. Mr. Njewa highlighted the LDCF as the preferred climate financing mechanism for the LDCs and stressed the need for enhanced support to the LDCF and the SCCF.

Agenda Item 3 *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund.*

6. Council Members welcomed the LDCF/SCCF Work Program and expressed their appreciation for several aspects, including the increased roles of the international financial institutions and multilateral development banks (MDBs), collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, adoption of a holistic approach, improved balance across the agencies involved, geographical balance, and gender considerations.

7. Council Members appreciated the quality of the work program, particularly its support for the most vulnerable countries, as well as women and indigenous peoples. They also commended the engagement of private sector and the high share of MDBs in the work program.

8. Council Members recognized the size of the work program and the GEF Secretariat's efforts in mobilizing resources for the LDCF and SCCF.

9. Council Members also appreciated the regional balance of the LDCF projects and encouraged GEF to continue balancing the involvement of agencies in the implementation of the projects.

Agenda Item 4 *FY22 Annual Monitoring Review of the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund*

10. Council members welcomed the report and appreciated the high-performance rating for both the LDCF and SCCF during the reporting period.

11. Council members expressed satisfaction with the positive results presented in the annual monitoring review report, encouraged the continuation of gender mainstreaming and stakeholders' engagement efforts in the two funds, and encouraged the use of similar data in future adaptation planning. Further suggestions were made to provide analytical information on project performance, reflections on projects risks and policy coherence. A Council Member suggested that future reports should include data on participation of women and civil society organizations.

12. Some Council Members expressed concerns over the low rating of some projects compared to previous reports and requested more information on the low-rated projects. The GEF Secretariat highlighted that the rate was based solely on the projects that were evaluated during the reporting period.

13. A Council member asked for clarification on why there was a lower number of beneficiaries in the latest fiscal year report. The GEF Secretariat noted that the report only covers projects under implementation during the reporting period.

14. A Council member requested information on how greater MDB engagement might increase private sector involvement and value chain effectiveness.

Agenda Item 5 *Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund*

15. Council Members welcomed the LDCF and SCCF progress report and commended its transparent presentation of information.

16. They recognized the communication and visibility efforts made on the LDCF/SCCF and highlighted the utility of the LDCF/SCCF videos in showcasing achievements. A request was made for the next report to detail the impact of the various communication efforts.

17. One Council Member cited the report's statement on limited funding for the SCCF window B and called on partners to increase contributions to the SCCF. The member further called on the GEF agencies to support SIDS in accessing the SCCF SIDS window.

18. Another Council Member highlighted the importance of the GEF Inclusive Assembly Challenge Program as a novel approach to involve diverse actors in addressing global environmental challenges. The member encouraged GEF operational focal points to provide any outstanding letters of endorsement so that the projects could be submitted for approval.

19. Council Members thanked the GEF Secretariat for organizing the regional adaptation workshops for LDCF programming, including the efforts made to surmount language barriers.

Agenda Item 6 *Other Business*

20. The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) expressed satisfaction with the growing LDCF/SCCF work program, highlighting a 92 percent success rate in early warning projects and the need for continuous evaluation to enhance fund effectiveness.

21. The IEO also stressed the importance of aligning projects with national priorities and the value of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in adaptation efforts. Reports can be found on its website at <https://www.gefio.org/evaluations/search>.