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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Opening Remarks

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Global Environment Facility

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LDCF/SCCF Council meeting
Opening Remarks by Monique Barbut

Dear Colleagues,

Usually, I like to start the LDCF/SCCF Council meeting with the good news. But perhaps this is the time to remember the reality on the ground.

Since the last time we met, the Horn of Africa has experienced the worst drought in the living memory. This extreme climatic event, as you know, has caused a massive refugee crisis, with particularly severe implications for women and children. In Mogadishu, tens of thousands of famine-stricken refugees, already suffering the effects of the drought on many levels, lost their makeshift shelter due to torrential rains.

Unfortunately, this year has been named by some the year of natural disasters. There is nothing to suggest that these kinds of occurrences will become less frequent. Indeed, all signs point in the opposite direction.

Climate variability and climate change are here to stay.

So what is the good news?

Well, in our small way, we have been funding concrete adaptation action in developing countries around the globe.

In the least developed countries, we have so far financed adaptation in 46 countries, for a total of 195 million. Through these projects and programs, we have leveraged over 885 million. This means that we are increasing the climate resiliency of over one billion dollars total for development interventions on the ground, and this is thanks to the funding out of the LDCF.

In addition to that, through the Special Climate Change Fund, we are financing, including with this work program, 150 million with 960 million in cofinancing adaptation action -- as you can see, if you approve this work program, we will surpass the one billion dollar mark here as well.

In fact, I am particularly pleased with this SCCF Work Program. As you will see there is a diversity of project and programs, various countries, regions, sectors, themes, and implementing agencies. But more importantly, if you look into the substance --these are the issues that are highly relevant to national sustainable development agendas of the recipient countries. We are doing more with better coordination, and capturing of efficiencies.

These are the seeds of a more resilient future.

Our most recent independent evaluations seem to agree that we already seeing successes. I am referring to the Evaluation of the SPA presented to you at the GEF

Council during its 39th meeting, DANIDA's follow up to the LDCF evaluation presented at the 9th meeting of the LDCF/SCCF Council, and, I'm pleased to say, the SCCF evaluation that the Independent Evaluation Office for the GEF is presenting at this meeting.

However, going back to the reality on the ground -- what we are doing is simply not enough given our current climatic conditions, and especially future ones. We need to do more. And in order to do more – and this is something the evaluations agree on – we require more funding. Allow me to remind you that the LDCF and SCCF are the only climate change adaptation funds under the UNFCCC Convention. Without them, what will fill the gap between now and the establishment of the Green Climate Fund, which we know cannot happen overnight. We need to leverage more of LDCF and SCCF funding for a higher level of action, in order to have a bigger impact on a greater number of people, and we need to do it now. These instruments work, and work effectively.

Here, at the GEF, together we are constructing the roadmap for adaptation. The kind of action we are financing today will save lives. The experience and the successes we are building will form the blueprint for future action on adaptation. I appeal to you again, as I have appealed to you before, to continue supporting us in this effort.

That the funds are flowing to where they are needed most is a good thing, but we are nowhere near fulfilling our mandate. Therefore, I must ask you again to increase your support.

Thank you.