

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS  
LDCF/SCCF MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

1. The following is a record prepared by the GEF Secretariat of comments, understandings and clarifications of certain points made during discussions of the agenda items of the LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting.

2. Five information documents were circulated to the LDCF/SCCF Council at this session, including:

- (a) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.7/Inf.1/Rev.1      Provisional List of Documents
- (b) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.7/Inf.2              Status Report on the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund (Prepared by the World Bank as Trustee)
- (c) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.7/Inf.3/Rev.1      Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)
- (d) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.7/Inf.4              Joint External Evaluation: Operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund for Adaptation to Climate Change (Prepared by DANIDA Evaluation Department and GEF Evaluation Office)
- (e) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.7/Inf.5              Management Response to the Joint External Evaluation: Operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for Adaptation to Climate Change

*Agenda Item 5: Implementation of the RBM Framework under the LDCF and SCCF*

3. GEF Secretariat provided a brief summary of the information provided in the document, which builds upon earlier Council papers and provides an overall view for the RBM implementation for the LDCF and the SCCF. The Secretariat reiterated that the RBM approach and the tools in place are a work in progress and project level indicators still needed to be improved, and clarified how the perception index would be used.

4. Council Members noted and welcomed the advances in the RBM approach and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to develop tools to implement RBM. One member however mentioned that tightening of the casual relationship between outputs and outcomes would strengthen the approach.

5. The issue of budget implications was raised. As the document states that the LDCF/SCCF Council will be asked to approve an RBM budget to cover all necessary costs of portfolio monitoring and evaluation, Council Members requested that the Secretariat include a budget with the implementation plan. The LDCF/SCCF Council will then approve both the budget and RBM implementation plan together by mail, following standard LDCF/SCCF Council procedures.

*Agenda Item 6: Executive Summary of the Joint External Evaluation of the operation of the LDCF*

6. GEF Secretariat Evaluation Office provided a brief summary of the document, highlighting the main focus and the conclusions of the external evaluation conducted by the DANIDA External Evaluation and the GEF Evaluation Office.

7. Upon a request from a Council Member, the Secretariat also gave a brief overview of the GEF Secretariat Management response to the joint external evaluation of the LDCF, where the Secretariat welcomed the evaluation's conclusions and agreed to, as appropriate, respond to the recommendations to improve the delivery, effectiveness and efficiency of the LDCF.

8. Council Members welcomed the conclusions of the joint evaluation, requesting the Secretariat and other stakeholders, mentioned in the document, to take appropriate actions on implementing the relevant recommendations. In this context, various Council Members noted that, in responding to the recommendations, it is important to keep in mind the budgetary implications of the proposed reforms. The Secretariat responded by supporting the latter comment of the Council Members, stating that unless there is greater level and predictability of LDCF resources, it will be very difficult to implement most of the suggested recommendations.

9. The Council Members agreed that, often, the effectiveness of the LDCF is affected by the volatility of funding availability and called for greater predictability of LDCF resources in the context of the ongoing LDCF/SCCF replenishment discussion. In addition, the Council Members agreed on the importance of switching from project towards a programmatic approach, on further streamlining the LDCF project cycle, as well as on continuing to build national and local capacities of the LDCs.

10. In light of the concerns raised with respect to the specific recommendations, the Secretariat referred the Council Members to hold bilateral discussions on clarifying pertinent points with DANIDA and GEF Evaluation Office.

11. Responding to the concern raised by a Council Member with regards to the equitability in funds allocation under the LDCF, the GEF CEO announced that an LDCF/SCCF document including revised and updated financing criteria will be prepared and submitted to the LDCF/SCCF Council for approval at the next meeting.

*Agenda Item 7: Other business*

12. A Council Member requested the Secretariat to provide an updated document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.7/Inf.2, "*Status Report on the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund*", including the latest pledges made by the donor countries.

11. The Council agreed for the Secretariat to liaise with the donor countries on identifying and funding approved LDCF and SCCF projects which are in need of financing.
12. The meeting was closed on November 12, 2009.