



Adaptation Fund Board
Forty-fifth meeting
Bonn, Germany

Report on the Activities of the Secretariat

Strategic Issues

- a) The Report of the Secretariat provides a retrospective view of the Secretariat's key activities since the last meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board, in alignment with the report of the Adaptation Fund Board to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), as well as the Secretariat's Annual Performance. As well, the Report also provides a forward-looking view on issues and challenges facing the Secretariat to support the Board's mandate and deliberations at its 45th meeting.

Purpose

1. This board paper presents to the Board a report on the activities of the Secretariat from April 2025 to September 2025.

Recommended Decision

2. The Adaption Fund Board, having considered document AFB/B.45/3, takes note of the Report of the Secretariat for the period of April 2025 to September 2025.

Background

3. This report lists the key activities of the Secretariat during the six-month period since the Board's 44th meeting in April 2025. This report organizes key activities according to the Secretariat's teams in accord with its structure. Lastly, this report provides a forward-looking view on the issues and challenges facing the Secretariat in the next fiscal year.

Front Office (including Communications)

4. The Front Office directly supports the Manager of the Secretariat, who provides overall strategic direction and policy leadership for the Secretariat, strengthens the Secretariat's management culture, and positions the Fund in external engagements.

Key Activities of the Manager

- Led the Secretariat's support for the 44th meeting of the Board in April 2025.
- Represented the Fund in the First High-Level Dialogue on Strengthening Response(s) to Loss and Damage, organized by the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, as well as other meetings on the margins of the World Bank Spring Meetings in April 2025.

- Undertook a mission to Austria and Switzerland in May 2025 to engage with contributors and other partners, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IUCN) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to support a well-resourced Adaptation Fund (the Fund) and increase the visibility of the Fund among its stakeholders.
- Convened and chaired the 4th meeting of the multilateral climate funds on 15 May 2025.
- Led meetings with the governments of Albania and Montenegro, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), during the portfolio monitoring mission on the project "Integrated climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin" in June 2025.
- Led the Fund delegation to the Meetings of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies (SB62) in June 2025, led a Secretariat organized panel event on the work of the Fund, and engaged with a range of Fund partners and stakeholders in bilateral meetings, including the COP30 Presidency in preparation of the Fund's participation in COP30.
- Provided remarks at the Secretariat organized annual Fund readiness seminar for national implementing entities (NIEs), to engage with NIE partners to support their capacity and work with the Fund on 8 September 2025.
- Led the Fund delegation to the New York Climate Week in September 2025, represented the Fund in high-level solution dialogues on adaptation and climate finance, Special High-level Event on Climate Action, Global Mutirão to Scale Adaptation Finance at COP30 and Beyond, COP30 Presidency Roundtable on Finance for Adaptation and event "Scaling Up Finance and Partnerships for Responding to Loss and Damage", and led the co-organization, with the incoming COP 30 Presidency, of the high-level dinner dialogue event "Road to Belem: Unlocking Adaptation Finance for Accelerating Ambition and Implementation".
- Liaised with the incoming COP30 Presidency on areas of potential collaboration in the run-up to the COP in Belem, Brazil, including on outreach and resource mobilization.

Key Activities of the Communications Function

- Continued with a phased project to modernize the Fund website and make it more engaging and user-friendly. Continued updates to the system and hosting of the site to ensure the platform is up to date, faster and secure. Also, continued work toward a phase 2 reorganization and simplification of the site, with early organizational improvements. Modernized the Adaptation Fund staff page, and working towards the creation of new country pages.
- New website content was continuously created, including videos and photos that showcase the Fund's work, resulting in 367,219 views, a 56% increase in webpage views compared to the same period last year, and 102,287 active users of the website, an 89% increase over the same prior period.
- Continued to be very active on social media, posting regularly about the Fund's tangible projects and programmes, innovative thought leadership, and the importance of adaptation finance. The Fund saw an increase of 3,071 new followers on LinkedIn since March 2025 to reach a total of 16,701 followers on the platform. With a greater focus on showcasing Fund projects through short videos and storytelling, Instagram has seen an increase of 149 followers since March 2025, with 7,421 views from June 1-September 1. Since April 2025, Fund put out six new photo albums on Flickr, using these images to continue to grow its Facebook, Instagram and YouTube channels.

After the development of its two new Fund accounts on growing social media platforms BlueSky and Threads, the team is continuing to build its presence while working to safeguard and enhance the reach of Fund’s story and messages.

- Produced and disseminated engaging content on the Fund’s work, including three videos and another six short form videos during the reporting period showing tangible impacts through its projects and programs; six project stories; four news releases, multiple e-newsletters, infographic brochures, social media flyers/content and photo albums, and contributed content to a draft joint article with other climate funds. Current work includes developing additional project videos, written stories, podcasts, and diverse short videos, and updated strategy, as well as preparing exhibits, webpages and outreach materials for the Adaptation Futures 2025 conference in New Zealand, and the COP30 conference in Brazil. The Fund also posted new content on social media about its readiness workshops in Brazil and Belize, among others.
- Enhanced media outreach, coordinating and developing talking points for several interviews during the reporting period, including with Climate Home News, UNFCCC, national/regional outlets, Resilience Constellation and others. Media mentions reached 890 for this period, with an estimated reach of 3.2 million. Further, the Fund continued to grow its sponsored media partnership with Climate Home News, highlighting its projects and programs, as well as sharing and republishing other new and relevant content with implementing partners to multiply its audience reach. Media and social monitoring tools such as Cision continued to be leveraged to enhance analytics, The Fund also developed a beautification/branding plan for its new offices.

Programming and Innovation Team

5. The Programming and Innovation Team coordinates and undertakes technical reviews of proposals, supports the development of policies and processes for the pre-approval stage of projects, and ensures the efficiency of the proposal submission process. It also leads the implementation of the innovation pillar of the Fund’s Medium-term Strategy and provides direct support to Implementing Entities (IEs) in the preparation of grant proposals. The team also provides support to collaborative partnerships.

Key Activities of the Programming and Innovation Team

- Processed over US \$500 million in proposals received during the reporting period; proposals included fully-developed single-country proposals, single-country concepts, fully-developed regional proposals, regional concepts and pre-concepts, fully-developed locally-led adaptation (LLA) single-country, LLA single-country concepts, LLA global aggregator, single-country and regional large innovation projects, Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) global programme, and project formulation grants.
- Issued a call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to join the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator partnership of programmes. This is a second call for the MTS-II period, and third overall. The secretariat received and conducted a screening of US \$145 million in EOIs.
- Advanced in planning and organization of Adaptation Fund’s Innovation Days events for the Adaptation Futures 2025 conference.
- Engaged in dialogue with various Implementing Entities on the Adaptation Fund’s processes for accessing funding.
- Actively supported design, organization and representation at various events, including the following:

- Represented the Fund at the Arab Regional Finance Roundtable in Dubai, UAE on 29 April, 2025.
- Participated in and supported delivery of the readiness write-shop from 6-10 May, 2025 in Recife, Brazil.
- Participated in the Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA19) held in Recife, Brazil 12-16 May, 2025.
- Represented the Fund at UNFCCC Climate Week in Panama on 19-23 May, 2025 including participation in the NDC Clinic and the Implementation Forum.
- Participated in the Fund's readiness workshop for the CARICOM countries in San Pedro, Belize, 27-30 May, 2025.
- Participated in and supported the Results Based Management (RBM) team to in a portfolio monitoring mission to the UNDP-implemented project "Integrated climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin" in the Western Balkans (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro) 29 May – 6 June, 2025.
- Represented the Fund at the Symposium on Financing Locally Led Adaptation held in Stockholm, Sweden, 10-11 June, 2025.
- Represented the Fund at various events at the London Climate Action Week, London, UK, 21-27 June, 2025.
- Represented the Fund at the European Space Agency Living Planet Symposium held in Vienna, 25 June, 2025.
- Participated at the 2025 Global Conference on Climate and Health held in Brasilia, Brazil from July 29 to July 31, 2025.
- Represented the Fund at Inclusive Climate Finance Dialogue for a Resilient Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand, 26-28 August, 2025.
- Represented the Fund at UNFCCC Climate Week in Addis Ababa on 1-6 September, 2025, including participation in the Needs Based Finance (NBF) capacity building workshop and the Implementation Forum.
- Participated in and supported delivery of the Fund's annual seminar for National Implementing Entities (NIEs) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 8-10 September, 2025.
- Participated in the Portfolio Monitoring Mission, Bhutan, 31 August – 9 September, 2025.
- Presented at the 31st Meeting of the Technology Executive Committee, 9–11 September 2025 (virtual)
- Participated in the UNDP-AFCIA Closing Workshop held in Cape Town, South Africa, 9-12 September 2025.
- Presented at the 26th meeting of the CTCN Advisory Board, 15-17 September 2025 (virtual)
- Presented at the Arab Biodiversity Finance Forum for Climate Resilience, 17-18 September 2025 (virtual)
- Represented the Fund at various events at the New York Climate Week, New York, USA, 22-26 September, 2025.

Country Partnerships Team – Resource Mobilization, Accreditation, and Readiness

6. The Country and Partnerships Team is comprised of resource mobilization and strategic partnerships, accreditation, and readiness. The resource mobilization function seeks to mobilize resources from various sources, including public government contributions, private sector donations and alternative sources such as international levies. The accreditation and readiness functions support IEs and DAs to better engage with Fund policies, access and grant processes. As well, the Team seeks to enhance complementarity, coherence and synergies with other climate finance providers and initiatives.

Key Activities in Support of Resource Mobilization

7. In the reporting period, the Team continued activities related to the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy for the Fund for the period 2022 to 2025 and the Board's resource mobilization target for 2025. The Country Partnerships Team has undertaken active outreach and communication to existing and potential new contributor governments on the 2025 resource mobilization target from a floor of USD 300 million, as set by the Board at its 44th meeting. Activities included:
 - Engaged with Brazil's COP30 Presidency for their support in advocating for the Fund's resource mobilization as part of the COP30 outcome on adaptation finance, including by hosting the Fund's annual high level Contributor Dialogue as in conjunction with COP30 Bilateral meetings with existing and potential contributor governments before and during SB62 Bonn Climate Change Conference, including dedicated in person visits to several European contributor governments and an informal dinner event for contributor governments during SB62.
 - Active outreach, communication and advocacy during SB62 and Climate Weeks on the Fund's comparative advantage, available support for developing countries, demand for funding and the Board's resource mobilization target for 2025.
 - Provided regular updates to contributor governments on the results and impacts of their contributions, including response to their information requests and inputs to their reporting documents.
 - Participated in meetings related to international carbon markets fora to present on the Fund's ability and experience with channelling resources from international carbon markets to adaptation projects.
 - Engaged with Fund trustee and interested stakeholders on how to facilitate potential contributions to the Fund from transactions under Article 6.2 Paris Agreement's cooperative approaches.
 - Made a submission to the Global Solidarity Levies Task Force in response to their call for proposals on mechanisms for enhancing and redistributing revenues from solidarity levies
 - Conducted an open stakeholder consultation process through surveys and interviews with the Board and other Fund stakeholders on the development of the next resource mobilization strategy for the period 2026 to 2029, for consideration by the Board at its 45th Board meeting.

Key Activities in Support of Accreditation

- Organized the 44th meeting of the Accreditation Panel organized in Washington, DC from September 2-3, 2025.

- Conducted comprehensive analysis of the re-accreditation process of the Adaptation Fund to proposed options for revising the re-accreditation process. The activity aims to improve the efficiency of the re-accreditation and ensure continued complementarity with the GCF Revised Accreditation Framework while maintaining the robustness of Fund institutional assessment.
- Additional improvement of the Fund’s accreditation workflow to gather and manage data for the purposes of reporting carried out periodically by the secretariat.
- Ongoing implementation of the transition of the Designated Authority to an entity through follow-up webinars and individual country outreach to inform the Designated Authority and UNFCCC Focal points about the upcoming changes and relevant timelines.

Key Activities in Support of Readiness

- Completed the review process for readiness grants for the intersessional period between the forty-fourth and forty-fifth meetings of the Board. Three readiness grants were approved during the reporting period. As of 30 June 2025, the cumulative number of readiness projects approved by the Board increased to 50, totaling US\$ 2.41 million in readiness grants.
- Hosted a write-shop to facilitate access to four funding windows from 6-10 May, 2025 in Recife, Brazil on the margins of the 19th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA19). The write-shop enhanced national and regional implementing entity (NIE and RIE) capacities to develop high quality and fundable project and programme proposals under the Fund’s regular, LLA, standalone Innovation, and Innovation and Learning bundling funding windows. The write-shop was attended by 59 participants from 27 countries and provided a hands-on writing and knowledge sharing experience with practical case studies and guidance.
- Hosted a regional workshop in San Pedro, Belize from 27-30 May, 2025. The workshop strengthened regional capacity and provided critical insights into accessing Fund resources in the Caribbean, strengthened individual capacity by enhancing skills among project participants that are essential for engaging in or supervising the preparation of bankable climate change adaptation projects to be financed by the Adaptation Fund, and to contextualize and discuss project ideas by Fund implementing entities in the region.
- Hosted a webinar on “Transitioning the Designated Authority (DA) from Individual to Institutional Leadership”, aimed at supporting national focal points in understanding recent changes to the DA framework and nomination process. Participants received detailed guidance on the transition process for the DA from individual to entity, and the crucial role the DA plays during the accreditation of an implementing entity and in the project approval and implementation process. The webinar also spotlighted the work of the Community of Practice for Direct Access Entities (CPDAE), a platform that facilitates self-driven capacity building and peer learning among accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs) of the Adaptation Fund and Direct Access Entities (DAEs) of the Green Climate Fund.
- Hosted a webinar on the updates to the Gender scorecard. The webinar delivered a structured series of sessions aimed at strengthening gender reporting and implementation practices. It highlighted progress, identified gaps, and outlined areas for improvement in gender mainstreaming efforts across projects. Participants received detailed guidance on the successful application of the Gender Scorecard which is directly linked to the reliability and completeness of gender data submitted by IEs through the PPR.

- The Secretariat hosted the 12th Annual NIE Seminar for National Implementing Entities of the Fund from 8-10 September, 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The seminar brought together 60 participants from 30 NIEs of the Fund to facilitate experience sharing, knowledge exchange and learning between accredited NIEs of the Fund to enhance their performance as implementing entities.

Results Impact and Knowledge Team

8. The Results Impact and Knowledge Management Team is responsible for managing project performance during implementation and sharing knowledge to maximize learning and impact.

Key Activities in Support of Results and Impact

Portfolio Management Functions

- Clearance of Project Performance Reports (PPRs): During the 2025 fiscal year, the Secretariat received 34 PPRs, clearing 19 of them, with the remaining still undergoing review. Four projects submitted their first PPR during the reporting period. All the PPRs cleared by the Secretariat during the reporting period are available on the Fund’s website.
- Processing of documents related to project change requests: The team received 21 requests for changes to approved projects. These requests included project no-cost extension of the completion date, project site changes, new disbursement schedules, and results framework adjustments, among others. All of these have either been approved by the Board or cleared by the Secretariat. Specifically, 15 of the project change requests were submitted to the Secretariat after the Board decided to delegate minor request clearances to the Secretariat. These 15 project change requests included six major requests which have been approved by the Board and nine minor requests also cleared by the secretariat. The Secretariat has created an additional micro-site on the Fund’s website which publishes all minor requests received and cleared by the secretariat.
- Portfolio Monitoring Missions (PMMs): During reporting period, two PMMs were held. These were to: (i) UNDP-implemented project titled "Integrated climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin" in the Western Balkans (Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro) from 29 May – 6 June, 2025 and (ii) and Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation implemented project titled “Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management in Bhutan” from 31 August – 9 September, 2025. The PMMs examine the progress towards outcomes, challenges, and overall effectiveness of Adaptation Fund projects. They involve key stakeholders, including government representatives, project executing entities, and community beneficiaries, to gather insights, best practices, and lessons learned from project implementation.
- Updates to the FIF platform: The team continues to review and enhance the Secretariat’s digital data management systems to better serve IEs and improve internal review processes. The team worked with the Programming and Innovation team to design a new online project and grant proposal submission system. Although not yet launched, this system represents a major shift from the current manual, email-based process to a more streamlined and automated approach. Once operational, it is expected to eliminate manual data entry into the FIF platform, reduce the risk of proposals being overlooked in inboxes, and introduce smart controls that prevent incomplete submissions, particularly for key documents like letters of endorsement. It will also simplify verification processes and reduce the need for back-and-forth email exchanges with IEs, allowing the Secretariat to focus more on strategic review and portfolio development.

External collaboration on results-based management related matters

- The team continues to collaborate with other climate adaptation funders to harmonize indicators and align on reporting requirements. The results specialists across the Fund, GCF, CIF and GEF held a two-day workshop in Washington DC (July 21-22) to discuss the harmonization of indicators and results framework, in addition to periodic virtual meetings that were held through the year. Team members also provided input and shared learning on results frameworks with the FRLD as they develop their new results framework.

Representation in conferences and workshops

- Team members represented the Fund in the following conferences/workshops: (i) Climate Finance Event – Bridging the Gap: Making Climate Finance Work for the Underserved in Rome (10–11 September, 2025); (ii) readiness write-shop in Recife, Brazil (6- 9 May); (iii) Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Bonn (16 – 26 June, 2025); (iv) Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA19) in Recife, Brazil (12 – 16 May, 2025); (v) readiness workshop for the CARICOM countries in San Pedro in Belize (27- 30 May, 2025); (vi) The Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) in Addis Ababa (8 – 10 September, 2025); and (vii) Annual Seminar for National Implementing Entities (NIEs) in Addis Ababa (8-10 September, 2025).

Implementation of Board decisions

- The Team continued to work on the proposed revisions to the Fund’s Strategic Results Framework (SRF), which was included in B.44 agenda but was not considered. This paper will be presented for Board consideration and approval at its 45th meeting. Proposed revisions include new indicators for locally led adaptation, strengthened disaggregation by gender and vulnerable groups, and alignment with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) targets, aiming to enhance the SRF’s effectiveness in supporting adaptation initiatives and achieving MTS 2023-2027 objectives.

Key Activities in Support of Knowledge Management

Development of knowledge management products

- Completion of a study on lessons learned from adaptation interventions in LDCs. This study offers an overview of adaptation interventions in LDCs focusing on lessons learned from the Fund’s portfolio.
- Completion of a study on lessons learned from adaptation interventions to strengthening urban resilience. The study will offer an overview of the Fund’s experience and lessons learned on urban adaptation interventions in strengthening long-term resilience to climate change, including case studies drawn from the Fund’s portfolio of projects and programs.
- Completion of a study focusing on lessons learned from mainstreaming gender in the agriculture and food security sector with examples from the Fund’s portfolio. The study will highlight the importance of gender-responsive approaches and provides recommendations for effective implementation.
- Completion of a study on alignment of the Fund’s portfolio with NDCs and NAPs with case studies drawing from the Fund’s portfolio.
- Preparation of official Fund side event at Adaptation Futures to take place in Christchurch, NZ on lessons learned from adaptation interventions in SIDS countries with participation of Fund accredited NIEs and RIEs implementing projects in SIDS

- Completion of learning materials and launch of an e-course focusing on the LLA funding window aimed at increasing understanding of requirements, capacity to access and utilize small LLA grants by IEs. The course is available in Spanish and French as well. The course was used as a learning instrument in a capacity building event held in Recife, Brazil for Fund IEs.
- The Team initiated the work on an e-course focusing on project performance reports (PPR) completion aimed at increasing understanding among implementing entities (IEs) of requirements to complete good quality PPRs.
- Review and preparation of Board documents related to first submission of the newly approved bundled grants on Innovation and Learning

Governance and Operations Team

9. The Governance and Operations Team was a newly formed team as of 2024, bringing together the governance, policy, and internal operations functions of the Secretariat, such as supporting the Fund’s governance (both Board/ Committee meetings and reporting to the CMA and CMP), development of Fund policies, and internal operations (such as work plan and budget preparation and standard operating procedures for administrative processes).

Key Activities of the Governance and Operations Team

Governance

- Organized the 45th meeting of the Board and 36th meeting of the Ethics and Finance Committee.
- Supported the Chair in finalizing the report of the 45th meeting of the Board.
- Supported the Chair in preparing the report of the Board to the CMP/CMA.
- Implemented the Board’s decisions requesting the Secretariat to (i) support the Board’s decision to continue considering the matter of the transition the Fund to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement (Decision B.43/32), (ii) update the standard project legal agreement (Decision B.43/8), (iii) update the Environmental and Social Policy (Decision B.42/56), and (iv) update the draft Adaptation Fund Vision and Guidelines on Enhanced Civil Society Engagement and the draft Guidelines for Participation of Active Civil Society Observers, and (v) develop a draft of a policy for the protection against sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment (SEAH).

Gender

- The Team has finalized a gender knowledge study titled “Lessons Learned from Mainstreaming Gender in the Agriculture and Food Security Sector with Examples from the Adaptation Fund Portfolio.” This study reviewed Fund projects in Colombia, Ecuador, India, Egypt, Morocco and Georgia, highlighting how moving from gender-sensitive to gender-transformative approaches in agriculture and food security strengthens community resilience, food security and economic outcomes. The study will be published soon.
- The team completed the second year of the Fund’s gender scorecard (July 2024 to June 2025), collecting and analysing quantitative and qualitative gender data from initial funding proposals and annual PPRs submitted by IEs. Summary results appear in the Fund’s 2025 annual performance report, with the full FY24 gender scorecard implementation report provided as an information document for this meeting.
- As part of the efforts to strengthen IE’s capacity to integrate gender responsive approach throughout the project lifecycle, the Team held a gender webinar targeting the Fund’s IEs. The

session included presentations on the results of the FY25 gender scorecard implementation, as well as guidance and best practices related to gender reporting in the annual PPR. An interactive panel discussion allowed IE speakers to share knowledge and insights regarding gender mainstreaming in the Fund’s supported projects.

- Collaboration on gender mainstreaming with other climate funds and partner organizations expanded, with the Team co-organizing gender events and participating in several meetings and workshops. This included: a side event by Fund, GCF and UNDP, titled “Advancing Beijing through climate finance: opportunities and priorities for accelerating women’s empowerment with climate and environment funds” in the margins of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York; A joint gender capacity building workshop for national gender focal points, led by Fund, CIF and GCF, in partnership with the UNFCCC secretariat and NDC partnership, held in the margin of the Africa Climate Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Operations - Finance

- Completed the implementation of the Secretariat’s FY25 administrative budget at the end of June 2025 and launched the implementation of the FY26 administrative budget, supporting Team Lead’s in the delivery of their teams’ work plans.
- Continued ongoing work to maintain and further enhance the Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) collaboration platform, including building an online project proposal submission system.
- Coordinated the signing of project legal agreements and the signing of cash transfers for projects and grants in liaising with the Board Chair and the Trustee.

Personnel

10. Andrew Hollander was recruited through an open competitive process as a Climate Change Specialist (Extended Term-Consultant, Programming and Innovation) and entered on duty on 15 April, 2025.
11. Sophie Hans-Moevi, formerly a Senior Program Assistant, was selected through an open competitive process as a Program Analyst (Governance and Operations) and entered on duty on 1 May, 2025.
12. Ronald Musizvingoza was recruited through an open competitive process as a Gender Analyst (Extended Term-Consultant, Governance and Operations) and entered on duty on 1 June, 2025.
13. Alessandra De Leo was recruited through an open competitive process as a Knowledge Management Analyst (Extended Term-Consultant, Results Impact and Knowledge) and entered on duty on 24 June, 2025.
14. Tolu Olusina, Climate Change Analyst, ended her duty on 18 July, 2025.
15. Abdul Washeru Alhassan was recruited through an open competitive process as an Accreditation Analyst (Extended Term-Consultant, Country Partnership Unit) and entered on duty on 18 August, 2025.

A Forward Look at Issues and Challenges Facing the Fund and Secretariat

16. The Secretariat has continued to implement the Medium-Term Strategy 2023-2027 (MTS II), guided by the Board through the MTS II Implementation Plan and annual work plans. As mentioned in the prior Report of the Secretariat (AFB.B.44/4), country demand for adaptation finance has continued to grow, along with increased expectations on the Fund for grant funding.

The grant portfolio under management continues to grow with approvals of high volumes of new projects and programmes. As well, demand for accreditation review from new prospective national and regional implementing entities continues to grow, along with continued demand for capacity building through the Fund's readiness programme. Demand for the Fund's participation in external events also continues to grow, in keeping with a growing visibility of the Fund and its work.

17. In addition, the decision on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) at COP29 (1/CMA.6) presents a major opportunity to scale up support for vulnerable countries. However, pending Board decisions on how the Fund might respond to the NCQG decision, its implementation could also introduce a need for operational and strategic changes at the Secretariat. For instance, tripling annual outflows by 2030, would necessitate rapid strengthening of its capacity, including ramping up staffing capacity across various areas of its work. Resource mobilization will be a critical challenge, especially in a global context of declining contributions to international development. The Fund would therefore need to explore adopting innovative resource mobilization, deepen engagement with existing contributors, and explore new partnerships, including with the private sector and philanthropic institutions, if it were to meet the NCQG ambition. This evolving landscape will require strategic agility and proactive planning to ensure the Fund remains responsive, impactful, and aligned with global climate finance goals.
18. The agenda of the 45th meeting of the Board, responding to the Board's requests to the Secretariat through its decisions made at its 43rd and 44th meetings, reflects these ongoing trends. The agenda includes consideration of the Fund's transition to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement, focusing specifically on new terms and conditions for Trustee services drafted by the World Bank and in consultation with the UNFCCC and Adaptation Fund Secretariat in response to the informal notes from SBI 62 on Matters Relating to the Adaptation Fund. As well, the agenda includes papers concerning resourcing the Fund and its financial outflow in response to the NCQG decision from COP29, the latter seeking the Board's guidance in preparation for further possible analytical work. Furthermore, the Board will consider an update on the Strategic Results Framework to expand the Fund's ability to work effectively with its implementing entities and deliver financing for concrete adaptation projects by countries. The Board will also be invited to consider papers concerning Fund policy, including an update to the Fund's Environmental Social Policy and a policy on protection against sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment.