



ADAPTATION FUND

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Thirty-fourth meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 10-11 October 2019

Agenda item 12

## **The Rules of Procedure of the Adaptation Fund Board**

# Rules of procedure of the Adaptation Fund Board

## I. SCOPE

1. These rules of procedure shall apply to the conduct of the business of the Adaptation Fund Board, in accordance with decision 1/CMP.3 of the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). These rules become effective on their adoption by the CMP.

## II. DEFINITIONS

2. For the purpose of these rules:
  - (a) “Fund” means the Adaptation Fund pursuant to decision 10/CP.7 of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties;
  - (b) “Board” means the Adaptation Fund Board, established by decision 1/CMP.3 of the third session of the CMP as the operating entity of the Adaptation Fund with the mandate to supervise and manage the Adaptation Fund under the authority and guidance of the CMP;
  - (c) “Member” means a representative elected by the CMP as a member of the Adaptation Fund Board, accorded the right to vote;
  - (d) “Alternate” means a representative elected by the CMP as an alternate for each member;
  - (e) “Meeting” means any meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board;
  - (f) “Chair” means the Board member elected as Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board, according to paragraph 10 of these rules;
  - (g) “Vice-Chair” means the Board member elected as Vice-Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board, according to paragraph 10 of these rules;
  - (h) “Secretariat” is a body appointed by the CMP to provide secretariat services to the Board, consistent with decision 1/CMP.3, paragraphs 3, 18, 19 and 31;
  - (i) “Trustee” means the trustee for the Adaptation Fund;
  - (j) “Implementing entities” means the national legal entities and multilateral organizations that have been identified ex ante by the Board as meeting the criteria adopted by the Board, in accordance with decision 1/CMP.3, paragraph 5 (c), to access funding to implement concrete adaptation projects and programmes supported by the Fund;
  - (k) “Executing entities” are organizations that execute adaptation projects and programmes supported by the Fund under the oversight of implementing entities;
  - (l) “UNFCCC” means the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
  - (m) “Protocol” means the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

- (n) "Parties" means Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;
- (o) "Annex I Parties" means Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, as may be amended, or Parties which have made a notification under Article 4, paragraph 2(g), of the Convention;
- (p) "Non-Annex I Parties" means Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;
- (q) "Secretary" means the person in charge of providing support services and logistics to the Adaptation Fund Board meetings;
- (r) "Head of secretariat" means the head of the entity responsible for rendering secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board.

### **III. BOARD**

3. The Board shall comprise 16 members representing Parties, formally elected at a session of the CMP on the Adaptation Fund as follows:

- (a) Two representatives from each of the five United Nations regional groups;
- (b) One representative of the small island developing States;
- (c) One representative of the least developed country Parties;
- (d) Two other representatives from Annex I Parties;
- (e) Two other representatives from non-Annex I Parties.

4. The election of each member is to be accompanied by the election of an alternate following the same principles as set out in paragraph 3 above.

5. The member and alternate shall each serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The term of office of a member, or an alternate, shall start at the first meeting of the Board in the calendar year following his or her election and shall end immediately before the first meeting of the Board in the calendar year in which the term ends.

6. In the absence of a member, or when requested by a member in writing, his or her alternate will act for the member, including by voting in the member's stead.

7. If a member or an alternate resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a new member or alternate shall be elected in accordance with decision 1/CMP.3, paragraph 8.

8. Notwithstanding paragraph 7, if a member or an alternate resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, the Adaptation Fund Board may decide, bearing in mind the proximity of the next session of the CMP, to appoint another member, or an alternate member, from the same constituency to replace the said member for the remainder of that member's mandate. The Adaptation Fund Board shall request the relevant constituency to nominate the new member, or the new alternate.

9. Except as may be expressly provided otherwise in these rules, any reference in these rules to a member shall be deemed to include his or her alternate, when such alternate acts for such member.

#### **IV. OFFICERS**

10. The Board shall elect the Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members, with one being from an Annex I Party and the other being from a non-Annex I Party. The term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be one year, starting at the first meeting of the Board in each year. The office of Chair and Vice-Chair shall alternate annually between a member from an Annex I Party and a member from a non-Annex I Party.
11. If the Chair is temporarily unable to fulfil the obligations of the office, the Vice-Chair shall in the interim assume the obligations and authorities of the Chair. In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair at a particular meeting, any other member designated by the Board shall temporarily serve as the Chair of that meeting.
12. If the Chair or Vice-Chair is unable to complete the term of office, the Board shall elect a replacement to complete the term of office.
13. The Chair shall, inter alia, declare the opening and closing of the meeting, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chair shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order, including adjournment or suspension.
14. The Chair shall propose to the Board chairs and vice-chairs from among the members and alternates for specific working groups and committees, as necessary.
15. The Chair, or any member designated by the Chair, shall report to the CMP on behalf of the Board.
16. The Chair shall advocate and seek support for the Fund and the work of the Board. The Chair shall represent the Board at external meetings and shall report back to the Board on those meetings.

#### **V. SECRETARIAT**

17. The secretariat, being a dedicated team of officials to render secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board, shall:
  - (a) Make the necessary arrangements for the meetings of the Board, including ensuring that announcements of the meetings are posted on the Adaptation Fund and UNFCCC websites, issuing invitations, preparing meeting documents and the final report, which will include decisions of the meeting, and shall post all documents on the website of the Adaptation Fund;
  - (b) Designate a member of the dedicated team of officials to serve as Secretary of the Adaptation Fund Board meetings to provide support services and logistics;
  - (c) Keep meeting records and arrange for the custody and preservation of documents of the meetings in the archives of the entity designated as the secretariat to the Adaptation Fund Board;
  - (d) Generally perform all other functions that the Board may request.

## **VI. MEETINGS**

18. The Board shall meet at least twice every year or as frequently as necessary to enable it to discharge its responsibilities. The meetings of the Board shall take place in the country of the seat of the UNFCCC secretariat, except when meeting in conjunction with sessions of the CMP or with the sessions of subsidiary bodies under the UNFCCC, in which case the Board meeting may take place in the country or at the venue of the relevant UNFCCC meeting.
19. Unless the Board decides otherwise in accordance with paragraph 20, meetings shall be open to members, alternates and observers as referred to in paragraphs 31–32. Observers shall inform the secretariat of the composition of their delegation four weeks prior to the first day of any scheduled meeting.
20. The Board may declare any of its meetings, or segments thereof, closed; these shall then be open to members, alternates and the representatives of the secretariat and the trustee. The Board may invite any of the representatives referred to in paragraphs 31–32 to attend such meetings.
21. At each meeting, the Board shall set the date and duration for the next meeting.
22. The secretariat shall notify all members, alternates and observers of the dates and venue of the meetings and circulate a formal invitation and provisional agenda for any meeting at least six weeks before the first day of the meeting.
23. A simple majority of the members of the Board must be present at a meeting to constitute a quorum.  
A quorum shall be verified by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting and at the time of the adoption of the decision.
24. Before the end of each meeting, the Chair shall present a draft report of the meeting, containing draft conclusions and decisions of the meeting, for consideration and approval by the Board. The Chair shall ascertain the existence of a quorum before adopting the draft report of the meeting on the understanding that the Chair will finalize the text, taking into account the amendments proposed during the meeting.
25. Any written records of the Board or recordings of proceedings shall be kept by the secretariat on behalf of the Board in accordance with paragraph 17 (c) and applicable rules and regulations. The secretariat shall make available to any Board member or alternate, at his or her request, copies of any records or recordings kept by the secretariat on behalf of the Board.

## **VII. CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

26. Information obtained from Adaptation Fund project participants marked as proprietary and/or confidential shall not be disclosed without the written consent of the provider of the information, except as required by national law.
27. Members and alternates have a duty not to disclose such confidential and/or proprietary information, unless required by applicable national law. This duty remains an obligation after the member's term expires.
28. Each member and alternate member shall take, and agree to respect, a written oath of service before assuming his or her service. The oath of service shall be witnessed by the Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board, and in the case of the Chair, by the Vice Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board. It shall read as follows:

“I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my authority as member or alternate of the Adaptation Fund Board honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously.

“I further solemnly declare that, subject to my responsibilities within the Adaptation Fund Board, I shall not disclose, even after the termination of my functions, any information marked confidential coming to my knowledge by reason of my duties in the Adaptation Fund Board.

“I shall disclose immediately to the Adaptation Fund Board any interest in any matter under discussion before the Adaptation Fund Board which may constitute a conflict of interest or which might be incompatible with the requirements of independence and impartiality expected of a member or alternate of the Adaptation Fund Board and I shall refrain from participating in the work of the Adaptation Fund Board in relation to such matter.”

29. At each meeting, members and alternates must declare any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.

30. Members and alternates shall be bound by the rules of procedure of the Adaptation Fund Board, and shall recuse themselves from all related deliberations and decision-making should any personal and/or financial interest arise in any aspect of a project activity or a body representing a project for approval to the Board. Members and alternates have an obligation to promptly disclose any such situation.

## **VIII. OBSERVERS**

31. Except where otherwise decided by the Board, meetings shall be open for attendance, as observers, to representatives of UNFCCC Parties, the UNFCCC secretariat and UNFCCC accredited observers. Such observers may attend without the right to vote.

32. The secretariat shall, upon the request of the Board, notify any individual or entity, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, qualified in a field related to the work of the Fund, of any meeting so that it may be represented by an observer.

33. Observers may, upon the invitation of the Chair and if there is no objection from any of the members present, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency, which they represent.

34. Observers may, upon invitation of the Chair and if there is no objection from the members present, make presentations relating to matters under consideration by the Board.

## **IX. PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

35. The secretariat shall acknowledge receipt of unsolicited communications addressed to the Chair and make them available to the Chair and the Board via e-mail or fax. The Chair, with the support of the secretary of the Board, shall initiate action, including consultation with the Board, as needed, and answer unsolicited communications on behalf of the Board, as appropriate.

36. Unsolicited communications may be taken into consideration at the Board's next meeting if received before the document submission deadline (four weeks prior to the meeting). Any unsolicited communication received after this deadline would normally be considered at a subsequent meeting. At the discretion of the Chair, a communication may be brought forward to the Board.

37. If a member or alternate of the Board, in that capacity, receives an unsolicited communication, he or she shall forward it to the secretariat, copying the sender of the unsolicited communication, for processing as per the above. The same shall apply for submissions received by members of panels, committees or working groups.

## **X. AGENDA**

38. The Chair, assisted by the secretariat, shall draft the provisional agenda for each regular meeting.

The secretariat shall indicate the administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting. The provisional agenda, together with the notice of the meeting and other relevant documents, shall be transmitted to all those invited to the meeting in accordance with paragraphs 22 and 43 of these rules.

39. The Board shall, at the beginning of each meeting, adopt the agenda for the meeting.

40. Any item on the agenda of any meeting, consideration of which has not been completed at the meeting, shall automatically be included in the agenda of the next meeting unless otherwise decided by the Board.

## **XI. TRAVEL**

41. As soon as the Trust Fund for the Adaptation Fund is established, eligible members and alternates of the Board shall have their full costs of travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA), including full transit costs, at the standard United Nations DSA rate, provided under the budget of the Board and secretariat.

42. As soon as the Trust Fund for the Adaptation Fund is established, travel for Board members and alternates shall be arranged according to United Nations rules.

## **XII. TRANSMITTAL OF DOCUMENTS**

43. The secretariat shall transmit the documentation related to items on the provisional agenda to all those invited to the meeting at least four weeks before the first day of the meeting scheduled. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair may instruct the secretariat to transmit a document after the deadline.

## **XIII. DECISION-MAKING AND VOTING**

44. Decisions of the Board shall be taken by consensus whenever possible.

45. If all efforts to reach a consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the meeting on the basis of one member, one vote.

46. An alternate may cast a vote only if acting for the member in accordance with paragraph 6.

47. The Chair shall ascertain whether consensus has been reached. The Chair shall declare that a consensus does not exist if there is a stated objection to the proposed decision under consideration by a member or alternate acting for a member.

48. After ascertaining the existence of a quorum, the Chair shall announce the start of voting, after which no one shall be permitted to intervene until the results of the vote have been announced, unless an issue is raised in connection with the process of voting.

49. Voting shall be by roll-call, which shall be taken in alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the Chair.

50. The name of each member shall be called in all roll-calls, and he or she shall indicate the vote ('yes' or 'no') or abstention.

51. Votes cast by each member participating in a roll-call shall be recorded in the report of the meeting.

#### **XIV. TERMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

52. The Board may propose to the CMP the termination of the membership of any member or alternate for cause including, inter alia, breach of the conflict of interest provision, breach of the confidentiality provisions, or failure to attend two consecutive meetings of the Board without proper justification.

53. The Board shall recommend to the CMP the termination of the membership of a member or an alternate only after the member or alternate has been given the opportunity of a hearing by the Board in a meeting.

54. Any motion calling for the termination of the membership of a member or alternate shall be decided in accordance with the voting rules in section XIII above. When the motion concerns the termination of the office of a Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair until the voting has been conducted and its result announced.

#### **XV. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

55. The Board may establish committees, panels and working groups, if required, to provide, inter alia, expert advice, to assist the Adaptation Fund Board in the performance of its functions.

#### **XVI. INTERSESSIONAL DECISIONS**

56. Decisions without meetings may occur on an extraordinary basis when, in the judgement of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, a decision must be taken by the Board that should not be postponed until the next meeting of the Board. The secretariat, with the approval of the Chair, shall transmit to each member and alternate a proposed decision with an invitation to approve the decision on a no-objection basis.

57. Each member's comments on the proposed decision shall be sent to the secretariat during such period as the secretariat may prescribe, provided that such period is no less than two weeks.

58. At the expiration of the period prescribed for comments, the decision shall be approved unless there is an objection. If a proposed decision has financial implications, approval of the decision will require replies from at least two-thirds of the members. If there is an objection



raised by any member to any proposed decision that cannot be resolved, the Chair shall include consideration of the proposed decision as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

59. Any intersessional decision shall be deemed to have been taken at the headquarters of the UNFCCC secretariat. The secretariat shall inform members and alternates about the decision and post all intersessional decisions on the Adaptation Fund website.

## **XVII. LANGUAGES**

60. The working language for the Board shall be English. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided during its meetings in all of the official United Nations languages that correspond to the actual language requirements of the members and alternates present at that meeting.

61. Late meetings, committees and working groups will be held in English when interpretation is not available.

62. Documents for the meetings will be provided in English only.

63. The full text of all reports including decisions taken by the Board shall be made publicly available via the Adaptation Fund website in all six official languages of the United Nations.

## **XVIII. AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE**

64. These rules of procedure may be amended according to paragraphs 44–51 above and, to be effective, must be formally approved by the CMP.

## **XIX. OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

65. In the event of any conflict between any provisions of these rules and any provisions of the Kyoto Protocol, the Kyoto Protocol shall prevail.