



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.34-35/4
11 November 2019

Adaptation Fund Board

**ADAPTATION FUND MEMBERSHIP IN “ALLIANCE FOR
HYDROMET DEVELOPMENT”**

Background

1. At its eighteenth session held in Geneva (3-14 June 2019), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) congress has authorized (Resolution 74 Cg-18) the establishment of the “Alliance for Hydromet Development” jointly with the World Bank and in collaboration with a larger group of international development partners, for increased and more effective and sustainable development assistance in support of developing Member countries and territories (resolution contained in document AFB/B.34-35/4/Add.2).
2. In addition, the WMO congress decided to establish the WMO Country Support Initiative (CSI), *as a complementary vehicle to support developing Member countries and territories and development partners in translating the commitment of the Alliance for Hydromet Development into practice.*
3. At its 2018 Annual Meetings held from 10-14 October 2018 in Bali, Indonesia, the World Bank announced its commitment to establish the Alliance along with WMO and other partners.
4. The Alliance is presented as a joint commitment among major development, humanitarian and financial institutions providing hydromet assistance to developing countries. Members of the Alliance are resolved to scale up and unite efforts to achieve the common goal of closing the capacity gap on weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental services by 2030. The alliance brings together the major funding partners that invest in better forecasts, early warning systems (EWS), and climate services and including major multilateral development banks.
5. As mandated by the resolution 74 Cg-18, the WMO secretariat is facilitating the establishment of the Alliance with various organizations.
6. In this regard and considering the importance of the Adaptation Fund’s work on hydromet and early warning systems, WMO has recently approached the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) through its secretariat with an invitation to join the Alliance (email request attached in Annex 1).
7. The official launch of the Alliance is scheduled at the UNFCCC COP25 in Madrid, Spain, with a signing ceremony by Alliance members’ heads or most senior staff in charge of climate, for signing the Declaration for Alliance for Hydromet Development - Uniting our efforts to close the capacity gap on high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems, and climate information as the foundation for resilient and sustainable development (draft declaration contained in document AFB/B.34-35/4/Add.1).
8. The following organizations have confirmed so far their intention to join the Alliance: World Bank; African Development Bank; Asian Development Bank; Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; European Investment Bank; Green Climate Fund; Inter-American Development Bank; International Finance Corporation; Islamic Development Bank; Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency; New Development Bank; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme and World Food Programme.

Secretariat’s review of the request

9. Following a review of the request and further call with WMO, the secretariat finds that the Alliance fits well with the Fund’s mandate to promote resilience and help communities to cope

with climate events. The Fund's portfolio includes several projects which are fully aligned with the objectives of this Alliance, including those categorized as Disaster Risk Reduction projects. The secretariat believes that the Fund would gain visibility and could advance its work on EWS along with other partner members of the Alliance.

10. One of the proposed priorities of the Alliance in 2020 is to jointly develop a new financing vehicle for sustained systematic observations called "*Systematic Observations Financing Facility*" which seeks to support countries in achieving compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) by 2025. Partners including the Adaptation Fund's implementing entities would be able to access an advisory service provided through the WMO Country Support Initiative and its advisory partners to prepare projects for funding by existing climate finance and other sources. This facility, which is not requesting funding from the Fund, would help national implementing entities, in particular, to identify and submit proposals on EWS to the Board for consideration. Therefore, there is an important linkage between this facility and the Fund's pipeline development and project preparation support including the readiness programme.

11. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that, as structured, the alliance does not seek any funding or other financial commitment from the Fund nor require additional funding from its members for its secretariat budget which is covered by WMO. It is rather a political engagement from all partners "*to scale up and unite efforts to achieve the common goal of closing the capacity gap on weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental services by 2030*".

12. Having reviewed the request made by WMO, the secretariat has concluded that joining the Alliance for Hydromet Development would yield benefits to the Fund and its implementing entities, while not requiring financial investment or involving major political risks. However, in light of the rules of procedure of the Board and the operational policies and guidelines, the secretariat has observed that the Fund does not have a specific policy governing signing such cooperative arrangements. Given the high-level nature of the request related to political membership and commitment, and following consultation with the Chair of the Board, the secretariat is conveying the matter to the Board for its consideration.

Recommendation

13. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) may consider and decide to:

- a) Approve the invitation by the World Meteorological Organization to the Board to join the "Alliance for Hydromet Development", as contained in document AFB/B.34-35/4; and
- b) Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign, on behalf of the Board, the joint declaration for "Alliance for Hydromet Development".

Annex

1. Request from WMO for Adaptation Fund to join the "Alliance for Hydromet Development"

1. Annex 1: Request from WMO for Adaptation Fund to join the “Alliance for Hydromet Development”

From: Markus Repnik <mrepnik@wmo.int>

Sent: Monday, October 28, 2019 6:44 AM

To: Mikko Ollikainen <mollikainen@adaptation-fund.org>

Cc: jpgaudechoux@wmo.int; lsantamaria@wmo.int

Subject: Fwd: Alliancefor Hydromet Development: Update and seeking feedback

[External]

Dear Mikko,

Please allow me to follow up our exchange earlier this month. We are wondering if the Adaptation Fund were interested in joining major development and climate finance partners (WB, GCF, AfDB, ADB, IsDB, UNDP, UNEP, WFP) in creating the Alliance for Hydromet Development?

Creation of this Alliance is spearheaded by WMO and World Bank. It will bring together the major funding partners that invest in better forecasts, early warning systems, and climate services. Please see below for more information incl. draft Alliance Declaration.

The Alliance will be launched at COP25 with a joint event bringing together all Alliance members, most likely at the GCF pavilion.

If AF where interested, we could schedule a phone conversation later this week.

Warm regards

Markus