



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.35.a/3
8 June 2020

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD

Thirty-fifth Meeting
First Session
Bonn, Germany, 2 April 2020

REPORT OF FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD

Introduction

1. The first session of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) was held virtually by video conference call. The decision to hold the session in such a manner had been made by the Board intersessionally between the thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth meetings, recognizing the extraordinary circumstances and increasing challenges due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus Covid-19 on several continents. The Board had decided that the session would be held as a procedural virtual meeting, which would only address the matter of transition of officers for the next period of office, including chairs and vice-chairs of the Board, the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) and Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC; decision B.34-35/26). At the commencement of the meeting the Manager of the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat (Manager of the secretariat) said that pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure the meeting was deemed to take place at the seat of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

2. The list of the members and alternate members who participated in the meeting is attached to the present report as annex I. The agenda of the meeting, as adopted, is attached as annex II.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

3. The meeting was opened 2:15 p.m. Central European Summer Time (CEST) by the outgoing Chair, Ms. Sylviane Bilgischer (Belgium, Annex I Parties) who welcomed the participants and called the roll of the members and alternate members. She welcomed the following new members and alternate members and asked them to introduce themselves:

- Mr. Jong Hun Lee (Republic of Korea, Asia-Pacific);
- Ms. Ala Druta (Moldova, Eastern Europe);
- Mr. Idy Niang (Senegal, Least Developed Counties);
- Mr. Ali Waqas Malik (Pakistan, Non-Annex I Parties);

Ms. Sheyda Nematollahi Sarvestani (Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia-Pacific);

Ms. Mariana Kasprzyk (Uruguay, Latin America and the Caribbean);

Ms. Antonia Sutter (Switzerland, Annex I Parties); and

Ms. Naima Oumoussa (Morocco, Non-Annex I Parties).

4. She also congratulated the following members for their re-election to the Board and asked them to introduce themselves:

Ms. Patience Dampsey (Ghana, Africa); and

Ms. Margarita Caso Chávez (Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean).

5. Following the calling of the roll the Manager of the secretariat confirmed the presence of sufficient members and alternate members for a quorum for the meeting. Accordingly, the outgoing Chair declared that the meeting had quorum.

6. The outgoing Chair reviewed the activities of the Fund during the intersessional period and thanked the secretariat for organizing the meeting. She had been greatly assisted by the presence of the incoming Chair at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 25), the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 15), and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2), held in Madrid, Spain in December 2019. Assisted by his presence, and by the secretariat, she had been able to make the work of the Fund more visible than would otherwise have been possible.

7. She said that the previous year had been a success. The Fund had some 100 projects being implemented and had received almost US \$90 million in pledges during 2019 from 11 different national and regional governments, including for the first time a pledge from the Government of Poland. The Government of Sweden had also made the first multi-year pledge to the Fund, for the period 2019-2022, and at the sub-national level, the Government of the Canadian Province of Quebec had made its first pledge to the Fund, thus joining the Walloon, Flanders and Brussels regional governments of Belgium in contributing to the Fund.

8. Finally, she also recalled the death of a member of the Board, Mr. Chebet Maikut, who had passed away the previous year and the Board paused in silence in his memory.

Agenda item 2: Transition of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board

9. The outgoing Chair recalled that its thirty-fourth meeting the Board had elected the outgoing Vice-Chair, Mr. Ibila Djibril (Benin, Africa) as its new Chair and Mr. Mattias Broman (Sweden, Annex I Parties) as its Vice-Chair. She invited the new Chair to take up the management of the meeting.

10. The incoming Chair welcomed the members and alternate members, and thanked them for their participation in the present meeting. He expressed his appreciation for the leadership of the outgoing Chair during the previous year and at the recent COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2 meetings. He said that he hoped to see the necessary rules and tools for the implementation of articles 6.2 and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement soon adopted and approved by the Parties and operationalized with the technical contribution by the Fund. That would establish a sustainable

development financial support mechanism, under which, as with the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the Fund would receive a percentage of proceeds. The Fund could apply its experience with the CDM to the new mechanism, which would potentially be a new source of revenue.

11. He also said that it would be useful to mobilize more financial resources with a view to increasing the country funding cap for projects funded by the Fund, which was currently US\$ 10 million for single country projects. While increasing that cap would require a Board decision, doing that would help many vulnerable countries and people address the adverse effects of climate change. It would also be a great achievement and further reinforce the implementation of Fund's Medium-Term Strategy by bringing new adaptation tools to bear through its strategic pillars of Action, Innovation, and Learning and Sharing.

12. In closing he said that it would also be important to enhance the participation of multilateral, regional and national implementing entities in the work of the different committees of the Board, especially with respect to the tasks of the PPRC which, because of the diversity and technical nature of the projects, sometimes needed additional explanations to improve the Board's understanding of projects and the relevant decisions taken with respect to them.

Agenda Item 3: Transition of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Ethics and finance Committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Project and Programme Review Committee

13. The incoming Chair recalled that its thirty-fourth meeting the Board had elected:

Mr. Mohamed Zmerli (Tunisia, Africa) as Vice-Chair of the EFC; and
Mr. Lucas di Pietro (Argentina, Non-Annex I Parties) as Chair of the PPRC.

14. He also reminded the Board that intersessionally it had also elected:

Ms. Sylviane Bilgischer (Belgium), Annex I Parties) as Chair of the EFC; and
Ms. Susana Castro-Acuña Baixauli (Spain, Western European and Others Group) as Vice-Chair of the PPRC.

15. The Chair congratulated the new Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Agenda item 4: Adjournment of the meeting

16. Before adjourning the meeting the Chair invited the Manager of the secretariat to explain the preparations being undertaken for the second session of the meeting, which was tentatively to be held from 23-26 June 2020 in Bonn, Germany.

17. In the discussion that followed the Chair and the Vice-Chair were encouraged to work with the UNFCCC secretariat to consider options for adjusting the Fund's activities in light of the current and ongoing coronavirus pandemic. It was observed that the dates for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC had been moved from June to October for the present year and the Meetings of the Conference of the Parties had been postponed until the following year. It was suggested that it would be necessary to consider how the Board would continue its work until it was able to hold its next face-to-face meeting. More use might be made of the new virtual technologies. In light of the change in the dates for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies it was

questioned whether the tentative dates for the Board meeting in June were still feasible. The Chair should work with secretariat on both the agenda for that meeting and on an agenda for tentative intersessional work that would address any urgent issues.

18. The Manager of the secretariat said that the secretariat would work with the other bodies of the UNFCCC to learn from their experience in holding virtual meetings and would find ways to use the new technologies to hold additional meetings remotely if the coronavirus pandemic continued unabated.

19. The Chair said that it was important for the activities of the Fund to be in line with those of the other subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC. It was suggested that a list should be developed of the urgent items for which decisions needed to be taken before the end of the fiscal year, while other, less urgent decisions could be taken at a later date.

20. However, a member pointed out that while there was a need for the Board to concentrate on urgent work, virtual meetings were not a substitute for its face-to-face meetings. It was important to pay attention to the practice in other similar funds, and whether they made use of virtual meetings. Before the Board proceeded to such a practice it was suggested it consult with other bodies, especially as such virtual meetings could have a negative impact on the quality of the work of the Fund. Virtual meetings should not be a model for future meetings of the Board especially as developing countries did not have the necessary resources to participate in them effectively.

21. The Manager of the secretariat said that he would consult with the UNFCCC secretariat. There was, as yet, little clarity about the possibility of holding a meeting in June, although it was also too early to decide whether the dates for that meeting should be changed. If the dates for the meeting did need to be changed it would be important to approve urgent items such as the budget and the work plan before the end of the present fiscal year. However, the budget also needed to first be considered by the EFC and the manager of the secretariat said that he could consult with both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the EFC on that. He would also consult with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PPRC on the intersessional review process as that would normally have started after the present meeting but would now start, at the earliest, at the end of June. He agreed with the suggestion of developing an agenda of urgent items that did not require formal decisions by the Board and said that the secretariat was already doing its best to reorganize its work. Some activities, such as travel and work-shops had been cancelled and the secretariat was now focusing on activities to support communications and knowledge management.

22. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3:50 p.m. CEST on 2 April 2020.

Agenda item 5: Adoption of the report

23. The present report was adopted intersessionally by the Board following first session of the thirty-fifth meeting.

ANNEX I

**ATTENDANCE AT
THE FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING
OF THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD**

MEMBERS		
Name	Country	Constituency
Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin, Chair	Africa
Ms. Patience Damphey	Ghana	Africa
Mr. Albara E. Tawfiq	Saudi Arabia	Asia-Pacific
Mr. Jong Hun Lee	Republic of Korea	Asia-Pacific
Ms. Ala Druta	Moldova	Eastern Europe
Ms. Margarita Caso Chávez	Mexico	Latin America and the Caribbean
Mr. Victor Viñas	Dominican Republic	Latin America and the Caribbean
Ms. Claudia Keller	Germany	Western European and Others Group
Ms. Eleonora Cogo	Italy	Western European and Others Group
Mr. Idy Niang	Senegal	Least Developed Countries
Ms. Sylviane Bilgischer	Belgium	Annex I Parties
Mr. Mattias Broman	Sweden, Vice-Chair	Annex I Parties
Mr. Ali Waqas Malik	Pakistan	Non-Annex I Parties
Mr. Lucas di Pietro	Argentina	Non-Annex I Parties

ALTERNATES		
Name	Country	Constituency
Ms. Sheyda Nematollahi Sarvestani	Islamic Republic of Iran	Asia-Pacific
Mr. Ahmed Waheed	Maldives	Asia-Pacific
Mr. Aram Ter-Zakaryan	Armenia	Eastern Europe
Ms. Yadira González Columbié	Cuba	Latin America and the Caribbean
Ms. Mariana Kasprzyk	Uruguay	Latin America and the Caribbean
Ms. Susan Castro- Acuña Baixauli	Spain	Western European and Others Group
Mr. Paul Elreen Phillip	Grenada	Small Island Developing States
Mr. Tshering Tashi	Bhutan	Least Developed Countries
Mr. Marc-Antoine Martin	France	Annex I Parties
Ms. Antonia Sutter	Switzerland	Annex I Parties
Ms. Naima Oumoussa	Morocco	Non-Annex I Parties
Mr. Evans Njewa	Malawi	Non-Annex I Parties

ANNEX II

**AGENDA OF THE FIRST SESSION OF
THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Transition of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Board.
3. Transition of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Ethics and Finance Committee and the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Project and Programme Review Committee.
4. Adjournment of the meeting.
5. Adoption of the report.