



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.37/10
4 October 2021

Adaptation Fund Board
Thirty-seventh meeting
Bonn, Germany (Virtually held), 19-21 October 2021

Agenda item 5

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

WORK OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

1. The Accreditation Panel (the Panel) continued its work reviewing both new and existing applications. The Panel held its thirty-sixth meeting in a virtual manner on 1–2 September 2021. The Vice-Chair of the Accreditation Panel, Ms. Eleonora Cogo (Italy, Western Europe and Others), presided over the meeting.

2. For the thirty-sixth Panel meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) has received two new accreditation applications for one potential National Implementing Entities (NIEs) and one Regional Implementing Entity (RIE). The review process for the then RIE applicant was under fast-track process and was completed in less than six months before the thirty-sixth meeting of the Panel occurred. Following the recommendation by the Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) approved the accreditation of the Pacific Community (SPC) (Decision B.36-37/12) on 25 August 2021. The Panel has also continued reviewing 14 re-accreditation applications (seven NIEs, two RIEs and five Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs)) and 11 accreditation applications of eight potential NIEs, two potential RIEs and one potential MIE that were previously reviewed but required additional information for the Panel's review. Three NIE candidates' applications have been dormant as of June/July 2021. Therefore, in accordance with Board Decision B.31/26, the secretariat sent the first letters of notification to the Designated Authorities (DAs) of all three dormant NIE applicants informing them of the inactivity of the applicant entities on 22 June 2021 and 26 July 2021.

3. After considering the recommendations by the Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) had intersessionally approved during the period from 2 March 2021 to 30 September 2021: fast-track re-accreditation of Profonampe of Peru as an NIE of the Fund (Decision B.36-37/1); fast-track re-accreditation of Fundecooperación Para El Desarrollo Sostenible of Costa Rica as an NIE of the Fund (Decision B.36-37/2); fast-track re-accreditation of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) as an NIE of the Fund (Decision B.36-37/3); fast-track re-accreditation of the Partnership for Governance Reform in Indonesia (Kemitraan) as an NIE of the Fund (Decision B.36-37/14); fast-track accreditation of the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) of Bangladesh as an NIE of the Fund (Decision B.36-37/10); and fast-track accreditation of the Pacific Community (SPC) as an RIE of the Fund (Decision B.36-37/12).

4. As of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Panel, 11 accreditation applications, comprising of eight potential NIEs, two potential RIEs, and one potential MIE were under review by the Panel as per the following list:

1. National Implementing Entity NIE018
2. National Implementing Entity NIE041
3. National Implementing Entity NIE066
4. National Implementing Entity NIE140
5. National Implementing Entity NIE142
6. National Implementing Entity NIE144
7. National Implementing Entity NIE147
8. National Implementing Entity NIE148

- 9. Regional Implementing Entity RIE008
- 10. Regional Implementing Entity RIE016
- 11. Multilateral Implementing Entity MIE017

GENERAL TRENDS

5. As of 30 September 2021, the total number of accredited implementing entities amounted to 56: 34 NIEs, eight RIEs, and 14 MIEs (Figure 1). Among the 34 NIEs, there were 10 accredited NIEs that were from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and seven accredited NIEs that were from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) (Figure 2). Out of the 56 accredited implementing entities of the Fund, 32 entities (57%) had been re-accredited: 17 NIEs, four RIEs and 11 MIEs. With respect to the geographic coverage of the 34 NIEs and eight RIEs, 15 entities were from Latin America and the Caribbean, 15 were from Africa, 11 were from Asia-Pacific and one was from Eastern Europe (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Accredited Implementing Entities by type

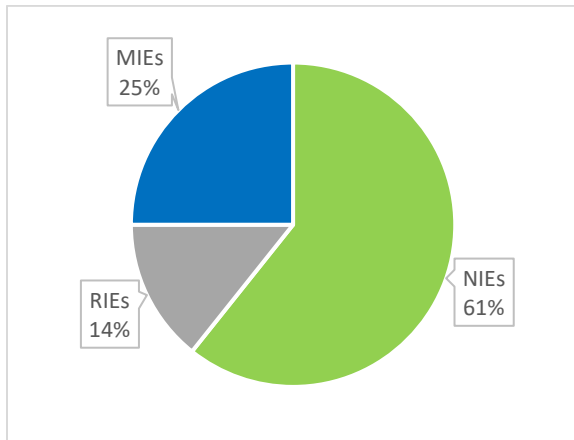


Figure 2. LDCs and SIDS among accredited NIEs

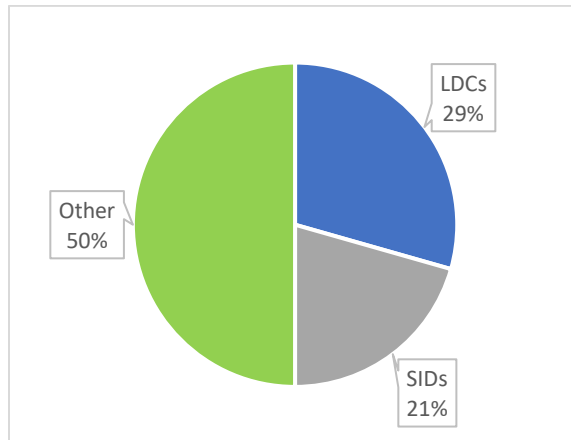
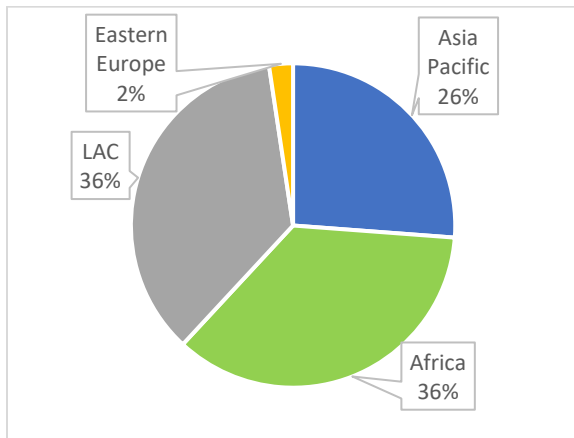


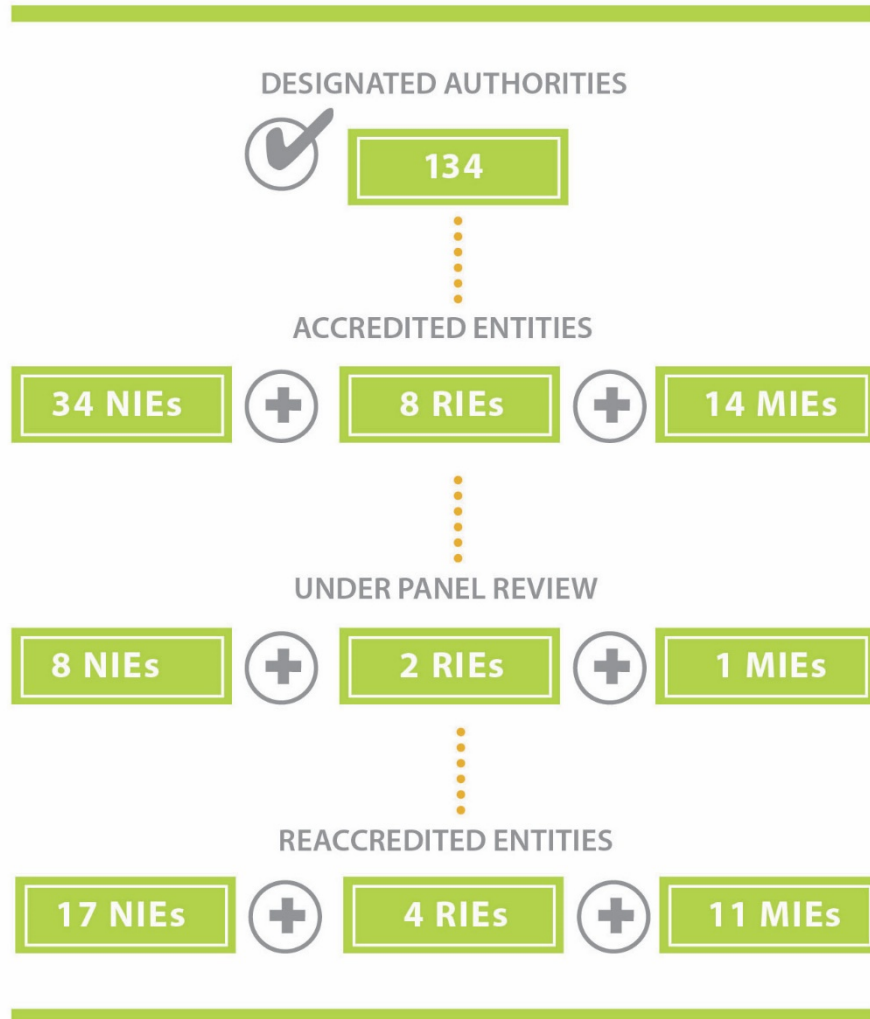
Figure 3. Accredited NIEs and RIEs by region



ACCREDITATION PIPELINE

6. The following infographic (figure 4) provides an update on the current accreditation pipeline which does not include re-accreditation applications.

Figure 4. The accreditation pipeline of the Adaptation Fund as of 30 September 2021.



STATUS OF APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

	SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION	REFERENCE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION	CURRENT STATUS
EXISTING APPLICATIONS			
NIE018	Aug-18	AFB/B.36/4	This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. After the thirty-fifth meeting of the Panel and following several exchanges and internal discussions, the applicant submitted a revised DA change letter, which the Secretariat considered acceptable. Subsequently, the Secretariat updated the DA information on the Fund's website. After review of the documentation the applicant had uploaded to the workflow in January 2021, the Panel produced a list of follow up questions, which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 15 June 2021. On 26 July and 2 September 2021, the applicant uploaded its responses to the pending issues, together with the high-level statement of commitment to abide by the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP). The Panel's review of the latest submission will soon resume.
NIE041	Oct-9	AFB/B.36/4	The Panel completed its initial review of this application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 5 March 2021. Though the applicant confirmed receipt on 30 April 2021, there have not been any progress in the workflow. On 7 June 2021, the Secretariat sent a request for updates to which the applicant responded that the focal person had been replaced. The account in the workflow has since been updated with the details of the new focal person. On 13 September 2021, the Secretariat organized a call with representatives of the organization to provide clarifications on the status of the application.
NIE046 (Dormant Application)	Dec-12	AFB/B.36/4	The last exchange between the Secretariat and the applicant was in October 2020, when the Secretariat offered clarifications on the status of the application and reshared with the applicant the Panel's October 2019 list of residual questions. Though the applicant had expressed its commitment, during the call, to make progress on the pending issues, no further documents have been received to date. Despite several requests for updates from the Secretariat, the applicant is yet to respond. In accordance with Decision B.31/26, the Secretariat sent the first letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the entity on 22 June 2021.

NIE057 (Dormant Application)	Apr-14	AFB/B.36/4	The last set of documents uploaded to the workflow by the applicant was in May 2020. Despite several exchanges and request for updates, no further documents have been received from the applicant. In accordance with Decision B.31/26, the Secretariat sent the first letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the entity on 22 June 2021. A follow up call between the Secretariat and representatives of the applicant organization was held on 8 July 2021. During the call, representatives from the applicant organization reiterated their commitment to provide additional documentation to the outstanding issues. As of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Panel, no further documents have been received.
NIE066	Apr-18	AFB/B.36/4	After the January 2021 call with the applicant, the Secretariat shared with the focal person the link to the Fund's e-Learning course on direct access, including the enrolment instructions. The focal person expressed strong interest in making good progress on the application and later uploaded several documents to the workflow in early June 2021. The Panel is awaiting further documentation submission from the applicant in order to resume review of the application.
NIE113 (Dormant Application)	Dec-15	AFB/B.36/4	The last documents uploaded to the workflow by the applicant was in January 2021. On 19 January 2021, the Secretariat organized a virtual call with the applicant to better understand their progress and offer further clarifications on the accreditation process. In addition to several requests for updates, the Secretariat had proposed a follow up call with the applicant in late April 2021. However, due to internet connectivity issues, the applicant suggested that the call be postponed to a later date. Since the application had been dormant for more than six months, the Secretariat, in accordance with Decision B.31/26, sent the first letter to the DA informing the inactivity of the entity on 26 July 2021.
NIE140	Sept-19	AFB/B.36/4	Since the AP 35 meeting, the Secretariat had sent several requests for updates, to which the applicant explained that its progress had been stalled by recent surges in the COVID-19 situation. In early July 2021, the applicant uploaded a list of documents to the workflow in response to the pending issues raised by the Panel. After review, the Panel produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 22 July 2021. The focal person acknowledged receipt of the follow up questions in early August and indicated they would get back to the Secretariat soon.

NIE142	Feb-19	AFB/B.36/4	This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. The Panel completed its review of the submitted information and documents under the streamlined approach and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 11 March 2021. In response to the Secretariat's request for updates, the applicant on 13 May 2021, uploaded several documents to the workflow in response to the list of pending issues. The last exchange with the applicant was on 2 August when the focal person inquired about the progress of the Panel's review of their latest documentation upload. The Panel resumed review of the application and is currently working on the fourth list of follow up questions to be transmitted to the applicant.
NIE144	Sept-20	NA	The Panel completed its initial review of the application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 12 March 2021. The applicant shared its responses on 6 April 2021. The Panel conducted further review and produced a list of follow up questions which was shared with the focal person on 21 April.
NIE147	Aug-20	NA	The Panel has since the thirty-fifth AP meeting, completed its review of the application and produced a list of questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 31 March 2021. Upon request from the applicant entity, the list of questions was later translated into French and reshared with the focal person on 13 April 2021. The applicant uploaded the response documents to the workflow in May and July. After review of the documents, the Panel produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 17 August. The Panel had also recommended that the applicant be assessed under the streamlined accreditation process. The Secretariat informed the applicant of the streamlined accreditation process and the Panel's suggestion on 17 August. Subsequently, a call with representatives of the applicant organization was held on 7 September.
NIE148	Dec-20	NA	The Panel completed the initial review of this application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 23 March 2021. In response to the Secretariat's 29 April request for updates, the applicant uploaded several documents in the workflow on 10 May and the Panel started reviewing the submitted documents on 8 June. The applicant resent a revised high-level statement of commitment to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The Panel completed its review of the latest submission and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 16 September.

RIE008	Jan-14	AFB/B.36/4	On 17 March 2021, the Secretariat requested for updates from the Panel on the progress of the review of the documents the applicant had uploaded in October 2020 to the workflow. The Panel completed its review of the documents in early May and produced a set of questions which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant. Upon the applicant's request, a call was organized on 15 July with the Panel, during which the former sought clarifications on some issues the Panel had raised in the latest list of follow up questions. Subsequently, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow shortly after the call and plans to upload additional documentation in due course. The Panel's review of the latest documents is ongoing.
RIE016	Mar-17	AFB/B.36/4	This application has been a long-standing one and most of the documents the applicant had submitted early in the application process are already outdated. After the 18 January 2021 call among the Secretariat, the Panel and the applicant, the focal person uploaded several documents in the workflow in late January and early February. Upon review, the Panel concluded that key questions remain unanswered by the applicant, including issues related to AML/CFT, audit and procurement. The Panel produced a list of pending questions which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 24 June 2021. At the time of the AP thirty-sixth meeting, no further updates have been received from the applicant.
MIE 017	Jul-22	AFB/B.36/4	The Secretariat shared with the applicant, the Panel's initial list of questions on 9 December 2020. In April and June 2021, the Secretariat requested for updates on the applicant's progress with the follow up questions. The focal person indicated they were almost done addressing the list of pending issues and hinted that what was stalling their progress was the high-level statement of commitment to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. In response to the Secretariat's request for updates on 7 September, the focal person explained that they had collected all the required additional information and will soon upload them to the workflow.
<u>RE- ACCREDITATION</u>			
NIE001	Jan-21	NA	Accreditation expired on 30 March 2020. The application was submitted on 12 January 2021. After screening by the Secretariat, it was passed on to the Panel for their initial review on 23 February 2021. The Panel completed its review and produced the initial list of follow up questions, which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 24 June 2021. In response, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow in July and August. The Panel is aware of the applicant's progress and will soon resume review of the submitted documentation.

NIE004	May-21	NA	Accreditation expired on 13 April 2021. The application was submitted on 18 May 2021, and then after screening, the Secretariat sent it back to the applicant with comments. The application was resubmitted on 28 May and then after further screening, it was passed on to the Panel for initial review. As of the time of this report, the Panel's review of the application is ongoing.
NIE016	Aug-16	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 13 December 2016. On 17 February 2021, a call was organized between the Secretariat and representatives from the applicant entity organization, during which the Secretariat provided clarifications on the pending issues. The Secretariat subsequently re-organized the Panel's outstanding list of questions and reshared it with the applicant the next day. In early March 2021, the Secretariat reached out to the applicant proposing a follow up call between the Panel and the focal point. The call did not occur as the applicant indicated they needed more time to assess the list of outstanding issues and that their progress had been stalled by COVID-19 capacity limitation in public administrations and partial curfews. In May and June 2021, the applicant uploaded additional documents to the workflow and the Panel resumed its review of the application. The Secretariat subsequently coordinated a call between the Panel and a third-party reference indicated by the applicant on 14 July, during which the reference provided additional resources for the Panel's further consideration. On 17 August, the Panel produced a list of follow up questions, which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 23 August.
NIE034	Aug-19	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 12 August 2019. Since the AP 35 meeting, the applicant has not made any substantial progress on the pending issues raised by the Panel. The last set of documents uploaded to the workflow was in November 2020. There has been no significant improvement on the pending issues and the Panel shared its concern that the entity may not be able address those issues. Upon further assessment of the application, the Panel produced an updated list of questions, which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 13 July 2021. To date, the applicant has neither acknowledged receipt of the follow up questions nor provided updates on the progress of its application.
NIE054	Aug-14	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 9 April 2020. The Panel completed initial review of this application and produced a list of questions which the Secretariat shared with the applicant on 23 April 2021. The Secretariat reached out to the focal person on 8 June to request for updates on the application. In late July, the applicant uploaded some documents to the workflow. The Panel's review of the latest documentation upload is ongoing.

NIE069	Mar-21	NA	Accreditation expired on 17 March 2021. The application was submitted on 20 February 2021. After screening, the Secretariat sent the application back to the applicant with comments. The application was resubmitted on 12 March 2021. Upon further screening, it was passed on to the Panel for initial review. On 9 August, the Panel shared with the Secretariat a list of follow up questions, which has since been transmitted to the applicant.
NIE080	Jan-21	NA	Accreditation expires on 3 November 2021. The application was submitted on 22 July 2020, and then after screening by the Secretariat, it was sent back to the applicant with comments. The application was resubmitted in mid-January 2021. After further screening by the Secretariat, it was passed on to the Panel for initial review. Upon review, the Panel produced a list of follow up questions, which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 4 August 2021. The last exchange with the applicant was in late August about the high-level statement of commitment to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP.
RIE010	Sep-22	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 25 February 2021. The Panel has completed its initial review of the application and produced a list of follow up questions which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 24 March 2021. The applicant provided its responses on 27 March. Upon review, the Panel shared its feedback, which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 2 April. In late April and early May, the applicant responded to the Panel by uploading several documents to the workflow. The last exchange with the applicant was on 15 July, when the focal point requested for updates on the application. As of the time of this report, the Panel's further review of the submitted documents is ongoing.
RIE012	Sep-9	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 8 October 2020. In response to the Panel's 3 February 2021 list of questions, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow on 17 March 2021. Upon review, the Panel produced a list of follow up questions, which the Secretariat transmitted to the applicant in late March. The applicant responded to the pending issues by uploading further documentation to the workflow on 15 April. The Panel updated the assessment report on 23 April. The last exchange with the applicant was on 18 May and 7 September when the Secretariat updated the applicant on the Board decision on the top-level management statement of the implementing entity's commitment to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP (TLMS) and requested updates on the applicant's progress. No further response has since been received from the applicant, and the entity has yet to submit the required TLMS.
MIE002	Mar-20	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 30 March 2020. This application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was on 18 May 2021, when the Secretariat informed the applicant about the Board discussion and decision regarding the TLMS. The applicant is yet to react to the update from the Secretariat.

MIE003	Apr-20	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 30 July 2020. This application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was on 18 May 2021, when the Secretariat informed the applicant about the Board discussion and decision regarding the TLMS. The focal person acknowledged receipt of the update and sought further information on the TLMS.
MIE007	Sept-19	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 30 March 2020. This application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was on 17 May 2021, when the Secretariat informed the applicant about the Board discussion and decision regarding the TLMS. The applicant is yet to react to the updates from the Secretariat.
MIE009	May-21	NA	Accreditation expired on 21 September 2021. The application was submitted on 10 May 2021, and then after screening by the Secretariat, it was passed on to the Panel for initial review. The last correspondence with the applicant was on 26 July and 13 September when the focal point sought updates on the status of the application. The Secretariat advised that the Panel was actively working on the application and will provide updates as soon as it becomes available.
MIE011	Mar-19	AFB/B.36/4	Accreditation expired on 20 March 2019. This application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. The last exchange with the applicant was on 17 May 2021, when the Secretariat informed the applicant about the Board discussion and decision regarding the TLMS. The applicant is yet to react to the updates from the Secretariat

OTHER MATTERS

7. The Panel discussed ways to further streamline its report on applications for accreditation and reaccreditation and exchanged suggestions to further enhance the process of the review of the accreditation and reaccreditation applications.

8. **Report on result of the review of the Certified Self-Assessment submitted by RIE applicant(s) as per Document AFB/EFC.27/11 and Decision B.36/37:** The purpose for this discussion was for the Secretariat to provide an update on the matter of the classification of Implementing Entity Applicants as Regional Implementing Entities (Document AFB/EFC.27/11) and the subsequent decision by the Board (Decision B.36/37). As per the Board decision, a prospective applicant seeking accreditation as an RIE is required to complete a Certified Self-Assessment that will be reviewed by the Secretariat to determine the eligibility of the prospective applicant to apply for accreditation as an RIE while the Secretariat reports to the Board the results of the review of the Certified Self-Assessment submitted by prospective RIE applicants as part of the Report of the Meeting of the Accreditation Panel. The relevant information will also be included in the Accreditation Panel's assessment report of the relevant application. During the reporting

period, the Secretariat received one Certified Self-Assessment submitted by one prospective RIE applicant, and the review concluded that the prospective applicant was eligible to pursue accreditation as an RIE applicant.

9. **Effectiveness and efficiency of the review process of the accreditation and reaccreditation applications:** The Accreditation Panel expert members have held three technical meetings, with the Secretariat's support, during the intersessional period between the 35th and the 36th Accreditation Panel meetings with a view to enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of the review process of the accreditation and reaccreditation applications. The Secretariat recapitulated the outcome of the intersessional technical meetings at the 36th Panel meeting. The matters discussed included options for streamlining the Panel's assessment report on the applications and clarification on: (i) the criteria covered under the fast-track accreditation, regular accreditation, fast-track re-accreditation and regular reaccreditation; (ii) criteria related to environmental and social and gender safeguards and review criteria under the second time fast-track reaccreditation compared to the first time fast-track reaccreditation; (iii) review of institutional capacity criteria related to project management capacities which differs depending on whether the implementing entity is implementing the Fund's supported project(s); (iv) review of anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) aspects under fast-track accreditation and fast-track reaccreditation; and (v) other relevant reviews applicable to reaccreditation. Some Panel members suggested that some important aspects related to review of reaccreditation application could be reflected in the existing reaccreditation process document if consensus among the Panel is reached. The Vice-Chair of the Panel appreciated the Secretariat's continuous efforts and support to promote the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the Panel and the accreditation and reaccreditation process, and encouraged the technical meetings of the Panel expert to continue as the needs arise.

10. The thirty-seventh meeting of the Accreditation Panel will be held on 2-3 February 2022. The format of the meeting will depend on how the COVID-19 situation evolves.