

AFB/EFC.30/6 3 October 2022

Adaptation Fund Board Ethics and Finance Committee Thirtieth meeting Bonn, Germany, 11-12 October 2022

Agenda item: 6

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND ACTION PLAN - MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY

Background

1. At its thirtieth meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) considered and approved through decision B.30/42 the medium-term strategy (MTS) for the Adaptation Fund (the Fund) prepared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) as contained in Annex 1 of document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1.

2. At its thirty-first meeting, the Board considered and approved through Decision B.31/32 the MTS Implementation Plan (IP) as contained in Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1.

3. As part of decision B.31/32, the Board also requested the Adaptation Fund Technical Evaluation Reference Group (AF-TERG) to undertake a mid-term review (MTR) of the MTS and the IP and report to the Board at its 36th meeting.

4. At its thirty-seventh meeting, the Board considered and approved through Decision B.37/36 the Mid-term Review of the Medium-term Strategy of the Fund by the AF-TERG, as contained in document AFB/EFC.28/7, as well as the initial management response prepared by the secretariat, as contained in document AFB/EFC.28/6.

5. As part of decision B.37/36, the Board also requested the secretariat to (i) prepare an updated management response reflecting the views expressed by the EFC at its twenty-eighth meeting on the findings and recommendations set out in the MTR report, for approval by the Board during the intersessional period between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings of the Board and (ii) in consultation with the AF-TERG, to prepare an action plan to respond to the recommendations arising from the MTR, reflecting the final management response, for approval by the Board during the intersessional period between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings of the Board during the intersessional period between the final management response, for approval by the Board during the intersessional period between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings of the Board during the intersessional period between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings of the Board during the intersessional period between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings of the Board during the intersessional period between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings of the Board.

6. During the intersessional period between its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings, the Board, recalling its decision B.37/36 regarding the mid-term review of the Medium-term Strategy of the Adaptation Fund by the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund, and having considered the updated management response and action plan prepared by the secretariat and contained in document AFB/B.37-38/5, decided to :

a) Approve the updated management response and action plan to the mid-term review of the Medium-term Strategy;

b) Request the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat to report to the Ethics and Finance Committee, at its thirtieth meeting (October 2022), on the progress made in implementing the action plan; and

c) Request the secretariat to post the approved management response on the Adaptation *Fund website.*

(Decision B.37-38/7)

7. In accordance with sub-paragraph (b) of Decision B.37-38/7 above, this document presents the progress made in implementing the action plan contained in document AFB/B.37-38/5 "updated the management response and action plan".

Progress made in implementing the action plan

8. As contained in document AFB/B.37-38/5, the secretariat has updated the management response and action plan to the Mid-term Review (MTR) of the Medium-term Strategy (MTS) of the Fund. The secretariat had identified a set of actions to be implemented throughout the period 2022-2023 and beyond to address the recommendations of the MTR, as contained in Annex 1 of document AFB/B.37-38/5.

9. As of the submission of this report, the secretariat has acted on the majority of proposed actions and provided an updated status for each recommendation. Overall, the secretariat anticipates that all items of the action plan will be fully implemented by the end the FY23. For those items for which an immediate and detailed update is not provided, the secretariat has provided a rationale and proposed follow up action including those elements that require a Board decision or for which the implementation depends on the approval of the new medium-term strategy (MTS II).

10. Under recommendation 1, all proposed actions have been under implementation or planned, including the recently approved Board decision for innovation indicators (decision B.37/39) or activities to be conducted under the new MTS II (revised results management framework) or ongoing work under AF-TERG work programme for FY23 and FY24.

11. Under the recommendation 2 and as explained in the updated management response, the secretariat will seek to enhance the reporting among MTS pillars, in the context of the new MTS II. In addition, further support will be provided under the readiness program (MTS II) to integrate mainstreaming of MTS pillars into the project development process and provide a linkage with the secretariat's monitoring and review process.

12. In response to the recommendation 3 and taking into account the limited time for the implementation of current MTS, the Board has not taken any specific decision to revise the targets of current MTS. However, the Fund will seek to integrate this recommendation in the context of the development of new MTS II.

13. In relation to the resource mobilization, the proposed new strategy to be discussed at the thirty-ninth meeting, will allow the Board to provide further guidance on possible scenarios for the Fund's portfolio over the next years taking into account the current MTS and guidance by the Board on the overall Fund's development.

14. In relation to recommendation 4 and proposed action plan, the secretariat is actively working on preparing (i) a paper on innovation, including on risks on innovation and (ii) a revised policy paper on the full cost of adaptation to be considered at the fortieth meeting which will include guidance on optional co-financing based on the current interpretation of the full-cost of adaptation.

15. Under recommendation 5, the Fund is exploring multiple avenues to address the MTR recommendation including the modalities for providing quick and direct financing for locally-based or locally-led adaptation, to strengthen longer-term capacities, and to empower the most vulnerable communities as agents of change. Other options under the Fund's readiness program will be explored including among others a structured and well-resourced capacity-building support to achieving desired accelerated impact and to rapidly bolster the capacity of entities to deliver MTS II results.

16. Finally, for the recommendation 6 and as mandated by the Board in its decision B.38/49 related to the development of the new MTS II, the secretariat has undertaken an open and inclusive consultation of the various stakeholders of the Fund, including the Board, contributor and recipient governments, accredited implementing entities, Adaptation Fund Civil Society Organization Network and other civil society representatives, the scientific community, youth and other relevant stakeholders.

17. The progress report also includes a detailed progress report (Annex 1) which outlines the status of each management response and action plan including the action taken by the secretariat, AF-TERG and Board in addressing the MTR-MTS recommendations.

Recommendation

Recalling its decision B.37-38/7 regarding the Updated management response and action plan to the mid-term review of the Medium-term Strategy of the Adaptation Fund by the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund and having considered progress report on the management response and action plan prepared by the secretariat and contained in document AFB/EFC.30/6, the Adaptation Fund Board may want to decide to:

- (a) Take note of the report included in document AFB/EFC.30/6 which provides an update on the progress made in implementing the action plan of the updated management response to the mid-term review of the Medium-term Strategy; and
- (b) Request the secretariat to post the approved progress report on the management response and action plan on the Adaptation Fund website.

Recommendation 1	Harness results to identify the wider impact of the Fund's adaptation projects.			
	 i. Identify and analyze wider impact additional to the direct impacts on resilience. ii. Monitor, evaluate, and report the uptake of knowledge and learning. iii. Contribute to global dialogue on tracking the effectiveness of adaptation projects. 			
Updated management response	Proposed action to be taken	Body in charge	Timeframe	Update as of AFB.39
Overall, the secretariat welcomes this recommendation which calls for greater role of the Fund on tracking and assessing the Fund's impact beyond the current results tracker as part of the strategic results framework, while recognizing that some such areas of wider impacts as outlined by the MTR extend outside the Fund's core mandate and should be considered clearly separate of the impacts that are used to justify funding decisions. It is important to highlight the ongoing efforts by the Fund to aggregate quantitative indicators for a portfolio that is, by nature, diverse, through the five core indicators, as well as to assess relevant reports submitted by the Implementing Entities as part of their project monitoring requirements (inception, mid-term, and terminal evaluation reports).	The secretariat will continue improving its monitoring and reporting on project impacts in accordance with the Fund's results framework, to better identify and analyze the Fund's wider impact on resilience.	Secretariat	Ongoing	As part of the new MTS to be approved by the Board (AFB.39), the secretariat will update the current Fund's results management framework (RMF) to reflect the new strategic directions and related reporting requirements. The revised results framework will be presented for Board consideration along with the MTS II implementation plan.

Annex 1 – Status report on management response and action plan to the MTR-MTS

In addition, the Fund has been engaged with multiple partners to generate and disseminate lessons learnt and knowledge products based on its current portfolio under implementation. As referred by the MTR, the Fund has produced severa knowledge products including the Loca Leadership in Adaptation Finance Assessing Progress: Integrating Gender in Adaptation Fund Projects and Programmes; Bridging the Gaps in Accreditation; Readiness and Capacity building for Direct Access Finance Lessons Learned and Successfu Approaches captured from Portfolio Monitoring Missions and Lessons learned from country exchanges centered around certain sectors or e-learning courses aimed at increasing capacity of IEs for access to direct access finance in adaptation.	wider impact of the Fund through its work program activities, particularly through the annual synthesis report of project final evaluations, thematic evaluations and the overall performance evaluation.	AF-TERG	On-going and reported at EFC meetings	No further update. The initial response and proposed action are valid, especially in the light of the update to the AF-TERG work programme for FY23 and FY24
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The Fund's new window on innovation might require specific monitoring indicators to capture the impact on the ground. Also, the Fund will undertake additional work related to lessons learnt and knowledge dissemination on areas related to project scaling up, replication, sustainability but also overall reliance building in the context of external shocks like COVID19. The Fund is currently exploring possibilities for strategic partnerships on learning and knowledge management support as well as on innovation advisory capacity, as per Board Decision B.36/39	As per Board decision B.37/39 on "Objectives and indicators for innovation aspects of projects", the secretariat will update revised the Fund's results framework and pilot the innovation indicators as approved by the Board	Secretariat	AFB.39 (March 2022)	As per Board decision B.37/39 on "Objectives and indicators for innovation aspects of projects", the secretariat has revised the Fund's results framework related to outcome 8 which focuses on innovation and proposed guidance to implementing entities for Board consideration at AFB.38. Following the approval of the revised indicators for innovation on pilot basis and the guidance to IEs for application of indicators, the secretariat has communicated the revision to IEs ahead of AFB.39.
Recommendation 2	Demonstrate and incentivize we MTS pillars	ork and interac	tion across	
Management response	 i. Optimize feedback loop and learning and sharing ii. Track interaction between iii. Track outcomes across iv. Identify whether the AF- evidence and validation v. Use IP to manage performance 	g pillars. en strategic pil pillars. TERG can pro rmance.	lars.	
Management response	Proposed action to be taken	Body in charge	Timename	

While the secretariat recognizes there is	The secretariat will seek to	The	Ongoing	As part of the MTS II
room to improve the integration among	identify avenues to better	secretariat	Chyonny	development and its
MTS pillars and explore ways to enhance	monitor and track the	Secretariat		implementation plan, the
Fund's overall support to countries, the	interaction between MTS			secretariat will explore
report does not fully acknowledge the	pillars of action, innovation			inclusion into the MTS II,
ongoing efforts by the Fund to serve	and learning & sharing, both			a sustained and
countries in an integrated manner. All	0			
0	at design and implementation			strategic readiness and
three pillars have been implemented in	stages. The secretariat will			capacity-building
parallel and with the objective to offer	explore ways to reflect such			support to accredited
countries access all funding opportunities	process during project			entities to integrate
in an integrated manner. Building linkages	development (review sheet)			mainstreaming of MTS
between pillars at the practical level also	and monitoring (PPR and			pillars into the project
entails the risk of increasing complexity,	monitoring missions).			development process to
and it may be preferable to introduce				link with the secretariat's
such requirements in a gradual manner,				monitoring and review
to avoid overwhelming countries and				process of the same.
implementing entities. As highlighted				
during the launch of each of the MTS				In addition, as part of its
windows, the secretariat provides				periodic reporting to
dedicated support to countries and				Board, the secretariat
entities on how to better access and use				will explore avenues to
each of the funding windows to address				include a section in the
identified adaptation issues and any				APR on linkages
possible integration of the existing				between pillars (MTS II)
windows in a single proposal is welcomed				as well as any additional
and encouraged.				information on portfolio
Building on Board members' feedback				learning and sharing
and in line with the overall objective of the				across all pillars.
Fund to support vulnerable countries				
across all MTS pillars, the Fund will				
explore ways to better track interaction				
between MTS pillars both at design and				
implementation stage.				

The secretariat will also call on the AF- TERG's expertise and evidence-based finding role to better assess the potential integration between MTS pillars as well as lessons and experience from other partners on such issues.	The Fund's evaluation function can further identify options for further integration between MTS pillars as well as any lessons learnt from other partners.	AF-TERG, in consultation with AF sec and IEs, as needed	on-going and for each of the work program activities, such as synthesis of final evaluations, thematic and overall performance reported to the EFC meetings	No further update. The initial response and proposed action are valid, especially in the light of the update to the AF-TERG work programme for FY23 and FY24.
Recommendation 3	Board to discuss feasibility of a end of the MTS period	chieving IP tar	gets by the	
	 Determine realistic targets for outputs of MTS and resource mobilization at the Board level ii. Identify factors constraining progress to pursue learning and course correction. 			
Management response	Proposed action to be taken	Body in charge	Timeframe	

Overall, the secretariat agrees with the proposed recommendation and remains available to implement any guidance from the Board on addressing it. The fact that it has taken longer than initially expected for the Fund to launch the new funding windows and for countries and implementing entities to submit proposals, is an important lesson learned. However, the Fund has undertaken various measures to increase implementing entities' capacity to prepare proposals, including through seminars and e-learning courses. It might be complicated to try and accelerate the process through "determining and flexing to emerging priorities, threats, and opportunities", as such priority changes at this point, despite good intentions, might create more confusion among implementing entities.	In line with discussions at AFB37, the Board might consider revising the MTS targets for the remaining implementation period (calendar year 2022), as necessary, to be implemented by the secretariat.	The Board	FY21/22	In line with the Board discussion at AFB.38 and considering the limited time under the current MTS, the Board has not taken a decision or requested the secretariat to revise the MTS targets. However, this recommendation and proposed action have been taken into account during the development of MTS II which targets will be proposed to be revisited at mid-term review.
In terms of resource mobilization, it is important to note that the Fund's Resource Mobilization Task Force has always discussed this issue as part of the review of the Fund's resource mobilization target. In addition, and as mandated by the Board (Decision B.36/36), the secretariat in consultation with Resource Mobilization Task Force is currently preparing a draft resource mobilization strategy for the period 2021–2024 and a draft resource mobilization action plan for consideration by the Board at its thirty-seventh meeting. Such strategy and action plan will certainly address many of the issues highlighted in the proposed recommendation.	The Fund's next resource mobilization strategy which currently being developed will address this by providing further guidance on possible scenarios for the Fund's portfolio over the next years taking into account the current MTS and guidance by the Board on the overall Fund's development.	The Board and secretariat	FY22	The Fund's resource mobilization strategy for the period 2022- 2025 to be considered by the Board (AFB.39) will address this recommendation by providing further guidance on possible scenarios for the Fund's portfolio over the next years taking into account the current MTS and guidance by the Board on the overall Fund's development.

Recommendation 4	Conduct further work on how to measure key concepts in the Fund, such as innovation, adaptation, and knowledge. Continue to explain these key concepts to newcomers to the Fund.
	 i. Provide specific guidance to measure innovation and adaptation for newcomers to the Fund (building on achievements of the Innovation Task Force). ii. Continue clarifying innovation in the context of adaptation. iii. Further tap into potential of the learning and sharing pillar.
Management response	Proposed action to be taken Body in charge Timeframe

The secretariat welcomes the proposed recommendation and partly agrees that there is value in further clarifying and defining relevant concepts under the MTS, especially those that are new such as innovation in adaptation, and in continuing to provide related guidance to the Fund's existing and new stakeholders. It is worth noting that since its establishment and until recently with the launch of new windows, there is a global recognition of the quality and efficiency of the Fund in addressing adaptation issues.	The secretariat has been mandated to continue clarifying the relevant concepts under the MTS. The Board has already adopted a more elaborate definition and vision for innovation, and the Secretariat has been mandated to further refine the scope of innovation, for example through a discussion on acceptable levels of risk associated with innovation projects.	AFB Sec and the Board	Ongoing	The secretariat is preparing to present a paper on innovation, including on risks on innovation.
Neither the implementing entities nor countries or the AF NGO network have highlighted any issue related to adaptation reasoning in projects approved by the Board. The Fund's experience with and use of concepts related to adaptation in project development, including climate adaptation reasoning and full cost of adaptation, is one of the Fund's core areas of expertise and strengths.	The Secretariat and the Board have been engaged in a discussion relating to the full cost of adaptation in order to further clarify the concept. The Secretariat has been mandated to continue the work on clarifying this concept.			The secretariat presented a policy paper on the full cost of adaptation at AFB.38. As per Decision B.38/40,the Board has requested the secretariat to present a further developed policy paper at AFB.40, which will include guidance on optional co-financing based on the current interpretation of the full- cost of adaptation.
In relation to the concept of innovation and as mandated by the Board (Decision	The Secretariat will continue, through project work, to			The secretariat continues to identify issues that are noteworthy and raise

B.35.b/9), the secretariat has long-	identify issues that are		them to the attention of
recognized the need for further clarifying	noteworthy and raise them to		the PPRC and Board.
the innovation concept and has been	the attention of the Board (via		The secretariat will
committed to provide more guidance to	PPRC), as is reported		monitor status and
implementing entities on accessing the	routinely at the meetings of		progress of the
MTS innovation windows. Under the	the Board.		innovation indicator use
guidance of the Board, an Innovation Task			following the approval of
Force was established and after			revised outcome 8 of the
consultation with the Fund's partners, the			Strategic Results
secretariat has presented at the thirty-sixth			Framework (SRF) and
meeting of the Board, an initial			guidance to
assessment contained in document			implementing entities for
AFB/B.36/8 "Further clarification of vision			application of innovation
and definition of innovation under the			indicators in
adaptation fund: analysis of relevant			projects/programmes
elements and guidance on review criteria".			through decision
The secretariat has received guidance and			B.38/43 and report to
feedback from the Board and a further			the Board at AFB.39, as
assessment is currently being conducted.			mandated in Decision
For both concepts, of innovation and			B.37/39, via a policy
knowledge, to the extent that there is value			paper concerning the
in further defining them, it may be			pilot phase for
beneficial to do so, not through a quick			innovation indicators.
"academic" exercise but rather through an			
iterative process that takes into account			
the Fund's clients' real-life needs and			
priorities as reflected in the actual			The Secretariat will
proposals to the Fund.			continue its outreach to
			the NIEs concerning
In line with the efforts to clarify innovation	The Secretariat will continue		innovation, for example
and provide guidance to the implementing	its outreach to the NIEs		a cross-learning
entities, and NIEs especially, the	concerning innovation, for		workshop on innovation
secretariat has devised e-learning courses	example through innovation		and project development
that are free and open-access, available	webinars taking place in		is planned in May 2023.
under the Fund's Knowledge Management	November 2021.		The secretariat will
repository webpages on its site.			continue to explore,
repository webpages on its site.			

The secretariat will monitor		through the readiness
status and progress of the		programme,
innovation indicator use		opportunities to
following the approval of the		collaborate with AFCIAs
revised outcome 8 of the		for enhanced delivery of
Strategic Results Framework		capacity-building to the
(SRF) and guidance to		Fund's IEs.
implementing entities for		
application of innovation		
indicators in		
projects/programmes through		
decision B.38/43 and report		
to the Board at its 39 th		
meeting, as mandated in		
Decision B.37/39, along with		
a policy paper concerning the		
pilot phase for innovation		
indicators.		

learning and sharing have been most recently established through the launch of the pilot indicators for innovation that also include indicators measuring learning and sharing outputs in the context of innovation projects.	AF-TERG, as part of its work program approved by the Board, will conduct a review of the practices of innovation within the Fund and outside to bring good practices. The findings and recommendations from this review should complement the work by the Secretariat and the development of the next MTS.	AF-TERG	EFC March 2022 and Oct 2022	No further update. The initial response and proposed action are valid, especially in the light of the update to the AF-TERG work programme for FY23 and FY24.
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Recommendation 5	Consolidate and optimize aspe			
	niche (even with resource uncertainty) as a Fund thati.Provides quick and direct financing.ii.Creates new solutions built on what works.iii.Supports innovative solutions with higher risk.iv.Complements others through catalytic financing.v.Brings needed new players into the climate change adaptation space.			
Management response	Proposed action to be taken	Body in charge	Timeframe	
The recommendation 5 highlights the need to explore further the Fund's niches and ability to serve better its eligible countries and its current engagement with other partners including climate funds. The secretariat endorses this recommendation and would implement any guidance from the Board in the preparation of the next MTR. In addition, as it has been widely recognized by the adaptation community, the Fund continues to play a catalytic role in supporting countries access climate finance beyond its own resources, as evidenced by the number of entities which have been fast-tracked accredited to the GCF through AF or the large number of AF funded projects scaled up by other partners. However, while recognizing the important role of innovative solutions in addressing resilience and given the nature of sectors and only-grant instrument deployed by the Fund, the Board might need to consider defining the level of risk the Fund might take in addressing adaptation issues.	In line with its overall mandate, the Fund has continued to support vulnerable countries and, in many ways, engaged its readiness programme to strengthen capacity-building including in areas of innovation in adaptation, learning and most importantly concrete actions for long term resilience.	The Board and secretariat	Ongoing	Strategically structured and well-resourced capacity-building support will be critical to achieving desired accelerated impact and to rapidly bolster the capacity of entities to deliver MTS II results. Opportunities to further enhance the scope and breadth of readiness and capacity-building support under the 3 pillars will be explored in the development of MTS II.

The next MTS for which a process for its development has been approved, is an opportunity to address the issues raised by the recommendation 5. The next MTS which overall objectives and ambition is yet to be defined by the Board, will consider further strengthening the Fund's niche and position the Fund as one of the key adaptation finance providers within the climate finance agenda.	As part of development process for next MTS, the Board might consider further exploring the Fund's niches building on the implementation of the Paris Agreement guidance, current portfolio including leveraging resources available via the readiness programme and identified strengths and niches.	The Board	FY22	Consolidating the Fund's niche and optimizing its impact is the key goal for developing the Fund's next MTS, in line with Board decision B.38/48, including by exploring modalities for providing quick and direct financing for locally- based or locally-led adaptation, to strengthen longer-term capacities, and to empower the most vulnerable communities as agents of change, for further expanding modalities for innovation and for encouraging risk-taking, and for strengthening partnerships with other relevant adaptation funders and actors.
Recommendation 6	Build the MTS more consultatively by bringing people on board, retaining the flexibility and determining the capacity and resources required to implement the next strategy			
	 Develop the next MTS in levels of stakeholders. Initiate a streamlined co Conduct explicit scenari resource and capacity re operationalizing the next 			

Management response	Proposed action to be taken	Body in charge	Timeframe	
The Fund promotes wider stakeholder engagement and consultations in all its operations including during development of policies, projects design, portfolio monitoring and all other related activities. The current MTS has been developed following a comprehensive consultation of all stakeholders and such process will be applied for the next strategy. As evidenced by its flexibility during COVID19, the Fund will adapt its working modality to conduct stakeholder consultation in an equitable and comprehensive ways should the current pandemic continues to impact the normal operating modalities. On the resources required for the implementation of the next strategy, the secretariat will follow the guidance by the Board and any lessons learned from the ongoing MTS implementation plan.	At its 37 th meeting, the Board approved the "process for developing the Medium-term Strategy of the Fund beyond 2022" and reaffirmed the importance to conduct the process "through open and inclusive consultations of the various stakeholders of the Fund, including the Board, contributor and recipient governments, accredited implementing entities, Adaptation Fund Civil Society Network and other civil society representatives, and other relevant stakeholders".	The Board and secretariat	FY22	When developing the second MTS, including options and elements for the second MTS considered by the Board at AFB.38, the secretariat has undertaken open and inclusive consultations of the various stakeholders of the Fund, including the Board, contributor and recipient governments, accredited implementing entities, Adaptation Fund Civil Society Organization Network and other civil society representatives, the scientific community, youth and other relevant stakeholders. Formats of consultations included online surveys, virtual roundtable discussions, written inputs, and a side event at SB56.