



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.39/12
19 August 2022

Adaptation Fund Board
Thirty-eighth meeting
Bonn, Germany, 11-14 October 2022

Agenda item 15

DIVERSIFICATION OF MEETING VENUES

I. Background

1. At the thirty-eighth meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) considered a matter of diversification of the venues of the Board meetings, in view of the possibilities of holding Board meetings in developing countries where projects were being implemented and elsewhere in the developing world, to enable the Board to experience the countries where they were allocating Adaptation Fund resources, the Adaptation Fund (the Fund) to reach different stakeholders and increase its visibility, and developing countries to capitalize on Fund resources and funding.

2. During the discussion at the thirty-eighth meeting, the Board was generally supportive of the proposal, considering that such meetings would provide the Board more exposure to the countries where the Fund worked and could possibly be linked to project visits. It was noted that the board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) commonly met in different locations, leading to the suggestion that the potential for holding joint outreach and capacity-building activities with GCF could also be explored, with a view to supporting capacity-building outreach, helping workshops in developing countries reach a maximum audience and increasing the Fund's visibility. The Board was of the view that financial and procedural implications of holding meetings elsewhere than Bonn need to be further investigated and clarified.

3. The rules of procedure provided for the Board to meet at least twice every year or as frequently as necessary to discharge its business, in the country of the seat of the UNFCCC secretariat, or in countries hosting meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC or of its subsidiary bodies when in conjunction with those meetings (paragraph 18). The Board had met twice outside Bonn: once in Cancun, Mexico, on 13–15 December 2010, and once in Durban, South Africa, on 12–14 November 2011, in both bases back-to-back with meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

4. Following the discussion, the Board decided:

(a) To hold its thirty-ninth meeting from 11-14 October 2022;

(b) To hold its thirty-ninth meeting from 21-24 March 2023;

(c) To hold its thirty-ninth meeting from 10-13 October 2023;

(d) To request secretariat to explore the feasibility of holding the board meeting in the host country for the United Nations Climate Change Conference and other countries, to enable the Board to further consider the matter during intersessional period (B.38–B.39) or at its thirty-ninth meeting;

(e) To hold its thirty-ninth meeting in Bonn if it is not feasible to hold the meeting in the country hosting for the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

(Decision B.38/52)

5. As per Decision B.38/52, subparagraph (d), the secretariat has explored the feasibility of organizing Board meeting in the host country for the UNFCCC Conference and other countries, and continues to explore such options, with a view to presenting the relevant information to the Board at its thirty-ninth meeting.

6. With respect to the thirty-ninth meeting of the Board, during the intersessional period (B.38-B.39) the secretariat had consultations with the Government of Egypt, the host country for the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference, and the UNFCCC Secretariat as well as the legal department of the World Bank. The consultations concluded that organizing the thirty-ninth meeting of the Board in Egypt was not feasible due to, inter alia, inadequate time to put in place the necessary arrangements for the Board meeting. Accordingly, following a consultation with the Chair of the Board, the secretariat informed the Board during the intersessional period (B.38-B.39) that the thirty-ninth meeting of the Board would be held in Bonn as per Decision B.38/52, subparagraph (e).

7. The secretariat prepared this document particularly in response to Decision B.38/52, subparagraph (d) and submits it to the thirty-ninth meeting of the Board for consideration.

II. Elements to be considered for Board meeting outside Bonn

Venue and the Rules of Procedure of the Board, paragraph 18

8. The Rules of Procedure paragraph 18 permits the Board meeting to be held in Germany where the UNFCCC secretariat is seated or in countries hosting meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC or of its subsidiary bodies when in conjunction with those meetings. Therefore, holding the Board meeting outside countries specified in paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure requires an amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the Board.

9. It is important to note that the Rules of Procedure can be amended by the Board according to paragraphs 44–51 of the Rules of Procedure, but for the amendment to be effective, it must be formally approved by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) as set out in paragraph 64 of the Rules of Procedure. Accordingly, the amendment of the Rules of Procedure subparagraph 18 should be made prior to any Board decision to hold meetings in countries not specified in the existing Rules of Procedure, paragraph 18.

Host country's agreement to host the AFB meeting in their country

10. Host country's willingness and agreement would be the first step for preparing to hold the AFB meeting outside Bonn and need to be secured early to provide adequate time to make necessary meeting arrangements for the meeting. In considering the host country, it is advisable to consider a country which is a party to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946) to ensure that the privileges and immunities are able to be provided by the host country to the Board, and the secretariat, and any other eligible meeting participants.

Arrangement for the distribution of daily subsistence allowance (DSA)

11. At the thirty-eighth meeting the DSA was distributed electronically to the respective accounts of the eligible Board members by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) which has supported arrangements for the Board meetings in Bonn under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

12. The consultations concluded that as was the case for the two previous Board meetings outside Bonn, the AFB secretariat would have to identify a suitable international organization, or its country office (located in the country hosting the Board meeting) and enter into an agreement where the organization is responsible for receiving the funds for the DSA from the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund and distributing the DSA to the eligible participating Board members on behalf of the AFB secretariat for the specific Board meeting.

Privileges and Immunities (P&I) for the Board, its secretariat and other eligible meeting participants

13. It is indispensable to secure a legal agreement with the host country to ensure the privileges and immunities are provided to the Board, its secretariat, and other eligible participants for the Board meeting held outside Bonn. It would take some time for discussions and negotiations on the legal agreement with the host country, and therefore, consultation with the host country is highly advisable to start as early as possible. In such process, the secretariat will seek support from the UNFCCC Secretariat and the legal department of the World Bank, as necessary and appropriate.

Arrangements for the venue, necessary equipment and facilities, security, logistical support including visa arrangements and hiring local staff necessary for the Board meeting support

14. Considering the two previous Board meetings held in Cancun and Durban and recent consultations with the UNFCCC Secretariat, it is critical to secure support from the government of the host country as the government would be knowledgeable on the suitable entities or companies which could provide a necessary support for Board meeting in its country. As it is highly likely for multiple agencies to be involved in providing support, it would take some time for the secretariat to identify suitable agencies and enter into the agreement with the respective agency for the agreed support.

Conclusion

15. As mentioned above, in order to be able to make a decision to hold its meetings in countries other than those specified in paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure, the Board would first need to amend the Rules of Procedure, and the CMP would need to adopt it for its effectiveness. Therefore, if the Board wishes to hold its meeting in 2023 (i.e., meeting in October 2023) in countries other than those specified in paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure, it would need to make a decision at the thirty-ninth meeting, to amend paragraph 18 of the Rules of

Procedure and submit it to the CMP for its adoption at its 17th session in November 2022. It would be prudent for the Board to make any decision to hold its meeting in a country other than those specified in paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure, only after the necessary amendment of the Rules of Procedure is adopted by the CMP.

16. Given the necessary procedure for adoption of the amendment of the Rules of Procedure by the CMP, the secretariat proposes that the Board consider and decide to request the secretariat to explore the feasibility of holding the forty-first meeting (10–13 October 2023) in country hosting the UN Climate Change Conference in conjunction with such meeting while keeping the option of holding forty-first meeting in Bonn if it is not feasible to hold the meeting in country hosting for the UN Climate Change Conference. Based on this experience, the Board would make a decision whether to further diversify the meeting venue beyond the countries specified in paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure.

Recommendation

14. Having considered document AFB/B.39/12, the Adaptation Fund Board may want to consider and decide:

- (a) To hold its fortieth meeting in Bonn from 21–24 March 2023;
- (b) To request the secretariat to explore the feasibility of holding the forty-first meeting scheduled from 10–13 October 2023 in the host country for the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in conjunction with such meeting, to enable the Board to further consider the matter at its fortieth meeting or during intersessional period between the fortieth and forty-first meetings (B.40-B.41);
- (c) To continue considering the matter of diversification of meeting venues at its fortieth and forty-first meetings.