

Adaptation Fund Board  
Forty-fourth meeting  
Bonn, Germany

## **Update on a Policy on Safeguarding against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment of the Adaptation Fund**

### **Strategic Issues**

- a) The Adaptation Fund serves the Paris Agreement by accelerating effective adaptation action and efficient access to finance, including through direct access, to respond to the needs and priorities of developing countries.
- a) The complexities and challenges of implementing adaptation projects and programmes with Adaptation Fund financing requires intentional efforts to be aware of and mitigate risks to the successful outcome of adaptation financing
- b) At the Climate Change Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh in November 2022, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its 17<sup>th</sup> session (CMP 17) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (CMA 4) decided to request the Board to adopt a policy on safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH) ( Decision 4/CMP.17, paragraph 13 and Decision 18/CMA.4, paragraph 12).

### **Purpose**

1. This Board document presents to the Adaptation Fund Board an update on the development of a policy on safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment (SEAH) of the Adaptation Fund.

### **Background**

2. In response to a mandate from the CMP 17 and CMA 4 which requested the Adaptation Fund Board to adopt a policy on safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH) ( Decision 4/CMP.17, paragraph 13 and Decision 18/CMA.4, paragraph 12), the Board requested the Secretariat at its 40<sup>th</sup> meeting in March 2023 to prepare a document with options for a policy on safeguarding against SEAH and present it at the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting for the Board's consideration (Decision B.40/81).
3. At the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting in October 2023, the Board considered a document which contains an overview of international organizations' policies and frameworks to prevent and protect from SEAH and proposed options for a Fund's policy safeguarding against SEAH. The Board decided to continue its consideration of options for responding to the mandate from CMP17 and CMA 4

to adopt a policy on safeguarding against SEAH and requested the Secretariat to prepare a background note including elaboration of definitions and their application as well as potential approach and process to respond to the mandate from the Parties, taking into account the Board's discussions at the 41st meeting (Decision B.41/37).

4. At its 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting in April 2024, the Board considered document AFB/B.41/8/Rev.1 and its annex which contained common definitions of SEAH and their application and options for the Board to respond to the mandate from the CMP17 and CMA4 to adopt a policy on safeguarding SEAH. The Board decided as follows:

Having considered document AFB/B.42/12 and its annex, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To develop an Adaptation Fund policy on safeguarding against sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH);
- (b) To request the secretariat:
  - (i) To prepare a draft of the Adaptation Fund policy on safeguarding against SEAH, taking into account the discussion at the forty-second meeting of the Board and in consultation with relevant stakeholders of the Adaptation Fund;
  - (ii) To present the outcome of the work referred to in subparagraph (b) (i) to the Board for consideration at its forty-fourth meeting;
  - (iii) To consider amending the Fund's other policies in alignment with the Adaptation Fund policy on safeguarding against SEAH once that policy is adopted by the Board.

(Decision B.42/57)

### **Update on Work to Develop a Policy on Safeguarding Against SEAH**

5. A consultant has been recruited and is currently in the process of developing a draft policy on safeguarding against SEAH with support from the Secretariat.
6. Once the draft policy is prepared, the Secretariat will launch consultations to gather feedback on the draft policy on safeguarding against SEAH from the Fund's stakeholders. Input from stakeholders will be considered in finalizing the policy. The final draft of the policy will then be presented to the Board for approval.
7. At that point, if the Board should approve the SEAH policy, it could also request the Secretariat to prepare guidelines to support the implementation of the policy.