
Adaptation Fund Board
Forty-fourth meeting
Bonn, Germany

REPORT OF THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD

Introduction

1. The forty-fourth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) was held in person in Bonn, Germany, on 8, 10 and 11 April 2025, back-to-back with the thirty-fifth meetings of the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC).
2. The list of the members and alternates who participated in the meeting is attached as annex I. A list of accredited observers present at the meeting can be found in document AFB/B.44/Inf.3.
3. At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requesting that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting was opened at 9.10 a.m. on 8 April 2025 by the outgoing Chair of the Board, Lucas di Pietro (Argentina, Non-Annex I Parties).

Agenda item 2: Election of officers

5. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the Board had elected, for 2025, Washington Zhakata (Zimbabwe, Africa) as its Vice-Chair and Naresh Sharma (Nepal, Least Developed Countries) as the Chair of the Accreditation Panel, but had yet to elect its Chair, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the EFC, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PPRC and the Vice-Chair of the Accreditation Panel.
6. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided to elect:
 - (a) Antonio Navarra (Italy, Western Europe and Others) as Chair of the Board;
 - (b) Ali Daud Mohammed (Kenya, Africa) as Chair of the EFC;
 - (c) Frida Jangsten (Sweden, Western Europe and Others) as Vice-Chair of the EFC;
 - (d) Francisca Molina (Spain, Western Europe and Others) as Chair of the PPRC;
 - (e) John Payai Manyok (South Sudan, Africa) as Vice-Chair of the PPRC;

- (f) Antonio Navarra (Western Europe and Others) as Vice-Chair of the Accreditation Panel.

(Decision B.44/1)

7. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requested that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 3: Transition of the Chair and Vice-Chair

8. The outgoing Chair handed the Board Chairmanship over to the newly elected Chair and the incoming Vice-Chair. In the absence of the incoming Chair, the Vice-Chair chaired the meeting.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the agenda

9. The Board adopted the agenda set out in annex II to the present report as the agenda for its forty-fourth meeting, on the basis of the provisional agenda contained in document AFB/B.44/1/Rev.1.

10. In adopting the agenda, the Board agreed to discuss task forces and working groups under agenda item 23, "Other matters".

Agenda item 5: Organization of work

11. The Board adopted the organization of work proposed by the Vice-Chair on the basis of the agenda contained in document AFB/B.44/1/Rev.1.

12. Noting the absence of the Chair, the Board agreed that the outgoing Chair would chair the discussion under agenda item 9 and at any other time when the Vice-Chair was required to absent himself.

13. The Vice-Chair welcomed the following newly elected members and noted that they would be required to sign the written oath of service, as mandated by the rules of procedure of the Board:

- John Payai Manyok (South Sudan, Africa)
- Bertha Iris Argueta Tejeda, (Honduras, Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Rosa Morales Saravia (Peru, Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco (Philippines, Non-Annex I Parties)
- Francisca Molina (Spain, Western Europe and Others)
- Md Mahmud Hossain (Bangladesh, Least Developed Countries)

14. The following members and alternate members declared conflicts of interest:

- Washington Zhakata (Zimbabwe, Africa)
- Bertha Iris Argueta Tejeda, (Honduras, Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Kenrick W. Williams (Belize, Latin America and the Caribbean)

- Rosa Morales Saravia (Peru, Latin America and the Caribbean)
- Naresh Sharma (Nepal, Least Developed Countries)
- Md Mahmud Hossain (Bangladesh, Least Developed Countries)
- Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco (Philippines, Non-Annex I Parties)
- Lucas di Pietro (Argentina, Non-Annex I Parties)

Agenda item 6: Issues arising from the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

15. The representative of the Secretariat provided an overview of the information set out in document AFB/B.44/2 regarding decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) at its nineteenth session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its sixth session and the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP) at its twenty-ninth session that related or referred to the Fund, and matters to be considered by the Board in response to those decisions.

16. The Board took note of the information provided.

Agenda item 7: Report on the activities of the Chair

17. The outgoing Chair reported on the activities undertaken on the Board's behalf during the intersessional period between the Board's forty-third and forty-fourth meetings (AFB/B.44/3).

18. Members thanked Mr. di Pietro warmly for his work on the Board's behalf.

19. The Adaptation Fund Board took note of the information provided.

Agenda item 8: Report on the activities of the secretariat

20. The Manager of the Secretariat reported on the activities of the secretariat during the period from October 2024 to March 2025 (AFB/B.44/4/Rev.1). Following his presentation, he responded to questions and comments from members.

21. Regarding the proposed assessment on the implications on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, he explained that the assessment would be developed in parallel with and be aligned with the resource mobilization strategy but would have a broader scope, including identifying any necessary changes to the Fund's operations, policies and structure, which would in turn be considered under the medium-term strategy of the Fund. As the proposed assessment would be the first of its kind, the Secretariat would continue to seek the Board's guidance on the scope, adopting a stepwise approach.

22. Members requested that the Secretariat include in the assessment a consideration of ways to triple inflows to the Fund without increasing the burden on implementing entities; innovative sources of financing, including in the private sector; Fund project co-benefits, including in relation to mitigation and loss and damage, using a sector-based approach; the debt concerns of many developing countries; and the possibility of non-cash contributions to the Fund, such as debt-for-adaptation swaps. The Manager of the Secretariat responding to the Board said that the Secretariat would make every effort to explore all options to keep the scope as broad as possible.

23. Regarding emission reduction credits, the Manager of the Secretariat said that the Secretariat could conduct an initial analysis of the feasibility of obtaining credits for greenhouse gas emission reductions, taking into consideration good practices from the private sector and weighing the benefit of such credits against the additional burden that obtaining the credits would place on projects.

24. Regarding the Fund's mandate on gender, another representative of the Secretariat clarified that, although the stated period of the Fund's gender policy action plan was 2021–2023, the gender policy itself remained valid and some of the planned actions were still being implemented, including the gender score card, gender training and a study on lessons learned from mainstreaming gender in the agriculture and food security sector. A new action plan will be developed following a comprehensive independent assessment of the implementation of the current action plan.

25. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) To take note of the report of the secretariat for the period from October 2024 to April 2025, as contained in document AFB/B.44/4/Rev.1;

(b) To request the secretariat to prepare an assessment of the implications of the new collective quantified goal on the operations of the Adaptation Fund, taking into account the guidance provided by the Board at its forty-fourth meeting, for the Board's consideration at its forty-fifth meeting.

(Decision B.44/2)

26. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requested that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 9: Dialogue with civil society organizations

27. The discussion under agenda item 9 was chaired by the outgoing Chair.

28. The dialogue with civil society organizations consisted of presentations and a question and answer period. A summary of the dialogue is set out in annex III to the present report.

29. The Board took note of the civil society organization's presentations and recommendations.

Agenda item 10: Status of the transition of the Adaptation Fund to serving the Paris Agreement

30. The representative of the secretariat presented document AFB/B.44/5, which in its annex contained a report prepared by two independent experts, commissioned by the Secretariat. The report was designed to support the Board's deliberations at its forty-fourth meeting on the arrangements needed for the Fund to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement.

31. Next, the outgoing Chair, recalling that Board members had held informal consultations on the matter just prior to the present meeting, on 7 April, provided an oral summary of that discussion. The consultations had highlighted the need to address matters involving, among other things, what would constitute the trigger for the actual transition, including the required CMP and CMA political decisions and the timing of those decisions; governance matters, involving the updating of institutional references and maintenance of historical references to the Kyoto Protocol; the rollover clause; and finally, updating of the Fund's internal documents and signature of a new memorandum of understanding with the Global Environment Facility and terms and conditions of Trustee services by the World Bank. He then introduced a text prepared with the assistance of the Secretariat following the consultations, intended to serve as a note on areas of possible agreement.

32. The Board then began a lengthy discussion on the matter that spanned two days of the meeting and took place both in the formal meeting setting and informally in the margins of the meeting.

33. During the initial discussion, members generally agreed that a CMP decision releasing the Fund and a CMA decision accepting the Fund were required to effectuate the transition. It was, however, unclear whether those decisions could be taken at the same climate conference or at sequential conferences. Similarly, there was a lack of agreement regarding the timing, relative to the CMA and CMP decisions, of when the Fund's policies and procedures could be updated and new agreements signed. Further, there was some question as to whether a third decision, namely an initial CMP decision confirming the availability of Article 6.4 proceeds, might be required, and how the timing of such a decision would relate to the other two decisions.

34. With respect to the updating of institutional and other references, members generally agreed that the governance elements outlined in decision 1/CMP.3 would be retained with some adjustments but had divergent views on what adjustments were needed and what terminology to use.

35. Given the lack of agreement on the various aspects of the proposed text, Board members agreed to hold informal discussions on the margins of the meeting in an attempt to find common ground.

36. Subsequently, reporting on the outcome of the informal discussions, one member said that members had been unable to agree on a way forward and felt that the Board would benefit from legal advice from a representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as additional guidance and clarification from the Parties. In addition, the member suggested that there was a lack of understanding of what was meant by "arrangements" and advised members to read the document on the arrangements for the Green Climate Fund and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, which the member said would shed light on the question.

37. The Board agreed to continue consideration of the matter at its forty-fifth meeting.

Agenda item 11: Amendments to the Adaptation Fund's standard project legal agreement

38. The Board considered agenda item 11 in a closed setting.

39. The Adaption Fund Board (the Board), having considered confidential document AFB/B.44/6/Rev.1 and its annex and recalling its decision B.43/30 requesting the Secretariat to consult with the Board and the relevant Fund stakeholders, including the implementing entities, on the draft amendments to the standard project legal agreement contained in the annex to document AFB/B.43/8 and to update the draft amendments to the standard project legal agreement, taking into considerations and reflecting the input collected through the consultation, decided:

- (a) To approve the amendments to the Adaptation Fund standard project legal agreement contained in annex B to document AFB/B.44/6/Rev.1;
- (b) To request the Secretariat:
 - (i) To communicate the present decision to the implementing entities;
 - (ii) To update other funding agreements templates of the Adaptation Fund, as appropriate, in alignment with the amendments to the Adaptation Fund standard project legal agreement as approved by the current decision.

(Decision B.44/3)

40. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requested that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 12: Updates to the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

41. The Board did not take up agenda item 12 owing to a lack of time.

Agenda item 13: Update on a policy on protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

42. The Board did not take up agenda item 13 owing to a lack of time.

Agenda item 14: Utilization of resource caps within the Adaptation Fund

43. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the information contained in document AFB/B.44/9, including options for revising maximum project sizes, the country cap, the multilateral implementing entity (MIE) cap and other programming caps.

44. In the ensuing discussion, members generally agreed that the country caps, as well as the caps for single-country and regional projects and programmes, should be raised in line with or even beyond the option proposed by the secretariat, and that the Board could consider resetting or reconsidering caps regularly, including at the start of the next medium-term strategy period. The general view was that

the proposed cap increases reflected not only commitment to supporting the aim of tripling annual outflows, as expressed in decision 1/CMA.6 on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, but also accounted for the impact of inflation and the increased costs arising from the current geopolitical context, including tariffs, as well as underscoring the Fund's ambition.

45. There was also general agreement on the principle that the MIE funding cap should not be increased. Members underscored the importance of preserving the Fund's added value, which lay in its grant-based nature and provision of direct access and noted that the proposed increases in country caps would make the Fund more attractive to countries, leading to the establishment of additional NIEs. It was also important to guard against having the bulk of resources allocated to a small number of implementing entities.

46. Several members urged the Secretariat to provide more detailed financial analysis in its report, along with the rationale for the options presented, including in relation to the financial implications for the Fund itself and to the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, to support the Board's decision-making.

47. The Adaption Fund Board, having considered document AFB/B.44/9/Rev.1 and recalling its decision B.43/33 requesting the Secretariat to undertake additional analysis and further elaborate options for caps and project and programme size, decided:

- (a) To increase the country cap to US\$ 40 million;
- (b) To increase the single-country project/programme size to US\$ 25 million;
- (c) To increase the regional project/programme size to US\$ 30 million;
- (d) To request the Secretariat to review the caps at the start of the next medium-term strategy period, with a view to supporting the mandate to triple annual outflows pursuant to paragraph 16 of decision 1/CMA.6 on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance.

(Decision B.44/4)

48. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requested that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 15: Report of the Accreditation Panel

49. The Chair of the Accreditation Panel presented the report of the panel's forty-third meeting (AFB/B.44/10/Rev.1). He reported that the Fund had 58 accredited implementing entities, of which 34 were NIEs, nine were regional implementing entities (RIEs) and 15 were MIEs. Eleven national implementing entities were in least developed countries and six were in small island developing States. In terms of the geographic coverage of the 43 NIEs and RIEs, 16 were in Latin America and the Caribbean, 14 were in Africa, 12 were in Asia and one was in Eastern Europe. Forty of the Fund's 58 implementing entities had been reaccredited, consisting of 22 NIEs, six RIEs and 12 MIEs.

50. The Board continued its discussion in a closed session. Following the closed session, the Board adopted the decisions below on matters considered by the Accreditation Panel at its forty-third meeting.

51. Having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to request the Secretariat:

- (a) To initiate work to conduct an in-depth analysis of the re-accreditation approach with a view to assessing the long-term operational and budgetary implications;
- (b) To present the outcome of the analysis to the Accreditation Panel at its forty-fourth meeting.

(Decision B.44/5)

52. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

53. Having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to accredit the National Environment Trust Fund of Kenya as a national implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund for a five-year, in accordance with paragraph 39 of the operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. The accreditation expiration date would be 11 April 2030.

(Decision B.44/6)

54. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

55. Having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to re-accredit the Protected Areas Conservation Trust as a national implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund for a five-year, in accordance with paragraph 39 of the operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. The accreditation expiration date would be 11 April 2030.

(Decision B.44/7)

56. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

57. Having considered the recommendation of the Accreditation Panel and following the re-accreditation process approved by decisions B.28/38 and B.34/3, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to re-accredit the Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advice of Côte d'Ivoire as a national implementing entity of the Adaptation Fund for a five-year, in accordance with paragraph 39 of the operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. The accreditation expiration date would be 11 April 2030.

(Decision B.44/8)

58. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 16: Report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Project and Programme Review Committee

59. The Chair of the PPRC presented the recommendations of the PPRC, as contained in the committee's report (AFB/PPRC.35/41).

60. The Board took note of the report of the PPRC and adopted the decisions below on matters considered by the PPRC at its thirty-fifth meeting.

61. During the consideration of regional projects, Frida Jangsten (Sweden, Western Europe and Others) made statements on behalf of the Government of Sweden, asking that they be reflected in the present report. With respect to regional project AF000000224 for Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, she stated that Sweden welcomed the project's focus on the Lake Chad area, which was highly vulnerable to climate change, as well as the aim of strengthening early warning and disaster risk reduction. With respect to regional project AF0000414 for Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zimbabwe, she welcomed the pre-concept focus on resilient health systems to provide adaptation to climate change, as well as the ambition to foster private sector investment and deploy innovative financing in pilot projects. In both cases, she underlined the importance of compliance with the Fund's risk control framework and the Fund's aim of reaching those most vulnerable to climate change. Furthermore, when there were governance-related risks such as political instability in the countries and areas covered by the project, Sweden was concerned that such circumstances could jeopardize the integrity of the project and underlined the central importance of the implementing entities and other parties involved adhering closely to the Fund's safeguards.

62. Kevin Adams (United States, Western Europe and Others) objected to the approval of the regional projects AF00000378 for Cuba and Panama; AF00000416 for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and AF00000414 for Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zimbabwe (AF00000414). Consequently, in accordance with paragraphs 47-50 of the rules of procedure, the Board proceeded to vote on the matters under consideration; the results of the votes are provided in annex IV.

(a) Review of single-country project and programme proposals

Single country project and programme proposals: fully developed project proposals – proposals from national implementing entities

Honduras: Constructing resilience together to face climate-change and variability in Western Honduras (fully developed proposal; Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM); AF00000350; US\$ 4,000,000)

63. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 4,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by CASM;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with CASM as the national implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/9)

64. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Panama: Strengthening climate resilience in livelihoods and coastal ecosystems of the Central Pacific of Panama (fully developed proposal; Fundación Natura (FNCO); AF0000289; US\$ 10,000,000)

65. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Fundación Natura (FNCO) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 10,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by FNCO;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with FNCO as the national implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/10)

66. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Single country project and programme proposals: fully developed project proposals – proposals from regional implementing entities

Argentina: Strengthening community resilience of rural populations in the arid zones of northwestern Argentina in the face of climate change by improving access to water and the application of sustainable land-management practices (fully developed proposal; Development Bank of Latin America (CAF); AF00000291; US\$ 10,000,000)

67. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 10,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by CAF;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with CAF as the Regional implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/11)

68. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Bangladesh: Green, resilient and adaptive Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) economy (GRACE)-LoCALplus (fully developed proposal; International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); AF00000347; US\$ 10,000,000)

69. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 10,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by ICIMOD;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with ICIMOD as the regional implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/12)

70. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would

abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Single country project and programme proposals: fully developed project proposals – proposals from multilateral implementing entities

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Increasing climate change resilience in the agricultural sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina - STAZA (fully developed proposal; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000364; US\$ 10,000,000)

71. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 10,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by IFAD;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with IFAD as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/13)

72. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Lebanon: Climate change resilience and ecosystem connectivity (CC-REC) (fully developed proposal; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000379; US\$ 4,300,000)

73. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 4,300,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by IFAD;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with IFAD as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/14)

74. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Lesotho: Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations in Lesotho Phase II (IACoV-2) (fully developed proposal; World Food Programme (WFP); AF00000408; US\$ 10,000,000)

75. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 10,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by WFP;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with WFP as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/15)

76. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Mongolia: Sustainable pasture management and adaptation with resilient technologies for herders in Mongolia (SMART-Herders) (fully developed proposal; International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD); AF00000404; US\$ 2,038,883)

77. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 2,038,883 for the implementation of the project, as requested by IFAD;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with IFAD as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/16)

78. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would

abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Philippines: Harnessing the water-food-energy nexus to address and adapt to climate change impacts in Tawi-Tawi (fully developed proposal; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); AF00000297; US\$ 9,994,955)

79. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) Approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) Approve the funding of US\$ 9,994,955 for the implementation of the project, as requested by UNIDO;
- (c) Request the secretariat to draft an agreement with UNIDO as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/17)

80. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Somalia: Green and resilient ecosystems for Somali livelihoods (Hal-abuur) (fully developed proposal; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000382; US\$ 10,000,000)

81. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 10,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by IFAD;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with IFAD as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/18)

82. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Uzbekistan: Resilient food systems through climate services for agriculture in Uzbekistan (fully developed proposal; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000369; US\$10,000,000)

83. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 10,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by IFAD;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with IFAD as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/19)

84. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Yemen: Increase the climate change resilience to water scarcity and flooding in the Tuban delta (fully developed proposal; United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); AF00000250; US\$ 9,998,560)

85. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 9,998,560 for the implementation of the project, as requested by UN-Habitat;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with UN-Habitat as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/20)

86. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Single country project and programme proposals: concept notes – proposals from national implementing entities

Indonesia: Building climate change resiliency for small and remote islands in Pangkajene Island (Pangkep) district (concept note; Partnership for Governance Reform (Kemitraan); AF00000374; US\$ 979,548)

87. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Partnership for Governance Reform (Kemitraan) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify Kemitraan of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issues:
 - (i) The fully developed project proposal should consider the integration of existing traditional knowledge with modern scientific knowledge;
 - (ii) The fully developed project proposal should strengthen sustainability measures, especially for technological interventions and ecosystem rehabilitation, define clear monitoring and ecosystem rehabilitation;
 - (iii) The fully developed project proposal should clarify the monitoring frameworks for ecosystem rehabilitation, including ecosystem services valuation, to ensure long-term success;
 - (iv) The fully developed project proposal should specify structured training on fund management, reporting, and project implementation for community groups;
 - (v) The fully developed project proposal should outline how the Fund will ensure equitable access and participation, provide concrete steps for integrating successful actions into local governance structures and securing long-term financing;
 - (vi) The fully developed project proposal should integrate relevant knowledge management and learning indicators and targets in the project results framework, and incorporate detailed outcomes from community-level and gender-specific consultations;
- (c) To request Kemitraan to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Indonesia;
- (d) To encourage the Government of Indonesia to submit, through Kemitraan, a fully developed project proposal that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/21)

88. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Single country project and programme proposals: concept notes – proposals from regional implementing entities

St. Kitts and Nevis: Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Initiative - St. Kitts and Nevis (CARISKN) (concept note; Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC); AF00000393; US\$ 9,994,600)

89. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify CCCCC of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issues:
 - (i) The fully developed project proposal should provide further details on the establishment of the Coastal Zone Management Committee;
 - (i) The fully developed project proposal should include the medium risks of the environmental and social impacts;
 - (ii) The fully developed project proposal should consider the risks of the project implementation, beyond the expected benefits and performance of the project;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 130,200;
- (d) To request CCCCC to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis;
- (e) To encourage the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis to submit, through CCCCC, a fully developed project proposal that would also address observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/22)

90. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Single country project and programme proposals: concept notes – proposals from multilateral implementing entities

Algeria: Adaptive management of the Algerian steppe and halfah zones to support climate-smart livelihoods and ecosystem resilience (Halfah project) (concept note; International Fund Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000405; US\$ 10,000,000)

91. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) Endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) Request the secretariat to notify IFAD of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issues:
 - (i) The fully developed project proposal should further elaborate on the knowledge management related arrangements as part of the implementation arrangements;
 - (ii) The fully developed project proposal should be updated with further consultations to be carried out with the vulnerable groups outlined in the proposal and elaborate on the specific stakeholder engagement modalities and the exact role of various project partners;
 - (iii) The fully developed project proposal should align the project component 3 with the Adaptation Fund strategic results framework outcome 3 and identify risks related to principle 12 of the environmental and social policy;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 108,500;
- (d) To request IFAD to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Algeria;
- (e) To encourage the Government of Algeria to submit, through IFAD, a fully developed project proposal that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/23)

92. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Eswatini: Strengthening agro-ecosystem adaptation for sustainable livelihoods within landscapes (SEASL) (concept note; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000395; US\$ 10,000,000)

93. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify IFAD of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issues:
 - (i) The fully developed project proposal should include a list of specific indicators of water quality and thresholds for success, thus setting out clear criteria for evaluating the project's impact on water potability;

- (ii) The fully developed project proposal should provide specific details on the exact mechanisms for ensuring participation, managing conflicts, and reaching the most isolated or marginalized individuals;
 - (iii) The fully developed project proposal should provide specific details on the criteria and process for selecting beneficiaries, including how the participatory selection process will be conducted and how the community profiled list will be developed and validated;
 - (iv) The fully developed project proposal should provide more detailed analyses including quantitative comparison of the cost-effectiveness, of the proposed measures with alternative adaptation measures, and a detailed explanation of the plans to learn from relevant projects, projects, programs, initiatives, and evaluations;
 - (v) The fully developed project proposal should include a detailed maintenance plan for each type of nature-based infrastructure and define clear roles and responsibilities for post-project maintenance, and the plan for long-term monitoring and adaptive management and explain how maintenance will be integrated into existing government systems and budgets;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 150,000;
 - (d) To request IFAD to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Eswatini;
 - (e) To encourage the Government of Eswatini to submit, through IFAD, a fully developed project proposal that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/24)

94. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Malawi: Smallholder climate-resilience project (concept note; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000380; US\$ 10,000,000)

95. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify IFAD of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issues:
 - (i) The fully developed project proposal should highlight, more clearly and in greater detail, the idea of mainstreaming knowledge management (KM) into project outputs, activities, and indicators, quantify key knowledge products in a results framework, as well

as clarify how the project plans to track and analyse turnout and result of the interventions to the benefit of global, national and local climate change adaptation;

(ii) The fully developed project proposal should clearly depict how the project will learn from intervention experiences, track the experience and ensure continuous learning and visually detail out the organization and processes needed for efficient and qualitative learning and sharing, and knowledge management;

(iii) The fully developed project proposal should provide clarity around project activities, including if there are unidentified sub-projects (USPs) or partially unidentified sub-projects, and, accordingly, implementation and monitoring arrangements in place, as per the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy and policies on USPs;

(c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 150,000;

(d) To request IFAD to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Malawi

(e) To encourage the Government of Malawi to submit, through IFAD, a fully developed project proposal that would also address any observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/25)

96. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Namibia: Building climate resilient health systems (concept note; World Health Organization (WHO); AF00000426; US\$ 10,000,000)

97. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) To endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) to the request made by the technical review;

(b) To request the secretariat to notify WHO of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issue:

(i) The fully developed project proposal should include clarification on equitable distribution of benefits to vulnerable households, and individuals within the communities selected;

(c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 150,000;

(d) To request WHO to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Namibia;

(e) To encourage the Government of Namibia to submit, through WHO, a fully developed project proposal that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/26)

98. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Nepal: Improving food system resilience of vulnerable communities in Nepal through community-based adaptation (Concept note; World Food Programme (WFP); AF00000407; US\$ 10,000,000)

99. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

Endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) to the request made by the technical review;

(a) Request the secretariat to notify WFP of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issue:

(i) The fully developed project proposal should include a comprehensive cost-effectiveness analysis;

(b) Request WFP to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Nepal;

(c) Encourage the Government of Nepal to submit, through WFP, a fully developed project proposal that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/27)

100. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

(b) Review of regional project and programme proposals

Regional project and programme proposals: fully developed project proposals – proposals from multilateral implementing entities

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria: Integrated water resources management and early warning system for climate change resilience in the Lake Chad Basin (fully developed proposal; World Meteorological Organization (WMO); AF00000224; US\$ 11,665,500)

101. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in response to the request made by the technical review;

- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 11,665,500 for the implementation of the project, as requested by WMO;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with WMO as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/28)

102. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Cuba, Panama: Strengthening the adaptive capacity of coastal communities of Cuba and Panama to climate change through the binational exchange of best practices for climate management and local food security (fully developed proposal; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000378; US\$ 14,000,000)

103. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 14,000,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by IFAD;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with IFAD as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/29)

104. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): An integrated system for evaluating hydrological status and outlooks to support key economic sectors and vulnerable communities in South America, to adapt to climate change and build resilience (pre-concept note; World Meteorological Organization (WMO); AF00000416; US\$ 13,998,300)

105. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the pre-concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify WMO of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issue:
 - (i) The concept note should fully identify the demonstration cases highlighted in the outputs;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 50,000;
- (d) To request WMO to transmit the observations under subparagraph b) to the Governments of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;
- (e) To encourage the Governments of Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to submit, through WMO, a concept note that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/30)

106. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Zimbabwe: Pioneering innovative financing for climate-resilient health systems in Africa (pre-concept note; World Health Organization (WHO); AF00000414; US\$ 13,924,000)

107. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the pre-concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify WHO of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 20,000;
- (d) To request WHO to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zimbabwe;
- (e) To encourage the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zimbabwe to submit, through WHO, a concept note that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/31)

108. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Costa Rica, Panama: Enhancing climate change adaptation capacity in Central America with focus on Costa Rica and Panama: improving hydroclimatic and early warning systems and integrating with water resources management (pre-concept note; World Meteorological Organization (WMO); AF00000398; US\$ 13,932,655)

109. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the pre-concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify WMO of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 30,000;
- (d) To request WMO to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Governments of Costa Rica and Panama;
- (e) To encourage the Governments of Costa Rica and Panama to submit, through WMO, a concept note that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/32)

110. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia: Upscaling groundwater-based natural infrastructure (GBNI) to support water resilience in selected transboundary aquifers (TBAs) of Southern Africa (Pre-concept note; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); AF00000421; US\$ 14,000,000)

111. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the pre-concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify IFAD of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 33,000;

(d) To request IFAD to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Governments of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia;

(e) To encourage the Governments of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia to submit, through IFAD, a concept note that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/33)

112. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Malawi, Zambia: Supporting resilient agricultural value chains and livelihoods of climate vulnerable border communities of Zambia and Malawi (Pre-concept note; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); AF00000422; US\$ 13,998,238)

113. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) To endorse the pre-concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to the request made by the technical review;

(b) To request the secretariat to notify UNIDO of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision;

(c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 30,000;

(d) To request UNIDO to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Governments of Malawi and Zambia;

(e) To encourage the Governments of Malawi and Zambia to submit, through UNIDO, a concept note that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/34)

114. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Montenegro, North Macedonia: Integrated drought management in the riverine countries of the Drin basin (pre-concept note; World Meteorological Organization (WMO); AF00000412; US\$ 13,733,500)

115. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the pre-concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify WMO of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 30,000;
- (d) To request WMO to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Governments of Montenegro and North Macedonia;
- (e) To encourage the Governments of Montenegro and North Macedonia to submit, through WMO, a concept note that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/35)

116. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

(c) Review of single-country locally led adaptation proposals

Single-country locally led adaptation project proposals: fully developed project proposals – proposal from a national implementing entities

Armenia: Armenia National Adaptation Funding Facility (fully developed proposal; Environmental Project Implementation Unit (EPIU); AF00000360; US\$ 4,960,000);

117. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Environmental Project Implementation Unit (EPIU) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 4,960,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by EPIU;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with EPIU as the national implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/36)

118. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Côte d'Ivoire: Project to strengthen the resilience of local communities in the Bafing region made vulnerable due to farmer breeder conflicts exacerbated by the effects of climate change (fully developed proposal; Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advice (FIRCA); AF00000365; US\$ 4,950,000)

119. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To approve the fully developed proposal, as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advice (FIRCA) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To approve the funding of US\$ 4,950,000 for the implementation of the project, as requested by FIRCA;
- (c) To request the secretariat to draft an agreement with FIRCA as the national implementing entity for the project.

(Decision B.44/37)

120. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Single-country locally led adaptation project proposals: concept notes – proposal from national implementing entities

Bhutan: Securing Water & Enhancing Climate Resilience in Thimphu (Rural) District in Bhutan (concept note; Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC); AF00000401; US\$ 5,000,000)

121. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify BT FEC of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issues:
 - (i) The fully developed proposal should specify how hydro-meteorological data collected through microclimatic stations will be disseminated to local communities, ensuring accessibility and integration into local decision-making processes;
 - (ii) The fully developed proposal should detail the participatory methods to be used during consultations, how community feedback will be documented and analyzed, and how findings from consultations and feasibility assessments will be communicated back to the community to ensure transparency;

- (iii) The fully developed proposal should specify the content of leadership and financial management training for local actors, including water user associations (WUAs), and clarify who will deliver the sessions, ensuring long-term sustainability and knowledge retention;
- (iv) The fully developed project proposal should include adequate provisions to ensure that the unidentified sub-projects (USPs) will also be compliant with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund;
- (v) The fully developed proposal should develop a gender action plan (GAP), provide a gender-disaggregated baseline, and clarify how vulnerable groups outlined in the proposal such as women, youth and persons with disabilities will be actively included in decision-making, capacity-building and project governance structures;
- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 250,000;
- (d) To request BT FEC to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Bhutan;
- (e) To encourage the Government of Bhutan to submit, through BT FEC, a fully developed project proposal that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b). above.

(Decision B.44/38)

122. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Senegal: Strengthening the resilience of communities in the Dead Sine Valley (concept note: Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE); AF00000411; US\$ 5,000,000)

123. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

- (a) To endorse the concept note as supplemented by the clarification responses provided by the Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE) to the request made by the technical review;
- (b) To request the secretariat to notify CSE of the observations in the review sheet annexed to the notification of the Board's decision, as well as the following issues:
 - (i) The fully developed proposal should present a detailed gender analysis with disaggregated data for women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. It should include a Gender Action Plan (GAP) outlining specific interventions to promote women's land tenure security, equitable access to economic benefits, and representation in governance structures. The proposal should also clarify how vulnerable groups will be included in decision-making processes;
 - (ii) The fully developed proposal should include a sustainability plan for Economic Interest Groups (EIGs), detailing governance structures, financial mechanisms (e.g., user

fees, pooled funds), and capacity-building strategies to ensure long-term viability. Additionally, the proposal should outline specific commitments from decentralized sectoral ministries or local governments regarding long-term infrastructure maintenance and cost recovery strategies;

- (c) To approve the project formulation grant of US\$ 150,000;
- (d) To request CSE to transmit the observations under subparagraph (b) to the Government of Senegal;
- (e) To encourage the Government of Senegal to submit, through CSE, a fully developed project proposal that would also address the observations under subparagraph (b), above.

(Decision B.44/39)

124. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

(d) Operational policy on the regional locally led adaptation window

125. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to approve the operational policy of the regional funding window for locally led adaptation (LLA) as per document AFB/PPRC.35/9/Rev.1, including:

- (a) The maximum size of regional LLA projects to follow the policy governing the maximum size of regional projects and programmes;
- (b) The maximum size of project formulation grants policy as established under decision B.42/37, paragraphs (c) and (d) (i) and (ii).

(Decision B.44/40)

126. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

(e) Annually determined funding provisions for fiscal year 2026

127. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to request the secretariat to include in its work programme for fiscal year 2026 provisions in the amount of:

- (a) US\$ 60 million for funding regional project and programme proposals, including the funding of project formulation grant requests for preparing regional project and programme concept or fully developed project documents;

- (b) US\$ 60 million for funding the second call for proposals for the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA);
- (c) US\$ 26.5 million for funding locally led adaptation (LLA) single country projects and programmes, including the funding of project formulation and project formulation grant requests for preparing fully developed LLA project documents;
- (d) US\$ 30 million for funding a new regional aggregator programme for channelling grants for LLA to non-accredited entities, including the funding of project formulation and project formulation grant requests;
- (e) US\$ 30 million for funding large innovation projects and programmes, including the funding of project formulation and project formulation grant requests;
- (f) US\$ 4 million for funding small innovation grants, learning grants and project scale-up grants.

(Decision B.44/41)

128. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

(f) Post-approval change request from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

129. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board decided to approve the request for a change in target sites in component 2 of the “Nature-based Climate Adaptation Programme for the Urban Areas of Penang Island” project, as requested by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

(Decision B.44/42)

130. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requested that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 17: Report of thirty-fifth meeting of the Ethics and Finance Committee

131. The Chair of the EFC presented the report of the EFC (AFB/EFC.35/9).

132. Members requested a number of clarifications with respect to the work plan and administrative budgets, including with regard to the functions of the proposed new Secretarial staff positions, and received explanations from representatives of the Secretariat.

133. One member said that it would be useful for the Board to receive more details on the budget, in a publicly available document, so that members could track the impact of budget increases on deliverables.

134. The Board took note of the EFC report and adopted decisions on matters considered by the EFC at its thirty-fifth meeting as indicated in the subsections below.

(a) Work plan and administrative budgets for the Board and secretariat, the Technical Evaluation Reference Group and the trustee to the Ethics and Finance Committee for fiscal year 2026

135. Having considered the recommendation of the Ethics and Finance Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decided:

(a) To take note of the budget proposals contained in document AFB/EFC.35/2/Rev.1 and approve, from the resources available in the Adaptation Fund Trust Fund:

(Board and secretariat)

(i) The proposed budget of US\$ 14,490,488 to cover the costs of the operations of the Board and secretariat for fiscal year 2026, from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026;

(ii) The estimated World Bank hosting fees of US\$ 1,560,000 for the secretariat and Board for fiscal year 2026;

(Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund and its secretariat)

(iii) The proposed budget of US\$ 1,997,759 to cover the costs of the operations of the Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund (AF-TERG) and its secretariat for fiscal year 2026, from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026;

(iv) The estimated World Bank hosting fees of US\$ 212,000 for the AF-TERG and its secretariat for fiscal year 2026;

(Trustee)

(v) The increase of \$104,600 in the fiscal year 2025 estimated actuals;

(vi) The proposed budget of \$1,068,100 for the trustee services to be provided to the Adaptation Fund in fiscal year 2026;

(b) To authorize the trustee to transfer the amounts in subparagraphs (a) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) to the respective secretariats, and the amounts in subparagraphs (a) (v) and (vi) to the trustee.

(c) To request the Secretariat to provide more details on planned activities in future workplan and budget documents prepared for the Board's consideration.

(Decision B.44/43)

136. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and request that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

(b) Revisions to the policy for project/programme implementation delays

137. The Adaptation Fund Board decided:

- (a) To approve the Adaptation Fund's Policy on Project Post-Approval Requests for Changes in Projects/Programmes, as contained in document AFB/EFC.35/5, annex A, appendix I, including the related templates contained in annex D;
- (b) To approve the Adaptation Fund's amended Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as contained in document AFB/EFC.35/5, annex A, appendix II, including the related templates contained in annex D;
- (c) To request the Secretariat to implement the action plan for the implementation of the amendments to the policies, in document AFB/EFC.35/5, annex C.

(Decision B.44/44)

138. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requested that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 18: Updates to the strategic results framework of the Adaptation Fund

139. The Board did not take up agenda item 18 owing to a lack of time.

Agenda item 19: Update on the resource mobilization strategy

140. The representative of the Secretariat provided an update on the resource mobilization strategy for the Fund, including two options for setting a resource mobilization target for 2025 (AFB/B.44/12/Rev.2).

141. Some members were in favour of an ambitious 2025 target of at least US\$ 300 million, to match the previous two years, and potentially much higher. They argued that setting a lower target would send a negative message and invite a poor result. Furthermore, the annual target should already start to reflect the ambition of tripling the 2022 outflow of funds by 2030, as called for in decision 1/CMA.6 on the new collective quantified goal for climate finance. Some also pointed to the approved additional staffing for the Secretariat, noting that it would require more funding.

142. Others cautioned that too high a target might well not be achieved in the current global climate and noted that there was a reputational risk for the Fund if it consistently fell shy of its target. They pointed out that the level of funding needs was no indication of the level of funding available and stressed that a good resource management strategy required consultation with the contributors, who were few in number.

143. Asked about the results for the past two years, the representative of the Secretariat reported that the Fund had received US\$ 188.85 million from 14 contributors in 2023 and US\$ 132.65 million from 11 contributors in 2024, in both cases against a target of US\$ 300 million.

144. Members arguing for a higher target said that the difficult fundraising climate should prompt a discussion on how to improve resource mobilization rather than a lowering of the target, and suggested that other sources of financing, such as climate debt swaps, be explored.

145. A member that had urged caution said that, as a compromise, a more ambitious target could be agreed provided all Board members became actively involved in fundraising efforts.

146. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) having considered the information contained in document AFB/B.44/12/Rev.2, decided:

- (a) To approve a new resource mobilization target from a floor of US\$ 300 million for 2025;
- (b) To request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Resource Mobilization Task Force and relevant stakeholders, to prepare a draft resource mobilization strategy for the period 2026–2029, for the Board’s consideration at its forty-fifth meeting;
- (c) To request the Secretariat to draft a related action plan for the Board’s consideration at its forty-sixth meeting.

(Decision B.44/45)

147. Note: At the start of the third day of the meeting, Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others) read a statement declaring that the United States of America would abstain from all decisions taken during the meeting and requested that the abstention be recorded in general and under each agenda item on which a decision was taken.

Agenda item 20: Enhancing civil society engagement

148. The Board did not take up agenda item 20 owing to a lack of time.

Agenda item 21: Addressing climate change adaptation in fragile settings and conflict-affected countries: lessons learned from the Adaptation Fund’s portfolio

149. The Board did not take up agenda item 21 owing to a lack of time.

Agenda item 22: Carbon footprint of the Adaptation Fund

150. The Board did not take up agenda item 22 owing to a lack of time.

Agenda item 23: Other matters

Task forces and working groups

151. The Board did not take up the item proposed for consideration under agenda item 23 owing to a lack of time.

Agenda item 24: Date and venue of next meetings

152. The representative of the Secretariat recalled that at its forty-third meeting the Board decided to hold its forty-fifth meeting from 7 to 10 October 2025 in Bonn, Germany, and proposed the dates

of 26 and 27 March for the forty-sixth meeting of the Board, preceded by the meetings of its committees on the 24 and 25 March 2026.

153. Several members indicated that they would be unable to attend the October meeting on the scheduled dates, and the Board agreed to consider an intersessional decision amending the dates if the Secretariat was able to identify a suitable alternative.

154. Several members also indicated that the proposed dates for the March 2026 meeting were problematic. The Board therefore agreed that the Secretariat should seek alternative dates in consultation with the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Board and, if relevant, prepare an intersessional decision on the matter for the Board's consideration.

Agenda item 25: Implementation of the code of conduct

155. The Vice-Chair drew attention to the Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy on fraud and corruption, which were posted on the Fund website, and asked whether any member had any issue to raise. No issues were raised.

Agenda item 26: Adoption of the report

156. The Board adopted the decisions in the present report at its forty-fourth meeting and agreed to entrust the finalization of the report to the Secretariat for later adoption intersessionally.

Agenda item 27: Closure of the meeting

157. Prior to the close of the meeting, one member, noting that the Board had been unable to address a number of agenda items owing to a lack of time, said that the same situation was likely to arise at the forty-fifth meeting, particularly as the question of arrangements for the transition to serving the Paris Agreement had not yet been resolved. The Board was also late in adopting a policy on safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as in finalizing the strategic result framework; the CMA was poised to take a decision on indicators at the 2025 climate conference and the Adaptation Fund framework would be an important input to the discussion on the matter. He therefore proposed that the Board attempt to address some of the outstanding agenda items during the intersessional period.

158. Another member expressed support for that proposal, but a third said that it was preferable not to take decisions on the outstanding matters during the intersessional period and proposed that Board members instead provide comments on the related documents in order to save time at the meeting. Another member suggested limiting the number of items to be addressed during the intersessional period and proposed the strategic results framework as an appropriate topic.

159. The Vice-Chair said that it was clear that the current arrangement of two two-day Board meetings per year was insufficient and proposed that the Secretariat assess how much meeting time would be needed.

160. The Vice-Chair declared the meeting closed at 7 p.m. on 11 April 2025.

ANNEX I

ATTENDANCE AT THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD

1. The following members and alternates participated in the forty-fourth meeting:

<i>Members</i>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
Ali Daud Mohamed	Kenya	Africa
Washington Zhakata	Zimbabwe	Africa
Abdulaziz Albutti	Saudi Arabia	Asia-Pacific
Bertha I. Argueta Tejeda	Honduras	Latin America and the Caribbean
Kenrick Williams	Belize	Latin America and the Caribbean
Kevin Adams	United States of America	Western Europe and Others
Diann C. Black-Layne	Antigua and Barbuda	Small Island Developing States
Naresh Sharma	Nepal	Least Developed Countries
Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco	Philippines	Non-Annex I Parties
Lucas di Pietro	Argentina	Non-Annex I Parties
<i>Alternates</i>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
John Payai Manyok	South Sudan	Africa
Akram Mirzakhani	Islamic Republic of Iran	Asia-Pacific
Ahmed Waheed	Maldives	Asia-Pacific
Rosa Morales Saravia	Peru	Latin America and the Caribbean
Victor Viñas	Dominican Republic	Latin America and the Caribbean
Frida Jangsten	Sweden	Western Europe and Others
Francisca Molina	Spain	Western Europe and Others
Mani Mate	Cook Islands	Small Island Developing States
Md Mahmud Hossain	Bangladesh	Least Developed Countries
Ahmadou Sebory Touré	Guinea	Non-Annex I Parties

2. The following members and alternates did not attend the forty-fourth meeting:

<i>Members</i>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
Do Ik Kim	Republic of Korea	Asia-Pacific
Antonio Navarra	Italy	Western Europe and Others
<i>Alternates</i>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Constituency</i>
Naima Oumoussa	Morocco	Africa
Choikhand Janchivlamdan	Mongolia	Non-Annex I Parties

ANNEX II

Adopted agenda for the forty-fourth meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Transition of the Chair and Vice-Chair.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Organization of work.
6. Issues arising from COP29, CMA6 and CMP19.
7. Report on the activities of the Chair.
8. Report on the activities of the Secretariat.
9. Dialogue with civil society organizations.
10. Status of transition of the Adaptation Fund to serving the Paris Agreement.
11. Amendments to the Adaptation Fund's standard project legal agreement.
12. Updates to the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy.
13. Update on a policy on protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.
14. Utilization of resource caps within the Adaptation Fund.
15. Report of the Accreditation Panel.
16. Report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Project and Programme Review Committee.
17. Report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Ethics and Finance Committee.
18. Updates to the strategic results framework.
19. Update on the resource mobilization strategy.
20. Enhancing CSO engagement.
21. Presentation of paper: addressing climate change adaptation in fragile settings and conflict affected countries: lessons learned from the Adaptation Fund's portfolio.
22. Carbon footprint of the Fund.
23. Other matters.
24. Date and venue of next meetings.
25. Implementation of the code of conduct.
26. Adoption of the report.
27. Closure of the meeting.

ANNEX III

DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY, 10 APRIL 2025, BONN, GERMANY

1. The outgoing Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board invited the Board to enter into a dialogue with civil society organizations.
2. Julia Grimm, Senior Advisor Climate Finance and Adaptation, Germanwatch, reported on the activities of the Adaptation Fund civil society organisation network (AF-CSO). The AF-CSO had created an online discussion group, open to all civil society observers accredited with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, that would also serve as a platform for active civil society observers attending Board meetings. Some 200 individuals had participated in the online discussion platform. Civil society observers in the AF-CSO included organizations representing Indigenous Peoples, women, environmental groups and children and youth.
3. Presenting the AF-CSO recommendations for the Adaptation Fund, Ms. Grimm said that the targets for the Fund's resource mobilization strategy should be aligned with the new collective quantified goal for climate finance, which entailed tripling annual outflows by 2030, a goal that depended on the provision of adequate resources. The resources that would be available under the Paris Agreement were not sufficiently predictable or reliable, and other sources of reliable contributions were therefore required. A resource mobilization target for 2025 of US\$ 200 million was too low, would send a poor signal and would not be aligned with the new collective quantified goal for climate finance. She urged the Board to set a resource mobilization target that reflected the upward trend in resource mobilization needs.
4. With respect to the resource caps, her view was that most of the caps on project approvals existed because of the limited resources available. The caps distorted demand for Fund support, posed a barrier to tripling the Fund's outflows and undermined the Fund's commitment to providing funding for direct access. The Fund had been a pioneer in developing the direct access mechanism and the only fund to set aside 50 per cent of its resources for direct access. That achievement ought to be maintained, and any revision of the caps should be aimed at reducing barriers to direct access. Consequently, the AF-CSO was strongly opposed to lifting of the cap on the multilateral implementing entities and strongly supported increasing the country cap to US\$ 30 million, the maximum single-country project and programme size to US\$ 15 million and the maximum regional project and programme size to US\$ 20 million. The limit on the number of national implementing entities that each country could accredit ought to be raised to three for each country and possibly more over the longer term, as that would ensure continuation of direct access projects when national implementing entities engaged in the process of reaccreditation were unable to implement projects.
5. The AF-CSO also recommended more stakeholder consultation when updating the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social policy. The AF-CSO had shared its feedback with the secretariat, which was reflected in the revised document that was before the Board. While the grievance mechanism had been made as accessible as possible, intersectionality within social groups needed to be better addressed. Furthermore, the environmental and social policy did not provide specific guidance on the definition of "meaningful consultation". The AF-CSO recommended that the Board provide clear and specific guidance documents on the implementation of an iterative free, prior and informed consent process, by conducting intersectional vulnerability assessments and meaningful consultations. The role of community-based organizations should be recognized in the

conduct of vulnerability assessments, local-level consultations and monitoring of environmental and social safeguards. Improved participation required balanced gender and geographical representation, the selection of alternative observers, a self-organized selection process and declarations of conflict of interest. Geographical representation, particularly from the Global South, could only be ensured through Board financing of travel costs for active civil society observers from developing countries. The guidelines being established should provide for input from active civil society observers to intersessional decision-making, and the Board should invite active civil society observers to participate in its closed sessions subject to the signature of confidentiality agreements.

6. During the ensuing discussion, one member suggested that it would be useful for the Board to hear from civil society observers before discussing each agenda item rather than receiving their input in isolation during the dialogue with civil society. Such an approach would ensure more organic and harmonious engagement with civil society.

7. Other members welcomed the presentation and concurred with the importance of reinforcing the direct access mechanism but said that the presentation had raised a number of issues that needed to be addressed. For instance, increasing the number of national implementing entities had to be balanced against the ability to deliver useful and meaningful project outcomes. More accredited national implementing entities for each country might only mean that resources would be stretched within the country, resulting in less effective projects. As the AF-CSO had pointed out, tripling funding outflows under the new collective quantified goal called for additional resources and the suggestion that inflows be tripled at the same time was welcomed. The presentation had demonstrated the value of active civil society participation, and the experience of the Green Climate Fund could be a guide when developing the appropriate participation modalities for the Adaptation Fund.

8. One member nevertheless noted that, while the presence of civil society at the Board meetings was important, there had been an explosion in the number of observers attending the climate conferences. They now vastly outnumbered the negotiators, to the point that they hindered negotiations. The true value of civil society was in its actions at the local level, which was where resources should be directed rather than on travel to Bonn for attendance at Board meetings.

9. The outgoing Chair thanked the civil society organization representatives for their presentations and recommendations.

ANNEX IV
Outcome of voting on regional projects under agenda item 16

1. The outcome of the vote on the approval of regional project AF00000378 for Cuba and Panama was as follows:

<i>Name (country, constituency)</i>	<i>Member/ alternate</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Akram Mirzakhani (Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia-Pacific)	Alternate	Yes
Francisca Molina (Spain, Western Europe and Others)	Alternate	(absent)
John Payai Manyok (South Sudan, Africa)	Alternate	Yes
Ahmadou S. Touré (Guinea, Non-Annex I Parties)	Alternate	Yes
Naresh Sharma (Nepal, Least Developed Countries)	Member	Yes
Kenrick W. Williams (Belize, Latin America and the Caribbean)	Member	Yes
Washington Zhakata (Zimbabwe, Africa)	Member	Yes
Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others)	Member	No
Abdulaziz Albutti (Saudi Arabia, Asia-Pacific)	Member	Yes
Bertha I. Argueta Tejeda (Honduras, Latin America and the Caribbean)	Member	Yes
Diann C. Black-Layne (Antigua and Barbuda, Small Island Developing States)	Member	Yes
Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco (Philippines, Non-Annex I Parties)	Member	Yes

2. The outcome of the vote on the approval of regional project AF00000416 for Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was as follows:

<i>Name (country, constituency)</i>	<i>Member/ alternate</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Abdulaziz Albutti (Saudi Arabia, Asia-Pacific)	Member	Yes
Bertha I. Argueta Tejeda (Honduras, Latin America and the Caribbean)	Member	Yes
Diann C. Black-Layne (Antigua and Barbuda, Small Island Developing States)	Member	Yes
Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco (Philippines, Non-Annex I Parties)	Member	Yes
Akram Mirzakhani (Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia-Pacific)	Alternate	Yes
Francisca Molina (Spain, Western Europe and Others)	Alternate	(absent)
John Payai Manyok (South Sudan, Africa)	Alternate	Yes
Ahmadou S. Touré (Guinea, Non-Annex I Parties)	Alternate	Yes
Naresh Sharma (Nepal, Least Developed Countries)	Member	Yes
Kenrick W. Williams (Belize, Latin America and the Caribbean)	Member	Yes
Washington Zhakata (Zimbabwe, Africa)	Member	Yes
Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others)	Member	No

3. The outcome of the vote on the approval of regional project AF00000414 for Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zimbabwe was as follows:

<i>Name (country, constituency)</i>	<i>Member/ alternate</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Francisca Molina (Spain, Western Europe and Others)	Alternate	(absent)
John Payai Manyok (South Sudan, Africa)	Alternate	Yes
Ahmadou S. Touré (Guinea, Non-Annex I Parties)	Alternate	Yes
Naresh Sharma (Nepal, Least Developed Countries)	Member	Yes
Kenrick Williams (Belize, Latin America and the Caribbean)	Member	Yes
Washington Zhakata (Zimbabwe, Africa)	Member	Recused
Kevin Adams (United States of America, Western Europe and Others)	Member	No
Abdulaziz Albutti (Saudi Arabia, Asia-Pacific)	Member	Yes
Bertha I. Argueta Tejeda (Honduras, Latin America and the Caribbean)	Member	Yes
Diann C. Black-Layne (Antigua and Barbuda, Small Island Developing States)	Member	Yes
Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco (Philippines, Non-Annex I Parties)	Member	Yes
Akram Mirzakhani (Islamic Republic of Iran, Asia-Pacific)	Alternate	Yes

^a Owing to a conflict of interest