



ADAPTATION FUND

12 June 2026

Adaptation Fund Board

Accreditation Panel Recommendation on the Fast-track Re-accreditation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the Adaptation Fund

Having reviewed the re-accreditation application of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Accreditation Panel recommended that FAO be re-accredited as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) of the Adaptation Fund.

A summary of the review is presented in Annex I below.

Re-accreditation Decision:

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 ***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*** as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (NIE) of the Adaptation Fund for five years, as per paragraph 39 of the operational policies and guidelines for Parties to access resources from the Adaptation Fund. The accreditation expiration date is [12 June 2031].

Decision B.46-47/12

ANNEX I

REPORT OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) FOR FAST TRACK RE-ACCREDITATION AS A MULTILATERAL IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (MIE) OF THE ADAPTATION FUND

BACKGROUND

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was fast-track accredited as a Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) by the Adaptation Fund in June 2020 on the basis of its prior accreditation by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and submitted its application for re-accreditation in 2025. Since accreditation, FAO has received a grant approval in 2022 of USD 14 million to fund a regional project covering the Sudan – Chad border area: “Strengthening Resilience to Climate and Covid-19 shocks through Integrated Water Management on the Sudan – Chad Border area (SCCIWM)”. The project has not yet started pending resolution of questions from FAO regarding the standard legal agreement.

THE APPLICANT

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations, headquartered in Rome, Italy. Its three global goals are centered around the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.

FAO’s Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 responds to the fundamental priority of FAO’s safeguarding food security and ending hunger. The strategy identifies the role of agrifood systems as part of the measure to address climate change and presents FAO’s actions under three pillars focusing on: (a) Global and national levels: strengthening global and regional climate policy and governance; (b) Country level: developing countries’ capacities for climate action; and (c) Local level: scaling up climate action on the ground.

According to FAO’s Project Dashboard, as of November 2025 it had 3,890 projects in 171 recipient countries, working with 185 resource partners. The total value of the portfolio was USD 1.4 billion. This includes multiple GEF and GCF projects.

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT FOR RE-ACCREDITATION

The assessment for first-time re-accreditation was conducted on a fast-track basis, considering its positive 2023 GCF re-accreditation, and covered the criteria that are set out in Board Decisions:

- Decision B.34/3 on the re-accreditation process, based on AFB/B.34/5 (Annex II);

- Decision B.28/38 on fast-track re-accreditation, based on Document AFB/EFC.19/7;
- B.32/36 on anti-money-laundering/countering the financing of terrorism, , based on AFB/EFC.23/4; and
- B.31/26 on the use of third-party assessments as complementary information.

Under a fast track modality, the assessment for re-accreditation is conducted against the Fiduciary Standard related to the legal status; policies and framework to deal with anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and with fraud, financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice; Commitment by the entity to apply the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy; and mechanism to deal with complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects/programs.

Review and assessments by the Panel were based on the completed application form submitted through the AF workflow system by FAO as well as on their responses to follow-up questions. To ensure that the Panel had a comprehensive coverage, this was complemented by a review of other documents obtained from FAO's website. Relevant documents from the websites of the GCF and other related international institutions were also reviewed, as necessary.

SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

Legal Status

NEMC continues to meet the criterion. There has been no change in status since the last re-accreditation, although a Parliamentary procedure which is expected to change substantially the nature of the Council is ongoing. Under its enabling legislation, and evidenced by a demonstrated track record, the applicant has the necessary legal personality, capacity to receive funds directly, enter into contracts or agreements with international organizations and serve as a defendant or plaintiff in a court of law.

Policies and procedures, screening and decision making related to anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) on disbursements, procurement, and handling instances of non-compliance with policies and procedures, and laws

The applicant substantially meets the related criteria. While not having a stand-alone AML-CFT policy, it has AML-CFT requirements in a number of operational policies related to engagement with private sector and operational partners and procurement vendors. It has also implemented processes for counterparty due diligence; automated sanctions screening using a tool shared with a number of other UN agencies; AML-CFT wording in procurement standard terms and conditions; financial oversight of transactions, and enhanced internal review where heightened risk considerations arise. It has an established structure to coordinate AML-CFT questions within the organization and handle AML-CFT violations and undertake necessary investigative activities, and respond to instances of non-compliance. These processes are not fully documented in procedure

statements, however it provided evidence of their operation. FAO confirmed that it is developing a standalone AML-CFT policy that would consolidate and formalize existing practices and clarify institutional roles and responsibilities. FAO expects this to be finalized and adopted by the end of 2026.

Policies and Framework to deal with fraud, financial mismanagement, and other forms of malpractice

The applicant continues to meet the criterion. FAO's zero tolerance on fraud, financial mismanagement and other forms of malpractice continues to be expressed in a number of publicly available documents. Its integrity policies are in line with best practices and standards. Implementation is evidenced in comprehensive public annual reporting by integrity units and FAO's oversight functions.

FAO's independent investigation capacity has been independently assessed as conforming with the Uniform Principles and Guidelines for Investigations in International Organizations, with a mandate to investigate all misconduct. FAO has arrangements in place for funding partners to receive information on investigations relating to projects they are supporting. OIG's public website and the public availability of a detailed OIG annual report provide a high degree of transparency over the investigation function. There is active oversight by the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee and the FAO Finance Committee, to which OIG has reporting lines in addition to the Director General.

Commitment by the entity to apply the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy.

The applicant continues to meet the criterion. FAO has provided a top management statement that its Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM) endorsed by FAO in 2022 and the Policy on Gender Equality (2020-2030) endorsed by FAO in 2020 are aligned with the AF ESP and GP. The statement confirms that FAO will apply its FESM and Policy on Gender Equality in the implementation of all projects and programmes supported by the Adaptation Fund.

Mechanism to deal with complaints on environmental and social harms and gender harms caused by projects/programs

The applicant substantially meets the criterion. FAO's FESM requires grievance redress mechanisms and conflict resolution processes which are comprehensively set out in guidance material. Grievance processes are established at project or country level which are required to confirm annually the operation of these processes. FAO provided examples illustrating the handling of project level grievances but at present there is no complete, centralized statistical overview of grievances received by country offices and projects. FAO's Environmental and Social Management Unit is currently at the concept development stage for implementing a standard intake tool which will support all projects/offices to analyse cases and provide more information in their annual reporting. There is an institutional mechanism to which grievances can be escalated, including

independent review by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). FAO is moving towards adding a further Independent Accountability Mechanism in the structure which will assume advisory and mediation roles, while retaining a compliance review role for the OIG.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results of the Panel's assessment of the application, it is concluded that FAO continues to meet all the standards and criteria required for fast-track re-accreditation, the Panel recommends for the AF Board to re-accredit FAO as a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.