



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.39/4  
6 October 2022

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Thirty-ninth meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 13-14 October 2022

Agenda item 5(a)

## **REPORT OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL**

## WORK OF THE ACCREDITATION PANEL

1. The Accreditation Panel (the Panel) continued its work reviewing existing applications. The Panel held its thirty-eighth meeting in a hybrid manner on 7-8 September 2022 in Washington DC. The Chair of the Accreditation Panel, Mr. Kevin Adams (United States of America, Annex I Parties), presided over the meeting.

2. For the thirty-eighth Panel meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat) received a new accreditation application for one potential National Implementing Entities (NIEs). The Panel continued reviewing 16 re-accreditation applications (nine NIEs, two Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs) and five Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs)) and 13 accreditation applications of eleven potential NIEs, one potential RIE and one potential MIE that were previously reviewed but required additional information for the Panel's review. One NIE candidate's application has been dormant as of December 2021. Therefore, in accordance with Board Decision B.31/26 and upon request from the applicant, the secretariat has removed the application from the pipeline.

3. After considering the recommendations by the Panel, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) had intersessionally approved during the period from 31 March 2022 to 8 September 2022, the re-accreditation of Fundación Natura of Panama as an NIE of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund) (Decision B.38-39/17).

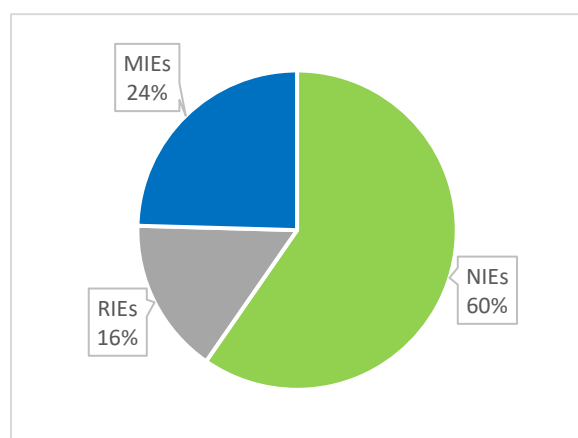
4. As of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Panel, 13 accreditation applications, comprising of eleven potential NIEs, one potential RIE, and one potential MIE were under review by the Panel as per the following list:

1. National Implementing Entity NIE018
2. National Implementing Entity NIE041
3. National Implementing Entity NIE055
4. National Implementing Entity NIE057
5. National Implementing Entity NIE066
6. National Implementing Entity NIE113
7. National Implementing Entity NIE140
8. National Implementing Entity NIE142
9. National Implementing Entity NIE144
10. National Implementing Entity NIE147
11. National Implementing Entity NIE148
12. Regional Implementing Entity RIE016
13. Multilateral Implementing Entity MIE017

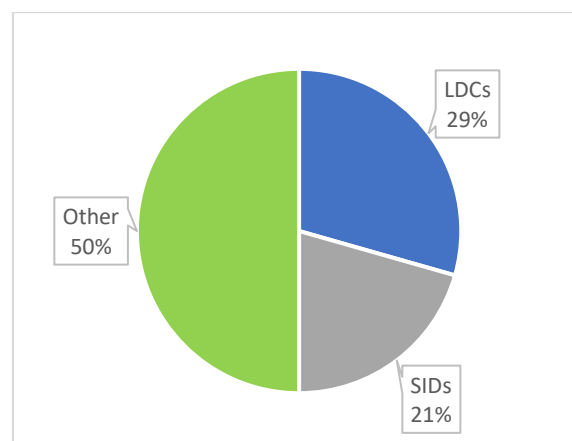
## GENERAL TRENDS

5. As of 8 September 2022, the total number of accredited implementing entities amounted to 57: 34 NIEs, 9 RIEs, and 14 MIEs (Figure 1). Among the 34 NIEs, there were 10 accredited NIEs that were from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and seven accredited NIEs that were from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) (Figure 2). Out of the 57 accredited implementing entities of the Fund, 34 entities (60%) had been re-accredited: 18 NIEs, 5 RIEs and 11 MIEs. With respect to the geographic coverage of the 34 NIEs and 9 RIEs, 16 entities were from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), 15 were from Africa, 11 were from Asia-Pacific and 1 was from Eastern Europe (EE) (Figure 3). As per Decision B.36/42, the Secretariat has, to date, received nominations from the Designated Authorities (DAs) of three countries for a second NIE to pursue accreditation with the Fund.

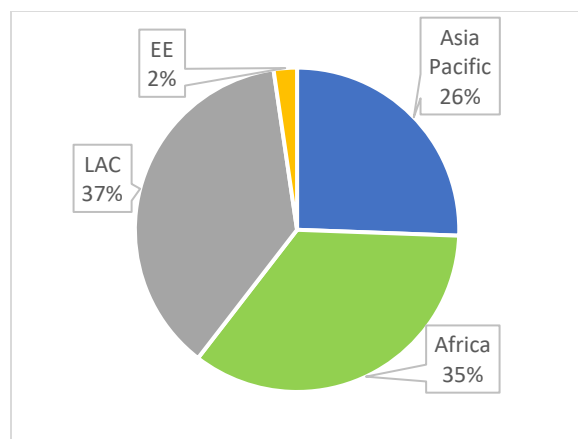
**Figure 1. Accredited Implementing Entities by type**



**Figure 2. LDCs and SIDS among accredited NIEs**



**Figure 3. Accredited NIEs and RIEs by region**



## ACCREDITATION PIPELINE

6. The following infographic (figure 4) provides an update on the current accreditation pipeline which does not include re-accreditation applications.

Figure 4. The accreditation pipeline of the Adaptation Fund as of 8 September 2022



**STATUS OF APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW**

APPLICANT IE	SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION (MM-YYYY)	REFERENCE FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION	CURRENT STATUS
<b>EXISTING APPLICATIONS</b>			
NIE018	Nov-2018	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	<p>This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. The documents uploaded by the applicant to date, do not sufficiently address the pending list of issues raised by the Panel. After the AP37 meeting and following the Panel's request, the secretariat facilitated a conversation between the focal point and the Panel on 22 February 2022, during which the Panel provided updates on the application and offered clarification on the list of pending issues. In March and April 2022, the secretariat also reached out to the DA of the country on the status of the application and reminded the DA about the possibility of nominating a second entity to pursue accreditation with the Fund. To date, the DA has neither acknowledged receipt of the secretariat's email nor expressed interest in nominating a second NIE applicant. In March 2022, the secretariat organized a call between the Panel and two third-party references on their experiences with regards to the applicant's institutional capacities. This was followed by two additional calls on 11 and 24 May 2022, among the Panel, the secretariat, and representatives from the applicant organization to get a sense of the progress since the 22 February call and to help the applicant better understand what the Panel is seeking. Though the applicant uploaded some documents to the workflow on 2 June, the Panel is of the view that significant information is still lacking.</p>
NIE041	Oct-2020	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	<p>After the AP37 meeting, the new focal point for the application reached out to the secretariat seeking guidance on how to navigate the workflow platform and sought clarifications on the Panel's March 2021 list of follow up questions. In reaction to the secretariat's request for updates, the applicant provided its responses and uploaded several documents to the workflow in March and April 2022. Following the review of the latest documents, the Panel further produced a list of follow up questions which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 6 May 2022. At the time of the AP38 meeting, no further updates have been received from the applicant. The Panel is of the view that the current political situation in the applicant's country is possibly impacting the ability of the applicant to make significant progress on the pending issues.</p>

NIE055	Mar-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. In response to the secretariat's request for updates on 27 January 2022, the applicant shared its responses to the Panel's September 2021 list of follow up questions and uploaded some documents to the workflow in February and March 2022. The last exchange with the applicant was on 3 March 2022, when the secretariat sought clarification on whether the applicant intends to provide additional documents in the workflow. The Panel indicated during the AP38 meeting that further information is pending from the applicant.
NIE057	Apr-2014	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	After the AP37 meeting, the secretariat facilitated a call between representatives from the applicant organization and the Panel on 23 February 2022 to provide clarity on the gaps in the application. The Panel reshared the pending list of questions, which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 28 February. Upon request from the applicant on 23 May, the secretariat organized a call with representatives from the applicant organization on 1 June to help them better understand the requested information in the list of follow up questions. The applicant has since uploaded several documents to the workflow. The last exchange with the applicant was on 10 August 2022, when the secretariat relayed to the focal person, the Panel's request for the applicant to upload the response file to the list of pending issues in the workflow. The applicant has since acknowledged receipt of the request and indicated they will get back to the secretariat soon.
NIE066	Apr-2015	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. At the AP37 meeting, the Panel indicated that the documents the applicant had uploaded on 5 January 2022 were insufficient to permit a further review of the application. Subsequently, the secretariat facilitated a call between the applicant and the Panel on 1 March 2022 to provide clarification on the outstanding issues. As the applicant had shared no further information since the call, the secretariat reached out to the applicant for updates on the application on 4 August 2022. In response, the focal point explained that they anticipate a meeting with a country department and will thereafter revert to the secretariat with updates. At the time of the AP38 meeting, no further information has been received from the applicant.

NIE113	Jan-2016	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	This is a long-standing application which is being reviewed under the streamlined process. The applicant has made no significant progress since the AP37 meeting. The last set of documents were uploaded to the workflow in January and March 2022. To get the application moving, the secretariat, on 3 March 2022, sought clarification from the applicant on whether they anticipate providing additional documents in response to the Panel's list of follow up questions. At the time of this report, the focal point has neither responded to the secretariat nor provided new response documents in the workflow. The secretariat has alerted the Panel about the progress of the application.
NIE140	Sept-2019	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Despite several requests for updates, the application has not progressed substantially since the AP37 meeting. On 7 March 2022, the secretariat reminded the focal point about the Panel's list of pending issue. In response, the applicant acknowledged that it had indeed taken them a long time to get back to the secretariat and explained that there were some internal processes that needed to be completed before they could upload additional information to the workflow. The last exchange with the focal point was 4 August 2022, when the secretariat sent a request for updates on the application. At the time of the AP38 meeting, the focal point has neither responded to the secretariat nor uploaded additional documents to the workflow.
NIE142	May-2019	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. After the AP37 meeting, the Panel continued its review of the documents the applicant had uploaded to the workflow in October and December 2021. In May and July 2022, the secretariat alerted the Panel about the applicant's requests for status update on the application. Subsequently, the Panel updated its assessment report and produced a fifth list of follow up list of questions, which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 17 August 2022. The applicant acknowledged receipt of the questions on 20 August and indicated they will get back to the secretariat soon.
NIE144	Sept-2020	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	The last set of documents received from the applicant was on 2 February 2022. After the AP37 meeting, the Panel resumed its review of the application and updated its assessment report based on the latest documents from the applicant. Upon the request of the Panel, the secretariat, on 11 March, requested the applicant to upload the Top-Level Management Statement (TLMS) to abide by the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP), which the applicant shared on 14 March. Subsequently, the Panel produced a list of follow up questions which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 24 March 2022. At the time of the AP38 meeting, no further updates have been received from the applicant.

NIE147	Aug-2020	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	<p>This application is being reviewed under the streamlined process. During AP38 meeting, the Panel underscored that the applicant organization is a good example of entities for which the streamlined approach is designed. In response to the Panel's January 2022 list of follow up questions and to the secretariat's request for updates, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow in March 2022. The Panel resumed its review of the application and produced a follow up list of questions which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 1 June 2022. In response, the applicant uploaded additional documents in the workflow on 16 June, 28 July, and 16 August. Upon request from the Panel, the secretariat also facilitated conversations in July and August 2022 between the Panel and donor references provided by the applicant to gather more information on the applicant's institutional capacities. At the time of the AP38 meeting, the Panel's further review of the application is ongoing.</p>
NIE148	Dec-2020	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	<p>The latest list of follow up questions from the Panel is dated March 2021. Prior to the AP37 meeting, the applicant had requested the secretariat to organize a call between the Panel and representatives from the organization. In January and February 2022, the Secretariat facilitated three conversations, during which the Panel responded to several questions from the applicant and provided a step-by-step clarification on what is required to address the gaps in the application. In preparation for the AP38 meeting, the secretariat reached out to the applicant on 4 August, requesting updates on the list of pending issues. In response, the focal point indicated they will consult internally and revert to the secretariat with updates.</p>
RIE016	Mar-2017	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	<p>The key questions pending further responses from the applicant include issues related to anti-money-laundering/countering the financing of the terrorism (AML/CFT), audit and procurement. The last documents uploaded to the workflow was in October, November, and December 2021. After the AP37 meeting, the secretariat alerted the Panel about the applicant's request for updates in March and April 2022. In response, the Panel explained that it was reviewing the documents and preparing a list of follow up questions. The latest request from the applicant was on 11 May 2022 and 4 July 2022, when the focal point further requested status updates from the secretariat. At the AP38 meeting, the Panel indicated it will work through the uploaded documents to identify possible gaps and subsequently produce a follow up list of questions for transmission to the applicant.</p>



MIE 017	Jul-2020	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	After the AP37 meeting, the Panel continued its review of the documents the applicant had uploaded to the workflow in September and October 2021. The Panel later produced a second list of follow up questions which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 16 March 2022. The secretariat on 12 May reached out to the focal person to request updates on the list of pending issues and subsequently facilitated a call between the applicant and the Panel on 19 May, during which the Panel responded to queries from the applicant and offered clarification on the gaps in the application. In preparation for the AP38 meeting, the secretariat reached out to the focal point for updates on 18 August 2022. In response, the applicant uploaded several documents to the workflow on 6 September 2022. The secretariat has since alerted the Panel about the applicant's progress.
<b>RE- ACCREDITATION</b>			
NIE004	May-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 13 April 2021. This application is the second time the applicant is seeking re-accreditation. The secretariat transmitted the last set of follow up questions to the applicant on 23 September 2021. Upon the Panel's request, the Fund's project team also shared information on the status of the project being implemented by the applicant on 13 January 2022, followed by some additional information on 20 January 2022. On 6 April 2022, the secretariat reached out to the focal point to request updates on their progress with the Panel's September 2021 list of questions but got no response from the focal point. In preparation for the AP38 meeting, the secretariat, on 18 August, sent a reminder to the focal point on the status of the application. The last exchange with the applicant was on 20 August, when the focal point indicated they will get back to the secretariat soon.

NIE016	May-2017	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 13 December 2016. After the AP37 meeting, the secretariat, on 22 February 2022, notified the applicant of the decision of the Board, approving the applicant's request to extend the grace period for achieving re-accreditation to 23 January 2023. Despite several efforts by the Panel and the secretariat to ensure the advancement of this application, there has not been substantial and substantive evidence of progress from the applicant since the AP37 meeting. The latest list of questions produced by the Panel was in December 2021, which highlighted the accreditation standards not yet met by the applicant. The secretariat also indicated to the applicant about the availability and willingness of the Panel to hold as many conference calls with the applicant as needed to help move the application forward. The last set of documents received from the applicant in the workflow was in late November 2021. In preparation for the AP38 meeting, the secretariat sent a request for updates on the list of pending issues on 22 August 2022. The focal point responded to the secretariat on 24 August, indicating that there are no further updates to provide on the application.
NIE029	Jun-2022	NA	Accreditation expires on 26 December 2022. This application is the second time the applicant is seeking re-accreditation from the Fund and was submitted on 21 March 2022. After the initial screening, it was sent back to the applicant with comments. The application was resubmitted on 15 June 2022 and then after further screening, the secretariat shared it with the Panel for initial review.
NIE034	May-2019	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 12 August 2019. After the AP37 meeting, the applicant responded to the Panel's July 2021 list of outstanding issues by uploading some documents to the workflow. On 25 February 2022, the Fund's project team also updated the Panel on the project implementation report it had received from the applicant. The latest requests for status updates from the applicant was in March and June 2022. At the time of the AP38 meeting, the secretariat has not received further information from the Panel on the status of the application.
NIE049	Jun-2022	NA	The accreditation expires on 12 October 2022. The application was submitted on 07 February 2022. After screening, it was sent back to the applicant with comment. The application was resubmitted on 28 June 2022, and then after further screening, the secretariat shared it with the Panel for initial review.

NIE061	Oct-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	The accreditation expired on 25 February 2021. After the AP37 meeting, the Panel continued its review of the application and produced a set of follow up questions which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 28 June 2022. In preparation for the AP38 meeting, the secretariat, on 4 August 2022, requested updates from the focal point on the status of the application. In response, the focal point on 2 September 2022 uploaded some documents to the workflow. The secretariat has since alerted the Panel about the applicant's progress.
NIE069	Mar-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 17 March 2021. After the AP37 meeting, the applicant responded to the Panel's January 2022 list of follow up questions by uploading several documents to the workflow in March, May, and June 2022. Thereafter, the secretariat facilitated a conversation between the applicant and the Panel on 21 June 2022 to provide clarification on some additional information the Panel needed to be uploaded in the workflow. Following the call, the focal point shared further documents in July 2022, which permitted the Panel to continue its review of the application. The Panel produced a list of follow up questions, which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 9 August 2022. At the time of preparing this document, the secretariat has received no further updates from the applicant.
NIE075	Sept-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 13 July 2021. After the AP37 meeting, the secretariat prepared and shared with the Panel, the legal memo for the application on 9 February 2022. This permitted the Panel to begin initial review of the application. The last exchange with the applicant was on 6 September when the focal point sought updates on the status of the application. At the time of the AP38 meeting, the secretariat has received no further updates from the Panel.
NIE080	Jan-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 3 November 2021. After the Panel had completed its review of the applicant's response to the August 2021 list of follow up questions, members shared and exchanged on the draft assessment report. On 4 March 2022, the secretariat alerted the Panel on a request it had received from the applicant seeking updates on the status of the application. The last exchange with the applicant was on 6 September 2022, when the focal point again sought updates on the application. At the time of the AP38 meeting, the secretariat has received no further information from the Panel.

RIE001	Nov-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 19 June 2021. After the AP37 meeting, the secretariat shared the legal memo with the Panel on 9 February 2022, permitting the latter to continue its review of the application. On 11 May 2022, the focal point sought updates on the status of the application, which the secretariat relayed to the Panel. Upon request from the Panel, the secretariat also facilitated a call on 25 May 2022 with the Fund's project team to discuss the performance of the applicant on funded projects. The Panel subsequently produced a list of follow up questions which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 8 August 2022. The applicant responded by uploading several documents to the workflow on 28 and 30 August 2022. Further review of the application by the Panel is ongoing at the time of the AP38 meeting.
RIE010	Nov-2021	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 25 February 2021. After the AP38 meeting, the Panel continued its review of the documents the applicant had uploaded to the workflow in response to the November 2021 list of questions. On 9 March 2022, the secretariat received an official status request from the leadership of the organization, which was subsequently relayed to the Panel. The Panel updated its review report and produced a list of follow up questions which the secretariat transmitted to the applicant on 2 May 2022. On 13 June 2022, the secretariat received some documents from the applicant in response to the Panel's latest list of questions and accordingly alerted the Panel about the progress the applicant had made. At the time of preparing this document, the secretariat has received no further updates from the Panel.
MIE002	Mar-2020	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 30 March 2020. There has not been any substantial progress with this application since the AP37 meeting. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the top-level management statement, which requires applicants to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. After the thirty-eighth meeting of the Board held on 7-8 April 2022, the secretariat, on 12 May 2022, updated the applicant on the Board's latest decision on the TLMS. The last exchange with the focal point was on 3 August 2022, when the secretariat requested input on the draft TLMS template. The secretariat received inputs from the focal point on 25 August.
MIE003	Apr-2020	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 30 July 2020. Since the AP37 meeting, there has not been any substantial progress with this application. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. After the thirty-eighth meeting of the Board held on 7-8 April 2022, the secretariat, on 12 May 2022, updated the applicant on the Board's latest decision on the TLMS. The last exchange with the focal point was on 3 August 2022, when the secretariat requested input on the draft TLMS template. The secretariat received inputs from the focal point on 23 August.

MIE007	Sept-2019	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 30 March 2020. There has not been any substantial progress with this application since the AP37 meeting. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. After the thirty-eighth meeting of the Board held on 7-8 April 2022, the secretariat, on 12 May 2022, updated the applicant on the Board's latest decision on the TLMS. The last exchange with the focal point was on 3 August 2022, when the secretariat requested input on the draft TLMS template. On 16 August 2022, the applicant shared its comments on the draft TLMS.
MIE011	Jun-2019	AFB/B.38/.4/Rev.1	Accreditation expired on 20 March 2019. There has not been any substantial progress with this application since the AP37 meeting. The application has stalled due to the pending submission of the TLMS to abide by the Fund's ESP and GP. After the thirty-eighth meeting of the Board held on 7-8 April 2022, the secretariat, on 12 May 2022, updated the applicant on the Board's latest decision on the TLMS. The last exchange with the focal point was on 3 August 2022, when the secretariat requested input on the draft TLMS template. On 18 August 2022, the applicant shared its comments on the draft TLMS.
MIE012	Apr-2022	NA	Accreditation expired on 31 August 2022. The application was submitted on 21 December 2021. The secretariat conducted initial screening of the application and requested further information from the applicant. The application was resubmitted on 22 April 2022 and then after further screening by the secretariat, it was progressed for initial review on 11 May 2022. At the time of the AP38 meeting, the Panel's review of the application is ongoing.

## OTHER MATTERS

7. **Discussion on the TLMS task force and deliverables:** The secretariat updated the Panel about the progress it had made on Board Decision B.38/4 relating to the status of the Top-Level Management Statement to be submitted by implementing entities for accreditation and re-accreditation. As per Decision B.38/4, a meeting with members of the TLMS task force was held on 6 September 2022, during which the status of the issue was discussed and more guidance on the next steps was sought. During the AP38 meeting, the secretariat mentioned that further engagements with the task force will continue and that the task force and the secretariat will report to the Board at the thirty-ninth Board meeting on the work described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Decision B.38/4.

8. **AF Accreditation Panel working modalities:** The purpose for this discussion was for the secretariat to remind the Panel, especially new Panel members, about the working modalities of the Accreditation Panel such as assignments for the review of (re) accreditation applications, the basis for task distribution, and expected developments between the initial review stage of the accreditation process and Board decision. The secretariat also updated the Panel about the efficiency improvements it had made to the online accreditation platform (workflow) since the

beginning of the year. Among others, these included the deployment of the updated online application forms – for regular (re) accreditation and fast-track (re) accreditation – as per Decision B.32/36<sup>1</sup>. During the meeting, it was clarified that (re) accreditation application accounts created before March 2022 will continue to use the old forms. Accounts that were created in or after March 2022 will have the updated application forms. On the areas for future improvements, the secretariat emphasized the importance of further engagements with the Panel, through intersessional meetings, including to explore options to further streamline the assessment reports for (re) accreditation applications.

9. **Lessons learned from the Fund’s Streamlined Accreditation Process:** The secretariat presented to the Panel for their information, the Fund’s study on the lessons learned from the Fund’s Streamlined Accreditation Process published on the Fund’s [website](#), summarizing the study objectives, methodology, key lessons, and recommendations. The study aims primarily to increase understanding among prospective smaller applicant entities of the benefits of the streamlined process, including what has worked well and areas that need improvement. The Panel found the study useful and reflected on the importance of the study as a good reference for not only prospective applicants but also the Panel’s ongoing and future reviews of accreditation applications under the streamlined modality.

10. **AF-TERG Thematic Evaluation on Accreditation and related Readiness Processes:** The Technical Evaluation Reference Group of the Adaptation Fund (AF-TERG) informed the Panel that it will be conducting a thematic evaluation on accreditation and related readiness processes. The objectives of the exercise would be to: (i) determine if the design of the (re) accreditation and related readiness processes is currently optimized to meet the Fund’s objectives; (ii) assess the Fund’s capacity to effectively manage the expected influx of (re) accreditation applications, and (iii) provide recommendations on how to strengthen (re)accreditation and related readiness processes. AF-TERG indicated that the evaluation exercise will comprise of three phases – inception, consultation, and synthesis and report. In the first phase, AF-TERG will conduct a desk study to look at accreditation and readiness processes at the secretariat as well as in similar funds. The second phase will include consultations with relevant stakeholders such as the secretariat, the Board, members of the Accreditation Panel, accredited entities, and other individuals and/or organizations working on accreditation and readiness. In the final phase, AF-TERG will solicit feedback from relevant stakeholders and develop a report on key findings for Board consideration and approval. The preliminary report is tentatively expected to be shared with the Fund’s Ethics and Finance Committee and the Board in March 2023.

11. The thirty-ninth and fortieth meetings of the Accreditation Panel will be held in Washington DC on 1-2 February 2023 and 6-7 September 2023 respectively. As per the Terms of Reference for the Fund’s Accreditation Panel, two new Accreditation Panel Expert members were recruited to replace two outgoing Panel Experts, whose terms will be ending soon. The Panel expressed

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<sup>1</sup> Adaptation Fund Board Decision B.32/36 on accreditation standards related to AML/CFT. Available at: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/report-thirty-second-meeting-adaptation-fund-board/>

their profound appreciation for the services rendered by the outgoing panel experts, underscored the importance of their expert knowledge and experiences to the (re) accreditation process, and encouraged them to document the lessons learned during their tenure on the Panel.

## **MATTER RELATED TO ACCREDITATION BUT NOT DISCUSSED AT THE AP MEETING**

12. **Background:** During the recent Annual NIE Seminar held in Washington DC on September 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, some NIEs brought to the attention of the secretariat the difficulties NIEs are incurring in their reaccreditation process because of the delays due to COVID-19. The same NIEs have suggested an extension of the deadline for achieving re-accreditation.

13. **The COVID-19 Pandemic and extension of deadline for achieving re-accreditation:** At the second session of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board, the Board, having considered the recommendation of the Ethics and Finance Committee (EFC) and the *“Report on the Adaptation Fund’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and adaptive measures to mitigate its impact on the fund’s portfolio”* ([document AFB/EFC.26.b/4](#)), decided ([Decision B.35.b/16](#)) to temporarily approve a blanket no-cost extension of the project completion date up to 12 months for eligible projects/programmes which have been delayed due to COVID-19. This Board decision did not include measures related to re-accreditation. Under the AF [Reaccreditation Process](#), if an entity does not achieve re-accreditation within three years and six months from its accreditation expiry date, the Panel will make a recommendation to the Board to change the status of the entity to “Not Accredited (see paragraph 7(2)). The secretariat had been informed by applicants that similar delays related to COVID-19 occur in the re-accreditation process and that it had received questions related to whether a similar measure could be made related to re-accreditation timeline. Accordingly, the secretariat shared this information and suggested to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel to bring to the attention of and for consideration by the Board at its thirty-ninth meeting, the recommendation to temporarily approve a blanket extension of the deadline for achieving re-accreditation to 6 months for all implementing entities in ‘in reaccreditation process’ status between 1 March 2020 and 1 July 2022 whose reaccreditation process had experienced delays due to COVID-19. The secretariat received support on this recommendation from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel, and thereby submitting the secretariat’s recommendation on this matter to the Board for consideration. The blanket extension of 6 months, upon approval by the Board, would apply to deadline for achieving re-accreditation within three years from the entity’s accreditation expiry date. If the entity does not achieve re-accreditation within three years and six months from its accreditation expiry date, the Panel will make a recommendation to the Board to change the status of the entity to “Not Accredited” according to sub paragraph 7(2) of the AF [Reaccreditation Process](#). The exception to this would still apply to any entity with ongoing AF-funded projects, to enable them to finalize those projects before the above process to move them to “Not Accredited” would be started.

### **Secretariat Recommendation**

14. Having considered document AFB/B.39/4 and decision B.35.b/16, the Board may want to consider and decide to:

- a) Take note of the report of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Accreditation Panel contained in document AFB/B.39/4 which includes the report on the secretariat's receipt of requests from applicant Implementing Entities (IEs) concerning the delays in the re-accreditation process due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- b) Temporarily approve a blanket extension of the deadline for achieving re-accreditation up to 6 months for all implementing entities in 'in reaccreditation process' status between 1 March 2020 and 1 July 2022, whose re-accreditation process has been delayed due to COVID-19; and
- c) Request the secretariat to convey this decision to all applicant IEs in re-accreditation process.