



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.42-43/6
20 May 2024

Adaptation Fund Board

**JOINING THE NDC PARTNERSHIP
AS AN INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER**

Background

1. Through decisions 13/CMA.1 and 1/CMP.14, Parties to the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol decided that the Adaptation Fund (Fund) shall serve the Paris Agreement under the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) with respect to all Paris Agreement matters, effective 1 January 2019.
2. Parties to the Paris Agreement have encouraged the Adaptation Fund Board (Board) in several CMA decisions to consider supporting developing countries in enhancing the implementation of their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and adaptation components of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in line with the Fund's existing mandate (see *Table 1* below).

Table 1: Overview of relevant CMA decisions related to AF support for implementation of NAPs and NDCs

CMA Decision	Mandate and decision language
Decision 12/CMA.5, paragraph 14	<i>Encourages</i> the Adaptation Fund Board to consider, in line with its mandate and decision 1/CMP.3, providing support for country-driven adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change with a view to assisting them in enhancing implementation of their national adaptation plans and adaptation components of nationally determined contributions and other voluntary adaptation planning processes and <i>requests</i> the Board to include information in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its nineteenth session (November 2024) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its sixth session (November 2024) on the rates of use of the increased cap on allocation per country;
Decision 18/CMA.4, paragraph 12	<i>Requests</i> the Adaptation Fund Board, in line with its existing mandate and decisions 1/CMP.3 and 1/CMP.4, to consider and provide an update on its activities and scope of support in relation to assisting developing country Parties to the Paris Agreement, including information on: (a) Actions in relation to needs and priorities identified in adaptation planning processes, including national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions, adaptation communications and other voluntary adaptation reports, taking into consideration gaps and challenges faced by countries;
Decision 18/CMA.4, paragraph 13	Also <i>requests</i> the Adaptation Fund Board to include in its annual report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fifth session (November–December 2023) an update on its progress in assisting developing country Parties in meeting their adaptation commitments under the Paris Agreement;
Decision 18/CMA.4, paragraph 16	<i>Encourages</i> the Adaptation Fund to support developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States,

	in implementing their national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, including those submitted as adaptation components of nationally determined contributions;
Decision 13/CMA.3, paragraph 9	<i>Requests</i> the Adaptation Fund Board to provide an update on its progress in assisting developing country Parties in meeting their adaptation commitments under the Paris Agreement;
Decision 13/CMA.3, paragraph 11	<i>Requests</i> the Adaptation Fund Board, in line with its existing mandate and decisions 1/CMP.3 and 1/CMP.4, to consider and provide an update on its activities and scope of support in relation to assisting developing country Parties to the Paris Agreement, including information on: (a) Actions in relation to needs and priorities identified in adaptation planning processes, including national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions, adaptation communications and other voluntary adaptation reports, taking into consideration gaps and challenges faced by countries;

3. At its thirty-ninth meeting, the Board adopted the second Medium-Term Strategy of the Fund for the period from 2023 to 2027 (MTS-2), as contained in Document AFB/B.39/.5/Rev.2 (Decision B.39/61).¹ The MTS 2023-2027 includes several crosscutting strategic themes, including enhancing access to climate finance and strengthening complementarity, coherence and synergies with other adaptation funders and actors. These themes are reflected in the MTS 2023-2027 mission statement:

“The Adaptation Fund serves the Paris Agreement by accelerating effective adaptation action and efficient access to finance, including through direct access, to respond to the urgent needs and priorities of developing countries. The Fund does so by supporting country-driven adaptation projects and programmes, innovation, and learning with concrete results at the local level that can be scaled up. All of the Fund’s activities are designed to promote locally based or locally led action, enhance access to climate finance and long-term institutional and technical capacities, empower the most vulnerable people and communities as agents of change, advance gender equality, encourage and enable the scaling and replication of results, and strengthen complementarity, coherence and synergies with other adaptation funders and actors.”

4. At its fortieth meeting, the Board adopted the Implementation Plan (IP) for the second MTS 2023–2027, as contained in Document AFB/B.40/.5/Rev.1 (Decision B.40/72).² The MTS IP includes the following activity:

1.6 Enhance partnerships and synergies with other climate finance providers to maximize readiness and capacity-building support to developing countries, expanding focus to capacity building for the implementation of adaptation priorities identified in NDCs, NAPs and other national adaptation strategies and plans to increase access to all AF funding windows

¹ Available at : <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/medium-term-strategy-2023-2027/>.

² Available at : <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/implementation-plan-for-medium-term-strategy-of-the-fund-for-the-period-2023-2027/>.

5. The NDC Partnership brings together more than 200 members, including more than 115 countries, developed and developing, and more than 80 institutions to create and deliver on ambitious climate action that help achieve the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support that is needed to translate them into actionable policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance, and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development.³

6. The NDC Partnership welcomes all international institutions, multilateral banks and bilateral development agencies that are committed to ambitious NDC implementation to become members. Membership is voluntary and flexible, and provides members with the opportunity to achieve greater synergies through collaboration, shared learning, support coordination, and the alignment of national and subnational initiatives.

7. Institutional members are expected to contribute technical expertise and implementation capacity, share information about support initiatives and country programs, and demonstrate early engagement in pipeline and project development. The Partnership welcomes multilateral institutions that:

- Exist as an independent entity or are managed as an independent financing facility;
- Have a board or governing body that is comprised solely of governments;
- Governments hold ongoing responsibility for its funding and/or capitalization; and
- Are chartered or mandated to deliver services to governments in the areas of development or climate and seeks to advance a program of work in alignment with the NDC Partnership.

8. The NDC Partnership Support Unit, based in Washington, D.C., has contacted the secretariat and invited the Adaptation Fund to join the NDC Partnership as an institutional member by submitting a Letter of Interest to the NDC Partnership and its Co-Chairs:

- The Hon Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Rwanda
- The Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP, Minister of State in the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero of the United Kingdom

9. The letter should express support for the NDC Partnership's Guiding Principles (see Annex 1) and a desire to become a member. The letter should be signed by a senior representative who is empowered to commit the institution to membership.⁴

10. The letter will be reviewed by the Support Unit and approved by the NDC Partnership's Co-Chairs within two to three weeks.

³ See website: <https://ndcpartnership.org/>.

⁴ See NDC Partnership Membership Guidelines document: <https://ndcpartnership.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/ndc-partnership-member-guidelines.pdf>.

Secretariat's review of the invitation

11. Following the review of the NDC Partnership's Guiding Principles, the secretariat finds that they are well aligned with the Adaptation Fund's mandate and mission, we well as with the crosscutting strategic themes of the Fund's second MTS, in particular the themes of enhancing access to climate finance and strengthening complementarity, coherence and synergies with other adaptation funders and actors.

12. Joining the Partnership as an institutional member is an opportunity for the Board to respond to relevant guidance by the CMA and to take concrete action towards the planned MTS IP activity to enhance partnerships and synergies with other climate finance providers to maximize support to developing countries for the implementation of adaptation priorities identified in NDCs, NAPs and other national adaptation strategies and plans to increase access to all AF funding windows.

13. Institutional membership does not create any expectation or obligation for the Adaptation Fund to provide financial support to the NDC Partnership or its members. Institutional members are expected to contribute technical expertise and implementation capacity, share information about support initiatives and country programs, and demonstrate early engagement in pipeline and project development. The flexibility of the NDC Partnership's platform allows the Fund can decide on a case-by-case basis which requests from countries in can respond to in line with its mandate.

14. The secretariat finds that it is an opportunity for the Fund to increase its visibility and impact in the area of NDC implementation. In line with Fund's OPG and project proposal review criteria, all project/programme proposals are screened for its consistency with NAPs, NDCs and other relevant national adaptation strategies. Therefore, all AF-funded projects are aligned with and contribute to the implementation of these strategies.

15. Membership to the NDC Partnership would add value by allowing the Fund to support countries with knowledge, information, and technical expertise on how countries can use available AF financing under different windows towards enhanced implementation of their NDCs and NAPs. It would also allow the Fund to engage with other adaptation funders and actors in the area of NDC implementation, and to exchange knowledge and learning.

16. Joining the NDC Partnership would also align the Fund with the other multilateral climate funds. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is already institutional member, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) collaborates with the Partnership on joint publications and initiatives such as the Climate Investment Framework, launched at COP28, without being a formal member.⁵ While it is possible to join relevant initiatives without being a formal member, the secretariat recommends membership to take advantage of the above-mentioned benefits of visibility and impact.

⁵ A complete list of members is available at: <https://ndcpartnership.org/about/members>.

Recommendation

17. Having considered the information contained in document AFB/B.42-B.43/6, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) may want to consider and decide:

- (a) That the Adaptation Fund (the Fund) joins the NDC Partnership as an institutional member in line with the NDC Partnership's Guiding Principles, as contained in Annex 1 of document AFB/B.42-B.43/6; and
- (b) Authorize the Chair of the Board, supported by the secretariat, to submit a Letter of Interest to the NDC Partnership and its Co-Chairs to express the Board's support for the NDC Partnership's Guiding Principles and interest for the Fund to become a member.

Annex

1. NDC Partnership's Guiding Principles

ANNEX 1: NDC PARTNERSHIP'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. SUPPORT COUNTRY-DRIVEN PROCESSES

Ensure that support provided at global and national levels aligns with and responds to developing countries' priorities and requirements.

2. PROMOTE LONG-TERM CLIMATE ACTION

Encourage national actions that align with the goals of the Paris Agreement and assist in developing mid-century long-term strategies.

3. ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS

Improve the efficiency of new and existing initiatives, minimizing duplication and maximizing synergies with other partnerships and networks.

4. BUILD IN-COUNTRY CAPACITY

Provide opportunities for enhancing and strengthening institutional and endogenous capacity in developing countries.

5. IMPROVE COORDINATION

Enhance coordination of NDC-related activities at global and country level, including in collaboration with existing coordination mechanisms.

6. ENHANCE INTEGRATION INTO NATIONAL PLANNING

Support the integration of NDC implementation into national planning and decision-making processes.

7. ADVANCE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Advance the adaptation and mitigation objectives of developing countries and the synergies between these objectives.

8. ALIGN DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Ensure climate change and sustainable development agendas support each other, including in finance agendas.

9. SUPPORT MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Promote engagement from multiple stakeholders across ministries, institutions and non-state actors.

10. PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY

Promote gender equality and considerations in all aspects of the Partnership's work and activities.