

JOINT COP29 SIDE EVENT ADAPTATION FUND & AF CSO NETWORK

Opportunities for Observer Engagement in the Adaptation Fund

- An Exchange with CSOs and IPOs -

12 November 2024 (15:15-16:30 GMT), COP29 Venue, Baku
[The Climate Funds Pavilion](#) (Blue Zone, Zone E, Pavilion D10)

BACKGROUND

The [Adaptation Fund](#) (AF)'s mandate is to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in the most vulnerable communities that are country driven and based on the needs, views and priorities of developing countries. The Fund's mission is to serve the Paris Agreement by accelerating effective adaptation action and efficient access to finance. Since its inception in 2009, the Fund has applied innovative financing modalities to enhance the delivery and effectiveness of climate finance by pioneering direct access and more recently by promoting locally led adaptation.

The [AF CSO Network](#) (formerly "AF NGO Network" which initiated its work in 2010) is an independent coalition of CSOs engaging in discussions and debates on the AF's processes and policies and closely following the planning and implementation of the Fund's projects with a view to supporting those most vulnerable to climate change and to ensuring their benefit from the Fund.

The AF's policies and practices on [Civil Society Engagement](#) involve civil society actors at all levels of the AF's decision-making and operations, including:

- (i) the participation of civil society representatives as observers in Board meetings;
- (ii) the contribution of civil society actors to the development of Fund-level policies, strategies, and resource mobilization; and
- (iii) the inclusive participation of civil society and other stakeholders as part of stakeholder consultations in the AF project lifecycle from planning and implementation to evaluation and learning.

In independent evaluations, the Fund has been recognized to have set standards and best practices in the areas of transparency and inclusiveness. Under its second [Medium-Term Strategy \(2023 – 2027\)](#), the AF Board has been exploring options for further enhancing civil society participation and engagement in the work of the Fund based on recommendations from the AF CSO Network.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide space for an exchange between the Adaptation Fund and UNFCCC accredited civil society observers and IPOs to raise awareness about the existing opportunities for observer engagement in the work of the Adaptation Fund
- Present updates from the collaboration of the AF Board and AF CSO Network to further enhance the observer engagement in the AF Board

AGENDA

- 15:15** **Opening remarks**
Mr. Lucas Di Pietro - Chair, Adaptation Fund Board
- 15:20** **Opportunities for CSO & IPO Engagement in the Adaptation Fund**
AFB Secretariat
- 15:30** **Experiences and Updates from the AF CSO Network**
Ms. Julia Grimm - Senior Advisor Climate Finance & Adaptation, Germanwatch
- 15:40** **Opportunities for CSO & IPO Engagement at AF Project-Level**
Ms. Saliha Dobardzic - Programming and Innovation Team Lead, Adaptation Fund
- 15:50** **Q&A – Exchange with Civil Society**
Moderation: AFB Secretariat & AF CSO Network
- What can civil society and IPOs do to make better use of existing spaces for observer engagement in the AF?
 - What are current challenges for CSO & IPO engagement in the Adaptation Fund?
 - How can CSOs and IPOs further strengthen their engagement in AF projects and processes?
- 16:25** **Closing remarks**
Mr. Lucas Di Pietro - Chair, Adaptation Fund Board