



ADAPTATION FUND
Readiness Programme
for Climate Finance

Webinar: Proposed Amendments to the Provisions of the OPGs Related to the Designated Authorities of The Fund

5 March 2025

Summary Report



Introduction

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund or alternatively, the AF) hosted a webinar on the Proposed Amendments to the Provisions of the OPGs Related to the Designated Authorities of The Fund. Under Decision B.43/29 of the 43rd meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board, the Board decided to adopt and initiate the change of the definition of “Designated Authority” from an officer to an entity and to phase out the current system of nominated government officer as Designated Authority at the end of the 12-month period and, effective immediately, to no longer accept new nominations of officers as Designated Authorities. In this context, the webinar will aim to help the AF focal points to navigate this change and get further insight and clarification into the transition period to enable countries to nominate entities as their Designated Authorities, with a primary contact point who is authorized to sign official letters to the Fund, as well as up to two secondary contact points to facilitate communication and coordination with the Fund. This engagement is crucial in ensuring that the Fund’s communication with the DAs would further expand AF’s support to enhance the institutional capacity of DAs.

All presentations made by the speakers are available on the AF website: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/news-seminars/>

Welcome Remarks and key updates

The session began with welcome remarks from Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Manager at the secretariat, who highlighted the importance of this webinar due to the recent board decisions and the implications it will have on all implementing entities. He started with remarks on this year being the hottest recorded year again and the importance of the planet to adapt. Adaptation finance is inadequate as per the latest UN gap report and the adaptation funds need to be higher than currently anticipated. He emphasized how parties decided at the COP in Baku to raise finance from 100 to 300 billion/year by 2035. Climate finance like the Adaptation Fund was also given mandate to triple outflows by 2030. Mikko highlighted that the Fund has a clear task ahead of us to increase amount and effectiveness and support. There are challenges to mobilize these resources due to geopolitical and microeconomic situations and we need to do best that aligns with countries. This leads to the segway of revising the country focal point as part of an attempt to support countries more effectively. He mentioned that the Board decided to revise the system of country focal point to an entity-based system as per the Decision B.43/29 of the 43rd meeting of the Adaptation Fund Board. The new system allows for the Designated Authority (DA) to be an organization, and the DA will be crucial contact and entry point for countries to access resources from the Fund. The main two roles of the DA are to endorse any project that AF is funding, both at project proposal stage but also throughout the project implementation, the DA should support the project and to make sure the project is in line with country priorities. The change with the DA is aimed at fostering continuity, teamwork and institutional knowledge, that will enhance access to AF resources. Ove the next year, the Fund’s aim is to invite developing country government to nominate an entity to be the DA. The key idea is to avoid losing institutional knowledge and the DA of each country is pivotal to Funds country led approach to project and programmes where those projects and programmes need to be aligned to the country’s NAPs and target the most vulnerable communities.

The Q&A session from the webinar is highlighted below:

Questions	Answers
What is an RIE?	Regional Implementing Entity
Is the primary focal point allowed to appoint 2 contact points?	Yes
Is it possible to access the Adaptation Fund directly without accrediting a National Implementing Entity (NIE)? If so, could you provide information about the direct access process?	Yes, countries can access funding from the Adaptation Fund through NIEs, RIEs and MIEs. So if the country does not have the NIE yet, it can submit funding proposal through RIE or MIE.
1- What is the role of DA in the implementation of projects? 2- What will be the big difference between the Focal Point and now the DA?	Regarding funding proposal, the DA is endorsing the funding proposal (to be implemented in the country) on behalf of the country
Can the DA nominate an NIE from the same agency?	Yes, it's possible for the DA to nominate an NIE from the same agency. Regarding DA nominating the NIE in the same agency, the DA can sign the endorsement letter, while the nomination of the NIE is the country-coordinated process.
Who should sign the letter of designation of the entity that will be the designated authority?	There is always a need to have a higher authority who nominates the primary contact. This doesn't change with respect to previous policies and procedures. The AF would like to ensure that the DA process is country coordinated. DA primary focal point may send a letter nominating the same agency as DA of the country but this needs to be in country coordinated process.
On the note of continuity, can the secondary contact take over the signing of the letter in a case of transition of the primary focal person?	Please note that only the primary contact point having the authority to sign letters related to the Fund on behalf of the DA (entity). the other secondary contact point(s) serving as technical/operational contact points for day-to-day communication and coordination
I strongly hope that the role of the designated entity will be strengthened.	

<p>At the Green Climate Fund level, the authorities validate project progress reports and ensure project monitoring and evaluation. At the level of the Adaptation Fund it is just giving letters of no objection and ensuring that the project aligns with the priorities. We have no control over the implementation of the projects</p>	
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Closing Remarks

The webinar closed with concluding remarks from Farayi Madziwa, who thanked everyone for their participation and their engagement in the webinar.