

Climate Finance Advisory Service

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Daily Briefing

24th Adaptation Fund Board Meeting

(10 October 2014, Bonn)

This is the Climate Finance Advisory Service (CFAS) Daily Briefing. Produced at key meetings and negotiations by the CFAS expert team, the Daily Briefings try to provide a concise, informative update on key discussions that have taken place at each day of the meeting and give an overview of substantive points of action or progress. Please note that this is an independent summary by CFAS and not officially mandated by the SCF.

Summary from 10 October 2014

On Friday, 10th October 2014, the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) resumed its 24th meeting in Bonn, Germany. After a successful first day, the AFB moved on to address the remaining items on its agenda.

The morning session started with the report of the fundraising task force. At its 23rd meeting, the Board decided to extend the mandate of the task force, setting a new fundraising target for 2014 and 2015 of USD 80 million annually. Since then, the task force has been exploring ways to help the fund meet this target. In addition, since achieving its last fundraising target for 2013 in Warsaw, the AF has been consistently working with different stakeholders and forging partnerships with different institutions, as well as potential donors, to raise further resources for the fund. In Lima, the AFB plans a systematic cultivation of the public and private sector, with the view of tapping into diverse sources for funding. Board members also debated about the communication strategy of its fundraising strategy, as a critical issue to reach out to countries, donors and non-governmental institutions as much as possible, to maximize the likelihood that all parties are not only aware of the new fundraising target, but also consider pledging much needed money into the AF at the COP. In addition, the AFB decided to rename the "fundraising task force" to "resource mobilization task force", in order to convey the idea of continuous activity.

This debate was followed by a discussion on the communication strategy of the Board in the broader sense. Before the discussion among AFB members, the secretariat reported on its efforts related to the improvement of the Adaptation Fund website, dissemination of information through social media, and events organized between the Board meetings. In the discussion, Board members requested the AF secretariat to further work on making the website more user-friendly, as well as fostering and strengthening contact with key press actors, which cover the most social media.

After the coffee break, AFB members deliberated on the issue related to regional projects and programmes. The AFB has been considering this issue over several meetings. Given the strategic aspect for the AFB to fund regional projects in the field of adaptation, an ad hoc working group had been previously established, to consider, also in the inter sessional period, the issues of regional criteria, country caps and the definition of regional projects and programmes. This is due to the fact

that experiences on the success of, and additional challenges related to regional adaptation projects and programmes continue to be scarce, owing primarily to the fact that adaptation is still a new field, and only few regional adaptation activities have been completed and evaluated. Hence, a series of documents with suggestions have been elaborated and discussed in the AFB meeting. Following the discussion, the Board decided to initiate steps to launch a pilot programme on regional projects, not exceeding USD 30 million. This will be outside of the consideration of the 50 per cent cap on MIEs and the individual country cap. For this programme, RIEs and MIEs partnering with NIEs will be eligible.

Furthermore, the Board also discussed the issue related to the second review of the fund, which will be completed by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its 41st session, with the view of recommending a draft decision to the CMP10 in Lima. The second review will deal in particular with the issue of diversifying the funding streams of the AF, and will likely be one of the contentious issues related to the AF at COP20. The AF is at its critical juncture, affected by the collapse in the carbon market and the emerging Green Climate Finance, which has been drawing the attention of the whole climate community.

Furthermore, the Board decided on a tentative date for its next meeting, which is scheduled for 7-10 April 2015. The AFB also elected a new Chair for its Board and its two committees (PPRC and EFC) and the Accreditation Panel. The new chairs of the AFB are Mr Philip S. Weech (Non-Annex I, Bahamas) and Mr Hans-Olav Ibrekk (Annex II, Norway).

Last but not least, the AFB had an exchange discussion with the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Adaptation Committee (AC). The representative of the UNCCD presented their proposal for the development of common indicators or a framework for monitoring and evaluating land-based adaptation policies and practices. The two co-chairs of the AC were online via skype and presented an overview of their work in the Committee. They also updated the AFB on their work on reviewing the technical guidelines for National Adaptation Plans that were developed by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. They also flagged that a collaborative effort through a task with the different bodies and operating entities of the financial mechanism is up and running. With regard to regional trends of vulnerability, it was mentioned that there was an uneven distribution among different sectors and across different regions. This is an area, where the AF could contribute.

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