



GEF CSO Network Statement

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)

47th GEF Council Meeting, Washington DC, USA

From the beginning, the GEF CSO Network has supported the LDCF which was established to address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Special Climate Change Funds (SCCF) under the Climate Convention. We are mindful of the task mandated to the LDCF in being used as a springboard for financing the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Programs of Actions (NAPAs) since NAPAs use existing information to identify a country's priorities for adaptation actions.

The GEF CSO Network is aware that consistent with the findings of the NAPAs, the LDCF focuses on reducing the vulnerability of those sectors and resources that are central to development and livelihoods. These sectors include: water; agriculture and food security; health; disaster risk management and prevention; infrastructure; and fragile ecosystems. We are happy to note that NAPA implementation projects under LDCF are designed entirely in accordance with country priorities and executed by national stakeholders, and involving active participation of vulnerable communities.

The Network acknowledges the significant progress made since the 16th meeting in Cancun, Mexico, where the COP adopted a decision providing further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund. Further to this decision, the SBI requested the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to discuss with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies: ways to further improve access to funds from the LDCF, the disbursement of funds, the design of implementation strategies for NAPAs using a programmatic approach, ways to best communicate co-

financing requirements under the LDCF, and remaining challenges faced by least developed country Parties in working with GEF agencies.

Although cumulative pledges to the LDCF has notably increased by \$35.34 million, reaching \$915.16 million on August 31, 2014, the demand for LDCF resources considerably exceeds the funds available for new approvals.

We are concerned that, as at September 26, 2014, there were no resources available for new funding approvals; whereas resources amounting to \$48.10 million were sought for six full-sized projects that had been technically cleared by the GEF Secretariat; and another \$73.78 million was sought towards nine project proposals that had been endorsed by countries' operational focal points and formally submitted.

We are pleased to note that as at September 26, 2014, 51 least developed countries (LDC) had accessed \$12.20 million in support of the preparation of their national adaptation programmes of action (NAPA). It is encouraging to note that of the 50 countries that had completed their NAPAs, 48 had accessed a total of \$863.79 million for 158 projects to address their urgent and immediate adaptation needs.

The LDCF/SCCF Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.17/03, Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund, welcomed the report and took note with appreciation of the progress made under the LDCF and the SCCF.

The approved projects will, no doubt enhance the resilience of road infrastructure and community assets in highly vulnerable landscapes of the world. Indeed, these efforts will promote the adoption of sustainable management practices in these countries.