



**Seventh LoCAL Board Meeting  
28 May 2020**

# **Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)**

## **Board Decision**



28-May-2020

## Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)

### Board Decision

1. *Acknowledging that the Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of engagement by all levels of government in increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change;*
2. *Considering that climate change adaptation endeavours largely fall under the core mandate and responsibilities of local governments;*
3. *Considering further that climate change adaptation requires effective coordination between various stakeholders with different mandates and interests, and local governments' mandate, role and convening power to coordinate, co-finance and interact with relevant stakeholders including the private sector;*
4. *Considering the Least Developed Countries Group at UNFCCC have set the LDC 2050 Vision for all LDCs to deliver climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050 to ensure societies, economies and ecosystems thrive, adopted by the LDC Group and officially launched by the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019;*
5. *Considering that the objective of LoCAL is to become a standard and internationally recognized country-based mechanism for Developing Countries in particular the Least Developed Countries, that supports direct access to the Green Climate Fund and other climate finance entities and mechanisms (international and national climate finance sources) for the purpose to transfer and effectively deploy resources to local governments through national institutions and systems for building verifiable climate change adaptation and resilience, aligned with the Paris Agreement goals (nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans) and climate related sustainable development goals.*

### The LoCAL Board:

6. Welcomes Mr. Sonam Phuntsho Wangdi, Secretary of the National Environment Commission of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, Chair for 2019 and 2020 of the LDC negotiating group to the UNFCCC as co-chair of the LoCAL Board, jointly with H.E. Mr. Perks Master Ligoya, global coordinator of the Bureau for the Least Developed Country Group, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations and Mr David Jackson, Director for Local Development Finance, with the United Nations Capital Development Fund.
7. Welcomes the member countries and candidate member countries of the LoCAL mechanism, namely: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Palestine, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tuvalu , Tanzania and Uganda.
8. Welcomes Ms. Carla Montesi, Director of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development - Planet and Prosperity (DEVCO.C) at the European Commission and Ms. Maria van

Berlekom, Head of the Unit for Global Cooperation on Environment at the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to the LoCAL Board meeting.

9. Welcomes the presence of Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju, Director of the Country Programming Division at the Green Climate Fund Secretariat (GCF), and Mr. Paul V. Desanker, Manager of National Adaptation Plans and Policy, Adaptation Programme, Ms. Debapriya Roy, Team Lead and Mr. Hyunwoo Kim, Associate Programme Officer, Climate Finance Sub-programme, from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) and invites them at the next Board meeting.
10. Welcomes the participation of observers including Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Cities Alliance, Enabel, ICLEI – Local governments for Sustainability, LuxDevelopment, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Belgian Diplomatic Office in Maputo, Mozambique, the Catalanian Cooperation, the Covenant of Mayors for Latin America, the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat, the Government of Austria, the Government of Italy, the Government of Switzerland, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Korean Environment Institute (KEI), the NAP Global Network, the NDC Partnership, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Resources Institute (WRI), United Nations – Environment and United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) / Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) to the Board and invites them at the next Board meeting.
11. Expresses its gratitude to the European Union (EU) and the Government of Sweden for their continued and sustained support to the LoCAL mechanism and welcomes new contributions from the African Development Bank through the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF), the NDC Partnership and the Governments of Korea and Catalonia.
12. Endorses the 2019 progress report and the 2020 annual workplan and budget presented by the UNCDF LoCAL Facility Manager.
13. Congratulates the Government of Cambodia for the accreditation of the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat (NCDD-S) to the Green Climate Fund;
14. Congratulates the Government of Benin for the accreditation of the National Fund for Environment and Climate (Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat – FNEC) to the GCF and the official submission of the concept note to the GCF for the scale up of LoCAL to 30 communes;
15. Congratulates the Governments of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger for the official submission with the West African Development Bank (BOAD) of a project proposal to the GCF for the scale up of LoCAL to 100 communes across the four countries;
16. Endorses and encourages the LoCAL Facility to continue supporting project pipeline preparation for direct access to the Green Climate Fund, with additional countries, and encourages the LoCAL Facility to continue working with national and regional direct access entities from LoCAL member countries in close coordination with the NDAs and the Green Climate Fund secretariat, including

the readiness support for the accreditation of candidate direct access entities in Bhutan, Mali, Niger and Tanzania.

17. Encourages the LoCAL Facility to disseminate the LoCAL guidelines “Financing local adaptation to climate change: Experiences with performance-based climate resilience grants” endorsed by the LDC Expert Group to the UNFCCC as Supplementary materials to the NAP technical guidelines, in support of the vertical integration of NDC and NAP processes and to upgrade its training offer in partnership with the United Nations Training and Research Institute to support adherence to the LoCAL standard by training and in the future certifying key government and UNCDF staff and LoCAL experts.
18. Encourages the LoCAL facility, in line with the mid-term review to further explore, pilot and test the expansion of LoCAL to urban, rural and coastal areas, and to attract a wide range of climate finance, domestic and international, public and private, to accelerate local climate responses in LoCAL participating countries, such as through the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM), the EcoBond, and the International Municipal Investment Fund.
19. Endorses and encourages the deployment of the “Assessing Climate Change Adaptation Framework” (ACCAF) developed with the World Resource Institute and commits to deploy the ACCAF as part of the LoCAL mechanism in LoCAL countries.
20. Encourages the LoCAL Facility to continue the engage with the UNFCCC in accordance with the Paris Agreements call to non-Party stakeholder and local governments to enhance resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.
21. Strongly encourages all LoCAL countries to address subnational level climate responses and consider the inclusion of the LoCAL mechanism in their National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement and Green Climate Fund country programmes, while promoting strong synergies with other Rio Conventions (UN Convention on Biodiversity and UN Convention to Combat Desertification) and Agenda 2030.
22. Notes with satisfaction the progress made on Country Climate Risk Assessments for subnational adaptation (CRA-SNA) and on Local Climate Information Systems for Adaptation (LISA) aligned with the IPCC-AR5 framework in Niger and Sao Tome and Principe with the NDC-Partnership, in Ghana with the Korea Environment Institute and in The Gambia with Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), among key partners, and the related experience sharing with the World Meteorological Institute and GCF and encourages the LoCAL Facility to develop a methodology that can be part of the LoCAL standard, in line with country experiences.
23. Reaffirms the Board commitment to further engage with the Parties of the UNFCCC, the Board and the Secretariat of the GCF and other Rio Conventions with the objective of having the LoCAL mechanism recognized in the delivery of the Paris Agreement and towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals, with a view to strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.
24. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in this area by the LoCAL Facility with the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee, LDC Expert Group, NAP technical working group, and Standing Committee on Finance of the UNFCCC, as well as the dialogue with the African Development Bank on the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM).

25. Understands that the Performance-based Climate Resilience Grants (PBCRG) Systems including the Annual Performance Assessments, described in the LoCAL guidelines, the ACCAF, and the forthcoming Climate Risk Assessment for subnational adaptation (CRA-SNA) methodology constitute key elements of the LoCAL standard, presented to GCF and UNFCCC and notes the progress made in initiating the process for developing LoCAL into an international standard, which may potentially lead to a LoCAL ISO certification.
26. Recalls that the LDC Ministerial Group and LDC Chair officially welcomed and launched the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) at COP24 to contribute to delivering the LDC 2050 Vision and takes note that six of the seven LDC front runners of LIFE-AR have already benefitted from support to design and deploy LoCAL (Bhutan, The Gambia, Tanzania), to design LoCAL (Burkina Faso and Uganda) or are undertaking the scoping and design of the mechanism (Malawi).
27. Recognises that, through LoCAL, LDCs already own a government led internationally recognized country-based mechanism for channelling transparently and effectively climate finance for local action and requests partners to make use of LoCAL to fast-track the implementation of the LDC 2050 Vision and LIFE-AR by scaling up existing LoCAL country-based mechanisms and activating the newly designed mechanisms, across the seven front runners as well as the other LDCs engaged in LoCAL.
28. Decides to establish a group of LoCAL Ambassadors, comprised of Ministers from LoCAL member countries, who commit to take a lead role in supporting the implementation of the Board Decision and advocating for the LoCAL mechanism, with support from the LoCAL Facility and Luc Gnacadja, Special Representative to the LoCAL Board. The Board welcomes the offer from His Excellency Mr. Lamin B. Dibba, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources of The Gambia, H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Niger, H.E. Ms. Ivete Maibase, Minister of Land and Environment of Mozambique, and H.E. Mr. José Didier Tonato, Minister of Living Environment and Sustainable Development of Benin, to become the first LoCAL Ambassadors
29. Requests the LoCAL Board Co-chairs, the LoCAL Ambassadors and the LoCAL Facility management to accelerate local climate responses in LoCAL member countries, through inter alia, the establishment of modalities to secure long term and stable financing for the LoCAL facility to be codesigned with potential funding partners.
30. Requests the LoCAL Facility to explore with GCF options to fast track concept notes and project proposals that would meet the LoCAL standard and to facilitate direct access to GCF across the 3 LoCAL phases, including modalities of formal recognition of the LoCAL Mechanism and Facility hosted by UNCDF. These options include a Memorandum of Understanding with GCF on collaboration with LoCAL.
31. Requests all LoCAL countries to adhere to the LoCAL standard (as described in paragraph 25) as they deploy (phase II) or scale up (phase III) LoCAL and recommends, that, in phase III, the LoCAL Facility plays the role of a facility for technical assistance, quality assurance and support to government resource mobilization through direct access to climate finance institutions.
32. Calls for a high-level dialogue between the LoCAL Board Co-chairs, LoCAL long-term partners, GCF, UNFCCC, the European Union and the Government of Sweden, LoCAL Ambassadors and

other interested parties to identify opportunities to achieve the objectives of LoCAL as expressed in this Board decision.

Signed by:

*David Jackson*

David Jackson

Director, Local Development Finance,  
UNCDF  
Co-Chair of LoCAL Board