

Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)

Board Decision

1. *Recalling the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular under Articles 7 and 11, 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 and recognizing the needs and limited resources available to local governments;*
3. *Considering the incremental cost of adaptation and climate resilience, additional risks and stretched capacity of LDCs and other vulnerable countries as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, LoCAL offers an innovative approach for responding to climate change impacts and mobilizing resources for adaptation;*
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 Government of Bhutan at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019;*
5. *Considering that LoCAL is a standard and internationally recognized country-based mechanism for the Least Developed Countries and other Vulnerable Countries in particular Small Island Developing States and African nations that is uniquely positioned to assess local needs, build local government capacity, reach grassroot communities to promote green and resilient communities and local economies;*
6. *Considering that LoCAL serves to address the gap LDC local governments have in accessing additional financial resources for adaptation and resilience-building due to risks, fiduciary standards and limitation on access to multilateral financial institutions as well as bilateral government donors;*
7. *Considering that LoCAL supports enhanced direct access to funds under the UNFCCC financial mechanism, in particular Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, through the transfer and effective deployment of resources to local governments through national institutions and systems for locally-led adaptation and climate resilience;*
8. *Considering the links between adaptation and sustainable development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and national visions, LoCAL aims to support vulnerable countries to enhance their adaptive capacity and contribute to the achievement of the Goals;*
9. *Considering the LDC Expert Group to the UNFCCC have endorsed the LoCAL guidelines “Financing local adaptation to climate change: Experiences with performance-based climate resilience*

grants” as Supplementary materials to the NAP technical guidelines, in support of the vertical integration of NDC and NAP processes.

10. Considering the preparation in the road up to Doha provides a unique opportunity for the LDCs to formally recognize their collective efforts and endorse LoCAL as the LDC mechanism to accelerate access to international climate finance for NAP and NDC aligned locally led adaptation, deployed in a standard and contextualized manner, in a systemic and scalable way, for the benefits of the most vulnerable populations across LDCs, SIDS and African countries;

The LoCAL Board:

11. Expresses appreciation to Mr. Sonam Phuntsho Wangdi, Honourable Secretary of the National Environment Commission at the Royal Government of Bhutan, Current Chair of LDC Group of the UNFCCC as co-chair of the LoCAL Board and 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, for their roles as co-chairs of the LoCAL Board, together with Mr David Jackson, Director for Local Transformative Finance, with the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

12. Welcomes the member countries of the LoCAL mechanism, namely: Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Jamaica, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tuvalu, Tanzania, Uganda and Vanuatu.

13. Welcomes Mrs Elena Visnar Malinovska, Head of the Unit for Adaptation to Climate Change, cities, cohesion policy, international cooperation at the Directorate-General for Climate Action, Mr. Stefano Signore, Head of the Unit for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships at the European Commission, Ms. Maria van Berlekom, Head of the Unit for Global Cooperation on Environment at the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and their colleagues to the LoCAL Board meeting.

14. Welcomes the presence of Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju, Director of the Country Programming Division and colleagues at the Green Climate Fund Secretariat (GCF) and Mr. Youssef Nassef, Climate Change Adaptation Director and colleagues from United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC) and invites them at the next Board meeting.

15. 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 Catalonian Cooperation, the Covenant of Mayors for Latin America, the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat, the Government of Austria, the Government of Denmark, 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 Co-operation 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), the

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Qatar Fund for Development, the Adaptation Fund, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction(UNDRR), the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), the PEFA Secretariat, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Government of the United Kingdom, through its Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the West Africa Development Bank (BOAD) to the Board and invites them at the next Board meeting.

16. Expresses its gratitude to the European Union (EU) and the Government of Sweden for their continued and sustained support to the LoCAL mechanism, as well as the Governments of Andorra, Liechtenstein, Italy, Belgium, Korea and Catalonia and the NDC Partnership and welcomes new contributions from Switzerland and the African Development Bank through the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF).

17. Endorses the 2020 progress report and the 2021 annual workplan and budget presented by the LoCAL Facility Manager.

18. Congratulates the Government of Bhutan for the accreditation of the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environment Conservation (BTFEC) to the Green Climate Fund, which follows the accreditation to the Green Climate Fund of national implementing entities in Benin and Cambodia with LoCAL support and encourages countries to work closely with the LoCAL facility to continue supporting the accreditation efforts, including for achieving higher project size accreditation, of candidate direct access entities to the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund, in Bhutan, Cambodia, Mali, Niger and Tanzania as well as in other countries as interest is expressed, making use of readiness support as needed.

19. Congratulates the Governments of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger for the progress made with the Green Climate Fund on advancing the project proposal with the West African Development Bank (BOAD) for the scale up of LoCAL to 100 communes across the four countries; to the Governments of Benin and Cambodia for the progress made with the Green Climate Fund on advancing their respective concept notes for the scale up of LoCAL to 30 communes and 15 districts; to the Governments of Bhutan and Uganda for the preparation of concept notes for the scale up of LoCAL to 60 gewogs and to 25 districts, respectively; the Governments of Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu for the preparation of the concept note with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for the scale up of LoCAL to 37 local governments across the four countries; and the Government of Jamaica for the preparation of a GCF Readiness Proposal to activate the LoCAL mechanism in the country, aligned with and in support of implementation of the NAP process and the NDCs.

20. Takes note with appreciation that the LoCAL facility is supporting 13 countries for direct access to the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund for a cumulative amount of USD 195 million 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 and Adaptation Fund secretariats, and supporting project preparation for direct access, with additional countries.

21. Recommends that UNCDF applies for accreditation to GCF, for the purpose of supporting LDCs, SIDS and African nations, which do not have direct access to GCF yet, to pilot and deploy PBCRGs and related instruments under LoCAL, ensuring experience building of national implementing entities that are candidate to accreditation to GCF, accompanying their accreditation efforts as well as subsequent direct access.

22. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the LoCAL facility to pilot a model for blended finance for small scale public and private adaptation investments in The Gambia and encourages it to further explore and work with partners to attract a wide range of climate finance, domestic and international, public and private, to accelerate local climate responses, across rural and urban areas in LoCAL participating countries, such as through the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM), the LoCAL west Africa scale up with BOAD and the “EcoBond”.
23. 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 initiated in Uganda with support from the European Union and encourages the LoCAL facility to develop a methodology, informed by country experiences, international climate funds requirements and the forthcoming IPCC report.
24. Congratulates experts from LoCAL countries and the LoCAL facility for the progress made in the development of LoCAL into an ISO standard and related efforts to support adherence to the LoCAL standard throughout the phased approach, *inter alia*, through the upgrade of the training offer in partnership with the United Nations Training and Research Institute.
25. Requests all LoCAL countries to adhere to the LoCAL standard 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 international climate funds, multilateral development banks, bilateral funders and domestic resources.
26. Reaffirms the call to LoCAL countries to explicitly address the subnational level dimension and consider the inclusion of the LoCAL mechanism in their National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and Green Climate Fund country programmes, while promoting strong synergies with other Rio Conventions (Biodiversity Convention UN Convention to Combat Desertification) and Agenda 2030 and invites them to share their experiences with the LoCAL facility.
27. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the LoCAL facility to engage as non-Party stakeholder with the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee, LDC Expert Group, NAP technical working group, Nairobi work programme and Standing Committee on Finance of the UNFCCC, as well as the dialogue with the African Development Bank on the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM).
28. Recognises the relevance of LoCAL to the recommendations of the Report “Adapt Now: a Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience” from the Global Commission on Adaptation and invites the Global Center on Adaptation to take stock of the LoCAL guidelines and LoCAL experience on locally led adaptation and assess the opportunity to make use of LoCAL to accelerate action on implementing the bold agenda and recommendations from the report.
29. Encourages UNFCCC focal points of LoCAL countries as Party Stakeholders to take into consideration their experience to inform subsequent communication on NAPs, and NDCs and share with the UNFCCC information, good practices, experiences, and lessons learned, including on planning and implementation of local adaptation action;

30. Also encourages, the LoCAL facility to continue to engage with the UNFCCC in accordance with the Paris Agreement call to non-Party stakeholder and local governments to enhance resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

31. Invites the UNFCCC to explore the role of the LoCAL facility in supporting the NAP process and its implementation, through the forthcoming NAP Partnership, in close dialogue with the LoCAL facility management.

32. 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) or design LoCAL (Burkina Faso, Malawi and Uganda).

33. Reaffirms 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 all partners to make use of LoCAL to fast-track the implementation of the LDC 2050 Vision by scaling up existing LoCAL country-based mechanisms and activating the newly designed mechanisms, across the LIFE-AR front runners as well as the other LDCs engaged in LoCAL.

34. Welcomes Her Excellency Mrs. Nancy G. Tembo, Minister for Forestry and Natural Resources of Malawi and H.E. Dr Say Samal, Minister for Environment of Cambodia to the group of LoCAL Ambassadors, comprised of Ministers of Environment 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 to become part of the international climate finance architecture, with support from the LoCAL facility, and includes H.E. Mr. Lamin B. Dibba, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources of The Gambia, H.E. Mrs. Garama Saratou Rabiou Inoussa, Minister of Environment and of Combating Desertification of Niger, H.E. Ms. Ivete Maibaze, Minister of Land and Environment of Mozambique, and H.E. Mr. José Didier Tonato, Minister of Living Environment and Sustainable Development of Benin.

35. Reiterates the call already expressed by the LoCAL Ambassadors to the Chair of the LDC Group to the UNFCCC to recognise LoCAL as long-term initiative of the LDC Group that is aligned with and contributes to the LDC 2050 Vision.

36. Encourages the LoCAL Ambassadors to utilise their considerable influence and reach to share the experience and good practices of their LoCAL country initiatives and serve as champions to mobilize support for LoCAL as a mechanism to further scale up locally led adaptation action to enhance climate resilience.

37. Invites the LoCAL Ambassadors and other LoCAL Environmental Ministers to call for a high-level meeting with the United Kingdom COP26 Presidency to share their experience and vision for LoCAL as a standard and country based mechanism for the Least Developed Countries and other Vulnerable Countries in particular Small Island Developing States and African nations for locally led adaptation and ensure a continuous engagement with the Presidency on the road to COP26, at the pre-COP and at COP26.

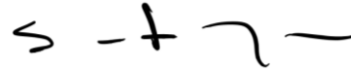
38. Encourages LoCAL Ambassadors and other LoCAL Ministers to advocate for the further recognition of LoCAL as a standard and country-based mechanism that can accelerate implementation of NDC and NAPs through locally led adaptation and further consider how LoCAL may become part of the international climate finance architecture, as they engage towards COP26, *inter alia*, during forthcoming

Ministerial meetings organised by the United Kingdom COP26 Presidency, by the UNFCCC and by the United Nations, as well as at COP26.

39. Calls on the LoCAL Ambassadors to engage ahead of COP26 in a high-level dialogue with the UNFCCC, the GCF, the European Union, the Government of Sweden, the Government of Denmark and all LoCAL funders and other interested parties to agree on modalities to secure long term and stable financing for the LoCAL facility to sustain its function as facility serving the LDCs, SIDS and African countries for delivering on NDC and NAP aligned locally-led adaptation through country-based mechanisms in line with the LoCAL standard and as facility that effectively supports direct access to GCF and AF.



H.E. Mr Perks Master Ligoya
Co-Chair of the LoCAL Board
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Malawi to the United
Nations



H.E. Mr. Sonam Phuntsho Wangdi
Co-Chair of the LoCAL Board
Chair of the LDC group to the UNFCCC



Mr. David Jackson
Co-Chair of the LoCAL Board
Director of Local Development Finance
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Fund