

Outcome Documentation

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2016-18 Road Map of the Climate Vulnerable Forum

SUMMARY

This document outlines planned activities of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and guidance for the joint work of the Forum's members for the period 2016-18 to ensure timely and effective implementation of the Manila-Paris Declaration. The Road Map identifies key objectives, clarifies the central focus of Forum efforts, further to the Manila-Paris Declaration, and provides indications on the roles of different cooperation and action channels for members to follow-up on priorities at international and national levels, including with respect to member focal points.

OBJECTIVES

Goal

International, regional and national climate change policies, strategies and actions deliver maximum protection for countries most vulnerable to climate change, today and tomorrow, through urgent, expanded and effectively delivered responses that strive for consistency with the long-term below 1.5°C goal and leverage the greatest possible co-benefits from actions undertaken to adapt to and mitigate climate change in most vulnerable countries.

Road Map objectives in the domains of policy, communications and action on climate change are as follows:

Policy

- Continue to act as a driving force for the promotion of progress in international policy towards high degrees of effectiveness in addressing climate change and expanded support for most vulnerable countries by partnering and leading appropriate engagements in and around relevant policy-making bodies and processes at international level.
- Upscale efforts to promote learning and the exchange of knowledge, technology and good practices on successful responses to climate change among and between vulnerable countries and through South-South and triangular cooperation, while contributing to expanding understanding of risks and responses to climate change through the commissioning and dissemination of demand-driven- and pioneering- policy research.

Communications

- Build greater awareness among the public, political leaders and policy-makers of the grave risks incurred through ineffective responses to climate change, giving greater voice to the world's most vulnerable countries and spotlighting the benefits of enhanced responses to climate change.

- Work to increase attention to actions large and small undertaken to address climate change by most vulnerable countries, and through the work of this Forum, in order to inspire greater actions by countries, institutions, communities and relevant stakeholders worldwide.

Action

- Lead the world into a climate-resilient and low-emissions future through upscaled domestic action, with additional enabling support on means of implementation, an acceleration of South-South replication of successful responses and through strengthened international, regional and national partnerships for climate action.
- Catalyse action by developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, international and regional organizations and stakeholders to enhance the global response to climate change through upscaled efforts and more effective, better-informed and sophisticated responses.

FOCUS & ACTIVITIES

Focus

The central focus of the Forum's 2016-18 activities builds on the Paris-Manila Declaration and with specific reference to relevant additional information contained in the Declaration for the following –

- Collective commitments: To enable the realization of collective commitments by members of this Forum in the areas of climate action, finance and South-South cooperation, capacity and technology transfer & development.
- UNFCCC key priorities: Long-term goal, adaptation, loss and damage.
- Further climate priorities: To ensure progress in adequately and effectively addressing the following priorities –
 - a. Financing access and balance;
 - b. Climate governance and coordination capacity building;
 - c. Enabling the private sector;
 - d. Boosting local research capacities;
 - e. Raising awareness levels in partnership with civil society;
 - f. Mainstreaming climate change into development;
 - g. Technology exchange, transfer and development.
- Other focus sectors: To promote special efforts in the following sectors –

Continuing the work already begun as laid out in the Costa Rica Action Plan, focused on:

a. Health –

Support governments to seize the opportunity to improve public health through highly ambitious worldwide climate action, including through enhanced efforts to assess and manage climate change risks for health and to leverage maximum health co-benefits of climate action, in particular as relates to measures attenuating air pollution;

Continue attention and support for the World Health Organization's workplan on climate change and health, and through increased focus on the ramifications of increasing adverse thermal conditions in the workplace for occupational health, particularly for agricultural and outdoor workers that make up the bulk of the workforce of our most vulnerable countries today.

b. Human rights –

Promote continued understanding of the implications of climate change on the full enjoyment of fundamental human rights, the opportunities of ambitious climate action to improve the enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, and enhance coordination between climate change and human rights actions, in accordance with the respective

national legal systems, including through engagement with the UN Human Rights Council and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

c. Labour –

Ensure full recognition and greater understanding and awareness of the considerable direct impact of a hotter planet, and increasingly hot and environmentally adverse working conditions, on productivity in the workplace, including for livelihoods and the significant GDP-scale macro-economic consequences of these effects as they harm human development, poverty reduction and prosperity, in addition to the critical role of structural employment change for the transition towards a low-carbon economy, itself requiring a regulated shift in the work force.

Including through engagement in the International Labour Conference and with the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, promote urgent assistance to economies highly vulnerable to workplace productivity impacts in the implementation of measures to protect affected populations, communities, businesses and economic sectors on the basis of long-established best occupational-thermal management practices, while underscoring the importance of accelerated economic diversification favouring industry, services and highly efficient agricultural sectors.

d. Migration/displacement –

Build on extensive research and international consultations into the ramifications of climate change for displacement and migration and contributions of human mobility towards greater degrees of climate action, and on the establishment of a new climate change and environment division within the International Organization of Migration, as well as the adoption of the Nansen Initiative steered Protection Agenda for people displaced as a result of climate change;

Promote, and engage with, operational programmes for addressing the adverse effects of climate change for migration and displacement, and harnessing the potential of international migration to contribute to effective adaptation, mitigation, financing, capacity building and technology transfer and development, recognizing that national law and legal systems should be considered in formulating policies to address human settlement.

e. Science –

Encourage the international scientific community and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to increase attention to all aspects of the internationally acknowledged alternative below 1.5°C long-term goal, in particular as relates to appropriate mitigation pathways, means of implementation, as well as risk assessment and management and loss and damage implications.

Expanding our work to now include a focus on the following additional sectors, as detailed below:

f. Agriculture –

Encourage adaptation and mitigation actions in agriculture to increase the sector's resilience to the impacts of climate change and to ensure food security, including through engagement with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

g. Education –

Encourage governments to integrate climate change in and encourage climate action as integral to formal and informal education at all levels, including through engagement with United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations University.

h. Gender –

Ensure women and men in all stages of life have access to climate risk information to be able to meaningfully participate in making decisions on and in climate action, and to have access to financing, capacity building and technology, including through engagement with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNESCO and UNICEF.

i. Tourism –

Facilitate a clear understanding of the risks to tourism including for hazards such as sea level rise and degradation of coral reefs, forests and biodiversity, heavy precipitation, avalanches, landslides, glacier lake outburst floods, heat waves, and cyclones, and ensure the enhancement of adaptive capacities, reduction of vulnerabilities through ecosystems-based and inclusive approaches, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy to secure more sustainable tourism, including through engagement with the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

j. Water –

Support governments to undertake actions that will ensure improvement in integrated water resources management and infrastructure, through research and development, and technology transfer, diffusion and capacity building, including through engagement with UN-Water, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Activities

Further to the Forum's Operational Modalities, the Road Map mandates activities in accordance these objectives and focus in the following domains:

- Exchange: South-South sharing of knowledge, expertise, technologies and good practice between and among countries most vulnerable to climate change, both government officials and other relevant stakeholders.
- Domestic action: Climate change adaptation, mitigation and finance actions taken collectively by members of the Forum at national level.
- Policy: Intergovernmental action and policy development, including through collective advocacy, action and other efforts in conjunction with relevant international policy fora.
- Communication: Public events and communication activities, including through online channels (web site, social media) and the information media.
- Research: Research and analysis, including the Forum-mandated Climate Vulnerability Monitor and Low-Carbon Monitor publication series.

COOPERATION & ACTION CHANNELS

Individual members of the Forum will coordinate efforts channelled towards the implementation of this Road Map at different levels of cooperation and action according to the following explanation of roles/initiatives described below.

Recognition is also given to the importance of the engagement of the Heads of State or Government in CVF activities, in particular as relates to the synthesis of multi-sector Forum activities, the interaction with other leaders and high-level representations of the Forum interests, and leadership for national climate change actions.

UNFCCC National Focal Points

- Joint advocacy and action within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and associated mechanisms, including UNFCCC finance and market entities.
- Technical advice and implementation of national climate change policies.

Ministries of Finance (V20)

- Interaction with international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group, other stakeholders of global economic governance, including the G7 and G20, and relevant economic, financial and business sector institutions.
- Domestic economic, financial and fiscal responses to climate change, in particular based on best practice and successful responses pioneered in vulnerable countries, as contributions to this Road Map.

Permanent Missions to the United Nations

- Collective action and advocacy in relevant intergovernmental policy bodies and processes beyond the UNFCCC, including institutional governing bodies of international organizations, as relates to the Forum's identified priorities and focus sectors.
- Periodic coordination of Forum activities between sessions and key UNFCCC meetings in compliment to Forum focal point communications.

Publications

The CVF shall institutionalize, as a part of its Road Map, the regular issuance of the following two reports: the Climate Vulnerability Monitor and the Low-Carbon Monitor. A regular CVF activities report is also produced as a reporting requirement of the CVF Trust Fund on an annual basis and this report should be widely disseminated.

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

The Road Map will be supported through the following efforts aimed at ensuring the availability of the necessary resources and institutional means for the outlined activities:

Resourcing & Trust Fund

- Reinforce the preference financing mechanism, administered by UNDP, for pooling funds and leveraging parallel financial support for the sustainable resourcing of Forum activities and for the provision of catalytic support for complementary partner actions that amplify impact towards Forum objectives.
- Continue to organize and programme the full array of multi-year Forum activities across institutions and focus areas in cooperation with member and observer contributions while encouraging collaboration with relevant institutions.
- Work in coordination with the Secretariat who is requested to come forward with a resource mobilisation strategy in order to assist and promote the engagement of all CVF members more actively in resource mobilization outreach and activities for the CVF Trust Fund, including with reference to the note on Guidance for capitalization of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Trust Fund.
- The Secretariat is additionally requested to develop, maintain and disseminate roster of donor countries that are interested to support South-South (triangular) cooperation on climate change with a view to potential engagement on CVF activities.

Centre of Excellence & Secretariat

- Establishing at Manila the Forum's first institution with the Centre of Excellence for Climate Information and Services enabling the systemic sharing and exchange of climate change expertise among members; the development, dissemination and management of new information and

knowledge products, including incubating and promoting innovative responses to climate change, drawing on other institutions' experiences; and the conducting of training and other actions to enhance the capacities of members to take highly effective adaptation and mitigation action through South-South collaboration and with assistance from relevant international institutions.

- Continue to operate through ad hoc arrangements for secretariat services, currently hosted by UNDP, in ensuring transversal support for Forum activities, including events, communications, technical and institutional support, while exploring options for long-term support arrangements in conjunction with the establishment of the Forum's Centre of Excellence in Manila.

FOCAL POINTS & FOLLOW-UP

Efforts to realize this Road Map will be coordinated and followed-up through designated national focal points, the Chair and troika coordination hub, and other communication channels, including specifically as outlined in Annex 1.

ANNEX 1

CVF National Focal Points and Member Communications

- The Secretariat is instructed to take contact with CVF members' UNFCCC national focal point institutions and ministries of foreign affairs for the purpose of identifying and keeping up-to-date the CVF list of Designated National Focal Points through direct communication or through contact via Geneva or New York Permanent Missions. Focal points may be named in writing by email, verbal note or nomination letter from any relevant national government entity, providing the name of the official, the title and office, and at minimum an email address and telephone number.
- With due regard to the breadth of the Forum's agenda, CVF members will name one Designated National Focal Point, ordinarily at capital, from the ministry of foreign affairs.
- CVF members may also name one additional Designated National Focal Point, ordinarily also at capital, whenever one or more further national institution serves the function of UNFCCC national focal point other than the ministry of foreign affairs.
- CVF Designated National Focal Points shall receive copies of all communications regarding key activities of the CVF and V20, recognising that the V20 has also established a list of national focal points in CVF ministries of finance or equivalent entities for day-to-day follow-up, the V20 Working Group and other operational activities of the V20.
- The database of CVF Designated National Focal Points shall be made public and accessible to all members and will be published on the CVF public website where it shall be kept regularly updated by the CVF Secretariat.
- Any major new decisions of the V20 will also be circulated in parallel to CVF Designated National Focal Points by way of information sharing and synergy promotion.
- For activities directly relating to the UNFCCC, copies of all communications will also be sent to all named UNFCCC national focal points as figuring on the online database maintained by the Secretariat of the UNFCCC.
- For activities directly relating to intergovernmental processes in or led by Geneva or New York, the most relevant Permanent Missions of CVF member countries will additionally receive a copy of all such communications.
- The Chair and Troika may additionally maintain a list of focal points working on CVF or V20 issues in Geneva or New York Permanent Missions or Washington, DC embassies of CVF/V20 member countries.
- Invitations to major CVF events or on topics of particular importance will be formally routed via Geneva and/or New York Permanent Missions to their high destinations at capital copy the Designated National Focal Points. Communications at ministerial or permanent secretary level will be addressed to either or both of the CVF Designated National Focal Point institutions.
- Communications may be sent by the CVF Chair, by the CVF Troika coordination hub, or by the Secretariat. The Secretariat may communicate, if instructed, on behalf of the Chair or Troika on substantive and organisational matters, or directly to any/all CVF members for organisational matters only.
- The main form of communication with CVF members and Designated National Focal Points shall be email.

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Guidance for capitalization of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Trust Fund

INTRODUCTION

Further to the Manila-Paris Declaration, this document establishes a clear policy guiding contributions from Climate Vulnerable Forum members, as well as non-members, towards the Forum's preference financing mechanism, and includes relevant background information and capitalization targets and parameters.

BACKGROUND

The Climate Vulnerable Forum Trust Fund, administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was established at the request of then Chair Bangladesh in September 2012 on behalf of and following broad consultation with Forum members during 2012. The fund aims to provide a sustainable and efficient mechanism, drawing from a variety of sources, for financing the Forum's activities and to support the achievement of Forum objectives. The fund's stated goal is to empower the most vulnerable countries as collective agents for realizing enhanced international and national climate change policies. Through this goal it aims to deliver positive transformative change for countries most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The fund is governed by a Steering Committee constituted of CVF members (the troika), donors and implementing agencies and chaired by the Forum Chair plus the Administrative Agent, the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. Because the Forum has no independent legal personality the Steering Committee of the Trust Fund serves as the leading programmatic governance body for the Forum's activities. UNDP currently hosts the technical secretariat of the Forum Fund, inclusive of serving as the Forum's ad hoc Secretariat.

In addition to support for CVF policy, communications, cooperation and research activities, in July 2014, the CVF Trust Fund's Steering Committee adopted a new strategy that expanded the fund's focus to promote conditions and partnerships favorable to the realization of climate action for vulnerable groups including through fostering an increased focus on addressing climate change among key international agencies.

Multi-partner trust funds administered by UNDP, including the CVF fund, can be implemented by a wide range of participating international organization four of which have signed MOUs with the CVF Trust Fund, as follows: International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNDP, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (to-date UNDP is the only agency to have implemented activities).

By April 2015, the initial capitalization of 100,000 USD from Bangladesh (April 2013) has leveraged 263,426 USD in additional resources to the CVF Trust Fund from non-member donors (Norway and Switzerland). Furthermore, implementing agency projects supported by the CVF Trust Fund have leveraged an additional 189,435.46 USD in parallel funds from non-member donors (Germany) to implement activities figuring in Forum Trust Fund work plans. The initial contribution from Bangladesh has therefore leveraged close to five times its scale in non-member donor resources, and 2.5 times its scale in direct contributions to the CVF Trust Fund. The fund's Administrative Agent levies 1% on all fund contributions to cover operating expenses of the fund.

The resources committed to the CVF fund during April 2013-April 2015 have enabled a wide range of Forum member and partner activities on all continents and at global level, including cooperation meetings, public policy events and communications activities, and have been indispensable to enabling the Forum to operate and achieve progress during this entire period and beyond it.

Latest United Nations Development Group guidance for all multi-donor trust funds with not more than one project per implementing agency—the case for the CVF fund—stipulate that annual capitalization must exceed the 2 million USD threshold with minimum single transfer amounts of 100,000 USD to agencies from 2015 onwards. These thresholds apply to the creation of funds or their prolongation past the original timeframe foreseen for implementation. In July 2014, the Steering Committee decided to extend by one year the Forum Trust Fund past its original end timeframe of 31 December 2015. By mid-2015, the Forum's fund was yet to meet this scale of capitalization.

ANNUAL CAPITALIZATION TARGETS

The following amounts will henceforth serve as minimum capitalization targets for the CVF Trust Fund:

- Members collective CVF Trust Fund contributions target per year: 575,000 USD
- Non-member donors collective CVF Trust Fund target per year: 1,450,000 USD
- Total annual CVF Trust Fund target per year (above 2 million USD): 2,025,000 USD

Parallel contributions towards Forum Trust Fund activities directly in favour of fund implementing partners are also encouraged as a means of further amplifying the impact of the Forum's work and the fund's implementation potential.

ANNUAL MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

For the period commencing on 1 January 2017, every Forum member is requested to make annual contributions towards the CVF Trust Fund at levels differentiated according to the individual economic means and population scale of member countries and the annual capitalization targets set for members (as above).

The Fund secretariat is requested to issue formal notification to each member with request for minimum contributions in January of each year, commencing 2016, soliciting contributions for January of the following calendar year. For this purpose, the secretariat is additionally requested to calculate a graded allocation of the burden of minimum contributions based on latest data on GNI PPP (from The World Bank) and population (from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division), and to advise each member of their expected minimum contribution level. Where circumstances permit, members are strongly encouraged to contribute sums greater than the minimum contribution level advised.

Forum members that are in arrears for more than one calendar month with respect to contributions will have Trust Fund derived travel assistance and other programmatic assistance temporarily suspended. Under certain circumstances, such as following major natural disasters, arrears penalties may be waived.

NON-MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Further to the Manila-Paris Declaration, members of the Forum and of the Trust Fund Steering Committee are requested to continue to advocate for financial contributions by non-members to support the work and objectives of this Forum, non-members being strongly encouraged to consider supporting the Forum's Trust Fund. Further to the annual capitalization targets (as above), the viability of the fund itself does rely on partnership with non-member donors in order to meet the minimum capitalization thresholds set by the United Nations Development Group.

MODIFICATIONS/REVISIONS

The above capitalization targets and the contribution policy are subject to periodic review in accordance with changing operational realities of the CVF Trust Fund and any future modifications to United Nations Development Group guidance for multi-donor trust funds. Revisions may be confirmed through future decisions of the Forum.