



21 December 2011

Message to Parties

Launching the Green Climate Fund

One of the major accomplishments of the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Durban was the launch of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In accordance with the relevant decision, the secretariats of the UNFCCC and the Global Environment Facility wish to bring a number of matters to the attention of Parties.

Nominations to the Board of the GCF

Parties are invited, through their regional groups and constituencies, to submit nominations for the position of member and alternate member of the Board of the Green Climate Fund. The agreed composition of the Board is 12 members from developing country Parties and 12 members from developed country Parties. Nominations should be sent to the interim secretariat of the Green Climate Fund by no later than 31 March 2012 (see Annex I for details).

Further information on the nomination process will be communicated to Parties in early January 2012. Parties are also informed that, in accordance with the decision of the COP, the first meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund will be convened by 30 April 2012.

Hosting the GCF

Parties are also requested to submit to the Board by 15 April 2012 expressions of interest for hosting the Green Climate Fund, based on the criteria contained in Annex II.

Interim secretariat of the GCF

Responding to the request from Parties, the UNFCCC secretariat and the GEF secretariat are promptly taking the necessary administrative steps to set up the interim secretariat of the Green Climate Fund as an autonomous unit within the UNFCCC secretariat premises so that the interim secretariat can provide technical, administrative and logistical support to the Board until the independent secretariat of the Green Climate Fund is established.



Financing the start-up

As per the decision on the Green Climate Fund, Parties are also invited to make financial contributions for the start-up of the Green Climate Fund, including to cover the administrative costs of the Board and its interim secretariat.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the interim secretariat of the Green Climate Fund¹ at GCF-IntSec@unfccc.int.

Yours sincerely,

Christiana Figueres

Monique Barbut

¹ Please note that this is an initial e-mail address which will be replaced once a dedicated internet domain has been created for the GCF.



Annex I

The Board of the Green Climate Fund

In accordance with paragraph 10 of the decision of the COP, and paragraphs 9 to 12 of the Governing Instrument for the Green Climate Fund:

- Each Board member will have an alternate member, with alternate members entitled to participate in the meetings of the Board only through the principal member, without the right to vote, unless they are serving as the member. During the absence of the member from all or part of a meeting of the Board, his or her alternate will serve as the member;
- The members of the Board and their alternates will be selected by their respective constituency or regional group within a constituency;
- Members and alternate members will serve for a term of three years and be eligible to serve additional terms as determined by their constituency;
- Members of the Board will have the necessary experience and skills, notably in the areas of climate change and development finance, with due consideration given to gender balance;
- The twelve seats for developing country Parties are to be distributed as follows:
 - (a) Three members and alternate members from Asia-Pacific;
 - (b) Three members and alternate members from Africa;
 - (c) Three members and alternate members from Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - (d) One member and alternate member from Small Island Developing States;
 - (e) One member and alternate member from Least Developed Country Parties; and
 - (f) One member from developing country Parties not included in the regional groups and constituencies above; and one alternate member to rotate between developing country Parties included in the groups and constituencies listed above (a to f)².

² Parties are further informed that at COP 17, the Chair of the Group of 77 and China informed the President in a communication dated 10 December 2012, that: "It is our understanding that the nomination for the principal seat in {paragraph 10 (f) of the decision of the COP} will be made by the developing country Parties of the Eastern Europe Group. This is an exception to usual practice and does not set a precedent.



Annex II

Criteria for the selection of the host country

In line with the objectives set forth in paragraph 11 above, Parties are invited to submit to the Board expressions of interest for hosting the Green Climate Fund by 15 April 2012, based on the following criteria:

(a) The ability to confer and/or recognize juridical personality and legal capacity to the Fund for the protection of its interests and the exercise of its functions, to give effect to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the governing instrument of the Green Climate Fund, including but not limited to the ability to contract, acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property, and institute legal proceedings;

(b) The ability to provide privileges and immunities to the Fund as are necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes, and to the officials of the Fund as are necessary for the independent exercise of their official functions in connection with the Fund;

(c) Financial arrangements, administrative and logistical support to the Fund;

(d) Any other information that the host country wishes to provide.