

**Joint Submission by the the Heinrich Böll Stiftung\* and Women's Environment & Development Organization  
to the Transitional Committee for the Design of the Green Climate Fund  
on Workstream I: Scope, guiding principles and cross-cutting issues**

**Key Principles for Incorporating a Gender Dimension into the Green Climate Fund**

Decision 1/CP.16 provides overarching guiding principles for climate finance under the Convention, including for the Green Climate Fund. Article 7 in the decision acknowledges that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change. This recognizes that women and men are impacted differently by climate change, largely due to their gender roles and to differing political, social and economic rights and opportunities. Women and men also contribute to climate change responses in different ways and have different capabilities based on their respective knowledge, experiences and expertise to mitigate and adapt.

The Green Climate Fund has an opportunity to distinguish itself from existing funds by being the first to integrate a gender perspective from the outset. This will help ensure that the Fund addresses issues of equity, equality and human rights while simultaneously promoting effective and efficient governance and a more strategic and equitable distribution of funds.

As civil society observers, we acknowledge and appreciate the number of interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment made by Transitional Committee members during their second meeting in Tokyo. We welcome the opportunity to respond to those interventions by suggesting with this submission how these issues can be embedded into text put forward by the Committee as it begins the preparation of a draft outcome paper for consideration at the third meeting of the Transitional Committee.

**Workstream I: Scope, guiding principles and cross-cutting issues**

The Green Climate Fund should be transformational in purpose and nature. It should establish new best practices in funding low-emission, climate-resilient and gender-equitable development actions in recipient countries in line with the principles expressed in the UNFCCC and other UN conventions, including those on human rights, and with a goal to stabilize global warming at an overall temperature increase of below 2 degree centigrade.

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We therefore request the members of the Transitional Committee and its leadership to consider the following recommendations in their draft outcome document to be presented to the COP 17 for decision:

*Text suggestion for a Fund mission statement: The Green Climate Fund shall be transformational in purpose and nature. It shall establish new best practices in funding low-emission, climate-resilient and gender-equitable development actions in recipient countries in line with the principles expressed in the UNFCCC and other UN conventions, including those on human rights, and with a goal to stabilize global warming at an overall temperature increase of below 2 degree centigrade*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND**

- 1) Several existing global funds<sup>1</sup> have come to realize with experience from initial years of funding activities the need for the integration of more and stronger gender principles in their governance and operationalization in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency and to guarantee the equity of their funding. The GCF can set a precedent by learning from these other funds and incorporating in its design, from the outset, guidelines towards operationalizing a gender responsive climate finance mechanism.

*Text suggestion: The Fund will operate under the principles of UN mandates in order to ensure goals toward gender-equality and women's empowerment while achieving equity, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Fund's operations.*

- 2) Gender equality as a guiding principle and cross-cutting concern should be included in the constituting framework document for the Green Climate Fund. The Fund should develop a gender policy and a gender implementation plan of action to ensure that its policies, procedures and structures – as well as its partnership with recipient countries and implementing entities – support climate projects and programmes that address gender inequalities, reduce women's and girl's vulnerabilities and enhance the involvement of men and women, girls and boys in recipient countries. Several global funds, including the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria and GAVI, have developed such a plan after realizing the need to fully integrate a gender perspective in their funds' operations.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples include the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, and the Global Environment Facility as a funding mechanism under the UNFCCC, which have established either a gender policy or a gender action plan only several years after becoming operational and funding projects on the ground. The Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund has just strengthened its operational policy and guidelines to be more gender-sensitive and the World Bank Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) also recently developed a Strategic Environmental, Social and Gender Assessment.

*Text suggestion: The Fund shall develop a Gender Plan of Action to ensure that its policies, procedures and structures address gender inequalities, reduce women's and girls' vulnerabilities and involve men, women, boys and girls in recipient countries during all stages of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THEMATIC SCOPE**

- 3)** Gender-responsive funding guidelines and criteria should be developed for each thematic, geographic or sector-specific funding windows (such as on mitigation, adaptation, REDD+, capacity building or technology transfer funding).

*Text suggestion: The functions of the Board shall include the following:... To develop gender-responsive funding guidelines and criteria for each funding window.*

- 4)** The GCF Board, by retaining the flexibility and capacity to add new funding windows, sub-windows or focal areas, should consider gender equality as focal area or a special women's sub-fund. In doing so it should draw on the best practice experience of the Global Fund, which in keeping with the principle of recipient country-ownership attempts to cultivate "informed demand" by providing finance incentives via a funding reserve dedicated to integrate gender into country programs and funding proposals.

*Text suggestion: The Board may consider, at its discretion, gender equality as a focal area or as a special women's sub-fund in establishing future funding windows, sub-windows or focal areas.*

- 5)** Gender-balance should be guaranteed among the staff and in all bodies of the GCF. This includes all decision-making bodies, including the GCF Board and sub-boards for individual funding windows, its Secretariat and all expert or advisory panels.

*Text suggestion: The Board will have gender balance and regional balance, comprise an equal number of members from developing and developed country, and include gender expertise. Gender balance shall also apply to the GCF Secretariat, the GCF staff and all GCF expert or advisory panels.*

- 6)** GCF funding should be allocated in a balanced manner with at least 50 percent of funding for adaptation, which in addressing the special vulnerability of women in the poorest developing countries to the impacts of climate change, is more conducive to gender integration. GCF adaptation funding should cover the agreed full cost of enhanced adaptation action and should

be delivered exclusively in the form of grants, in order to avoid adding to the debt burden of developing countries.

*Text suggestion: Funding shall be allocated in a balanced manner with at least 50 percent for adaptation. Adaptation funding shall be delivered as grants and cover the agreed full cost of enhanced adaptation action.*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR COUNTRY-LED AND RESULTS-BASED APPROACHES**

- 7) Direct access is the funding modality most in line with country-ownership and country-led approaches. In providing a direct access modality as its core financing modality, the GCF must enhance the existing practice at the Adaptation Fund and ensure that sub-national groups from civil society, including women's and gender equality organizations, have direct access to the funding resources of the GCF through its various funding windows.

*Text suggestion: Developing country Parties, sub-national institutions and community-based and civil society organizations, such as gender equality organizations and women groups, independently accredited by the Fund, shall be able to submit funding proposals directly to the Fund Board.*

- 8) In line with the principle of country-ownership, allocation of GCF funding should be coherent and consistent with national development plans and national mitigation and adaptation strategies that have been developed in a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent multi-stakeholder approach. These plans and strategies need to take into account the special needs of vulnerable groups, including women and Indigenous Peoples, local communities and ecosystems and the contributions of traditional and indigenous knowledge.

*Text suggestion: Funding shall be based on national plans and strategies developed and implemented by country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent multi-stakeholder processes that include civil society, such as women's and Indigenous Peoples groups and affected communities.*

- 9) Explicit gender criteria must be included in performance objectives and criteria to evaluate funding options under the GCF. Criteria should include a mandatory gender analysis of the proposed project or programme, a gender budget and some clear indicators which measure how funded projects and programmes contribute to gender equality objectives.

*Text suggestion: Funding options will be evaluated according to a clear framework for measuring and reporting which should include gender indicators.*

- 10)** The GCF should establish an independent evaluation and recourse mechanism and regular reporting requirements, which should also address if and how the GCF funding activities are promoting gender equality.

*Text suggestion: The Board shall submit annual reports to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and deliberation, on various operational matters including...the status of the Fund in promoting and achieving sustainable development benefits, including gender equality. ...*

- 11)** Groups affected by GCF funding, including gender equality organizations and women's groups, should be able to address their grievances with the GCF.

*Text suggestion: The Board will establish a redress mechanism whereby groups affected by GCF funding, including gender equality organizations and women's groups, are able to address their grievances with the GCF.*

- 12)** GCF operations should apply existing human, environmental and labor rights and in following the precautionary principle not fund activities, which could harm sustainable development objectives or violate human rights, including women's rights.

*Text suggestion: Fund operations shall apply existing human, environmental and labor rights and in following the precautionary principle will not fund activities, which could harm sustainable development objectives or violate human rights, including women's rights.*

**Joint Submission by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung\* and the Women's Environment & Development Organization  
to the Transitional Committee for the Design of the Green Climate Fund  
on Workstream II: Governance and Institutional Arrangements**

**Key Principles for Incorporating a Gender Dimension into the Green Climate Fund**

Decision 1/CP.16 provides overarching guiding principles for climate finance under the Convention, including for the Green Climate Fund. Article 7 in the decision acknowledges that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change. This recognizes that women and men are impacted differently by climate change, largely due to their gender roles and to differing political, social and economic rights and opportunities. Women and men also contribute to climate change responses in different ways and have different capabilities based on their respective knowledge, experiences and expertise to mitigate and adapt.

The Green Climate Fund has an opportunity to distinguish itself from existing funds by being the first to integrate a gender perspective from the outset. This will help ensure that the Fund addresses issues of equity, equality and human rights while simultaneously promoting effective and efficient governance and a more strategic and equitable distribution of funds.

As civil society observers, we acknowledge and appreciate the number of interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment made by Transitional Committee members during their second meeting in Tokyo. We welcome the opportunity to respond to those interventions by suggesting with this submission how these issues can be embedded into text put forward by the Committee as it begins the preparation of a draft outcome paper for consideration at the third meeting of the Transitional Committee.

**Workstream II: Governance and institutional arrangements**

The governance and institutional arrangements of the Green Climate Fund should follow or exceed best practices in existing funding instruments. They should be transformational with respect to their stakeholder inclusiveness and participation as well as in their sensitivity to gender equality. This goal should be reflected in an institutional commitment by the GCF Board, the GCF Secretariat and all GCF supporting bodies, such as expert and advisory panels, as well as sustained political commitment by the GCF leadership.

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We encourage the members of the Transitional Committee and its leadership to consider in their draft outcome document to be presented to the COP 17 for decision the following recommendations:

### **Sub-workstream II.2: The Board**

- 1) Taking into account Decision 36/CP.7, and following the example set in the Cancun Agreements with the new Technical Committee, gender balance and regional balance must be achieved for the GCF board and other decision-making structures and advisory bodies of the Fund, including the boards of funding windows and sub-funds, their expert groups and advisory committees. In addition to gender balance, the GCF board must include gender expertise.

*Text suggestion: The Board will be gender balanced, comprise an equal number of members from developing and developed country Parties, and include gender expertise. Capacity building on social and gender matters will also be provided to the Board members.*

- 2) Following the precedent established in the Climate Investment Funds, members of civil society, including representatives of gender and women groups, should be given opportunities to participate as active observers in the work of the GCF Board and all its sub-boards; active CSO observers should include gender experts and active representation of international women's and gender groups. Following the best practice set by the Amazon Fund and the UN REDD Programme, civil society representatives should be allowed to participate as voting members of the GCF Board and all its sub-boards.

*Text suggestion: The Board and all of its sub-Boards will include gender expertise and members of civil society as active observers, including representatives of gender equality and women's rights organizations.*

### **Sub-workstream II.3: The Secretariat**

- 3) The staff of the GCF Secretariat should strive for gender balance and must include gender expertise. This is important to ensure that gender equality principles are considered in GCF programme and project review, in the preparation of gender aware documentation and GCF promotional and outreach materials, as well as in monitoring, reporting, verification and evaluation of the funding portfolio to the extent that the Secretariat is the responsible GCF body for these tasks.

*Text suggestion: The Secretariat shall be staffed with professionals with experience in management, administration, finance, development, climate change, gender and other relevant fields, taking into account equitable geographical distribution and gender balance.*

- 4) Gender institutional capacity should be anchored in the GCF Secretariat in the form of a gender focal point, a designated gender expert team, and/or as a gender working group of various thematic, geographic and sectoral work teams within the Secretariat. The Secretariat should be responsible for overseeing and supporting the promotion of gender equality among the GCF technical staff and GCF implementation partners, for example by providing mandatory gender training. The Secretariat shall provide, as part of its reporting cycle, information on how GCF activities have contributed to the promotion of gender equality

*Text suggestion: The functions of the independent Secretariat may include, inter alia: ...Preparing performance reports on the implementation of activities under the Fund for review by the Board, including on the activities' contributions to gender equality.*

**Sub-workstream II.5: Complementarity with the other operating entities of the financial mechanism and other climate, environment and development finance**

- 5) The GCF as a transformation fund must strive to set best practice in gender-aware climate financing. Other global finance mechanisms have seen the need to “gender-retrofit” their operations several years into active funding by establishing gender strategies and gender plans of action (the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and the Global Environment Facility) while some climate financing instruments have recently updated and strengthened their policy framework to allow for better integration of gender considerations (Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund and Climate Investment Funds). The GCF can not only complement these funds by being gender aware and following established precedent, but must also be a leader by designing the fund so that it is gender-responsive from the very beginning of its operations and thus setting a new best practice standard.



**Joint Submission by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung\* and Women's Environment & Development Organization  
to the Transitional Committee for the Design of the Green Climate Fund  
on Workstream III: Operational Modalities**

**Key Principles for Incorporating a Gender Dimension into the Green Climate Fund**

Decision 1/CP.16 provides overarching guiding principles for climate finance under the Convention, including for the Green Climate Fund. Article 7 in the decision acknowledges that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change. This recognizes that women and men are impacted differently by climate change, largely due to their gender roles and to differing political, social and economic rights and opportunities. Women and men also contribute to climate change responses in different ways and have different capabilities based on their respective knowledge, experiences and expertise to mitigate and adapt.

The Green Climate Fund has an opportunity to distinguish itself from existing funds by being the first to integrate a gender perspective from the outset. This will help ensure that the Fund addresses issues of equity, equality and human rights while simultaneously promoting effective and efficient governance and a more strategic and equitable distribution of funds.

As civil society observers, we acknowledge and appreciate the number of interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment made by Transitional Committee members during their second meeting in Tokyo. We welcome the opportunity to respond to those interventions by suggesting with this submission how these issues can be embedded into text put forward by the Committee as it begins the preparation of a draft outcome paper for consideration at the third meeting of the Transitional Committee.

**Workstream III: Operational Modalities**

Funding allocation and disbursement under the Green Climate Fund must be consistent with and adhere to broader UN principles of international environmental law and human rights, including on gender equality and women's rights. The operational modalities of the Green Climate Fund should be guided by country-ownership and subsidiarity by allowing for a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder participatory

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process, which considers the different preferences and experiences of women and men in recipient countries in determining GCF funding priorities and countries' funding needs. In utilizing a potential variety of funding instruments in several funding windows, care has to be taken that these funding modalities do not discriminate against, harm or neglect women, but take into account women's disproportionate vulnerability to climate change impacts as well as their ability to act as important agents of change.

We therefore request the members of the Transitional Committee and its leadership to consider the following recommendations in their draft outcome document, to be presented to COP 17 for decision:

### **Sub-workstream III.1: Finance Entry Points**

- 1) The core of GCF funding should be secured by adequate and predictable, new and additional public government contributions, with the private sector playing a vital, but only supplementary role. This will help insure that sufficient funding is available to support programmes and projects that generate global public benefits, including gender equality.

*Text suggestion: The core of GCF funding shall be secured by adequate and predictable, new and additional public government contributions.*

- 1) The role of public sector versus private sector funding for the GCF needs to be clearly elaborated and agreed upon; public finance should be prioritized for financing needs that generate global public good benefits, including gender equality, especially in cases where the private sector might be reluctant to invest because of a lack of profitability. Where public funding in the GCF is used to incentive or leverage private sector finance, such leveraged investment must be bound by the same environmental, social and gender safeguards that apply to GCF projects or programmes funded exclusively with public funding.

*Text suggestion: All funding flowing through the GCF, irrespective of source, must be bound by the Fund's environmental, social and gender safeguards. All public funding shall prioritize funding for global public good benefits.*

- 2) Funding for adaptation needs, which because of women's higher vulnerability to the impacts of climate change in many developing countries have a clear gender component, should be delivered exclusively in form of grants so as not to increase the debt burden of recipient countries; it therefore will have to come primarily from public sources of finance. At least 50 percent of GCF funding should be dedicated to adaptation.

*Test suggestion: Funding shall be allocated in a balanced manner with at least 50 percent for adaptation. Adaptation funding shall be delivered as grants and cover the agreed full cost of enhanced adaptation action.*

- 3) All support for capacity-building actions in recipient countries should be in form of grants. In order to promote gender equality objectives, efforts should be made to target balanced representation of women and men in capacity building activities.

*Text suggestion: Capacity building activities should:*

- *Strengthen integrated approaches and the participation of various stakeholders, including women and gender experts, in relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions;*
- *Support women and men's existing and emerging capacity-building needs identified in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, and access to financial resources; and*
- *Strengthen climate change communication, education, training and public awareness at all levels, taking into account gender-based differences in access to information and ensuring balanced representation of men and women;*

#### **Sub-workstream III.2: Managing Finance**

- 4) In addition to funding windows themed by scope (such as for adaptation, mitigation and forest conservation) or geography (Africa, SIDS or LDCs), the TC should consider a funding window for a cross-cutting issue such as gender equality.

*Text suggestion: In addition to the funding windows on core thematic issues, the GCF Board, at its discretion, may establish streams for cross-cutting issues such as gender equality*

- 5) The TC should consider sub-windows or focal areas under established funding windows which benefit women and promote gender equality.

*Text suggestion: The GCF Board, at its discretion, may establish sub-windows or focal areas under established funding windows, including specific windows which benefit women and promote gender equality*

- 6) Each funding window or sub-fund should be governed by a separate board with gender balance

*Text suggestion: Each funding window or sub-fund will be governed by a separate board with regional and gender balance*

- 7) Each funding window should respond to gender-differentiated needs and address gender equality as a cross cutting issue.

*Text suggestion: The Fund, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, shall address the following thematic areas, taking gender into account as a cross-cutting issue: ...*

- 8) Gender guidelines and criteria should be developed for each funding window or sub-window under the GCF

*Text suggestion: The GCF Board will develop gender-responsive funding guidelines and criteria for each of the thematic funding windows.*

### **Sub-workstream III.3: Accessing Finance**

- 9) Grant funding must play a dominant role within the GCF and be the exclusive funding modality for adaptation funding, which has a clear gender dimension, and funding activities addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender equality.

*Text suggestion: Adaptation funding and funding addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender equality shall be delivered as grants.*

- 10) Where a country-wide programmatic approach instead of a project-by-project funding approach is utilized in accessing GCF funding, such a country programme needs to include a country gender assessment and a gender implementation plan of action. In applying the principle of country-ownership, GCF country-programmes should be gender-sensitive and based on national climate and development plans which have been developed in the recipient country with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women.

*Text suggestion: The Fund shall allocate funding coherently and consistently with national development plans and national mitigation and adaptation strategies that have been developed in a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent process.*

- 11) In line with the principle of country-ownership, direct access should be the primary access modality in the GCF; recipients should not be only a single country-designated body, but direct access should be expanded to multiple in-country recipients, including sub-national institutions, local governments and civil society organizations, such as women and gender groups, independently accredited by the GCF. There is precedence and best practice in existing global funds and dedicated climate financing instruments in allowing non-state sub-national actors direct access to funding. At the Global Fund, civil society organizations, including women and gender rights groups, can be principal recipients as long as they meet agreed fiduciary standards. The Amazon Fund and the MDG Achievement Environmental Window also allow for that possibility.

*Text suggestion: Implementing entities may include sub-national institutions and civil society organizations, such as gender equality organizations and women groups, independently accredited by the Fund.*

#### **Sub-workstream III.4: Balance between Mitigation and Adaptation**

- 12) As women in recipient countries are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts and thus in need of urgent adaptation support, the GCF needs to ensure that a “balanced allocation” between mitigation and adaptation means that at least 50 percent of GCF funding is devoted to adaptation.

*Test suggestion: Funding shall be allocated in a balanced manner with at least 50 percent for adaptation. Adaptation funding shall be delivered as grants and cover the agreed full cost of enhanced adaptation action.*

- 13) The GCF must include a regular gender-audit of its funding allocation in its overview and reporting in order to ensure a balanced and gender-responsive delivery through allocations and operations.

*Text suggestion: The Board shall submit annual reports to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and deliberation, on operational matters including...The status of the Fund in promoting and achieving sustainable development targets, including gender equality. ... An audit of Fund allocations, including for activities that support gender equality.*

### Sub-workstream III.5: External Inputs

- 14)** The GCF must ensure active civil society and community-level participation, including women's organizations, in program preparation, decision-making and program implementation; active outreach by the GCF is necessary where participation gaps become apparent.

*Text suggestion: The Fund will adopt inclusive and participatory approaches in all decision-making and programming.*

- 15)** The GCF must provide adequate grant resources to enable women's groups and other community and civil-society groups to fully engage in the various stages of the GCF project and program cycles.

*Text suggestion: The Fund will adopt innovative finance dissemination strategies for stakeholder support that include improved access for civil-society, local communities, and women groups.*

- 16)** The GCF must include reporting on participation and the extent to which the views of relevant stakeholder groups, including women, are reflected in GCF strategies and implementation.

*Text suggestion: The Board will monitor and report on the degree to which the views of relevant stakeholder groups, including women, are reflected in GCF strategies and implementation.*

- 17)** The GCF must include gender expertise in all external advisory and relevant technical groups, including from relevant bodies established under the Convention; it should consider the establishment of an external gender advisory group to the GCF.

*Text suggestion: External advisory bodies and relevant technical groups will be gender balanced and include gender expertise.*

**Joint Submission by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung\* and Women's Environment & Development Organization  
to the Transitional Committee for the Design of the Green Climate Fund  
on Workstream IV: Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Key Principles for Incorporating a Gender Dimension into the Green Climate Fund**

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As civil society observers, we acknowledge and appreciate the number of interventions on gender equality and women's empowerment made by Transitional Committee members during their second meeting in Tokyo. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to those interventions by suggesting with this submission how these issues can be embedded into text put forward by the Committee as it begins the preparation of a draft outcome paper for consideration at the third meeting of the Transitional Committee.

**Workstream IV: Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation is key not only to ensuring that the GCF uses its funds in an efficient and effective manner for programmes and projects which further the low-carbon, climate-resilient and gender-equitable development in recipient countries, but also to ensure that the Fund itself operates in a way that is transformational, innovative, fully transparent and accountable and allows for the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women. An independent evaluation and redress mechanism for the Fund increases the legitimacy of and support for the GCF in recipient countries and establishes the Fund as a learning institution.

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We encourage the members of the Transitional Committee and its leadership to consider the following recommendations in their draft outcome document to be presented to COP 17 for decision:

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 1) The Board of the GCF should report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on its strategic priorities, operational policies guidelines and procedures, including on how GCF funding is contributing to gender equality in recipient countries.

*Text suggestion: The Board shall submit annual reports to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and deliberation, on operational matters including...the status of the Fund in promoting and achieving sustainable development targets, including gender equality.*

- 2) The GCF must establish a robust results framework, including indicators on gender equality and women's empowerment, for measuring and reporting results.

*Text suggestion: Evaluations will establish a clear framework for measuring and reporting which should include gender indicators and sex-disaggregated data.*

- 3) Monitoring of gender indicators throughout the project or programme cycle must be part of the implementation process. To this effect, the independent Evaluation Unit should encourage the participation of stakeholders, including women's groups, in monitoring and evaluation efforts in the recipient countries.

*Text suggestion: Monitoring and evaluation strategies will utilize participatory approaches that include local stakeholders and women's groups.*

- 4) The GCF should establish an independent evaluation unit with gender expertise, reporting and accountable to a regionally and gender-balanced GCF Board, to allow for the overall performance review of the Fund and all its bodies and funding windows, including at the level of implementing entities (national, sub-national and multilateral) and at the project/programme level.

*Text suggestion: The GCF shall establish an independent evaluation unit with gender expertise to allow for the overall performance review of the Fund and all its bodies and funding windows.*



- 5) The Independent Evaluation Unit of the GCF should perform a periodic review of the Funds guidelines and policies, including its gender policy and the policy's implementation via a gender action plan. It should also include the monitoring and evaluation of the gender competence and commitment of GCF staff.

*Text suggestion: The Independent Evaluation Unit shall perform a periodic review of the Funds' guidelines and policies, including its gender policy and the policy's implementation via a gender action plan.*

## **Safeguards**

- 6) The GCF must develop a robust set of social, gender and environmental safeguards and the guidelines for their implementation that guarantee gender equity, women's rights and women's full participation in the GCF. These safeguards and guidelines need to be developed with multi-stakeholder input and participation, including from women's groups across the globe. GCF safeguards must comply with and support existing international obligation, including on human and women's rights, labor standards and environmental law.

*Text suggestion: The GCF Board will establish a robust set of social, gender and environmental safeguards and the guidelines for their implementation. GCF safeguards will be developed with multi-stakeholder input and participation and must comply with and support existing international obligation, including on human and women's rights, labor standards and environmental law.*

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

- 7) In accordance with decision 1/CP.16, which calls for the design of a mechanism to systematically incorporate the views of stakeholders and beneficiaries, the input and participation of women as stakeholders and beneficiaries must be guaranteed at each level and step (decision-making, programme/project implementation) ex ante, ongoing and ex post.

*Text suggestion: Efforts to take both women and men's views into account will be ensured in GCF governance as well as in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all projects and programmes.*

- 8) The GCF should set new best practice with respect to public consultation and access to information as well as information disclosure policies by improving on existing standards applied in International Financial Institutions; the special needs of women in recipient countries need to be taken into account in developing and implementing these GCF policies. In doing so, the GCF

could follow the experience of the Global Fund and GAVI, which are utilizing special outreach protocols to ensure an adequate consultation of women.

*Text suggestion: The Board will establish guidelines for effectively engaging communicating and consulting with stakeholders, including representatives of gender equality and women's rights organizations, environment and development NGOs, trade unions, farmers' organizations and community-based organizations, bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies, technical and research agencies, the private sector, as well as to governments. Special attention will be paid to ensuring adequate outreach to women and other often-marginalized groups.*

- 9) Women should be represented equitably on the Fund's Executive Board and all sub-boards, oversight and decision-making bodies of the fund.

*Text suggestion: The Board will have gender and regional balance and comprise an equal number of members from developing and developed country Parties.*

- 10) In following the current practice at the CIFs to ensure the proper representation of Indigenous Peoples, women as special stakeholder group should be likewise given designated seats.

*Text suggestion: The Board and all of its sub-Boards will also include members of civil society as active observers, including representatives of gender equality and women's rights organizations.*

- 11) Following existing best practice at the World Bank and Multilateral Development Banks, the GCF should establish an independent redress or appeals mechanism which would allow all stakeholders, including women (individually and as an affected group), to address grievances to the GCF. Members on such a body should be chosen with gender and regional balance in mind. The experience of the Inspection Panel at the World Bank or the IFC's Ombudsman, which in addition to addressing grievances also has a mediating function in cases of private sector involvement in project or programme funding can be instructive.

*Text suggestion: The Board will establish an independent redress mechanism whereby groups affected by GCF funding, including gender equality organizations and women's groups, are able to address their grievances with the GCF.*