

Statement by the GEF CEO and Chairperson, Naoko Ishii

High-Level Facilitative Dialogue

COP 22, Marrakech, 16 November 2016

Excellencies, friends, and colleagues,

The entry into force of the Paris Agreement is an important turning point for our collective fight against climate change. If Paris was about agreement, then Marrakesh is about action.

As part of the Financial Mechanism for this important Convention, the GEF is ready to help countries implement their NDCs, with particular focus on ensuring their climate actions is an integral part of their national development strategy, and thereby also help deliver on the 2030 Agenda that was also agreed in 2015.

Furthermore, to meet the ambitious target in the Paris agreement, all countries are encouraged to enhance the level of ambition and to rapidly transform their key economic systems towards low-carbon and resilient pathways.

In our collective endeavor to combat the threat of climate change, the GEF has built strong partnerships around the globe and in your countries. Together we have implemented over 1,100 projects addressing mitigation and adaptation needs. Our financing has directed some \$57 billion from public and private sources to developing countries, it has facilitated critical technology transfer, and helped build institutional and human capacity.

Excellencies,

One key factor to the success of the Paris Agreement is its country-led, bottom-up approach. To make this approach work, and also to build mutual trust and confidence and lay the foundation for continued enhanced ambition, is absolutely critical to enhance transparency of action and support.

To help developing countries in their efforts to build institutional and technical capacity for enhanced transparency, Parties requested the GEF at COP 21 to support the establishment and operation of a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT).

I am honored that countries have put their trust in the GEF to take on this important task. Since last December, we have gone full speed to establish the CBIT. The CBIT Trust Fund establishment was approved by the GEF Council in June 2016, and the Fund is now operational.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to formally launch the CBIT, with the announcement of the first set of projects approved for implementation, and also pledges of support from many donors.

The countries that will pioneer the CBIT are Costa Rica, Kenya, and South Africa. Please join me to congratulate these countries, who are committed to start implementing the CBIT.

I also wish to express my appreciation to donor countries who are making it possible for the CBIT to provide this support. They are: Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and United States of America. In addition, Scotland and Wallonia have also recently announced their support to CBIT.

We are grateful for this support, and hope others will join in contributing to the CBIT.

Let me close my remarks by re-affirming our strong commitment to fulfill our role as part of the Financial Mechanism for the Paris Agreement, and this very important Convention.

Thank you.