

Submission of the United States of America

Annotated inputs for the draft guidance to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Elements	Sub-elements	Proposed inputs	To be considered by: (1) The COP and the CMA or; (2) Only by the CMA.	Rationale for the inputs	Source of information / reference
Policies	Strategic Plan	<i>Welcomes</i> the GCF Board’s timely adoption of the Strategic Plan for the 2024-2027 replenishment period and <i>further welcomes</i> the establishment of impact-focused programming priorities and targets results, and the strong focus on enhancing access to climate finance, increasing the share of financing delivered through Direct Access Entities, increasing support for the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and catalysing green finance from public and private sources at scale.	1	The Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 provides the strategic vision and substantive priorities and targets for the GCF from 2024-2027.	GCF Decisions B.36/13(a); B.32.04, paragraphs (c)-(g).
	Strategic Plan	<i>Encourages</i> the GCF to prioritize the use of its resources and actively manage its pipeline with a view to achieving the impact-focused programming priorities and targeted results set out in the Strategic Plan (2024-2027).	1		GCF Decisions B.36/13(a); B.32.04, paragraphs (c)-(g).
	Policy	<i>Welcomes</i> the GCF Board’s continued work to help address outstanding policy gaps and <i>encourages</i> the GCF Board to prioritize initiating a review of the policy suite with a view toward implementation and operationalization and to consider ways to better harmonize and cohere existing policies to help ensure more efficient and predictable application.	1	The GCF has worked diligently to adopt a full policy suite, closing many outstanding policy gaps in 2022. As a maturing organization, it is important that the GCF evaluate the implementation of its policies and seek measures to optimize those policies with a focus on improving implementation.	Twelfth report of the GCF to the COP, p. 14-15.

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	Country Ownership	<i>Notes</i> the critical role of country-ownership in facilitating the GCF which is guided by the needs and priorities of developing countries and <i>encourages</i> the GCF to consider measures to enhance and optimize the GCF's country ownership approach that reduce administrative burden, increase flexibility, and better serve the needs and priorities of developing countries.	1		
	Accreditation	<i>Requests</i> the GCF Board to finalize the review and adoption of the outstanding accreditation strategy and accreditation framework matters as soon as possible with a view toward implementing the GCF's commitment to adopt a more strategic approach to accreditation.	1	The review of the accreditation framework, along with approval of the project-specific assessment approach, is critical to enhancing the GCF's accreditation function; B.24/06 determined that the PSAA should be considered by the Board at B.25.	B.36/11; B.24/06 (project-specific assessment approach); GCF Updated Strategic Plan 2020-2023, paragraph 26(a).
Programme priorities	Financial Instruments	<i>Encourages</i> the GCF Board and Secretariat to finalize proposals for how the GCF can further expand its financial instruments, including through the use of guarantees, local currency finance, and parametric insurance.	1		GCF Governing Instrument paragraph 3
	Pipeline Management	<i>Welcomes</i> the GCF's active management of its pipeline and <i>encourages</i> the GCF to develop metrics and indicators to maximize the impact of its funding for adaptation and mitigation.	1		
	Commitment Authority	<i>Welcomes</i> the GCF's plan for management of commitment authority during GCF-2 and <i>encourages</i> the GCF to continue to make efforts to manage its commitment authority to support predictability and enhanced access to climate finance	1		

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		and the achievement of the GCF's programmatic priorities and targets as set out the Strategic Plan for GCF-2.			
	Programmatic Approaches	<i>Encourages</i> the GCF to promote the use of programmatic approaches, including national, regional, global, and cross-sectoral programs and to continue to move toward a systems-focused financing model.	1	Greater use of programmes is needed to allow the GCF to reach the scale of operations it needs to tackle the climate challenge, yet policy and institutional barriers still exist. The most critical to address is development of a programmatic approach modality.	GCF Governing Instrument paragraph 36; B.07/03, paragraph (e)
	Vulnerable and Conflicted Affected States	<i>Invites</i> the GCF to explore how the GCF can enhance its impact in and support for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as well as conflict-affected and fragile states.	1		GCF Governing Instrument paragraph 2, 52; Decision 16/CP.27 paragraph 14
	Loss & Damage	<i>Encourages</i> the GCF to continue efforts to provide financial resources and enhance its support for activities relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in developing countries consistent with the existing investment results framework and funding structures of the GCF.	1		
	Technology	<i>Encourages</i> the GCF to engage with TEC and CTCN to find and act on new opportunities for supporting and collaborating with the Climate Technology Centre and Network.	1		2/CP.17, paragraph 139; 14/CP.18

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Eligibility criteria	Catalyzing Green Finance	<i>Welcomes</i> the focus of Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 on promoting innovation and catalysing green finance and <i>encourages</i> the GCF to catalyse climate finance from a wider variety of sources and increase the share of funding allocated through the Private Sector Facility relative to GCF-1.	2		GCF Decisions B.36/13(a); B.32.04, paragraphs (c)-(g).
	Direct Access Entities	<i>Welcomes</i> the Strategic Plan for 2024-2027 targeted results focused on increasing the share of GCF finance programmed through Direct Access Entities and encourages the GCF to align the implementation of its Private Sector Strategy and Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme with meeting this programming priority.	1		GCF Governing Instrument paragraph 31; GCF Decision B.36/13(a).
Others	Privileges & Immunities	<i>Invites</i> the GCF Secretariat to continue efforts to enjoy bilateral privileges and immunities as are necessary, including as outlined in the Strategic Plan.	1		Conference of the Parties Decision 6/CP.26, paragraph 12.
	Coherence & Complementarity	<i>Encourages</i> the GCF to take meaningful steps to deepen its collaboration with the Global Environmental Facility and other providers of climate finance to increase the coherency and complementarity of the international climate finance architecture with a view to significantly reducing barriers to accessing climate finance and maximizing the impact of its financing.	1		
	Coherence & Complementarity	<i>Recommends</i> that the GCF take meaningful steps to enhance coherence and complementarity with the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, both under and outside the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.	1		

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	Regional Presence	<p><i>Welcomes</i> the GCF's exploration of a GCF regional presence and <i>urges</i> the GCF Secretariat and the Board to explore how a regional presence could be used to enhance access to climate finance, particularly for those countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.</p>	1		

Annotated inputs for the draft guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

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			(1) Commonly by the COP and the CMA or;	Rationale for the inputs	
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Programme priorities	Work Program	Welcomes the historically large Work Program approved at the GEF 64 th Council Meeting, which totals \$1.4 billion in GEF financing across 45 projects and programs, including \$226.3 million across 23 projects and programs focused on climate change mitigation.	1	This element recognizes the Work Program approved at the 64 th Council meeting, which is the largest Work Program in the GEF's history.	GEF/C.64/04/Rev.01
Programme priorities	Work Program	Recalls that the GEF-8 set a 36 percent floor for programming in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS), and urges the GEF Secretariat to prioritize climate change projects in LDCs and SIDS and to surpass this floor.	1	This element recognizes that the 36 percent allocation of GEF-8 programming to LDCs and SIDS is a floor, not a ceiling, and calls on the GEF to increase investment towards those countries.	GEF/C.62/04
Programme priorities	Co-Finance	Encourages the GEF to prioritize projects and programs that mobilize significant levels of co-financing, as appropriate, and highlights that co-finance targets are program-wide.	1	This element recognizes that there is a wide range in the amount of finance that GEF projects mobilize and encourages the GEF Secretariat to prioritize the projects that can catalyze relatively high levels of co-financing. It also recognizes that co-financing goals should be evaluated on a program-wide basis, to allow for individual projects that may not be able to attract co-financing.	GEF/C.64/10

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Programme priorities	Climate Change	<i>Welcomes</i> that 83 percent of GEF-8 investments as of June 2023 were focused on climate change or had climate change-related co-benefits.	1	This element notes that to date the GEF has successfully exceeded the GEF-8 target of 80 percent of financing containing climate change-related co-benefits.	GEF8 Corporate Scorecard June 2023.pdf (thegef.org)
Programme priorities	Climate Change	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF Secretariat to monitor that GEF investments directly and indirectly related to climate change amount to a minimum of 80 percent of all GEF funding commitments during the GEF-8 period, that GEF investments directly and indirectly related to climate change adaptation amount to a minimum of 45 percent of all GEF funding commitments during the GEF-8 period, and that GEF investments directly and indirectly related to climate change mitigation amount to a minimum of 65 percent of all GEF funding commitments during the GEF-8 period.	1	This element recognizes the ambitious targets for direct and indirect GEF investments related to climate change, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation during the GEF-8 period and encourages the GEF Secretariat to meet its commitment to monitor progress towards those targets.	GEF/C.62/03
Programme priorities	Climate Change	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to prioritize projects and programs that deliver climate change and biodiversity co-benefits.	1	This element recognizes that the GEF Secretariat seeks to optimize the co-benefits for climate change of its biodiversity programming.	GEF/C.64/09
Programme priorities	Climate Change	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to engage with TEC and CTCN to find and act on new opportunities for supporting and collaborating with the Climate Technology Centre and Network.	1		2/CP.17, paragraph 139; 14/CP.18

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Programme priorities	Integrated Programs	<i>Recalls</i> that the GEF-8 Programming Directions calls for delivering climate change mitigation and climate co-benefits in all 11 Integrated Programs, and <i>encourages</i> the GEF Secretariat to track and regularly report to the GEF Council the climate-related benefits of Integrated Programs.	1	This element highlights the integration of climate change mitigation throughout the Climate Change Focal Area and Integration Programs for GEF-8, and it encourages the GEF Secretariat to meet its commitment to monitor progress towards its climate-related targets. The element also encourages the GEF to better message the climate benefits of integrated programs.	GEF/R.08/29/Rev.01
Programme priorities	Agency concentration	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to continue its efforts to ensure that all GEF agencies are engaged in GEF programming and continue to track and report on agency concentration.	1	This element recognizes the importance of efforts to reduce the high levels of agency concentration and encourages the GEF Secretariat to continue its work to ensure that all agencies are engaged in programming as well as continue to track agency concentration and report to the GEF Council on the topic.	GEF/C.64/10
Programme priorities	Agency concentration	<i>Urges</i> the GEF to meet or exceed the GEF-8 target of programming at least 10 percent of resources through the regional multilateral development banks and IFAD.	1	This element recognizes that the GEF-8 Replenishment Policy Recommendations called for achieving a collective target for the regional MDBs and IFAD of at least 10 percent.	GEF/C.62/03
Programme priorities	Agency concentration	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF Secretariat to continue to show appropriate flexibility with respect to geographic restrictions in implementing agencies, such as was done with DBSA, so as to reduce agency concentration and enable wider geographic reach of GEF projects	1	This element highlights the removal of restrictions on DBSA so that it is eligible to bring forward projects in a wider geographic area.	GEF/C.64/10

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Programme priorities	Access Issues	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to circulate intersessional work programs for Council review and approval to allow for quicker review of projects.	1	This element encourages the GEF to circulate work programs intersessionally, so that agencies do not have to wait for Council meetings to have their projects considered.	
Programme priorities	Transaction costs	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF Secretariat to recommend further streamlining measures aimed at reducing transaction costs for all agencies, with the aim of reducing administrative costs and processing times.	1	This element recognizes the importance of reducing agency concentration and encourages the GEF Secretariat to take measures to improve efficient allocation of resources.	GEF/C.62/03
Programme priorities	GEF activities during the reporting period	<i>Welcomes</i> the work undertaken by the GEF during its reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023), including: a) Approval of 34 climate change projects and programmes during the reporting period under the GEF Trust Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund; b) Continued integration of climate change priority into its other focal areas and integrated programmes and the expected avoidance or sequestration of 1,007.4 Mt CO ₂ equivalent achieved through such integration; and	1	This element welcomes activities undertaken by the GEF during the reporting period and aligns with previous guidance to the GEF.	GEF Report to COP 28, paras 94, 133, 150, and Table 5

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		c) Continued implementation of the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, including through joint programs, outreach, and information sharing.			
Policies	Gender policy	<i>Requests</i> the GEF to update the GEF Policy on Gender Equality to include protections for sexual orientation and gender identity.	1	This element expresses support for the explicit inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the GEF's gender equity and gender mainstreaming efforts.	1612176 (un.org)
Policies	Governance	<i>Takes note</i> of the ongoing efforts of the GEF to improve the governance framework for its agencies and the standards to which implementing partners are accountable, and <i>encourages</i> the GEF to continue to improve the governance framework.	1	This element recognizes progress made by the GEF on its governance framework as well as work to be undertaken in the coming year. This element aligns with past guidance to the GEF.	7/CP.26 GEF Report to COP27
Programme priorities	Transparency	<i>Welcomes</i> the GEF's continued efforts to provide financing for the biennial transparency reports (BTRs), including the increased support for BTRs and national greenhouse gas inventory reports, the combined application process for multiple BTRs, and the expedited process for projects related to preparing BTRs, noting the importance of the adequacy and predictability of such financing.	2	This element expresses support for GEF efforts to provide adequate, predictable, and timely financing for BTRs and to further improve the efficient access to these resources. This element is similar to guidance to the GEF from COP27.	7/CP.26 GEF Report to COP28

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Program Priorities	Transparency	Welcomes the GEF's support for 207 Biennial Update Reports (BURs) in 132 countries, 535 National Communications (NCs) in 152 countries, and 87 BTRs in 69 countries.	2	This element recognizes the significant support provided by the GEF to a large number of countries to improve transparency.	GEF Report to COP28
Program Priorities	Transparency	Welcomes the GEF's support to 87 countries through 89 projects provided through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to build country capacity to implement the enhanced transparency framework.	2	This element expresses support for the GEF's efforts through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to build country capacity to implement the enhanced transparency framework.	GEF Report to COP28
Program Priorities	Transparency	Encourages the GEF to use the CBIT to continue to build country capacity to establish and enhance national reporting systems in order to implement the enhanced transparency framework.	2	This element encourages the GEF to continue using the CBIT to work with countries to build their long-term capacity to implement the enhanced transparency framework.	GEF Report to COP28
Programme priorities	Transparency	Notes with concern that 52 countries are eligible but have not applied for GEF funding for their first BTR, which is due at the latest by 31 December 2024, and encourages the GEF to continue to make financing available for BTRs in an efficient manner.	2	This element expresses support for GEF efforts to provide financing for BTRs and to further improve the efficient access to these resources. This element is similar to guidance to the GEF from COP27.	7/CP.26 GEF Report to COP28

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Programme priorities	Efficiency of GEF operations	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to continue its efforts to further streamline, consolidate, and increase efficiency of GEF operations, including simplification of information requirements for designing and implementing GEF-financed projects and programs.	1	This element expresses support for the GEF to continue to improve efficiency of GEF operations and aligns with past guidance to the GEF.	7/CP.26 GEF Report to COP28
Programme priorities	Efficiency of GEF operations	<i>Urges</i> the GEF to enhance collaboration, coordination and coherence within the Financial Mechanism and with climate finance providers outside the Financial Mechanism by working with the GCF and other providers of climate finance to better coordinate operations, including through coordinating accreditation applications, procedures, and results metrics and to create opportunities for joint programming.	1	This element recognizes the significant potential benefits for agencies of harmonizing operations between the GEF and other climate finance providers.	GEF/C.64/08
Programme priorities	Efficiency of GEF operations	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to work with the GCF, the Adaptation Fund and other climate funds to simplify the process for joint programming.	1	This element encourages the GEF to continue its efforts to enhance complementarity with the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, and other climate funds.	
Programme priorities	Small Grants Program	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to work to make the Small Grants Program accessible to local organizations.	1	This element recognizes the GEF's goal of empowering local civil society organizations and community-based organizations through the Small Grants Program.	GEF/C.64/04/Rev.01

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Programme priorities	Nature-based Solutions	<i>Encourages</i> the GEF to pioneer nature-based solutions programming that delivers climate impacts.	1	Nature-based solutions have potential to deliver significant climate co-benefits. The GEF is uniquely positioned to pioneer projects in this area.	
