

FINCOAHN NBF Inception Meeting

Summary Report

Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, Abu Dhabi

February 26-27, 2025

Participants

1. Marcus Johannesson, AF
2. Yero Baldeh, AFDB
3. Moustafa Bayoumi, AGDA
4. Felicien Nyorobeka, Burundi
5. Prosper Dodiko, Burundi
6. Bakhit Djamous Hassan, Chad
7. Oumar Gadji Soumaila, Chad
8. Haroun Guet Ousman, Chad
9. Ali Ahmat Brahim, Chad
10. Simon Lucas, FCDO
11. Habib Urrehman Mayar, g7+
12. Abdoulie Jallow, Gambia
13. Stephanie Speck, GCF
14. Katsumasa Tanaka, GEF
15. Valentina Bernasconi, ICRC
16. John Forde, Ireland
17. Dr. Jassim Abdul Aziz Hammadi Al-Muhammadi, Iraq
18. His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Mudhafar Al Jbori, Iraq
19. Rola Sbeih Mohamed, Iraq
20. Mudather Saber Othman, Iraq
21. Francesco Corvaro, Italy
22. Esra Sayhi, IsDB
23. Ibrahim Thibyan, Maldives
24. Mohamed El Moctar Ahmedou, Mauritania
25. Moulaye Brahim, Mauritania
26. Sajeda Shawa, OCHA
27. Rebecca Nadin, ODI Global
28. Mauricio Vazquez, ODI Global
29. Manisha Gulati, ODI Global
30. Charlotte King, ODI Global
31. Yue Cao, ODI Global
32. Amir W H Khouzam, ODI Global
33. Laura Perez Estevez, ODI Global
34. Sellu Mccarthy, Sierra Leone
35. Sarah Njeri Deall, SOAS
36. Bihi Iman Egeh, Somalia
37. Liban Obsiye, Somalia
38. Hunter Mckevitt Mills, Timor - Leste
39. Elda Da Costa Guterrez, Timor Leste
40. Elizabeth Carabine, Un DPPA
41. Paula Aguilar Buendia, UNFCCC
42. Stephen Anderson, WFP
43. Musaed Aklan, Yemen
44. Tawfeeq Al-Sharjab, Yemen
45. Francesco Corvaro, Italy
46. Adonia Ayebare, Uganda
47. Amb. Elshad, Cop29 Presidency
48. Gafgaz, Cop29 Presidency
49. Rauf, Cop29 Presidency
50. H.E. Balalaa, UEA MoFa
51. Shaima, UEA MoFa
52. Meera, UEA MoFa
53. H.E Yalchin Rafiyev, Azerbaijan
54. Leyla Suleymanova, Azerbaijan
55. Afgan Shahmarov, Azerbaijan

Background

Despite being among the most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change, countries and communities affected by conflict and facing severe humanitarian crises continue to encounter large barriers in accessing finance for resilience building and climate adaptation. Per capita climate finance in these settings is often 5 to 80 times less than in stabler countries, and the OECD reports that only around 10% of global climate finance reaches these highly vulnerable regions.

The UNFCCC Secretariat, as part of its mandate to “*explore ways and means to assist developing country Parties in assessing their needs and priorities, in a country-driven manner including*

*technological and capacity-building needs, and in translating climate finance needs into action*¹, in partnership with g7+, World Food Programme, ODI, and the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy initiated a new phase of the Needs-Based Finance project, focused on countries affected by climate and severe humanitarian risks. The pilot of this new phase includes: Chad, Yemen, South Sudan, Timor Leste, and Papua New Guinea.

Objective

The meeting, hosted by the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in collaboration with ODI, WFP, and the g7+, aimed to launch the new phase of the Needs-Based Finance Project (FINCOAHN NBF) for countries affected by conflict and severe humanitarian needs. The discussions focused on establishing focal points, defining key activities, and outlining the project timeline.

Additionally, the event featured sessions on the operationalization of the newly established Network of Climate Vulnerable Countries in conflict-affected regions. It served as a platform for deliberating climate finance access, addressing country-specific challenges, and advancing the development of NBF Implementation Plans.

Day 1: Inaugural Meeting of the Network of Climate Vulnerable Countries

Opening Remarks & Context Setting

Representatives from the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and COP29 Presidency welcomed esteemed ministers and delegates to the meeting. Expert from ODI set the scene by providing a detailed overview of the state of play of climate finance flows, highlighting disparities in funding access in fragile and conflict affected contexts and the urgent need for tailored approaches for financial support.

Ministerial & Country Statements on the Operationalization of the Network

Ministers and government officials from Yemen, Chad, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, South Sudan, Timor Leste, Mauritania, Maldives, the Gambia, and Iraq outlined their national priorities and challenges in securing climate finance. Discussions emphasized the disproportionate allocation of climate finance, the impact of political instability on funding access, and the necessity for country-driven solutions.

Network members discussed their governance structure, and workstreams, which included advocacy, direct engagement with climate funds, and the development of country platforms to facilitate finance mobilization.

Panel Discussions: Climate Funds, Bilateral Agencies, Development Banks and Aid Providers:

Representatives of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Green Climate Fund (GCF), United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), WFP, and the Adaptation Fund (AF) joined a panel discussion providing insights into the financial landscape and funding opportunities for countries in fragile setting within their institutions. Examples and success stories were shared, such a

¹ Long-term finance decisions:
2023 4/CP.28, para. 17-18
2022 13/CP.27, para. 11
2021 4/CP.26, para. 22
2017 6/CP.23, para. 10

recent GCF climate resilient agriculture project in Somalia, which anticipates receiving a grant of USD 100 million.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) participated in a second panel focusing on existing financial mechanisms and best practices for securing funding in conflict affected settings. The panel highlighted the need for collaboration among climate funds and a wider range of finance providers and stakeholders, including humanitarian aid institutions, structured, standardized approaches among implementing entities and donors to manage risk, and the need for funds to show flexibility for special cases.

Day 2: Implementing the Needs-Based Financing Project

Introduction to the NBF Project:

The UNFCCC Secretariat outlined the mandate, process, and key outputs of the Needs-Based Finance (NBF) Project, emphasizing its role in translating climate needs into Climate Finance Mobilization Strategies and developing concrete, bankable funding proposals. The new phase of the NBF Project will focus on Chad, South Sudan, Yemen, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea. The importance of building on existing research and initiatives to accelerate the process and swiftly advance the development of funding proposals was underscored, as well as the need for close collaboration and continued engagement of country focal points.

Country's Climate Needs Readiness & NBF Implementation Plan Development:

Country officials presented their climate needs and priorities, ongoing initiatives, and efforts to mobilize climate finance, while also identifying key barriers to accessing funding. Yemen and Timor-Leste showcased advanced readiness with developed concept notes, whereas Chad, Papua New Guinea, and South Sudan emphasized the need for further technical support and capacity building to strengthen their proposals. Finance providers, including multilateral development banks (MDBs), climate funds, and development agencies, engaged in Q&A sessions to gain a deeper understanding of the countries state of play and challenges faced in accessing climate finance.

Thereafter, working sessions were held, where country officials drafted country-specific Implementation Plans for the NBF Project, outlining focal points, barriers to finance access, existing initiatives, and priority areas for each participating country. In addition, officials participated in one-on-one discussions with climate fund representatives, ODI country experts, and the UNFCCC Secretariat to explore opportunities for collaboration, ways to engage with climate funds, and how to leverage the NBF process to develop robust funding proposals. Climate fund representatives provided tailored guidance on aligning with funding criteria and improving the bankability of project proposals.

Closing Discussions

Country officials presented their drafted Implementation Plans, emphasizing the need for further consultations within their national ministries to ensure alignment with national strategies. Delegates reaffirmed their interest and commitment to engage with the NBF Project, recognizing its value in enhancing access to climate finance. Climate fund representatives conveyed their strong interest in actively participating in the different stages of the FINCOAHN NBF Project, underscoring their commitment to sustained collaboration and active contribution throughout the project's implementation.

Next Steps

- Country officials will discuss internally to refine NBF Implementation Plans and formally nominate focal points.
- The UNFCCC Secretariat, in collaboration with NBF FINCOAHN partners, will develop initial drafts of the Technical Assessments of Climate Finance Flows and Needs, as well as Climate Finance Mobilization Strategies. These drafts will be shared with NBF focal points for consultation and feedback, ensuring that country-specific priorities and challenges are fully incorporated.