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Subject: Notification of Joint Consultation to MNA CSP

Dear CTF Trust Fund Committee Members,

The CTF Guidelines for Investment Plans call for the CIF Administrative Unit to inform the Trust Fund Committee of country expressions of interest and all planned joint missions for the preparation of investment plans. The purpose of this email is to notify you that the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), in consultation with eligible countries of the Middle East and North Africa region, propose to organize a series of meetings as part of the preparation of the regional investment plan for scaling up concentrated solar power.

At its meeting in May 2009, the Trust Fund Committee reviewed the document CTF/TFC.3/7, *Clean Technology Fund: Concept Note for a Concentrated Solar Power Scale-up Program in the Middle East and North Africa Region*, welcomed the development of a regional investment plan leading to a significant investment in concentrated solar power technology through the CTF, and recognized the potential for a transformational impact from such an ambitious program. The Committee requested the MDBs to work with the countries in the region to complete the preparation of the proposed regional investment plan.

In launching preparation of the investment plan, the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and IFC organized a workshop with government representatives of all MENA countries in Rabat on June 11 and 12, 2009 to learn about current and future government plans on CSP technology and to engage MENA countries in this regional initiative. Government representatives welcomed the World Bank Group/AfDB-led initiative and expressed their commitment in working closely to achieve the program's objective. Preparation of the regional investment plan -- including identification of specific projects and discussions with potential co-financiers -- is now underway.

A Donor's meeting in Tunis with MDBs, bilateral development agencies and banks, Arab Funds, and other donors is planned on or around October 19-20 in order to mobilize the required financing for the planned CSP projects in the region. Prior to the donors' meeting, government representatives of the MENA countries that participated in the previous Rabat workshop will meet to follow-up on the progress made in preparing the CSP investment plan and in the planned CSP projects. It is anticipated that private sector and civil society representatives from the region will also be invited to the consultations.

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