

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

Joint CTF-SCF.17/5
May 9, 2017

Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees

Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Agenda Item 5

PROPOSAL ON THE FUTURE OF THE PARTNERSHIP FORUM (SUMMARY)

PROPOSED DECISION

The joint meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees, through a decision by mail, reviewed the document JOINT CTF-SCF.17/5, *Proposal on the Future of the Partnership Forum*, and adopts the recommendation made by the CIF Administrative Unit to discontinue holding the Partnership Forum at regular intervals, but to retain the option to convene the Partnership Forum should the Program Manager of the CIF Administrative Unit, in consultation with the co-chairs of the joint meeting, deem it strategic to do so.

The joint meeting requests the CIF Administrative Unit to take the necessary steps to amend the CTF and SCF Governance Framework documents in accordance with paragraph 56 of the CTF Governance Framework and paragraph 59 of the SCF Governance Framework to reflect this decision.

I. Introduction

1. In November 2015, the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees, having reviewed the document *Joint CTF-SCF/15/4 Proposal on the Future of the Partnership Forum*, requested the CIF Administrative Unit to prepare a revised paper, specifying the budget implications of the options proposed and any new options, and identifying the amendments that would be required to the Governance Framework Documents of the CTF and SCF to implement any of the proposed options. The joint meeting agreed to delay consideration of this paper to take into account the development of the business plan and first year work plan of the CIF Evaluation and Learning special initiative. This paper responds to the request of the joint committee for a revised proposal on the future of the Partnership Forum.

II. Background

2. The Governance Documents of the CIF state that the Partnership Forum:
 - a. Is a broad-based meeting of stakeholders of the CIF;
 - b. Will be convened every eighteen months to provide a forum for dialogue on the strategic directions, results and impacts of the CIF;
 - c. Will provide an opportunity for independent scientific, technical and other advice on major issues of implementation in integrating climate change and development and for sharing cutting edge knowledge concerning climate change challenges; and
 - d. Will be a meeting for dialogue and consultation and will not lead to written outcomes, such as agreed texts or declarations.
3. Since 2008, the CIF has held five Partnership Forums co-hosted by one of the five partner multilateral development banks (MDBs).
4. As the CIF portfolio has grown to 72 countries and the number of stakeholders involved in the CIF has increased, so too has the Partnership Forum grown into a large, logically complex, and resource intensive undertaking with more than 500 participants joining the 2014 Partnership Forum in Jamaica. The final cost for the 2014 Partnership Forum was approximately \$1,000,000 between the CIF Administrative Unit and the co-host IDB for the convening of the event, excluding preparatory missions and staff time.
5. The landscape of climate finance events has evolved considerably since 2008 with a proliferation of events held every year that address climate finance broadly at a global scale, as well as events that target specific sectors, regions, themes, or delivery partners.
6. The scope of events organized by the CIF Administrative Unit and its MDB partners has also expanded since the CIF were established. Broadly, CIF events are intended to

achieve one or more of five key objectives: (i) sharing lessons, knowledge, and results; (ii) fostering peer-to-peer learning; (iii) communicating/raising the visibility of CIF results and achievements; (iv) strengthening networks among different stakeholders; and (v) engaging in broader conversations on how to transition to low-carbon, climate resilient development.

7. Research shows that the kind of learning most likely to be applied is often obtained through the accumulation of ‘tacit knowledge’ – that is, through informal networks, colleagues, and experiences – and less through formal learning opportunities such as trainings or reading publications. With this in mind, the CIF Administrative Unit will increasingly focus on strengthening experiential, peer-to-peer and thematically focused joint learning and knowledge exchange through a variety of events and mechanisms.
8. The recently approved Evaluation and Learning Initiative will play an important role in increasing evidence-based learning at CIF events through the generation of evaluative evidence on topics of interest. Many of these activities will also involve other climate funds and practitioners, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other funds as well as leading experts. These various activities are described in more detail below.
9. **Thematic learning events:** The CIF Administrative Unit will continue to organize and strengthen South-South learning dialogues and knowledge exchanges on priority topics of interest to the CIF community. These events will leverage analytical and evaluative work undertaken on key topics of interest, as well as global expertise and localized knowledge and experience, in order to share and learn from best practices. These events tend to be smaller (25-50 persons) or may be virtual with participation targeted toward practitioners active in the subject area, including CIF recipient country stakeholders. Events and workshops will also be more rigorously evaluated than in the past.
10. **Pilot country meetings:** Pilot country meetings will continue to be a critically important forum for learning and knowledge exchange within each program. These will increasingly incorporate discussions of findings from evaluations and other analytical work which focus on identifying and learning from innovative approaches and best practices around particular sectors or themes. They will also seek to create dynamic and engaging formats for learning, building on best practices for knowledge retention, to enhance the experience for participants.
11. **Online platforms for learning exchange:** In FY 17 the CIF Administrative Unit will initiate one or more online platforms for interactive learning and knowledge exchange amongst CIF stakeholders.¹ These are intended to complement the in-person thematic

¹ An example of an effective practitioner-drive online platform, which will serve as a reference point for the online platform(s) the CIF will develop is <http://www.healthfinancingafrica.org>.

learning events and pilot country meetings by facilitating a more formal and continuously connected learning community within programs, sectors and themes. An initial pilot was launched following the PPCR's Asia-Pacific learning exchange on urban resilience, and may potentially be applied more widely and PPCR and other programs.

12. **Global conferences and learning networks:** Finally, efforts will be made to facilitate increased participation of CIF actors in key global conferences, including the organization of panels and side sessions. Likewise, the CIF will step up efforts to engage in and contribute to existing learning networks within the sector, such as Climate-Eval and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network.

III. Recommendation on the Future of the Partnership Forum

13. In light of the variety of events and activities discussed above, the CIF Administrative Unit does not see additional value in organizing a Partnership Forum at this time. The recommendation of the CIF Administrative Unit is to discontinue holding the Partnership Forum at regular intervals, but to retain the option to convene the Partnership Forum should the Program Manager of the CIF Administrative Unit, in consultation with the co-chairs of the joint meeting, deem it strategic to do so.
14. Recognizing that the Partnership Forum provides an opportunity for CIF trust fund committee members to learn from the experiences of CIF recipient countries and stakeholders, it is proposed that in lieu of the Partnership Forum, this experience sharing could be achieved by periodically convening CIF trust fund committee meetings in a CIF recipient country. Depending upon the location, there may be additional budget implications in convening CIF trust fund committee meetings outside of Washington, D.C.; the additional cost, however, would be significantly less than the approximately \$1,000,000 cost incurred for the 2014 Partnership Forum.²
15. If the recommendation is adopted to discontinue holding the Partnership Forum at regular intervals, minor amendments would be required to the CTF and SCF Governance Framework Documents and the Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Trust Fund Committee of the Clean Technology Fund and Strategic Climate Fund.

² The cost of convening each set of CIF trust fund committee meetings in Washington, D.C. is about \$250,000. The cost of convening the June 2016 trust fund committee meetings in Oaxaca, Mexico was approximately the same.