

For decision by the joint trust fund committees:

Nomination of the International Reference Group for the Independent Evaluation of the CIFs

Jan 21, 2013

Background

In May 2012, the Joint Trust Fund Committee requested the Evaluation Oversight Committee (EOC) to “present a proposal for establishing an international reference group of eminent people with a balance between experts from developing and developed countries to advise the oversight committee so as to ensure credibility and independence of the evaluation.”

In September 2012, the Joint Trust Fund Committee approved by mail the Approach Paper to the Evaluation. The Approach Paper described in more detail the qualifications, selection, and tasks of the IRG. It provided additionally that the IRG should, ideally, be gender balanced, and that there would be a single, up-or-down decision by the Joint Trust Fund Committees on the entire slate of nominees.

A slate of nominees is presented here for approval.

Nomination process

The EOC received a number of nominations from Trust Fund Committee Members and observers. The nominees were highly qualified and would have made excellent IRG members. Lack of inclusion of any of the nominees does not in any way reflect on their qualifications. However, nomination of a combined slate was complicated by the need to take into account a number of stringent conditions that restricted the pool of eligible members. These included:

- Geographical balance: beyond a developed/developing balance, the EOC decided to avoid having two members from the same country
- Gender balance, reflecting input from public consultations
- Disciplinary balance: the IRG as a whole should include experts familiar with energy, adaptation, and forestry issues related to climate change, and with development
- Perspective balance: the IRG should include public sector, private sector, and NGO perspectives
- Avoidance of perceptions of potential conflicts of interest – this criterion excludes, for instance, members of CIF committees, staff of national ministries or agencies involved in CIF plans and projects, MDB ex-staff and officers, officers of organizations funded by the CIFs.
- An ability to make time available for this task – a challenge given the demands on people of this caliber.

To satisfy these criteria the EOC had to supplement Trust Fund Committee nominations with additional names from informal consultations. The process took longer than expected.

Nominees

The proposed slate consists of four eminent experts.

Dr. Qwanruedee Chotichanatawong is President of the Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) and until recently was Executive Director of the Thailand Business Council for Sustainable Development. She has spent much of her professional career at TEI, an NGO which works in a participatory manner with the private sector, communities and government to promote environmental improvement. She has a D.Eng. from the Asian Institute of Technology in energy technology and has directed a wide range of projects in the areas of energy conservation, renewable energy, pollution management, environmental economics, climate change, and natural resources management.

Dr. Kirit Parikh is currently Chairman, Integrated Research and Action for Development, New Delhi. He was the founding Director and Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, While on the Planning Commission of the Government of India, he formulated an integrated energy policy for the country and oversaw a report on groundwater. He has held the positions of Senior Economic Advisor to the Administrator of UNDP, and program Leader of the Food and Agriculture Program of IIASA. He was awarded the Padma Bushan by the President of India and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of India. He holds MS and ScD degrees from MIT.

Prof. Martin Parry is currently visiting Professor, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London, and Visiting Research Fellow at the Grantham Institute. A leading expert on climate adaptation, he was Co-Chair of Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Founding Chair, Scientific Steering Committee of the UNEP Programme for Research on Vulnerability, Impacts, and Adaptation. He was appointed OBE, for services to the environment and to climate change, and received the Gerbier-Mumm International Award from the World Meteorological Organisation and the Cuthbert Peek Award from the Royal Geographical Society. He holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Edinburgh.

Ms. Frances Seymour was until recently Director-General, International Center for Forestry Research (CIFOR), an international organization that is part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. As Director-General she positioned CIFOR to contribute to the global discussions on forests and climate change and authored numerous papers on REDD. Previously she was Director of the Institutions and Governance Program of the World Resources Institute and Director, Development Assistance Policy, WWF. She has a Masters degree in public policy from Princeton University.