



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.39/8  
3 October 2022

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Thirty-ninth meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 13-14 October 2022

Agenda item 10 b)

**OPTIONS FOR A POLICY OR GUIDELINES TO FURTHER  
ENHANCE CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND  
ENGAGEMENT IN THE WORK OF THE FUND**

## Background

1. The Adaptation Fund (the Fund) has recognized the importance of its engagement with civil society as well as contributions of civil society to the Fund's work. While several aspects of the Fund's engagement with civil society have been considered best practice, the Board acknowledged, at its thirty-third meeting, the importance of further enhancing the participation of civil society in the work of the Board.

2. The Board, at its thirty-third meeting, decided to request the secretariat:

- a) *To explore, in consultation with civil society and drawing lessons from other climate funds, options to further enhance civil society participation and engagement in the work of the Board; and*
- b) *To prepare a document and submit it to the Board for consideration at the thirty-fourth meeting.*

*(Decision B.33/54)*

3. Pursuant to Decision B.33/54, the secretariat presented document AFB/B.34/11 to the Board at its thirty-fourth meeting, which contains potential options for the Board to enhance civil society participation and engagement in the work of the Board considering the current practices of the Board, the practices of other climate funds, the observations and recommendations that had been received from the *Adaptation Fund NGO Network*<sup>1</sup> and their financial, operational and legal implications of the potential options.

4. The Board had a limited time to discuss the information presented in document AFB/B.34/11 and decided:

- a) *To provide the secretariat with comments on the options provided in document AFB/B.34/11 during the intersessional period between its thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth meetings; and*
- b) *To request the secretariat to present a document which compiles comments and input received from the Board to the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board for consideration.*

*(Decision B.34/51)*

5. Pursuant to Decision B.34/51, the secretariat prepared and circulated a survey on the subject matter to the Board during the intersessional period between its thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth meetings. The secretariat presented a document containing a compilation of responses and comments collected by the survey.

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<sup>1</sup> The Adaptation Fund (AF) NGO Network announced the change of its organizational name to the "Adaptation Fund (AF) Civil Society Network", through its [Draft Governance Arrangements](#) issued on 19 October 2021.

6. Due to the limited time and opportunities to exchange on complex topics in Board meetings organized virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic, this agenda item was not taken up at the first and second sessions of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Board and was presented at the thirty-sixth meeting instead.

7. At its thirty-sixth meeting, the Board discussed the initial survey results presented in document AFB/B.36/7 and decided to request the secretariat:

- a) *To resubmit the initial survey including the updated questions among the Board members and alternates, during the intersessional period between its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh meetings, which reflect the Board's discussions held at its thirty-sixth meeting, including on the need of defining civil society organizations;*
- b) *To conduct a study on the need for a policy for civil society engagement with the Adaptation Fund, taking into account the practices and policies of other climate funds;*
- c) *To present a document containing the outcome of the work as referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above for the Board's consideration at its thirty-seventh meeting.*

*(Decision B.36/44)*

8. Pursuant to Decision B.36/44, the secretariat prepared and circulated the second round of the survey on the subject matter to the Board during the intersessional period between its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh meetings. The secretariat also conducted the study on the need for a policy for civil society engagement with the Fund. At the twenty-seventh meeting of the Board, the secretariat presented the results and analysis of the second round of the Board survey and the study on the need for a policy for civil society engagement with the Fund, taking into account the practices and policies of other climate funds.

9. At its thirty-seventh meeting, the Board considered options to further enhance civil society participation and engagement based on the results of the Board survey and the study on the need for a policy for civil society engagement presented in document AFB/B.37/8 and decided:

- (a) *To request the secretariat, with a view to enhancing the Adaptation Fund's collaboration with civil society:*
  - (i) *To continue engaging with civil society and other stakeholders for their active contribution to the process of reviewing the existing and emerging policies and procedures of the Adaptation Fund (the Fund);*
  - (ii) *To create a dedicated section on the Fund's website related to the Fund's engagement with stakeholders, including civil society, and update it as the discussions on stakeholder engagement evolve;*

- (iii) *To invite civil society members to the Fund's readiness workshops and webinars and consider organizing a session dedicated to civil society engagement, as appropriate and within budget;*
- (b) *To request the secretariat to prepare a draft outline of a policy or guidelines on civil society engagement, taking into account the findings of the survey results and the study on the need for the policy, as contained in document AFB/B.37/8, as well as the Board's discussions at its thirty-seventh meeting, and to present it for the Board's consideration at its thirty-eighth meeting.*

*(Decision B.37/42)*

10. In this document, the secretariat presents a draft outline of a policy or guidelines on civil society engagement for the Board's consideration. The item was placed on the agenda of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Board. However, owing to a lack of time, the Board agreed to defer consideration of the sub-item to its thirty-ninth meeting.

### **Rationale and objective for a policy or guidelines on civil society engagement**

11. Civil society engagement is an important feature of the Fund that is recognized by the Fund's Medium-Term Strategy 2018 – 2022 (MTS) and reflected in the Fund's existing practices as set out in the Fund's policies and rules. The MTS suggests exploring modalities for greater collaboration between the Fund and civil society. The Adaptation Fund Civil Society Network<sup>2</sup> has also recommended to enhance collaboration with civil society in the work of the Board and has presented specific recommendations to the Board. After considering those recommendations and sharing their views through a survey, the Board discussed the need for a definition of civil society and for a policy on civil society engagement in the work of the Fund. To further consider these questions, the Board requested the secretariat to prepare a study on the need for a policy on civil society engagement that takes into account the practices and policies of other climate funds.

12. The study on the need for a policy on civil society engagement, as contained in document AFB/B.37/8, finds that the Fund's practices are largely aligned with those of other climate funds. The Fund's demonstrated commitment to civil society engagement is reflected in its multiple practices and policies that allow for civil society participation on both the Board and project/programme levels. In independent evaluations<sup>3</sup>, the Fund has been recognized to have set standards and best practices in the areas of transparency. With regard to civil society participation in the work of the Board, the Adaptation Fund (AF) is the only climate fund that organizes a Dialogue with Civil Society as a standing agenda item at each Board meeting, with content and format of the Dialogue being decided by the AF Civil Society Network.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> See for example, the [Independent Evaluation of the Adaptation Fund – Second Phase Evaluation Report](#) & [Independent Evaluation of the Adaptation Fund – First Phase Evaluation Report](#)

13. Looking at the practices of other climate funds, the study also finds that the Adaptation Fund is the only fund which does not have a main policy or guidelines that contains all relevant rules and practices on civil society engagement, nor a definition of civil society in the context of its work. Having considered the study, the Board decided to explore the option to develop a comprehensive policy or guidelines on civil society engagement in the Fund to further advance the Fund's collaboration with civil society, as set out in the MTS.

14. Based on the findings of the study, the purpose for developing a comprehensive policy or guidelines for civil society engagement is to:

- a) set a clearer vision and reinforce the Fund's continued commitment to civil society engagement;
- b) provide an opportunity for the Fund to streamline in a consistent and comprehensive manner the existing policies and practices together and add new elements that are decided by the Board based on the recommendations by the AF CSO Network;
- c) increase the visibility and communication of the Fund's commitment and practices on civil society engagement;
- d) provide the possibility to review and update it when needs arise to stay aligned with international best practices; and
- e) further define civil society in the work of the Fund.

#### **Draft outline of a policy or guidelines on civil society engagement**

15. The Adaptation Fund's existing policies and practices capture features on civil society engagement in the work of the Board and related decision-making processes and in the design and implementation of projects and programmes. There could be two options for a Fund's policy or guidelines for civil society engagement. First option is to compile these existing policies and practices on all Fund levels in one document and complement them with an overarching vision statement and related principles. This allows to identify potential gaps and adopt additional elements to close them. This approach would be broadly similar to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)'s ["Updated vision to enhance civil society engagement with the GEF"](#) (2017), a main document designed to complement and reinforce other key dimensions of civil society engagement with the GEF, including in the design and implementation of GEF projects and programs. Rather than a policy, it functions as vision document that outlines a vision statement and specific principles and objectives for civil society engagement with the GEF.

16. The other option for the Fund would be to take the approach similar to those of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) that have adopted guidelines to govern the civil society engagement on the level of their governing bodies and related decision-making bodies<sup>4</sup>, while the broader stakeholder engagement on the project/programme level is governed in other relevant policies such as environmental and social, gender and indigenous peoples

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<sup>4</sup> See the GCF's ["Guidelines relating to the observer participation, accreditation of observer organizations and participation of active observers"](#) and the CIFs' ["Guidelines for inviting representatives of civil society to observe meetings of the CIF Trust Fund Committees"](#).

policies. A full overview of multilateral climate funds' relevant policies and guidelines on civil society engagement is contained in **Annex II** to this document.

17. The secretariat proposes to take the first option of developing a vision and guidelines document for enhanced civil society engagement and participation in the work of the Fund, similar to the GEF's model. The draft outline of the proposed Adaptation Fund Vision and Guidelines for Civil Society Engagement below includes both the relevant Fund's existing policies and practices, as well as the relevant recommendations from the AF Civil Society Network that received "majority support" in the Board survey. An overview of the second round of the survey results and the relevant existing policies and practices by the Fund is presented in **Annex I to this document**.

18. As presented at the thirty-seventh meeting of the Board, some of the recommended items from the AF Civil Society Network are not in line with the existing policies of the Fund and therefore, the amendment of the existing policies such as the [Rules of Procedure of the Board](#) and [Open Information Policy](#) would be required, if the Board decides to implement those items. Pursuant to *XVIII. Amendments to Rules of Procedure* (paragraph 64), amendments to the Rules of Procedure must be formally approved by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP). In this regard, the recommended items by the AF Civil Society Network that received "majority support" and "divided opinions" in the Board survey are included along with the relevant Fund's existing policies and practices in the proposed draft outline (**Table 1**). Those items that received "divided opinions" and require the amendment of the *Rules of Procedure* and the items that received "majority opposition" are listed in **Table 2** and **Table 3, respectively**.

**Table 1.** Proposed draft outline of the Adaptation Fund Vision and Guidelines for Enhanced Civil Society Engagement

<p><u>Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision, principles and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formulate a vision statement based on the Fund's mandate and relevant CMP/CMA decisions, Board decisions, and the MTS</li> <li>- Formulate principles and objectives for civil society engagement with the Fund on all levels</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>[New element proposed by civil society]</i> Engaging for active contribution of civil society and other stakeholders to the process of reviewing the existing and emerging policies and procedures of the Fund (Approved by decision B.37/42)</li> <li>• <i>[New element proposed by civil society]</i> Develop a definition of civil society (Q 7.1, Divided opinion)</li> <li>• <i>[New element proposed by civil society]</i> Engaging with other stakeholders such as private sector (Q 7.3, Majority support)</li> </ul>
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### Civil society engagement in the work of the Board

#### a) Observer participation in Board meetings

- Existing process and guidelines in line with [Rules of Procedure \(incl. paras 31 – 34 on observers, incl. roles and responsibilities of observers\)](#)
- Dialogue with civil society: Organization of the dialogue with civil society as a standing agenda at each Board meeting (Existing practice to be codified)
- Closed meetings: Process and guidelines based on the Fund's Open Information Policy and Rules of Procedure of the Board (paras. 19 – 20)
  - *[New element proposed by civil society] More explicit disclosure of reasons for closed sessions (Q 3.1, Majority support)*

#### b) Transparency of Board proceedings

- *Existing practice: Documents posted on Fund's website and livestreaming of Board meetings*
- *Existing practice: Retention of written records of the Board and recordings of proceedings (Rules of Procedure, para. 25)*
- *[New element proposed by civil society] Recording and archiving of the Board meetings on the Fund's website (Q 2.1, Divided opinion)*

### Participation in other decision-making processes of the Board

- Intersessional decisions: outline current practice
- Civil society engagement in policy development and review through stakeholder consultation processes (e.g., MTS I and MTS II)

### Civil society engagement in the design and implementation of AF projects and programmes

- Existing policies and practices in line with the Fund's *Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPG)*, *Environmental and Social Policy (ESP)* and *Gender Policy (GP)*
  - Providing facilities that will enable interested stakeholders to publicly submit comments about proposals" (*Operational Policies and Guidelines*, paragraph 89)
  - Fund's Ad Hoc Complaint Handling Mechanism (ACHM)
- *[New element proposed by civil society] Summary of project proposals in the respective countries' official languages (Q 5.1, Majority support)*
- *[New element proposed by civil society] Inviting civil society members to the Fund's readiness workshops and including a session dedicated to civil society engagement in the Fund's readiness workshops and webinars (Approved by decision B.37/42)*

### Enhanced communication

- *[New element proposed by civil society]* Creating a dedicated section related to the Fund's engagement with civil society on the Fund's website (Approved by decision B.37/42)
- *[New element proposed by civil society]* Provision of country-specific information on the Fund's website (Q 5.3, Majority support)

**Table 2.** Recommendations from the AF CSO Network, which received “divided opinions” in the Board survey and that would require the amendment of the Rules of Procedure for their implementation

- Establishing the status of the elected active civil society observers (Q 4.1, Divided opinion)
- Establishing the Fund's own observer accreditation process (Q 4.5, Divided opinion)
- Solicitation of stakeholder input on (re-)accreditation (Q 6.1, Divided opinion)

**Table 3.** Recommendations from the AF CSO Network, which received “majority opposition” in the Board survey

- Allowing the active civil society observers to attend closed meetings (Q 4.2, Majority opposition)
- Allocation of travel budgets for the active civil society observers to participate in the Board meetings (Q 4.3, Majority opposition)
- Solicitation of stakeholder input for intersessional decision-making (Q 6.3, Majority opposition)

### **Next steps**

19. The Board may wish to consider the information and options presented in this document and decide to request the secretariat to develop an *Adaptation Fund Vision and Guidelines for Enhanced Civil Society Engagement*, based on the proposed outline. The Board may also wish to further continue the discussions on those proposed elements that are not included in the draft outline including those would require substantial revision of the Fund policies and procedures.



**Recommendation**

20. Having considered the information contained in document AFB/B.39/8, the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) decides to request the secretariat:

- a) To prepare a draft Adaptation Fund Vision and Guidelines on Enhanced Civil Society Engagement, based on the draft outline presented in Table 1 of document AFB/B.39/8 that would be revised taking into account the Board's discussions held at the thirty-ninth meeting;
- b) To compile the remaining elements recommended by the Adaptation Fund Civil Society Network that are not included in the draft outline mentioned in subparagraph a) and potential implications for further discussions;
- c) To present a) and b) for the Board's consideration at its fortieth meeting.

**Annex I: Overview of survey results and relevant AF policies and practices**

Recommendation	Survey number	Survey results	Relevant existing policies and practices of the Adaptation Fund
<b>1. Enhanced collaboration with civil society</b>			
a) Creating a dedicated section related to the Fund's engagement with civil society on the Fund's website	1.1	Yes: 16, No: 1, Neither: 1 [Majority support]	The secretariat estimates that little cost incurs when the participation of civil society members in the readiness events is online. Travel costs would incur for the Fund, however, if they would participate in the workshops in person and the Board decides to bear the costs. Having reviewed the existing Fund's policies and guidelines, none of them restricts the implementation of the listed three items.
b) Allowing more active contribution of civil society and other stakeholders to the process of reviewing the existing and emerging policies and procedures of the Fund	1.3	Yes: 15, No: 2, Neither: 1 [Majority support]	
c) Inviting a civil society member to the Fund's readiness workshop and including a session dedicated to civil society engagement in the Fund's readiness workshops and webinars	1.5 and 1.6	Yes: 17, No: 0, Neither: 1 [Majority support]	
<b>2. Recording and archiving of the Board meetings on the Fund's website</b>	2.1	Yes: 7, No: 8, Neither: 2 [Divided opinion]	The Fund has no policy or guidelines that restricts the publication of the recordings and archiving of the Board meetings. The GEF posts recordings of its council meetings online as its practice and there is no governing policy for that. On the other hand, the GCF makes available recordings of the board meetings online according to the rules that set out in the Information Disclosure Policy of the Green Climate Fund. The Board may wish to implement this recommended item as a new practice for the Fund. There might be cost implications.

Recommendation	Survey number	Survey results	Relevant existing policies and practices of the Adaptation Fund
<b>3. More explicit disclosure of reasons for closed sessions</b>	3.1	Yes: 10, No: 6, Neither: 2 [Majority support]	<p><a href="#">The Rules of Procedure of the Board (RoP)</a> and the <a href="#">Open Information Policy</a> of the Fund allows the Board not to disclose information on an exceptional basis when there is a compelling reason for confidentiality. The RoP indicates that information obtained from Adaptation Fund project participants marked as proprietary and/or confidential shall not be disclosed without the written consent of the provider of the information, except as required by national law. The Open Information policy defines five main criteria for such exceptions. However, the policy does not specifically require nor prohibit the Board to disclose reasons for closed sessions to observers (paragraphs 2 and 3).</p> <p>As it is mentioned in the Board survey, “AF NGO Network shared their concerns that recent board meetings have held the increasing number of closed sessions which would impair the transparency of the Fund.” Although the Board has disclosed reasons for closed session, more explicit or clear disclosure of reasons for closed sessions to observers would help the participants of the meeting understand the rationale behind and the need of the closed session while it helps the Board to reaffirm the need of the closed sessions possibly increasing the legitimacy of the closed sessions.</p>
<b>4. Active civil society observers and observer accreditation process</b>			
a) Elected active civil society observers to intervene on agenda item of the meetings and to attend closed meetings - Establishing the status of the elected active civil society observers	4.1	Yes: 7, No: 9, Neither: 2 [Divided opinion]	The Fund’s Open Information Policy sets out the following for deliberative information (paragraph 9): “ <i>Therefore, while the Fund makes publicly available the decisions, results, and agreements that result from its deliberative processes, the proceedings are held in closed sessions for the following</i>

Recommendation	Survey number	Survey results	Relevant existing policies and practices of the Adaptation Fund
- Allowing the active civil society observers to attend closed meetings	4.2	Yes: 2, No: 10, Neither: 3 [Majority opposition]	<i>bodies: <u>the Accreditation Panel, Ethics and Finance Committee, and Project and Programme Review Committee.</u></i>
- Allocation of travel budgets for the active civil society observers to participate in the Board meetings	4.3	Yes: 3, No: 9, Neither: 2 [Majority opposition]	<p>The Board's <a href="#">Rules of procedure</a> include rules concerning the participation of observers in the proceedings of the Board in paragraphs 33 and 34.</p> <p><i>"33. Observers may, upon the invitation of the Chair and if there is no objection from any of the members present, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting <u>in matters of direct concern to the body or agency, which they represent.</u></i></p> <p><i>34. Observers may, upon invitation of the Chair and if there is no objection from the members present, make presentations relating to matters under consideration by the Board."</i></p> <p><i>"XVIII. AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE 64. These rules of procedure may be amended according to paragraphs 44–51 above and, to be effective, must be formally approved by the CMP."</i></p> <p>If the Board would like to invite active civil society observers to all the meetings including closed sessions, the Board would need to amend the Open Information Policy and the Rules of Procedure which requires a formal approval of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and/or Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).</p>

Recommendation	Survey number	Survey results	Relevant existing policies and practices of the Adaptation Fund
b) Establishing the Fund's own observer accreditation process	4.5	Yes: 4, No: 5, Neither: 8 [Divided opinion]	According to the Rules of Procedure, paragraph 31, observers are, in principle, representatives of UNFCCC Parties, the UNFCCC secretariat and UNFCCC accredited observers. Under this rule, the Fund has allowed observers only from organizations in the list of the UNFCCC accredited observers. However, as paragraph 31 reads "Except where otherwise decided by the Board", it leaves the Board discretion to change or expand the composition of the observers for its meetings, however, this requires further analysis on whether and how this can be implemented.
<b>5. Summary of project proposals in the respective countries' official languages and country-specific project information</b>			
a) Summary of project proposals in the respective countries' official languages	5.1	Yes: 9, No: 6, Neither 2 [Majority support]	The Fund has been instructing implementing entities to use <a href="#">templates</a> for project proposals and project concepts amended in October 2017 for their submissions, and amendments to the templates require Board approval. The Board may wish to add a section for the summary of the proposal in the respective countries' official languages to the templates when amending the project proposal template(s).
b) Provision of country-specific information on the Fund's website	5.3	Yes: 13, No: 4, Neither: 1 [Majority support]	There is no prescription related to the structure of the Fund's public website, under the Fund's existing policies including the Rules of Procedure and the Open Information Policy. The secretariat has designed and developed it by its own initiative. To make available country-specific information on the Fund's website, a drastic change in its structure would be required, which is a relatively big project for the Fund. If the Board deems this change beneficial and necessary, it may wish to request the secretariat to implement this item.

Recommendation	Survey number	Survey results	Relevant existing policies and practices of the Adaptation Fund
<b>6. Solicitation of stakeholder input on (re-)accreditation and intersessional decision-making</b>			
a) (Re-)accreditation	6.1	Yes: 9, No: 4, Neither: 5 <a href="#">[Divided opinion]</a>	The Open Information Policy in its paragraph 8 under the section of the Exclusions from Disclosure prescribes that the name of the entity as well as all applications and corresponding supporting documentation are kept strictly confidential, as they relate to entities applying for accreditation to the Fund, and these are kept anonymous until an entity has been accredited by the Board". Therefore, the solicitation of stakeholder input to entities on the (re-)accreditation process is not implementable under the current policy.
b) Intersessional decision-making	6.3	Yes: 4, No: 9, Neither: 4 <a href="#">[Majority opposition]</a>	<p>The Rules of Procedure sets out rules on intersessional decisions in paragraphs 56 to 59. The RoP itself does not restrict the solicitation of stakeholder input on intersessional decision-making.</p> <p>All previous <a href="#">intersessional decisions</a> have been posted on the public website, including approvals of projects, concepts and grants for the intersessional review cycles. Submitted proposals have been published on the website for public comments during project review cycles. Other intersessional decisions include the approval of project extension and changes as well as (re-)accreditation of implementing entities, all of which are processed according to the standard criteria approved by the Board.</p>

Recommendation	Survey number	Survey results	Relevant existing policies and practices of the Adaptation Fund
<b>7. Definition of civil society and Policy on civil society engagement</b>			
a) Definition of civil society			The Fund does not have a formal policy and/or definition of civil society that could be applied when considering options to enhance civil society participation and engagement in the work of the Board.
- Developing a definition of civil society	7.1	Yes: 5, No: 8, Neither: 5 [Divided opinion]	
- Engaging with other stakeholders such as private sector	7.3	Yes: 10, No: 2, Neither: 6 [Majority support]	<p>Relevant provisions for civil society engagement in the work of the Board are included in the Rules of Procedure and the Open Information Policy. Regarding “observers”, the Rules of Procedure state that “[e]xcept where otherwise decided by the Board, meetings shall be open for attendance, as observers, to representatives of UNFCCC Parties, the UNFCCC secretariat and UNFCCC accredited observers” (paragraph 31).</p> <p>On the project/programme level, the Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy (amended in March 2016) and Gender Policy and Action Plan (amended in March 2021) apply the broader term “stakeholders” requiring informed participation and consultation of stakeholders in project formulation and implementation (ESP paragraph 10 and GP paragraph 17).</p> <p>Both the GEF and GCF define certain terms such as “civil society” or “civil society organizations” for the purpose of their engagement policies and procedures.</p> <p>The Board may wish to consider further clarifying and defining civil society and possibly other relevant stakeholders to be engaged in work of the Board and the Fund and/ or further clarify arrangements in a dedicated policy or guidelines.</p>
b) Policy on civil society engagement			
- Developing a policy or guidelines on its engagement with civil society	7.6	Yes: 8, No: 4, Neither: 5 [Divided opinion]	
- Taking a decision on individual recommendations from civil society without developing a dedicated policy or guidelines on its engagement with civil society	7.7	Yes: 12, No:1, Neither: 4 [Majority support]	

## Annex II. Overview of multilateral climate funds' policies and guidelines related to civil society engagement

	GEF	GCF	CIFs	Adaptation Fund
Main policy on civil society engagement (GEF) or guidelines setting out rules for observer participation in the meetings (GCF and CIFs)	<p><a href="#">Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the updated vision statement, and principles and objectives</li> <li>- engagement at national and regional levels, Council Meeting participation, consultations in preparation for Council Meetings, participation in GEF Assembly and Replenishment meetings, and activities to strengthen their capacity (rules around CSO representatives)</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Guidelines relating to the Observer participation, accreditation of Observer organizations and participation of active Observers</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- registration and participation of observers, accreditation of observer organizations, and process and guidelines for participation of active observers</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Guidelines for Inviting Representatives of Civil Society to Observe Meetings of the CIF Trust Fund Committees</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rules around the active observers in the committee meetings</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Overview of the CIF – Information for Observers: CIF Governance and Programming Information</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Compilation</u> of the rules and information that are useful for the active observers but are scattered in the different policy documents.</li> </ul>	None
Other instruments setting out or citing rules for civil society or observer participation	<p><a href="#">Rules of Procedure for the GEF Council</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance of <b>CSO representatives</b> to the proceedings of the Board</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Rules of Procedure</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance of <b>active observers</b> to meetings of the Board, other than executive sessions</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Governance Frameworks for SCF / CTF; and Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Trust Fund Committee of SCF /CTF</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attendance of civil society representatives to the committee meetings and the partnership forum</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Rules of Procedure</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observer participation in the Board meetings</li> </ul>



	GEF	GCF	CIFs	Adaptation Fund
Other instruments setting out or citing stakeholder engagement	<p><a href="#">Policy on Stakeholder Engagement</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mandatory requirements for overall stakeholder engagement throughout the GEF project cycle, knowledge sharing with stakeholders, and stakeholder engagement in GEF policies, guidelines and strategy</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Governing Instrument</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sustainability guidance note: Designing and ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement on GCF-financed projects</a></p> <p><a href="#">Guidelines for enhanced country ownership and country drivenness</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder input and participation</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Governance Frameworks for SCF/CTF</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making recommendations in consultation with key stakeholders, on the scope and objectives of SCF Programs proposed to be established</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Trust Fund Committee of SCF/CTF</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance of stakeholders to the partnership forum</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Operational Policy and Guidelines</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of facilities that will enable interested stakeholders to publicly submit comments about proposals<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
Information access and disclosure	<p><a href="#">Policy on Access to Information</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>principles and mandatory requirements for the public accessibility of Council Information</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Information Disclosure Policy of the Green Climate Fund</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>video recordings of meetings of the Board</li> <li>soliciting public input for certain policies and strategies under discussion by the Board</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Note on Disclosure of Documents Prepared for Purposes of the Climate Investment Funds</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documents to be disclosed</li> <li>Application of World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information to the draft investment plan/strategy</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Open Information Policy (Adopted in July 2013)</a></p> <p>(including)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund's commitment to open access to information and transparency</li> <li>Exclusion from disclosure (Five compelling reasons for confidentiality)</li> </ul>
Gender	<a href="#">Policy on Gender Equality</a>	<a href="#">Gender Policy</a>	<a href="#">Gender Policy</a>	<a href="#">Gender Policy and Action Plan of the Adaptation Fund (amended in March 2021)</a>
Environmental and social safeguards	<a href="#">Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards and Principles</a>	<a href="#">Environmental and social policy</a>	None	<a href="#">Environmental and Social Policy (Amended in March 2016, approved in November 2013)</a>

<sup>5</sup> Operational Policy and Guidelines, para. 89, p.16

	GEF	GCF	CIFs	Adaptation Fund
Indigenous peoples	<a href="#">Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples</a>	<a href="#">Indigenous Peoples policy</a>	None (The Funds have the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities)	None