

PPCR: First Meeting of Pilot Countries of the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience

Experience Exchange and a Shared Understanding

October 26-27, 2009

Address by Strategic Climate Fund Co-Chair

Katherine Sierra, World Bank

Good morning. It is a real pleasure to be joining you here for the inaugural gathering of PPCR pilot countries. In some ways, it feels like it has been a long time coming; but in other ways, it is remarkable at quickly you have all been able to move forward to concerted and serious action, from concept to joint mission to actual plans for investing PPCR funds.

I know you have a lot to cover in the next two days, and you have a packed agenda, so I won't take a lot of time away from that work. Let me simply add to what our co-chairs have said here this morning: I am struck by how momentous this gathering is and how critical it is to the foundation of the CIF.

I am particularly aware of the value of the work you as pilot countries are carrying out on two fronts:

First, as co-chair of the Strategic Climate Fund, I am delighted that we are able now to move into the first round of implementation, and look forward to better understanding how the SCF can help facilitate that. The learning coming out of these two days will help shape the forward-looking nature of decision-making in the SCF.

In addition, I am aware that we are looking to the PPCR and your work as pilot countries to set the bar as front-runners in the SCF work on the ground, in all SCF programs – including the Forest Investment Program and the Renewable Energy Program – which are about to start. So it will be essential that over the next two

days we are able to garner your lessons so that we can apply them to the other SCF programs.

Second, as a representative of one of the MDBs, I'm seeing how my institution is turning to understand and partner with you as pilot countries, as I know others of my fellow MDBs are doing. The partnership for implementation is now beginning, and we stand on a proving ground to see how the link between climate action and development can successfully unfold. In that sense, your leadership and your early effective action is essential to the CIF process. It will be very helpful for us, MDB implementing agencies, to understand how our relationship can get best carved out in each of your countries.

I strongly appreciate the fact pointed out by our co-chairs that, although you are gathered together as a set of pilot countries, in fact you are also a diverse set of countries with unique and individual sets of problems and challenges you must face in moving this agenda forward. Let me reiterate that – both from the perspective of the SCF and of the MDBs – we are ready to learn from your experiences as you explore them over the coming hours, and we will take careful account of the lessons which emerge. I look forward to later hearing them aired at the PPCR Sub-Committee meeting so that we can make sure your challenges are understood, your needs are addressed, and your accomplishments are noted.

My congratulations to you for having achieved this rapid marking-post. I look forward to your deliberations and reflections over the coming days.