

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

CTF/TFC.5/8
March 1, 2010

Meeting of the CTF Trust Fund Committee
Manila, Philippines
March 15, 2010

**RESULTS OF THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING IN
DECEMBER 2009**

1. At its meeting in October, 2009, the CTF Trust Fund Committee reviewed and approved document CTF/TFC.4/7 *Note on Intersessional Review and Endorsement of CTF Investment Plans and Clarification of Steps for Approval by Mail of CTF Financing for Projects and Programs*, which proposed procedures for virtual intersessional meetings to review and endorse proposed investment plans on a pilot basis. The meeting agreed that the procedures for an intersessional meeting should be tested through a video conference meeting on December 1 and 2, 2009, during which the Committee reviewed four investment plans. The meeting further agreed to assess the viability of such procedures, and stressed that every country should be provided an opportunity to present its investment plan in an environment conducive to a high caliber review.. The purpose of this note is to assist the Trust Fund Committee in assessing the experience of convening a meeting through a video conference.
2. Further to the intersessional meeting, the CIF Unit sent a survey to all participants to solicit their feedback, to contribute to the assessment of the viability of using such procedures for future meetings.
3. Based on analysis of the survey's results, four major points emerged:
 - a) Video conference meetings provide a viable solution to avoid long travel, minimize the CTF's carbon foot print and reduce cost. However, the December 2009 meeting was not entirely conducive to dialogue and did not allow sufficient opportunity to build consensus among constituents offline when needed.
 - b) Suggestions were made to change procedures for determining the order of interventions from alphabetical order or reverse alphabetical order to more random selection based on members requesting the floor. This was seen as more conducive for input and dialogue.
 - c) Suggestions were made that reducing the number of video conference connections further could improve the technical success of these meetings. Using a limited number of regional hubs for review and endorsement of investment plans could be an alternative as it would mean fewer technical issues and more opportunities for rigorous discussions.
 - d) It was outlined that for certain countries, the time difference is an obstacle to full and effective participation in the discussions.
 - e) It was indicated that intersessional meetings via video conference should only be held on an exceptional basis, when there are number of investment plans to discuss, and there is a long period of time before the regular Trust Fund Committee meetings.

4. The CIF Administrative Unit seeks the guidance of the CTF Trust Fund Committee on whether the option of using video conferencing for intersessional meetings is a viable way for the Trust Fund Committee to carry out its business given the merits outlined in paragraph 3(a) above. If there is agreement that this option should be maintained, it has been suggested that it only be employed on an exceptional basis. The Trust Fund Committee may wish to provide further guidance on criteria for determining what constitutes an “exceptional basis” that would merit the convening of a meeting by video conference, or it may choose to leave such a decision to the judgment of the Co-Chairs on a case-by-case basis.

5. The Trust Fund Committee should also advise whether any future video conference should occur only at selected hubs or at whatever site is most convenient for each Committee Member.

6. In considering whether intersessional meetings by video conference should be convened in the future to review investment plans, the Trust Fund Committee should take into account the *Quarterly Operations Summary* (Document CTF/TFC.5/Inf.2) and the document on *Pipeline of projects under development and projections of resources availability* (document CTF/TFC.5/4). These documents indicate that there remains very limited scope for considering additional investment plans. Therefore, it may not be necessary to provide for an intersessional option to review investment plans in the future.