

Terms of reference for the independent expert group of CIF Renewable Energy (RE)
Integration program

a) Background and purpose

1. The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) were established in 2008 to provide scaled-up climate finance to developing countries in support of low-emission, climate-resilient development. The CIF business model is characterized by six main features:
 - Country-led programmatic participatory approach enabling the design and implementation of strategically linked investments aligned with national priorities and building on existing efforts and strategies
 - Delivery of financing through multilateral development banks (MDBs) working together in a coordinated manner to support the implementation of coherent large-scale investment packages for cross-sectoral interventions responding to countries' priorities and objectives
 - Large-scale investment packages helping to create and deepen markets, stimulate private investments, and drive policy reform
 - Scaled-up, predictable, and flexible envelopes of concessional resources
 - Consideration of system transformation and social inclusion at the outset
 - Participatory and multi-stakeholder approach geared to effectively engaging non-state actors within the civil society and private sector
2. To maximize the comparative advantages of CIF's proven business model in support of accelerated climate action in priority areas, the CIF Administrative Unit and partner MDBs developed four new strategic programs under the SCF for targeting CIF action in areas seeking to drive the "*rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructures, and industrial systems*"¹ called for by the international scientific community. The new strategic programs are the following:
 - *CIF Renewable Energy (RE) Integration*: Designed to help address system-wide barriers to the integration of renewable energy into power systems by targeting the use of concessional finance to accelerate the deployment of an integrated mix of supply-side and demand-side flexibility measures, such as enabling technologies, enabling infrastructure, market design and system operations improvements, and electrification and demand management.
 - *CIF Smart Cities*: Designed to demonstrate a new climate-smart model of urban development that is coordinated, compact, and connected with a view of avoiding carbon and climate vulnerability lock-in as cities in developing and emerging countries rapidly expand due to growing urbanization rates.
 - *CIF Industry Decarbonization*: Designed to catalyze deep behavioral changes and sustained impact in high-emitting industries, such as cement, iron and steel and chemicals and petrochemicals. CIF concessional finance will be deployed at multiple levels—industrial facility/technology, corporate, sectoral and national—to address those system-wide barriers and challenges hindering the decarbonization and resilience of hard-to-abate sectors.
 - *CIF Nature Solutions*: Designed to tackle in an integrated manner the multiple pressures and impacts of human activities and climate change on land, built environment, communities, economies, and other resources and ecosystems. Scaled-up and flexible CIF resources will be

¹ IPCC (2018), *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C*, [Summary for Policymakers](#).

deployed to foster strategic partnerships and support multi-sectoral investments in sustainable management practices of land and other natural resources. The integrated approach proposed under this program will enable CIF and its implementing partners to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, while helping to improve livelihoods and advance sustainable development goals.

3. Once a new program reaches the minimum contribution, the CIF Administrative Unit will inform all eligible countries of the program and invite interested governments to submit an EoI. The call for EoIs will specify an indicative range of CIF funding allocation per country under the CIF Renewable Energy Integration program, as well as the approximate number of countries to be supported under the funding pledge.
4. An independent expert group is to be established to review and rank Expressions of Interest submitted by countries eligible and interested in participating in the new CIF program, and present recommendations to the relevant SCF governing body on the countries to be invited to participate in the new CIF program. Each new program will have its own independent expert group, all functioning in the same manner. Please refer to Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs for additional information.²

b) Mandate of the independent expert group for CIF RE Integration

5. The independent expert group will perform the following tasks in consultation with the CIF Administrative Unit and the MDBs:
 - Review the EoI template and selection criteria for the CIF RE Integration program.
 - Evaluate countries' EoIs against the assessment criteria established in Sections 6 and 7 of the Country Selection Process document and outlined below in this terms of reference.
 - Present to the relevant SCF governing body a ranked list of countries, for the CIF RE Integration program.
6. The CIF Administrative Unit will manage the independent expert group process, with the CIF partner MDBs providing strategic and technical guidance.

c) Criteria and general composition of the independent expert group

7. Each independent expert group will consist of six experts, acting in their personal capacities, chosen based on their strategic and operational expertise and experience in the areas relevant to CIF RE Integration, including renewable energy, electrical engineering, power systems and markets, distributed generation, transmission, energy storage, grid integration and interconnection, climate change, development economics, finance, climate policy, and gender and social development.
8. Experts should have at least 12 years of experience in his/her/their area of expertise. Experience working with or for multilateral, regional, or international organizations is preferred. It is preferred that experts have a Master's degree or PHD in a relevant field.
9. When formed, the group will select two co-chairs: one a national from an CIF eligible recipient country and the other a national from a CIF contributing country. The group should include a balance of experts from both contributing countries and eligible recipient countries and should consider geographic and gender balance as well.

² https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/country_selection_process_for_the_climate_investment_funds_new_strategic_programs_scf.pdf

10. Applications and nominations for independent expert group members should include the expert's name, contact information, area of expertise, and a resume demonstrating professional experience and expertise in the target areas. Applicants must also disclose if they have potential conflicts of interest (e.g., they work on behalf of a government that is submitting an Eol or are currently employed by a CIF partner MDB). Prospective experts can apply to be nominated to more than one expert group, though experts will only be able to serve on up to two expert groups.
11. The CIF Administrative Unit and MDB Committee will review all applications against the qualifications outlined in the call and prepare a proposal to present to the relevant CIF governing body for review and approval.

d) Assessment and Eol ranking methodology

12. To assess and rank countries' Eols and make recommendations to the relevant SCF governing body, each independent expert group will undertake the following tasks:
 - Review the Eols submitted against the assessment criteria as outlined in Tables 1 – 2 below.
 - Review the official documents annexed or referenced in the Eols.
 - Undertake additional desk research as needed. The program-specific indicators included in Table 3 of this document (see below) can be considered, in addition to other relevant information and indicators that are available at the country or (for regional programs) region-level.
 - If required, interview countries' representatives to better understand their context-specific circumstances, their absorptive capacity, and priorities and opportunities for climate action.
 - Consult with the CIF partner MDBs to ensure that prospective countries meet the 'MDB Partnership' criteria in Table 1.

e) Deliverables

13. Through the CIF Administrative Unit, each independent expert group will submit to the relevant SCF governing body a final report that includes the following components:
 - A ranked list of Eols from eligible countries for the CIF RE Integration program
 - Relevant methodological notes and justification that led to the proposed ranking
 - Assessment of key issues and shortcomings possibly encountered in the assessment process and recommendations for improvements
 - Concluding remarks on the recommended ranked lists
 - List of stakeholders consulted

f) Proposed sequence of milestones

14. Each independent expert group must meet the following milestones:
 - Independent expert group virtual meeting
 - Independent expert group meeting and report writing
 - Report of the independent expert group submitted to the CIF Administrative Unit
 - CIF Administrative Unit submission of the independent expert group report to the SCF governing body
 - Representative from expert group to present findings and recommendations to SCF governing body
 - Expert group to be available to respond to governing body questions.
15. The primary components of the expert group's work, as described in steps a-d of the preceding paragraph, are expected to take 4-6 weeks for a total of 28 days.

g) Roles and responsibilities

16. The independent expert group is responsible for preparing and submitting through the CIF Administrative Unit a report to the relevant SCF governing body, including a ranked list of countries and/or regions for CIF RE Integration.
17. The relevant SCF governing body is responsible for:
 - Approving the document [*Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs*](#);
 - Approving the selection of the experts to serve in the independent expert group;
 - Approving the prioritized list of countries and/or regions to be invited into the new CIF strategic programs, along with the respective allocation for each country/region, and inviting such countries to work with the relevant MDBs to prepare a country or regional investment plan for submission to the relevant SCF governing body for endorsement;
 - Noting that all countries that submit an EOI for the Program are eligible to participate in DPSP and CCV private sector operations under the CIF RE Integration once and if these are established.³
18. The CIF Administrative Unit will service and coordinate the independent expert group process and will provide general guidance to the group. The CIF partner MDBs will provide strategic and technical guidance during this process.

h) Remuneration

19. Experts will be remunerated in accordance with World Bank rules and regulations on procurement of consultants.

i) Applications

20. Applications for the expert group should only be submitted through the CIF Administrative Unit service account - cifadminunit@worldbank.org. Applications received through any other means will not be accepted. Please submit your application no later than **July 22nd, 2021**.

³ All countries submitting EoIs are eligible to participate in private sector operations (under DPSP and CCV), but they must specifically indicate their interest in DPSP and CCV in the EoI template. Note that selecting the DPSP or CCV options does not affect in any way the chances of a country being selected for an IP. See paragraph 19 in the Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs document

Table 1: Overarching criteria for assessing Eols

Assessment criteria	Expression of Interest	Criteria Weighting
Vision and Ambition	The Eol indicates the country's level of ambition as it relates to the new CIF strategic program, and specifies how the country seeks to use CIF resources to drive transformational change ⁴ and help achieve its low-carbon and climate-resilient development plan(s) or strategy(ies).	20%
Alignment and Complementarity	<p>The Eol explains how the CIF program aligns with the country's climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plans). Demonstration of the country's commitment to these strategies and plans, as well as progress towards achieving the strategies and plans, will be preferred.</p> <p>The Eol also explains the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals and demonstrates that CIF fills a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available, or complementary to existing ones.</p>	20%
Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs	The Eol identifies potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF program and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the respective country, as well as financing strategies to leverage MDB and other co-financing to support these projects. Lines of action that cover both mitigation and adaptation are encouraged, where relevant.	15%
MDB Partnership	The Eol provides evidence of a successful past or ongoing lending program with one or more CIF partner MDBs and reflects indicative investment future opportunities.	10%
Leadership	The Eol confirms active involvement of the Ministry of Finance, relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation and implementation of the line(s) of action, including supporting responsible government entities through horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms.	10%
Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization	The Eol, including annexes, proposes ideas for engaging the private sector in the delivery of the program and mobilization of resources.	10%
Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality	The Eol, including annexes, affirms the country's commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in its development investments, and willingness to work to strengthen climate action and its governance in the country through gender-responsive and socially inclusive investments and planning mechanisms.	15%

⁴ CIF's Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) defines transformational change in climate action as strategic changes in targeted markets and other systems, with large-scale, sustainable impacts that shift and/or accelerate the trajectory toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development. The definition and dimensions of transformational change of may be further updated in 2020/2021 in collaboration with the TCLP. Please see the [TCLP webpage](#) for more information on this topic.

	The EoI, including annexes, includes potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills, and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society.	
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Table 2: EoI assessment criteria for CIF RE Integration Program

Assessment criteria	Expression of interest
Vision and Ambition	<p>The EoI demonstrates the country's commitment to the followings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing or avoiding energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions via deployment of renewable energy • Integrating large amounts of variable renewable energy generation into the power system • Grounding such commitments in official document(s) such as NDC, energy sector strategies, SDG-related plans, or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy referenced or annexed in the EoI
Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs	<p>The EoI, including its annexes, identifies actions contributing to one or more of the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the flexibility of power grids to enhance the penetration of renewable energies into the energy mix • Piloting or scaling up innovative renewable energy flexibility solutions • Harnessing the potential for electrifying end-use sectors, such as building, transport, and industry sectors • Supporting actions for regional power system integration • Addressing the climate-related risks to energy systems <p>The EoI, including its annexes, contains evidence-based analysis performed on the above issues, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional and/or policy frameworks (in place or planned) of relevance for the deployment of power system flexibility solutions⁵ • Evidence-based analysis performed to identify flexibility gaps,⁶ including case studies • Evidence-based analysis performed to identify the most cost-effective mix of solutions to fill in flexibility gaps and/or to evaluate the implications of alternative

⁵ For instance, incentive programs for energy storage or requirements for utilities to develop dynamic electricity rates reflecting grid conditions, carbon pricing signals, etc.

⁶ For instance, some countries applied the [IRENA FlexTool](#) to assess potential flexibility gaps and identify the most cost-effective mix of solutions to fill in identified gaps.

	<p>combinations of flexible solutions pathways (e.g., case studies examining specific national and sub-national contexts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of the country's awareness and interest in harnessing the potential of renewable energy generation for electrifying end-uses sector, such as building, transport, and industry sectors • Demonstration of the potential of regional power sector integration <p>The EoI must also demonstrate the country's successful track record in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploying MDB funds for low-carbon and/or climate-resilient initiatives <p>The EoI, including its annexes, demonstrates either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country has set the legal framework conditions required to achieve the energy-related goals by referencing relevant documentation <p><i>Or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The country has identified the gaps in its legal framework that it needs to address to achieve the energy-related goals
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Table 3. CIF RE Integration Program Indicators for Consideration by the Independent Expert Group

Indicator	Time frame	Suggested Source
Historical GHG emissions from the energy sector (metric tons per capita)	Rate of change over the latest available 5 years	Climate Watch GHG Emissions
Share of renewable energy in a country's energy matrix	Most recent 3 years data	IRENA Renewable Energy Statistics , World Bank indicator database
Installed capacity of renewable energy in a country by type of resource	Most recent 3 years data	IRENA Renewable Energy Statistics
Renewable energy contribution toward the country's low carbon targets	Most recent data	UNFCCC NDC registry , BUR submissions ⁷
Population with access to electricity (% of total country's population)	Most recent data or score	World Bank indicator database , RISE data
Country's vulnerability, ND-GAIN Country Index	Latest available score	ND-GAIN Country Index ⁸
Country's water risk	Latest available ranking	WRI Aqueduct Country Rankings

⁷ Updated November 2019 for many countries.

⁸ The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.