

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

***Experience Exchange and a Shared Understanding***

**October 26-27, 2009**

**Co-Chairs Welcome Address**

**By**

**Robin Davies and Adonis Fakhri**

Good morning. We are delighted to welcome you to this session this morning. As I look around the table, I am struck by the unique nature of this gathering. You are here today because we have moved from CIF design to the early days of solutions on the ground, and you are the gatekeepers of that effort. Through you, we are breathing real life into a set of potential solutions for protecting people against the impact of climate change.

As the first PPCR pilot countries, you are inaugurating a new approach to joint learning and action on the ground, funded by the CIF. Your work sets the stage for the future direction of the CIF, in the race toward practical resilience solutions which are set to be scaled up.

As the agenda shows, the next two days will be very full, focused on dialogue and learning, and on practical discussion. We hope that emerging from this set of exchanges will be the beginning foundation for what the CIF were created to contribute: new knowledge, opportunities for learning from each other around the globe, real solutions, and better understanding of the challenges you face in applying PPCR-funded climate actions.

We also have an important opportunity to take the learning we identify here to the PPCR Sub-Committee, so that they have a solid base on which to decide how to move the program forward. As co-chairs, we would like to ensure that we emerge from the two days with a clear base of knowledge to relay to the Sub-Committee, and look forward to the results of the exchanges.

As we go into our work over the next two days, there are four points we would like to use as guiding principles:

- Each of the pilot countries at the table is at a *different point in development of its pilot program*; and each has different needs and capacities in its economic and social development and its climate resilience needs. These differences can add to the rich fabric of learning we can bring, along with the challenge of finding common points of convergence.
- Each of the pilot countries also brings a different perspective in terms of the *type of climate challenges it must deal with*. This reminds us that all countries, despite the value of finding commonalities, have unique issues and priorities which only they can ultimately address. Nevertheless, there is a *broad spectrum of both challenges and solutions* among the pilot countries which is important to explore.
- Countries are also at *different points in development of climate resilience plans and actions*, and it may be worth reflecting on the impact of the development of national strategies on the application of PPCR pilot funding.
- Finally, it is important that to the extent possible, we *focus on specific examples and cases* in order to highlight real issues and concerns and capture the most learning.

The program over the next two days has a mix of presentations, roundtables, and clinic-style breakout sessions. I hope we can all make best use of this variety of interactions and exchanges, and I look forward to engaging with you over the coming hours.