**15 May 2019**

**LoCAL Programme Board**

**Annual Session 2019**

**15 May 2019**

**Brussels**

**Decision**

**LoCAL Programme Board Decision**

1. *Considering that climate change adaptation endeavours largely fall under the core mandate and responsibilities of local governments;*
2. *Considering further that climate change adaptation requires effective coordination between various stakeholders with different mandates and interests, and local governments’ mandate, role and convening power to coordinate, co-finance and interact with relevant stakeholders including the private sector;*
3. *Considering that the objective of LoCAL is to become a standard and recognized country-based mechanism for Developing Countries in particular the Least Developed Countries, that supports direct access to the Green Climate Fund and other climate finance entities and mechanisms (international and national climate finance sources) with the objective to transfer resources to local governments through national institutions and systems for building verifiable climate change adaptation and resilience.*

**The LoCAL Programme Board:**

1. Welcomes H.E. Mr. Perks Master Ligoya, global coordinator of the Bureau for the Least Developed Country Group, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations, as co-chair of the LoCAL Programme Board.
2. Welcomes the participation of new observers, in particular ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-saharan Africa, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, African Development Bank, Cities Alliance, West Africa Development Bank and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean to the Board and invites the LDC representative to the Green Climate Fund and to the UNFCCC at the next Board meeting.
3. Records the presence of the Green Climate Fund Secretariat at previous Board meetings and invites it at the next Board meeting.
4. Decides to endorse the progress report 2018 and the report of the first period of expansion of the LoCAL global programme over 2014-2018 and the annual workplan and budget 2019 presented by the LoCAL Programme Manager.
5. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the LoCAL team during 2018 that resulted in growth from 13 to 14 countries following the membership of The Gambia, with 3 additional country initiatives under preparation (Uganda, Cote d’Ivoire and Chad) and 8 countries that expressed interest at the 2019 NAP EXPO, in Songdo Korea.
6. Confirms the 2018 Board Decision of the extension of the LoCAL mechanism for the next period (2019-2022) and the revised results and resource framework that will support LoCAL to become a standard and recognized country-based mechanism.
7. Congratulates the government of Benin for the accreditation of the National Fund for Environment and Climate (Fonds National pour l’Environnement et le Climat – FNEC) to the Green Climate Fund and welcomes the work of the LoCAL Secretariat in the field of readiness for the accreditation of candidate direct access entities.
8. Welcomes the work of the LoCAL Secretariat on project pipeline preparation for direct access to the Green Climate Fund, with five countries (Benin, Mali, Bhutan, Cambodia and Tanzania) and encourages the LoCAL Secretariat to continue working with existing direct access entities, in particular BOAD, to support direct access to GCF depending on country circumstances.
9. Recognizes that the adoption of the LoCAL guidelines “Financing local adaptation to climate change: Experiences with performance-based climate resilience grants” as Supplementary Material to the National Adaptation Plan Technical Guidelines represents a key milestone for the internationalrecognition of LoCAL as referred to under paragraph 3 and encourages the LoCAL Secretariat to publicize and disseminate the guidelines.
10. Reaffirms its commitment to further engage with the Board and Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund, UNFCCC Secretariat and with other climate and development partners with the objective of having the LoCAL mechanism recognized in the delivery of the Paris Agreement, and notes with satisfaction the progress in this area with the African Development Bank with regard to the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM).
11. Resolves to work with the LDC Group at the United Nations to include reference related to local adaptation mechanisms such as LoCAL in the outcome document of the Secretary General’s Climate Change Summit, September, 2019.
12. Affirms the Board desire for a strong and continued LoCAL engagement with UNFCCC COPs and with the LDC group in the UNFCCC processes to consolidate and deepen the progress towards LoCAL’s objective, as expressed in paragraph 3 and invites LoCAL partners to explore options to institutionalize LoCAL as a global mechanism.
13. Encourages all LoCAL countries to address subnational level climate responses and consider the inclusion of the LoCAL mechanism in their National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and Green Climate Fund country programmes, while promoting strong synergies with other Rio Conventions (UN Convention on Biodiversity and UN Convention to Combat Desertification) and Agenda 2030.
14. Welcomes the piloting of the “Assessing Climate Change Adaptation Framework” (ACCAF) developed with the World Resources Institute and commits to deploy the ACCAF as part of the LoCAL mechanism in LoCAL countries.
15. Welcomes the progress made with Country Climate Risk Assessments with the Korea Environment Institute and encourages participating countries to undertake national and subnational climate risk assessments aligned with the latest IPCC-AR5 framework as experienced with LoCAL in several countries and make this information available to local governments, with technical guidance and support from the LoCAL Secretariat.
16. Understands that the ACCAF, the Climate Risk Assessment Methodology and the Performance-based Climate Resilience Grants (PBCRG) Systems including the Annual Performance Assessments, described in the LoCAL guidelines, constitute key elements of the LoCAL standard under increasing international recognition.
17. Requests all countries to adhere to the standard as they deploy (phase II) or scale up (phase III) and recommends, that, in phase III, the LoCAL Secretariat plays the role of a Facility for technical assistance and quality assurance.
18. Invites the LoCAL Secretariat to upgrade its training offer in line with the “Financing local adaptation to climate change: Experiences with performance-based climate resilience grants” and other elements of the standard to support adherence to the LoCAL standard by training and certifying key government and UNCDF staff and LoCAL experts.
19. Invites the LoCAL Secretariat to explore the ISO certification of the LoCAL mechanism.
20. Encourages the LoCAL Secretariat to further explore, pilot and test the expansion of LoCAL to urban, rural and coastal areas, and to attract a wide range of climate finance, domestic and international, public and private, to accelerate local climate responses in LoCAL participating countries, such as through the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM) and the International Municipal Investment Fund.
21. Re-appoints Luc Gnacadja as special representative of LoCAL programme board and acknowledges his critical role for the follow up on the delivery of the Paris agreement.