

Concept Note
Side Event on Climatic financing: Green Climate Fund and GEF

Background and justification

Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) face a multitude of climate challenges ranging from deforestation, natural disasters and land degradation to urban pollution and inadequate solid waste management. The cost of climate-related disasters is estimated to be increased, with the poor suffering the most from the adverse effects of climate change. These adverse effects are expected to intensify in the LAC region, due to projected decreases in rainfall, heavy and growing demands for transport and energy generation, as well as geography, topography, and demographics.

Efforts at mitigating and adapting to the negative effects of climate change have been supported by a wide range of public multilateral and bilateral, and private funding sources. These efforts have met with varying degrees of success (World Bank, 2013). Two of those funding sources are the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), with its presence increasing in the region due to the number of projects and financial contributions. The GCF is being implemented under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This Convention has the goal to mobilize at least USD 100 billion for climate-related financing annually by 2020 as agreed in Copenhagen in 2009.

In addition to the international sources, domestic public finance is a major sources of climatic financing. Many developing countries, particularly the emerging economies, are prioritizing climate actions in their national plans and allocating significant budgets. Such contributions also include co-financing commitments made through international climate programmes and projects. Comprehensive information on domestic climate financing, however, is lacking as these efforts have not yet been systematically tracked.

In 2015, CEPAL launched a study about the climatic finance in the region. The study shows that more than 50% of the investment on climate programmes comes from national funds, approximately 30% from multilateral bank loans, around 5% from bonus for climatic purposes (mitigation and adaptation) and no more than 2.2% from climate funds (Clean Technology Fund, Amazon Fund, German International Climate Initiative, Norway's International Climate, Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, among others). Countries are paying the major part of the "bill" for climate change activities from their own resources.

Venue and date: Montego, Bay – Jamaica, Thursday, 8th March 2018 (10h45 AM)

Panelist: the event will gather high-level Representatives, Ministers and Senior officers of Latin America and the Caribbean that are part of the delegations attending the FAO Regional Conference:

FAO	José Graziano da Silva, Director-General (opening)
Nicaragua	Paul Oquist, Secretary for National Policies in the Presidency and Co-chair of the Green Climate Fund Board (moderator)
Bolivia	Cynthia Silva Maturana, Vice-minister of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Forestry Management and Development
Cuba	Luis Orlando, Vice-minister of Food Industry and Fisheries
Paraguay	Héctor Cárdenas, Minister Executive. Secretary of Social Action
San Kitts y Nevis	Eugene Hamilton, Minister for Agriculture, Human Settlement, Cooperatives and Environment

Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Purpose and Expected Outcomes

The purpose of the Side Event is to generate a common understanding on the importance of the agricultural sector to face climate change and to promote the design of transformational programmes and projects in the

rural sector, related to agriculture, food security and poverty reduction, to be funded by international environmental funding mechanism, such as GCF and the GEF7.

The expected outcomes are:

- FAO, as a specialized UN agency with climate change related technical capacity and expertise is better equipped to support countries capacity development and project design to access funding from international environmental funding mechanism.
- Delegates call for resources allocated, as agreed in the Paris Agreement to support developing countries in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate on climate change.
- Delegates call for climatic financing to focus on most vulnerable population, especially poor and extremely poor family farmers to reduce poverty and increase food security in the rural areas, as a mean to support these people to adapt to climate change.

Structure

The event will consist of a panel discussions, with a Moderator setting the scene and each Panelist giving a short introduction to the theme (5 minutes). This will be followed by an interactive dialogue between the panel members on the following questions:

1. Considering the available opportunities in the agricultural sector to promote adaptation and mitigation of climate change, do you think that countries are appropriately considering this sector inside their National Determined Contributions (NDC) registered within the framework of the Paris Agreement?
2. How countries used Green Climate Fund and GEF funding for Climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes in the agriculture sector and to promote food security and poverty alleviation, while sustainably managing natural resources?
3. What are the major challenges for countries in accessing climate funding and what actions have been taken to overcome these challenges?

Tentative agenda	
10 minutes	Opening. FAO Director - General
10 minutes	Introduction of the panel and panelists, main remarks around the theme – moderator
25 minutes	First round – each panelist will have 5 minutes to present its main ideas
25 minutes	Discussion – moderator will promote the dialogue among the panelists
15 minutes	Comments and questions of the plenary to the panelists
5 minutes	Main conclusions and recommendations – moderator

Languages: Simultaneous translation in English, French and Spanish.