

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

Joint CTF-SCF/TFC.17/4
May 26, 2017

Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees
Washington, D.C.
June 7, 2017

Agenda Item 4

CIF GENDER POLICY

PROPOSED DECISION

The Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees reviewed the document Joint CTF-SCF.17/4, *CIF Gender Policy*, and welcomes and approves this Policy.

The Joint Meeting invites the CIF AU and MDBs to collaborate to implement the CIF Gender Policy.

Executive Summary

1. The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is committed to gender mainstreaming and enhancement of gender equality outcomes across its programming and operations. Since 2014, the CIF has been implementing the CIF Gender Action Plan (CTF-SCF/TFC.12/7), and its successor, the CIF Gender Action Plan – Phase 2 (CTF-SCF/TFC.16/Rev.1), to advance the effective and equal participation, sharing of benefits, and evaluative learning from both women and men in the countries with which CIF is engaged in climate action.
2. This *CIF Gender Policy* serves as a governance framework for gender integration in the CIF. It is intended to stand in place beyond the time-bound *Gender Action Plan* documents developed for specific programming periods. The *CIF Gender Policy* addresses gender integration in CIF approaches, procedures, and implementation of investment plans and projects, as well as integration in internal areas of CIF functioning, such as CIF governance (including the observer system), and staffing and budgeting. The policy applies to all activities under the CIF's four programs¹ and other focused sub-programs and instruments operating within pilot countries. The policy applies equally to all CIF internal functioning, both at the level of the CIF Administrative Unit and in related arms in the multilateral development banks (MDBs).
3. The gender mainstreaming imperative in climate action, including in the CIF, exists for reasons of efficiency, effectiveness, and, ultimately, for goals of development impact, anchored by equity and inclusion. Gender integration in climate policy and programming recognizes the importance of balanced participation of women and men. This recognition builds upon international understanding of gender, climate, development and human rights from several multilateral processes, including under the UNFCCC. The tenets of the *CIF Gender Policy* are congruent with the elements put forth in these agreements, which emphasize goals of gender equality; public participation of women, including from local levels, in climate planning and action; as well as efforts towards enhanced capacity building of women in this area.
4. The CIF, through this gender policy, will seek to advance equal access to and benefit from CIF-supported investments for women and men in CIF pilot countries. Specifically, CIF investments will contribute to gender equality efforts by ensuring, through gender mainstreaming, that the needs and interests, effective participation, and resultant benefits of women and men are equally promoted within investments. This will include use of gender-responsive assessment, consultation, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation processes. For effective implementation, good practice in gender mainstreaming, such as use of sex-disaggregated data in monitoring and reporting, is also a core standard.

¹ These are the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), Forest Investment Program (FIP), and Scaling-Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program (SREP).

5. Specific implementation arrangements, thematic emphases, and monitoring arrangements for operationalization of the *CIF Gender Policy*, are elaborated in the *CIF Gender Action Plan*.² The reporting and accountability measures elaborated in the policy reflect those present in the *CIF Gender Action Plan*. Annual reporting to the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees will thus be considered as progress reporting on implementation of the *CIF Gender Policy*.
6. The policy rests on several key principles, including:
 - a. A commitment to supporting women’s agency in a transformational change context
 - b. The primacy of MDB policies on gender and social safeguards at project level
 - c. A commitment to accountability and learning under the CIF gender policy, including the importance of sex-disaggregated beneficiary tracking and regular reporting on gender to the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees
 - d. Collaboration with other climate finance institutions in the area of gender and climate finance.
7. The policy highlights the need for sufficient staffing of the gender function at CIF Administrative Unit at senior and junior levels as well as budget allocation for gender activities by the CIF Administrative Unit and by the MDB focal point teams. It introduces a new category of gender observers to the CIF for all Trust Fund Committees and Sub-Committees. Two gender observers for each of the Trust Fund Committees and sub-committees are proposed (one from a developed country and one from a developing country), along with one local civil society organization gender observer for each of the four CIF programs. Finally, gender requirements in investment plan preparation (including joint mission composition, inclusive consultations, and plan review), review and submission procedures, and accountability in relation to Trust Fund Committee member comments on gender, are further specified in the policy.

² The current version of the Plan is the CIF Gender Action Plan Phase 2 which was approved in December 2016 and runs through 2020. It is available at https://www-cif.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/ctf_scf_decision_by_mail_cif_gender_action_plan_phase_2_final_revised.pdf.

1 Introduction

1. The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is committed to gender mainstreaming and enhancement of gender-equality outcomes across its programming and operations. Since 2014, the CIF has been implementing the *CIF Gender Action Plan (CTF-SCF/TFC.12/7)*, and its successor, the *CIF Gender Action Plan – Phase 2 (CTF-SCF/TFC.16/Rev.1)*, to advance the effective and equal participation, sharing of benefits, and evaluative learning from both women and men in the countries with which CIF is engaged in climate action
2. The CIF has undertaken a range of efforts to assess and strengthen gender integration in the CIF. In 2010, a *Strategic Environment, Social and Gender Assessment of the Climate Investment Funds* was undertaken, followed by the *CIF Gender Review (2013)* which recommended a series of measures to bolster CIF gender efforts, including recruitment of a Senior Gender Specialist to spearhead gender integration efforts from the CIF Administrative Unit (AU), working together with the CIF Gender Working Group of multilateral development bank (MDB) representatives. Through development and implementation of the CIF's *Gender Action Plan (2014)* and *Gender Action Plan - Phase 2 (2016)*, the need to establish a CIF Gender Policy was identified. This document serves as the inaugural *CIF Gender Policy*, and should be considered together with CIF operational plans on gender, in the form of the CIF Gender Action Plans³.
3. This *CIF Gender Policy* serves as a governance framework for gender integration in the CIF, and is intended to stand in place beyond the time-bound Gender Action Plan documents developed for specific programming periods. The *CIF Gender Policy* addresses gender integration in CIF approaches, procedures, and implementation of investment plans and projects, as well as integration in internal areas of CIF functioning, such as CIF governance (including the observer system), and staffing and budgeting.

2 Background

4. The CIF was established in 2008 to provide scaled-up climate financing to developing countries to initiate transformational change towards low carbon, climate resilient development.
5. The CIF operates as a partnership of the following actors: (i) CIF governing bodies, i.e., Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees, and the Sub-Committees comprising representation from contributor and recipient countries as well as observers to the CIF from the civil society organization (CSO), private sector and indigenous peoples constituencies; (ii) partner observers from United Nations (UN) agencies including United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and climate finance bodies such as Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund and others;

³ Note in particular the current Phase 2 Plan which was approved in December 2016 by the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees. The Plan document is available here https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/ctf_scf_decision_by_mail_cif_gender_action_plan_phase_2_final_revised.pdf

(iii) pilot countries; (iv) implementing entities, i.e., multilateral development banks (MDBs). The World Bank houses the CIF Administrative Unit, and in a fiduciary role, serves as the funds' Trustee.

6. The gender mainstreaming imperative in climate action, including in the CIF, exists for reasons of efficiency, effectiveness, and, ultimately, for goals of development impact, anchored by equity and inclusion. The CIF are committed to gender mainstreaming and enhancement of gender equality outcomes in programs, Investment Plans and projects
7. Gender integration in climate policy and programming recognizes the importance of balanced participation of women and men. This recognition builds upon international understanding of gender, climate, development and human rights from such multilateral processes as the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as Rio+20;⁴ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995); the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes and decisions, including the Paris Agreement,⁵ the 2014 Lima Work Programme on Gender at COP21, and related decisions at Cancun and Doha. The fourth and fifth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also find gender an important structuring element of countries' adaptive capacity and a key consideration for resilient climate programming.
8. Gender and sustainable development ambitions also lie at the heart of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5, which seeks to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls, including through targets related to women's leadership and women's rights to economic resources. The tenets of the *CIF Gender Policy* are congruent with the elements put forth in these agreements, emphasizing goals of gender equality; public participation of women, including from local levels, in climate planning and action; and efforts towards enhanced capacity building of women in this area. These efforts are also in line with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which emphasizes the economic, social, and political rights of women.
9. A gender integration lens on both investment plan strategy and operations is important across the climate programming supported by the CIF. This is because gains, losses, and even harm, can accrue to women and men from individual program and project investments unless gender opportunities and constraints are identified, and consequent actions taken and monitored in both the prioritization of investments, and their design and implementation. At the same time, it is important to support women's role as change agents and decision-makers in climate action. The *CIF Gender Policy* underlines CIF's approach to gender integration through gender mainstreaming approaches (including sex-disaggregated targeting; project assessment and design; and organizational mainstreaming); strengthened attention to gender in private sector operations; and in the use of transformative approaches focused on increasing women's voice and agency (e.g., through support

⁴ The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in 2012 confirmed that gender equality and the effective participation of women are important for effective action on all aspects of sustainable development.

⁵ The UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) adopted the Paris Agreement on Climate on December 12, 2015. In the preamble to both the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21, the COP acknowledges that, when taking action to address climate change, Parties should respect, promote and consider their respective obligations in relation to, among other others, gender equality and the empowerment of women. In addition, the Paris Agreement refers to the need for gender-responsive action in relation to adaptation (Article 7) and capacity-building (Article 11) (See UNFCCC Secretariat Technical Report FCCC/TP/2016/2, *Guidelines or Other Tools for Integrating Gender Considerations into Climate Change Related Activities under the Convention* Available at http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008942#beg).

to women's improved resource governance; access to and ownership of assets; and public participation). In these ways, the CIF works to support targeted measures that facilitate gender equality and reduce gender gaps.

10. The CIF supports investments across four programs: the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), Forest Investment Program (FIP), Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), and Scaling up Renewable Energy in Low-Income Countries Program (SREP). Other CIF sub-programs and instruments are the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM) under the FIP, and the Dedicated Private Sector Program (DPSP) under the CTF, and the Private Sector Set-Asides (PSSA) under the PPCR, FIP, and SREP. The *CIF Gender Policy* applies to all CIF activities under these programs, sub-programs, and instruments operating within pilot countries (and to the country focal points and government units implementing CIF investment plans and projects). The policy applies also to all CIF internal functioning, both at the level of its Administrative Unit and in related arms in the MDBs (e.g., program focal points).

3 Policy objective

11. The CIF, through this gender policy, will seek to advance equal access to and benefit from CIF-supported investments for women and men in CIF pilot countries. Specifically, CIF investments will contribute to gender equality efforts (i.e., advancing towards a state of equal rights, access, responsibilities, and opportunities for women and men) by ensuring, through gender mainstreaming, that the needs and interests, effective participation, and resultant benefits of women and men are equally promoted within investments through gender-responsive assessment, consultation, design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation processes.
12. Gender-responsive processes here refer to those processes that consider in their design and implementation the gender norms, roles, and relations of a given social setting in order to reduce the gender gaps generated by said norms, roles, and relations. Such an approach is necessary to help mainstream gender equality goals across CIF programming. Some examples of gender-responsive approaches and targeted measures that strengthen gender integration in the sectors in which CIF works include: strengthening women's effective participation in climate planning processes; expanding women's employment in emerging renewable energy sectors; fostering enhanced forest governance roles for women; and ensuring that women farmers' equal access to climate services information and complementary agricultural extension support. For effective implementation, good practice in gender mainstreaming, such as use of sex-disaggregated data in monitoring and reporting, is also a core standard.
13. Further specific implementation arrangements, thematic emphases, and monitoring arrangements for operationalization of the *CIF Gender Policy*, are elaborated in the *CIF Gender Action Plan*⁶. The reporting and accountability measures below reflect those present in the *CIF Gender Action Plan*. Annual reporting on that plan to the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees will thus be considered as progress reporting on implementation of the *CIF Gender Policy*. It is expected that the annual reports include a section on the *CIF Gender Policy* if any policy implementation

⁶ The current version of the Plan is the CIF Gender Action Plan Phase 2 was approved in December 2016 and runs through 2020. It is available at https://www-cif.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/ctf_scf_decision_by_mail_cif_gender_action_plan_phase_2_final_revised.pdf.

updates from that reporting year, outside of regular Gender Program updating, are required (e.g., in the areas of governance, selection of observers, or similar).

14. The proposed *CIF Gender Policy*, including the gender observers and their role, is consistent with the existing Governance Framework for the CIF (CTF Governance Framework⁷ para. 30; SCF Governance Framework⁸ para. 25) and the 2014 Rules of Procedures for Meetings of the Trust Fund Committee of the CTF⁹, and those for the SCF¹⁰, for inviting representatives of civil society organizations to join CIF meetings as observers.

4 Principles underlying the *CIF Gender Policy*

4.1 Transformational change and women's agency

15. As suggested above, the CIF's goal of catalyzing transformational change towards climate-resilient, low-carbon development in developing countries cannot be achieved in a sustainable manner without due attention to the participation, contribution, and equitable outcomes for both women and men. Such a focus on gender equality necessarily requires attention to both procedural and distributive¹¹ equity in CIF policy and programming. Procedural equity relates to the equal participation of women and men in such areas as investment plan consultation, CIF governance, and learning opportunities. Distributive equity operates in such areas as project design choices and impacts on the ground from CIF investments, and the attention taken at all project stages, from identification to evaluation, to ensure equal benefit to women and men. Distributive equity may at times imply design measures, such as targeted credit lines for women or preferential procurement from women-owned firms, to redress existing gender inequity.
16. While CIF programs vary in their mandated level of attention to gender and social inclusion (e.g., in relation to their investment criteria), the *CIF Gender Policy* seeks to better harmonize a gender-inclusive approach across the programs that considers gender issues upstream in project preparation, and designs project response measures where appropriate to help reduce gender sector gaps.¹² The policy seeks to promote more explicit attention to benefits from CIF programming

⁷ The Governance Framework for the Clean Technology Fund (2014) is available here https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/meeting-documents/ctf_governance_framework_revised_2014_0.pdf

⁸ The Governance Framework for the Strategic Climate Fund (2011) is available here <http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/SCF%20Governance%20Framework-FINAL.pdf>

⁹ The Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Trust Fund Committee of the CTF (2014) is available here https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/meeting-documents/ctf_rules_of_procedure_for_tfc_revised_2014_0_0.pdf

¹⁰ The Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Trust Fund Committee of the SCF (2014) is available here https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/meeting-documents/scf_rules_of_procedure_for_tfc_meetings_revised_2014_0.pdf.

¹¹ See McDermott 2013 cited in Wong 2016, "Can Climate Finance Contribute to Gender Equality in Developing Countries?" *Journal of International Development* 28: 428-444.

¹² SREP investment criteria and operating principles constitute a sort of best practice in this area. SREP operating principles, for example, state that Investment Plans should "seek wider economic, social and environmental co-benefits, [including] enterprise creation, and increased social capital, particularly greater involvement and empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups. In a similar vein, the FIP Design Document (2009) and FIP Operational Guidelines (2010) state that the gender dimension of poverty should be taken into account when projects are considered for FIP financing, and that Investment Plans should specify expected co-benefits regarding promotion of gender equality and social sustainability. For its part, PPCR states in

investments across all social groups, and particularly with regard to outcomes for women and poor men.

17. The *CIF Gender Policy* also stresses the importance of the CIF working to identify ways to strengthen women's voice and agency in climate action at multiple scales and to collaborate with local, national, and international actors seeking to advance gender equality in the context of climate change.

4.2 MDB policy primacy at project level

18. The MDBs were chosen as implementing entities for the CIF at its establishment in 2008, in part due to these institutions' robust safeguards policies that could facilitate effective implementation of individual operations. For this reason, a guiding principle for the gender integration work of the CIF has been the primacy of place of the gender and safeguards policies of individual MDBs, in CIF project implementation. The *CIF Gender Policy* recognizes that each MDB has a formally elaborated gender policy or action plan guiding its work on promoting gender equality within its respective mandate, with targets and indicators for implementation.¹³ It is further recognized that the MDB policy environment on gender is an enabling one for working towards gender equality outcomes in the CIF operational context.
19. Nonetheless, the CIF cannot rely solely on MDB policies to achieve its gender goals. This is because MDB gender and safeguards policies apply only at the individual project level. Thus, the CIF-specific instrument of the country-level investment plan,¹⁴ in addition to the regular CIF-wide governance and internal functioning (such as organization of observers, and budgeting processes), are not under the purview of such individual MDB policies. For these reasons, and to establish an overall governing framework for the gender integration effort of the CIF, the CIF has identified the need to establish a *CIF Gender Policy*.¹⁵ To reiterate, the CIF Gender Policy would apply to all areas of CIF functioning and operations, including at the level of projects, though maintaining the principle of MDB policy primacy at project level. In practice, this means that CIF AU, together with the MDBs will undertake stepped-up monitoring of such requirements as sex-disaggregated beneficiary tracking; presence of gender expertise on new Investment Plan joint missions, as well as responsiveness to gender review criteria of new IPs; and related measures.

4.3 Accountability and learning

20. The Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees designates the CIF Administrative Unit, working in collaboration with the CIF Gender Working Group of MDB representatives, and pilot countries, to implement the *CIF Gender Policy*. The CIF will ensure accountability for its

the review criteria for SPCRs, that SPCR expert reviewers assess whether the investment strategy "adequately addresses social and environmental issues, including gender" (CIF 2011. Procedures for the Preparation of Independent Technical Reviews of PPCR and SREP Investment Plans, p. 9).

¹³ See CIF Gender Action Plan – Phase 2 for details of these MDB policies and strategies.

¹⁴ PPCR Investment Plans are referred to as Strategic Programs for Climate Resilience (SPCRs).

¹⁵ It is recognized also that this CIF Gender Policy has been drawn up in the context of the current CIF structure and aims (i.e., four programs, with concessional finance and grant elements for middle-income and low-income developing countries), present as of June 2017. Future organizational design elements or instruments of the CIF, should these change, may require addition of clauses to the policy to respond to this change.

implementation using existing governance arrangements, as embodied by the Joint Meeting, comprising contributor and recipient countries and observers.

21. *Transparency:* As with all its policies and operating guidelines, the CIF will publish this gender policy, as well as its annual reporting and gender program reporting, on its public website to aid transparency.
22. *Reporting:* Two main reporting processes on gender integration activities within the CIF are mandated under the *CIF Gender Policy*. These are:
 - a. Annual reporting to the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees of contributor and recipient countries and observers in the May/June meeting on progress under the *CIF Gender Action Plan*
 - b. Gender program reporting within each of the program semi-annual operational reports,¹⁶ including reporting on scoring results of that period's approved investment plans and projects against the three gender indicators of sector-specific gender-analysis; women-specific activities; and sex-disaggregated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators.
23. *Beneficiary tracking:* The CIF is committed to accounting for its beneficiary reach, in the form of sex-disaggregated beneficiary data reporting. The *CIF Gender Policy* requires that beneficiary data for each of the four CIF programs be maintained and reported in a sex-disaggregated manner, reporting on both male and female beneficiaries for those projects that directly target individuals as beneficiaries.¹⁷ It also requires reporting on existing core monitoring and reporting (M&R) indicators that are already required to be sex-disaggregated.^{18,19} Countries and MDBs must also take note of other co-benefit indicators and M&R requirements that require sex-disaggregation and/or elaboration of benefits accruing to women and men.
24. *Learning:* The CIF will seek to enhance gender competencies among actors implementing CIF programming. As part of its mandate to advance learning, knowledge generation, and enhancement of country capacity, the CIF undertakes learning activities through a range of channels. These include the pilot country meetings for South-South exchange, regional and country-specific support, and related training. The CIF will continue to mainstream gender content in its learning events, and also organize stand-alone gender events when there is a programming need and in response to demand from pilot countries. The CIF Administrative Unit will coordinate capacity-building inputs to members of the CIF partnership in order to support the implementation of the *CIF Gender Policy*.

¹⁶ This follows specific requests made in May 2015 by the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees that such sex-disaggregated reporting take place. Simultaneously, the Committees also urged continued project-specific reporting on activities with gender benefit, as has since been produced in the semi-annual reports. This expanded detail on qualitative aspects of gender efforts under programs and projects has been appreciated by governing body members and observers, and offers good lessons learned, particularly in the important areas around institutional change which quantitative reporting alone cannot capture.

¹⁷ This extends also to any other reporting that specifies benefits accruing to individuals (such as training received; loans given) as well as reporting on attendance at CIF consultations, such as those undertaken as part of investment plan preparation.

¹⁸ These include, e.g., the CTF core indicator on "Number of additional passengers, disaggregated by men and women, if feasible, using low carbon public transport as a result of CIF intervention".

¹⁹ This policy does not preclude, but rather encourages, the collation and analysis of all gender indicators present in individual project results frameworks, per the reformed CIF monitoring and reporting approach that collects MDB-reported project results data.

25. Under the *CIF Gender Policy*, all efforts will be made to move closer to gender parity in the composition of training participants. Sex-disaggregated data on participant composition will be collected and reported by all those organizing training as part of CIF programming and operations.
26. *Knowledge management*: The CIF is committed to strengthening knowledge on gender and climate change, particularly in relation to its sector areas of focus in energy and transport; forests; and resilience areas of agriculture, water, social protection, disaster risk management; and related sectors. To improve practice across the CIF partnership²⁰ and to share gender know-how as a global public good with other actors working in the gender and climate arena, CIF will develop knowledge notes, country and sector studies (including firm-level cases), and lessons learned compendia on gender innovation from across its programming.

4.4 Collaboration with other climate finance institutions

27. Under the *CIF Gender Policy*, the CIF will maintain regular dialogue with the GCF, GEF, and Adaptation Fund, particularly through the gender focal points at the secretariats, as has been the practice since the inception of the CIF Gender Program in 2014. The policy also encourages dialogue with the gender focal point of UNFCCC and gender and environment-focused civil society organizations (CSOs) to share lessons and engage in debate on gender policy and strategy development.²¹

5 Roles and responsibilities

28. The CIF operates as a partnership of the following actors: CIF governing bodies (i.e., Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees, and the Sub-Committees), pilot countries, implementing entities (MDBs), and observers to the CIF from CSOs, the private sector, and indigenous peoples' constituencies. The Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees, as the governing body of the CIF, is responsible for ensuring that the CIF partnership adheres to the *CIF Gender Policy*. The policy will be implemented as a joint effort of the pilot countries, MDBs and the CIF Administrative Unit, spearheaded by the CIF AU and using the mechanism of the CIF Gender Working Group, with overall guidance from the CIF governing bodies.
29. In terms of operationalization, the MDBs are responsible for project design, implementation and monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The CIF Administrative Unit coordinates overall gender mainstreaming in CIF policies and programs; provides gender technical advice upon demand by MDBs (including upstream in the investment plan process); and undertakes monitoring, knowledge, and learning activities, together with the MDBs and pilot countries, to advance gender-sensitive outcomes and assessment of impacts of CIF programs. Pilot countries are responsible for preparing their investment plans (including integration of gender considerations), working with MDBs to identify and prepare projects based on country needs, and undertaking gender-responsive reporting

²⁰ Including with such initiatives as the DGM

²¹ The *CIF Gender Policy* has been developed following review of the gender policies and action plans of these other climate finance institutions, notably the *Gender Mainstreaming Policy of the GEF* (2012) and its *Gender Equality Action Plan* (2014), as well as the *GCF Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan* (2015), and the *Adaptation Fund Gender Policy and Action Plan* (2016).

on their programming. Working responsibility for monitoring policy adherence will lie with the CIF Administrative Unit, operating on behalf of the CIF governing bodies.

5.1 Staffing and resource allocation

30. *CIF Administrative Unit staffing:* To ensure specialist gender program leadership and guidance, this *CIF Gender Policy* requires the CIF to provide for sufficient staffing for the gender function at senior and junior levels in the CIF Administrative Unit.²² In addition, the CIF Administrative Unit will monitor and report on its own unit staffing levels at analyst level and above in order to track gender parity in staffing.
31. *Resource allocation:* In line with good practice principles on “gender budgeting,” the *CIF Gender Policy* mandates that a separate budget line for the gender program be maintained in the CIF Administrative Unit operating budget. In addition, to ensure that sufficient resources are dedicated to MDB-led gender activities in the CIF, a separate budget line for gender-focused activities (such as analytical or learning work) outside of projects will be maintained in the annual administrative budget and country programming budget managed by MDBs. Proposals for such activities will be submitted to the CIF Administrative Unit, during each annual Business Plan and Budget preparation process of the CIF.
32. CIF Evaluation and Learning Initiative activities supported by CIF AU will aim to strengthen attention to gender integration, consistent with this Policy. Annual reporting on gender to the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees will include year-to-year tracking to ascertain trends in funding of gender technical support and knowledge activity.²³
33. *CIF Gender Working Group:* The CIF Gender Working Group of MDB representatives will remain as constituted with representation from each MDB²⁴ to support and provide feedback to the CIF Administrative Unit, particularly the Senior Gender Specialist, on implementing the CIF Gender Program.
34. *Country gender focal points:* The CIF recognizes the good practice of some CIF pilot countries in identifying Gender Focal Points for Investment Plan implementation, as well as separate budget line items for gender work under the Plans. It further notes the efficacy of linking these efforts to other national gender mainstreaming goals and targets on gender and inclusion, to further embed CIF gender integration efforts within longer-term national processes. While this *CIF Gender Policy* does not require specific action on the part of recipient governments along these lines, it does encourage such good practices, and will track the number of Investment Plans with Gender Focal Points assigned to them, among government agencies implementing the plans.²⁵

²² As of May 2017, CIF AU has a Senior Gender Specialist in place and is recruiting a Gender Specialist, per the guidance of the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees, and in line with the provisions of the *CIF Gender Action Plan – Phase 2*.

²³ This will include separate reference also to work funded under the Gender theme of the Evaluation and Learning Initiative.

²⁴ In the case of the World Bank, there will be representation from each CIF program (due to the World Bank’s large share of the CIF portfolio).

²⁵ Voluntary reporting by firms on gender-specific measures taken with CIF-funded activities will also be reflected in CIF Gender narrative reporting.

5.2 Gender observers

35. The CIF governance framework mandates a robust role for observers from the constituencies of CSOs, private sector organizations, and indigenous peoples' organizations. The role of these observers, process for selection, and related procedures are outlined in the CIF document *Guidelines for Inviting Representatives of Civil Society to Observe Meetings of the CIF Trust Fund Committees*.²⁶ Under the current framework, there are no observers to the CIF who have a formal mandate of representing the gender equality agenda and amplifying women's voices and interests. The current selection criteria refer to "gender" only in terms of the sex of the individual observer in order to approach a "gender balance." That is, there is no reference to a specific gender technical expertise/representational mandate in the current framework. The *CIF Gender Policy* thus introduces an additional category of observers to the CIF, namely Gender Observers.
36. The category of Gender Observers will be tasked with representing the gender equality agenda in the CIF and will be reserved for those non-profit organizations, including industry associations, with a primary organizational mandate and identity working on gender equality in connection with environment/development or which have a significant sub-program focused on gender as a technical subject and are engaged in work related to climate change and/or the environment or development.
37. Two observer seats per Trust Fund Committee and Sub-Committee, including to the Joint Meeting of the CTF and SCF Trust Fund Committees, would be allocated to gender observers (one from a developed country and one from a developing country), in line with the practice for other constituencies such as private sector, CSO, and indigenous peoples. To demonstrate the CIF's commitment to representation of grassroots women's voices, effective participation, and leadership in climate processes, one additional seat per Trust Fund Committee and Sub-Committee would be allocated to a local community-based organization, focused on gender or with a significant gender programming component.
38. Gender observers' terms will be for 24 months, with opportunity to run for another 24-month term in the following general selection process for gender observers. Selection procedures for gender observers will follow those used in the CIF for the CSO and indigenous peoples' organization constituencies.²⁷
39. Gender observer roles and responsibilities will follow those of other observers (i.e., to represent their constituency's interests in CIF governing bodies and communicate information to and from these CIF bodies for the purposes of transparency and accountability). As "active" observers, they will have the power to request the floor during Trust Fund Committee and Sub-Committee discussions to make verbal interventions (preferably in coordination with other gender observers), request the Committee or Sub-Committee Co-Chairs to add agenda items to the Provisional Agenda, and recommend to the Committee or Co-Chairs external experts to speak on a specific agenda item.

²⁶ Document available at <https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Inviting%20Reps%20of%20Civil%20Society...pdf>

²⁷ That is, use of independent convening organizations to facilitate the selection process; establishment of an Observers Selection Advisory Committee; screening and ranking of applicants against Observer selection criteria, and development of a shortlist of finalists; public voting for shortlisted organizations.

In line with prevailing CIF policy, the CIF would cover the travel costs of gender observers from developing countries to attend the CIF Trust Fund Committee meetings.

40. On the question of CIF governance document stipulations regarding observers, both the CTF and SCF Governance Frameworks allow the Committees to invite observers to the Committees. Para 30 of the CTF Governance Framework²⁸ (2014) specifies that these should be organizations “with a mandate to promote investments in clean technology.” Para 25 of the SCF Framework²⁹ (2011) permits representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to serve as observers.

6 Further guidance on operationalizing the policy

6.1 Investment plan and project preparation, review, and submission

41. This section of the *CIF Gender Policy* clarifies several gender-related requirements under the Policy related to CIF Investment Plan preparation and review. Guidelines for investment plan preparation and review for the four CIF programs have had some divergence in requirements for specification of how investments will contribute to gender equality and social inclusion. This *CIF Gender Policy* seeks to harmonize these considerations across programs.
42. *Joint missions and consultations for investment plan preparation:* All CIF joint missions for investment plan preparation should have gender expertise represented within the MDBs’ mission team. The mission should include discussion with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs or other national gender machinery, including any gender focal points within line ministries, and seek to liaise with private sector stakeholders working to promote gender inclusion. Consultations held as part of investment plan preparation should be designed to provide for women’s effective participation in the consultations, including reaching out to invite local women’s organizations to attend. The final investment plan document should report on the number of male and female participants in the consultations, including women’s organizations representatives, and the findings of the consultations, including in relation to gender.³⁰
43. *Entry into force:* All new investment plans (and investment plan revisions) that are prepared after the approval of the *CIF Gender Policy* should state how they included gender considerations in their sector analysis, identification of projects/activities, and monitoring framework. Independent reviews of each new investment plan must also ensure that such gender-focused analysis and assessment

²⁸ Governance Framework for the Clean Technology Fund (2014) is available at https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/meeting-documents/ctf_governance_framework_revised_2014_0.pdf

²⁹ Governance Framework for the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) (2011) is available at https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/default/files/meeting-documents/scf_governance_framework-final.pdf

³⁰ This will harmonize the good practice in, for example, PPCR investment plan consultations, which require “a socially inclusive process during consultations to provide inputs from a wide range of actors... ensuring that women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, and other vulnerable social groups are consulted and their views on solutions to climate risks are considered.” (*CIF 2009. Programming and Financing Modalities for the SCF Targeted Program, PPCR. pp 5-7.*)

has been undertaken.³¹ In cover sheet documentation, projects should similarly state how they included gender considerations in their sector analysis and identification of activities, and how gender will be tracked and reported in the project results framework.

44. *Expert Group and investment plan reviewers:* In line with good practice from the PPCR and FIP, the *CIF Gender Policy* recommends that all program Expert Group rosters (for selection of pilot countries) and investment plan reviewers continue to include a mix of developed and developing country professionals with regional and gender balance, including social development specialists/anthropologists.³² In addition, as suggested by the PPCR guidelines, the selected experts “should be familiar with social and community issues, including indigenous peoples issues and rights [and] knowledgeable in gender equality issues as they relate to climate change.”³³
45. *Investment plan and project submission:* CIF investment plan and project submission processes require MDBs to submit proposed plans and projects to the CIF Administrative Unit for review and processing for approval by the concerned CIF Trust Fund Committee or Sub-Committee. This submission includes both project documentation (such as a project information document or project appraisal document or related terminology of the MDB), and a CIF cover sheet, which includes a box on gender considerations. The *CIF Gender Policy* requires full written elaboration³⁴ in the gender box of the cover sheet for all new investment plans and projects (including investment plan revisions). The CIF AU will ensure that gender policy requirements and guidelines have been met in terms of analysis, activities, and sex-disaggregated monitoring for all new Investment Plan and project submissions. Note that this due diligence step is not meant to preclude earlier upstream technical input on gender to investment plans and projects by the CIF Administrative Unit, which remains on offer to MDB teams at their request, and which is encouraged by this *CIF Gender Policy*.
46. *Trust Fund Committee approval of investment plans and projects:* Trust Fund Committee members and observers are invited to refer to the *CIF Gender Policy* in their review of proposed CIF investment plans and projects, including those under implementation. In line with the accountability principle, this policy also mandates adherence to a system for recording and reporting on follow-up of Trust Fund Committee member comments on gender made during investment plan and project approval, particularly in relation to Committee member-stipulated actions to be undertaken during investment plan a

³¹ This follows existing practice laid out for SCF investment plan reviews stating that expert reviewers must assess whether the plan “adequately assesses social and environmental issues, including gender.” (See Annex A of CIF 2011. *Proposal for the Preparation of Independent Technical Review of SCF Investment Plans*).

³² CIF. 2008. *Criteria for Selecting Expert Group Members under the PPCR*, pp. 2-4.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ This written elaboration should follow guidelines to be prepared by the CIF Administrative Unit, and not fall back on simply suggesting “referral to a page number” in the document.