LoCAL
LOCAL CLIMATE ADAPTIVE LIVING FACILITY

UNCDF Impact Capital for Development

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION of the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) Countries

12 May 2023
Brussels, Belgium

Ministerial Declaration of the Local Climate Adaptation Living Facility (LoCAL) Countries

We, the Ministers of LoCAL mechanism countries,

Having met on 12 May 2023 at the third session of the LoCAL Ministerial Meeting,

Recognising the LoCAL Ministerial Meeting's contribution in providing political guidance to enable the implementation of the LoCAL Mechanism and high-level leadership for the efforts on locally-led adaptation action and implementation in vulnerable countries,

Noting with concern the findings of the 2023 Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) that recognised that an adaptation gap exists between the current level of adaptation and levels needed to respond to the impacts and risks, in particular in Africa, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs),

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, in particular Articles 7 and 11, that recognise the importance of engagement by all levels of government, and the Glasgow Climate Pact that urged countries to further integrate adaptation into local, national, and regional planning for increasing adaptation finance and the ability to adapt and enhance resilience,

Also recalling the Sharm el Sheikh Implementation Plan that recognised adaptation as a global challenge with local, subnational, national, regional, and international dimensions and urged countries to adopt a transformational approach to enhancing adaptive capacity and strengthening resilience to climate change by formulating and implementing national adaptation plans and adaptation communication,

Recognising the critical need and noting the limited resources for adaptation and the incremental cost of adaptation action, particularly for local governments, and that the LoCAL Facility aims to address the existing gaps by mobilising scaled-up adaptation finance,

Reaffirming LoCAL as an internationally recognised country-based mechanism that is uniquely positioned to assess local needs, build local government capacity, and reach grassroots communities to promote sustainable and resilient local economies ***with government,***

Commending the efforts of the LoCAL Facility in reaching 34 countries to supporting the implementation of adaptation actions and the further planned expansion of the LoCAL Mechanism to support the demand of new countries,

Expresses Appreciation to Ms Madeleine Diouf, Chairs of LDC Group of the UNFCCC and H.E. Agnes Mary Chimbiri Molande, 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, for their roles as co-chairs of the LoCAL Board, together with Mr David Jackson, Director for Local Transformative Finance of the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Applauds the efforts of LoCAL Ambassadors that guided and supported the implementation of the Board Decision and that promoted LoCAL as a country-based mechanism under the international climate finance architecture, and specifically thanks H.E Mrs Rohey John-Manjang, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources of The Gambia, H.E. Mrs Garama Saratou Rabiou Inoussa, Minister of Environment and Fight against Desertification of Niger, H.E. Mr Modibo Koné, Minister of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development of Mali, H.E. Ms Ivete Maibaze, Minister of Land and Environment of Mozambique, H.E. Mr José Didier Tonato, Minister of Living Environment and Sustainable Development of Benin, H.E. Dr Say Samal, Minister for Environment of Cambodia, H.E. Dr. Augustin Kabore, Minister of Environment, Water and Sanitation of Burkina Faso, H.E Mr. Michael Usi, Minister for Forestry and Climate Change of Malawi, H.E. Mr Matthew Samuda, Minister without Portfolio, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica, and H.E. Dr Kwaku Afriyie, Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana; and welcomes H.E. Mr Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finance, Tuvalu as new LoCAL Ambassador, inviting other Ministers to join as LoCAL Ambassadors.

Expresses appreciation to the European Union and the governments of Belgium, Denmark, Luxemburg, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, for their continued support of the LoCAL Facility. Also, expresses appreciation for the contributions from the Government of Catalonia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the African Development Bank through the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF), and the NDC Partnership.

Appreciates the commitment of the United Nations Capital Development Fund, as United Nations flagship financing entity for the LDCs and United Nations Subnational Finance Hub in managing the LoCAL Facility in order to support LDCs, SIDs, African States and other developing countries through the standard and country-based LoCAL mechanism that is uniquely positioned to assess local needs, build subnational and local government capacity, and reach grassroots communities to strengthen resilient communities and local economies.

On LoCAL as a Mechanism for transformational adaptation, We, hereby declare our resolve:

1. To continue utilising the LoCAL Mechanism for the accelerated implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and contribute to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and report their progress under adaptation communications;

2. To continue utilising the LoCAL Mechanism and standard to enhance resilience and implement transformational adaptation at the local and subnational levels;

3. To endorse the 10th LoCAL Board Decision;

On Scaling up Climate Finance, We hereby declare our resolve:

4. To engage with the Coalition of Climate Finance Ministers and other initiatives, and ensure the integration of the LoCAL mechanism into national and local budgeting systems to ensure the sustainability of adaptation finance at the local level;

5. To advocate through the UNFCCC for the LoCAL Mechanism to be further recognised as an internationally recognized country-based mechanism for channelling climate finance for

locally-led adaptation, including under the new climate finance goal and through recognition of standards by the UNFCCC financial mechanisms, in particular for enhanced direct access;

6. To call on LoCAL member countries and the international community to take action towards reforming the international climate finance architecture including reforming multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to respond to climate change and ensure simplified access to climate finance;

7. To invite LoCAL Partners to continue supporting the LoCAL Mechanism and the LoCAL Facility to mobilize and deploy resources for the continued support to LDCs, SIDs, and African States.

On the institutional arrangement of the LoCAL Facility, We hereby declare our resolve:

8. To call for the strengthening of the LoCAL Facility and establishment of a consolidated funding instrument that can support countries from phase I through to phase III, in coherence and complementarity with the UNFCCC financial mechanisms.

On the roadmap to COP28, We hereby declare our resolve:

9. To continue engaging with the UNFCCC and its constituted bodies, including establishing a group of negotiators from LoCAL member countries with similar interests to advance the consideration of LoCAL as a mechanism to contribute to the achievement of the Paris Agreement, and be considered under the Non-Market approach of the Paris Agreement.

10. To encourage the LoCAL Ministers and Ambassadors to engage in the negotiations of the UNFCCC and the Presidency of the twenty-eight Conference of Parties (COP28) in the lead-up to the COP to promote the LoCAL Mechanism as a country-based mechanism that contributes to the transformational adaptation reaching the most vulnerable.

11. To share the experience and good practices of LoCAL as a country-based mechanism and serve as champions to mobilise support for LoCAL to scale up resources for local adaptation action to enhance climate resilience of local communities.

12. To engage with the COP28 Presidency to promote the LoCAL Mechanism as a country-based standard that contributes to transformational adaptation reaching the most impacted communities at the local levels in LDCs, SIDs and African States.

H.E. Mr. Shahab Uddin
Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh

S.E. Mr José Didier Tonato
Ministre du Cadre de Vie et des Transports chargé du Développement Durable du Bénin

H.E. Mr. Ugyen Dorji
Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs of the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan

S.E. Dr Augustin Kaboré
Ministre de l'Environnement, de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement, Burkina Faso

H.E. Mr. Say Samal
Minister of Environment of Cambodia

S.E. Mr Jean Luc Assi,
Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable de Côte d'Ivoire

S.E. Dr Diosdado Obiang Mbomio
Ministre de la Foresterie et de l'Environnement de Guinée Equatoriale

H.E. Mr. Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa
Minister for Housing and Local Government of Fiji

H.E. Ms. Rohey John-Manjang
Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources of The Gambia

S.E. Dr Kwaku Afriyie, Ministre de l'Environnement, des Sciences, de la Technologie et de l'Innovation du Ghana

H.E. Ms. Safiatou Diallo
Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Guinea

H.E. Mr. Viriato Luis Soares Cassama,
Minister of Environment and Biodiversity of Guinea-Bissau

H.E. Mr. Matthew Samuda
Minister of Economic Growth and Job Creation of Jamaica

H.E. Mr. Limpho Tau, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Lesotho

Prof. Wilson K Tarpeh, Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia

H.E. Mr. Michael Bizwick Usi
Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change of Malawi

H.E. Ms. Ivete Maibaze
Minister of Land and Environment of Mozambique

H.E. Mr. Adelino Afonso Fernandes Rosa Cardoso, Minister of Public Works, Infrastructures, Natural Resources and Environment of São Tomé and Príncipe

H.E. Mr. Selemani Saidi Jafo
Minister of State, Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) of Tanzania

H.E. Ms. Beatrice Atim Odwong
Minister of Water and Environment of Uganda

H.E. Ms. Madeleine Diouf Sarr
Co-Chair of the LoCAL Board Chair of the LDC group to the UNFCCC

H.E. Ms. Marie Orlea Vina
Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar

S.E. Mr Modibo Koné
Ministre de l'Environnement, de l'Assainissement et du Développement Durable du Mali

S.E. Mme Garama Saratou Rabiou
Ministre de l'Environnement et de la lutte contre la désertification du Niger

H.E. Mrs. Khadija Mohamed Almakhzoumi, Ministre de l'Environnement et des Changements Climatiques de Somalie

H.E. Agnes Mary Molande
Co-Chair of the LoCAL Board
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations

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LoCAL, Financing Locally Led Adaptation

The impact of climate change is acutely experienced at the local level—where we work, go to school and live our lives. In the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, adaptation is critical and, all too often, under-resourced. The United Nations Capital Development Fund designed the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) in 2011 as a way to channel finance to local government authorities and their communities to cover the additional costs of mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change—thereby averting or minimizing potential loss and damage. Today, LoCAL is a country-owned mechanism for climate finance delivery that has realized adaptation solutions for more than 15 million people around the world. More than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific have engaged with LoCAL to deliver resilience-building solutions for climate-vulnerable populations. The LoCAL approach provides the basis for international standard ISO 14093:2022, which contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11 and 13.

THANKS TO:

Funded by the European Union

Sweden Sverige

Belgium partner in development

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Cooperation Office in Mozambique

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE FUND

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia

ACCD Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament