Fifth meeting of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee

3 September 2020
The meeting took place remotely from 14:00-17:30 GMT

Report

Attendance

Ms. Fatima Zahra TAIBI (Co-Chair)
Mr. Luc GNACADJA (Co-Chair)
Ms. Evelyne BATAMULIZA
Mr. Daouda Ben Oumar NDIAYE
Mr. Axel MICHAELOWA
Mr. Assefa Tofu CHOFORE
Ms. Doreen MNYULWA
Ms. Louise Helen BROWN

I. Opening of the meeting.

1. The fifth meeting of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee (ABM EC) was conducted remotely. The ABM EC Co-Chairs, Ms. Fatima Zahra Taibi and Mr. Luc Gnacadja, opened and presided the meeting. The meeting started at 14:00 GMT.

2. The Co-Chairs noted the challenging time in which the ABM EC has been working this year. They expressed hope that all ABM EC members are keeping fit and thanked every one for the hard work and time invested, while looking forward to the next in-person meeting.

3. The Director for Climate Change and Green Growth of the African Development Bank, acting as the Head of the interim ABM secretariat, Dr. Anthony Nyong, welcomed the ABM EC members. He reflected on the historic development of the ABM and expressed his profound appreciation for the work of the ABM EC during this challenging time. He confirmed the high-level support for the ABM within the African Development Bank, including at Vice-President level, and informed that the Global Centre on Adaptation is opening a Regional centre for Africa, which will be hosted within the African Development Bank. The inauguration will take place on the 16th of September 2020. He noted that the ABM will be included in its work and that he is looking forward to the ABM
Secretariat collaborating closely with the Regional centre, as well as that more resources for the ABM are being mobilized from other sources. Dr. Nyong also noted that the concept of “building back better” is emerging as guiding for the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis and that incorporating the ABM in it is important. “For adapting effectively to climate change, we cannot continue to count on public resources only, we need the private sector”, said Dr. Nyong and concluded: “We have this formidable experience to do things differently. Your immense contributions in time and intellectual work, your contribution to improving the lots of millions vulnerable communities will not be forgotten and Africa will be grateful”.

4. The ABM EC adopted the agenda, as contained in document ABM EC/2020/5/2.

II. Discussion of documents for the meeting.

5. The ABM EC took note of the compilation\(^1\) of public comments on the “Draft Guidelines on the development of an Adaptation Benefits Methodology”\(^2\) received from the stakeholders’ consultations that took place from 31 June – 13 July 2020 prepared by the secretariat and discussed revisions of the text addressing these comments paragraph-by-paragraph. The ABM EC expressed appreciation for the comments and information sources received by stakeholders and noted that they helped to improve the document. The ABM EC recalled its intention that the initial guidelines should constitute a flexible framework to welcome a learning process and that further clarifications could be included based on the experience with the first ABM methodologies. The ABM EC adopted the revised document “Guidelines on the development of an Adaptation Benefits Methodology”\(^3\).

III. Procedural matters.

6. The ABM EC discussed ways to improve the efficiency of its work. There was a general support for conducting future ABM EC meetings in a more executive mode and dealing with detailed comments inter-sesionally.

7. **More focus on executive tasks:** the possibility to prepare concept notes before drafting documents was considered. It was noted that, in particular for more complex documents, discussing first the principles, procedures and flow charts presented as concept notes, rather than as draft documents, could work better. This would help to ensure that the ABM EC agrees on the big picture before going into textual details. The increasing staff of the ABM secretariat could help with drafting the documents. Consultants could also be hired for this work, subject to availability of resources.

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\(^1\) ABM EC/2020/5/4.inf

\(^2\) ABM EC/2020/4/6

\(^3\) ABM EC/2020/5/10
8. **Temporary adjustment of deadlines due to remote working.** It was noted that initially, the core of the ABM EC work was supposed to be conducted through in-person meetings, while the possibility to hold remote meetings was meant for resolving minor issues inter-sessionally. As the COVID-19 crisis has led to holding only remote meetings in 2020, longer deadlines for submitting documents for the remote meetings are needed. The ABM EC agreed on a temporary provisional provision for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis to shift all deadlines for submission of documents for remote meetings with one week earlier compared to the deadlines in the Rules of Procedure\(^4\), a provisional agenda and all documents for the meetings should be submitted 3 weeks before the meeting. Revised versions based on comments and the annotated agenda shall be submitted two weeks in advance. It was noted that for some documents more time for comments was needed. The ABM EC agreed that when documents require more time, the ABM EC will agree whether to provide more time.

9. **Attendance of observers at remote meetings.** The ABM Secretariat noted that only clean versions of documents in the correct format with the correct ABM EC reference number can be published. The ABM Secretariat also brought under the attention of the ABM EC, if the COVID-19 situation continues beyond 2020, to consider inviting observers to attend remote meetings and engaging in question and answer sessions with observers after the meeting.

**IV. Date and place of the next meeting.**

10. The ABM EC noted that documents for at least two meetings have already been prepared and decided to accelerate its work in 2020 by holding at least two meetings of three hours each in the next two months to consider and finalize these documents, while aiming at reducing the frequency of the meetings in 2021 to one meeting per quarter. The ABM EC requested the ABM Secretariat to prepare a survey on the availability of ABM EC members with the view to choosing the dates of the next two meetings, preferably in October. The ABM EC Co-Chairs will consider the documents and propose a draft agenda.

**V. Any other business and closure of the meeting.**

11. The ABM Co-Chairs invited discussion on priority items for the next ABM EC meeting.

12. The ABM EC prioritized the “Draft Procedure for adoption of an ABM methodology”\(^5\), the “Draft Methodology for activity-type clustering of ABM methodologies”\(^6\) and the ABM activity cycle for the next meeting, followed by the revised “Draft Strategic Plan for the ABM Pilot Phase”.

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\(^4\) ABM EC 2019-1-3
\(^5\) ABM EC 2020-5-5
\(^6\) ABM EC 2020-5-7
13. The ABM EC decided to agree on the “Draft Terms of Reference for the ABM Secretariat”\textsuperscript{7} inter-sessionally per e-mail.

14. The ABM EC Co-Chairs requested ABM EC members to advance the items for the next meeting as much as possible through e-mail prior to the meeting.

15. The ABM EC Co-Chairs commended the ABM EC members for staying half an hour longer, being straight-to-the-point and contributing to having a fruitful meeting and praised everyone’s dedication and hard work.

16. The ABM Co-Chairs closed the fifth meeting of the ABM EC at 17:30 GMT.

\textsuperscript{7} ABM EC 2020-5-6