Tenth meeting of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee

22 April 2021
The meeting took place remotely from 14:00-16:20 GMT

Report

Attendance

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

I. Opening of the meeting.

1. The tenth meeting of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee (ABM EC) was conducted remotely. Mr. Daouda Ndiaye opened and presided the meeting on behalf of the Co-Chairs. Mr. Luc Gnacadja, took over the chairing after agenda item II (a). The ABM EC adopted the agenda with the notion that a substantive discussion would needed on agenda item II.(d) on definitions.

II. Discussion of documents for the meeting:

(a) Timelines ABM activity cycle;

2. The ABM EC noted the internal document prepared by the ABM secretariat\(^1\) estimating the timelines for the ABM activity cycle and the comments received.

\(^1\) ABM EC/2021/10/3.int - “Timelines for the operationalization of the ABM activity cycle”.
3. The ABM EC discussed possible changes and implications for its work, including for the prioritization of issues and planning.

4. The ABM EC agreed that the estimated procedures are too long and must be shortened, if possible to about half a year. The methodology process must also be accelerated. It was noted that the timelines for the methodology panel do not need to be exhausted and with a good will a methodology can pass through the procedure faster. It was also noted that the verification phase might be a bit further away from registration, because activities have to be implemented for some time before the results can be verified. It was further noted that having a robust approval process is an imperative, but the ABM should learn from the experiences with the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms, in particular on the Clean Development Mechanism, and try to avoid criticism about having a long approval process. It was further noted that upon adoption of the Operational Manual for Validation and Verification and the Terms of Reference for the two experts helping with selection of independent third parties acting as ABM validators and verifiers, it could be considered whether these two experts cannot be drawn from the Roster of Experts for the Methodology Panel to save time for recruitment.

5. The ABM EC requested the ABM secretariat to review the document and see where the ABM EC can shorten the timelines and the processes, while indicating corresponding revisions in the ABM Activity Cycle and other documents for discussion at a next meeting.

(b) Monitoring tool;

6. Mr. Ndiaye handed the chairing over to the ABM EC Co-Chair, Mr. Gnacadja, who expressed his gratitude to Mr. Ndiaye for taking on the chairing task upon a very short notice.

7. The ABM EC noted the internal document containing a draft monitoring tool prepared by the ABM secretariat, which was based on the already agreed ABM EC work plan and budget for 2021, and discussed the structure of the tool, as well as what aspects to measure regarding the progress and how?

8. The ABM EC agreed, among others, to have the tool in excel, add columns on a target date for deliverables, as well as to quantify the deliverables where possible.

9. The ABM EC requested the secretariat to revise the document in accordance with the instructions, circulate a revised version for adoption at its next meeting and share the final version on the common drive, so that it can be updated by all. The ABM EC also requested the secretariat to compile its updates

---

2 ABM EC/2021/10/4int: “Monitoring tool for the implementation of the annual work plan and budget for 2021”.
3 ABM EC/2021/9/3: “Annual work plan and budget for 2021”
in one document on the common drive and confirmed its intention to use the common drive as a depository for all ABM EC documents until a password-protected shared work space is provided on the ABM website.

(c) ABM Fund;

10. The ABM EC took note of the information provided by the ABM secretariat on the establishment of an African Adaptation Benefits Fund (AABF) by the African Development Bank, invited the ABM secretariat to present the concept of the fund and the intended way forward and discussed various aspects of the fund, the intended work, timing for its launching, challenges that may occur and risk mitigation options, as well as the role of the ABM EC for setting up the fund. Securing commitments for the fund was identified as the most important next step.

(d) Definitions;

11. The ABM EC took note of the draft document\(^4\) prepared by the ABM secretariat on the basis of input provided by the assigned ABM EC leads and the work of the ABM EC so far and engaged in a substantive discussion.

12. The ABM EC agreed to call the document “Glossary of terms for the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism” and keep the list in alphabetical order. The ABM EC also agreed to consider options for a clustering of the terminology and a multi-layer layout when the ABM website becomes available.

13. The ABM EC agreed to provide comments within a week, upon which the ABM secretariat will circulate an updated version for approval per e-mail.

(e) Annual report.

14. The ABM EC took note of the revised draft annual report\(^5\) prepared by the ABM secretariat, addressing comments received so far and engaged in a substantive discussion, including on the recommendations by the ABM EC.

15. The ABM EC agreed to provide comments on the annual report within one week and seek to validate the revised version per e-mail.

III. Report on the work of the ABM Methodology Panel.

16. The Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel reported to the ABM EC on matters related to the operationalization of the Methodology Panel, including on the selection of members of the Roster of Experts. He noted that from 77

---

\(^4\) ABM EC/2021/10/5 vs.1 – “Key adaptation concepts and terms for the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism”.

\(^5\) ABM EC/2021/10/6 vs.3– “First report of the interim Adaptation Benefits Executive Committee (2019-2020)”.
applications, only 33 were from African candidates. He also noted that very few applications were received from Francophone African candidates and women and only one from a Lusophone African candidate. Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel were pleasantly surprised that some very prominent experts were among the applicants. The Chair and the Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel selected 20 candidates, while trying to strike a balance between, sectors, regions and male and female members, as much as possible. Due to the low number of female applicants, it was not possible to ensure gender equality and extra effort was done to select Francophone African experts. The Chair and the Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel have also shortlisted 6 experts from 20 experts selected for the Roster of Experts as candidates for becoming a permanent member of the Methodology Panel. In the next weeks, the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel will hold interviews with these six experts before proposing three of them as permanent members for approval by the ABM EC.

17. The ABM EC provided comments on and recommendations for the composition of the Roster of Experts and the three permanent members of the Methodology Panel, including on ensuring that international, local knowledge and gender expertise are present, ways to recruit more African experts and female experts and how to rate them.

18. The Chair and the Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel took note of the comments and recommendations provided by the ABM EC and agreed to take over some of the points. The Vice-Chair of the Methodology Panel also noted that one ABM methodology for an activity in Kenya has already been submitted, a reason why it is very important to accelerate the operationalization of the Methodology Panel.

19. The ABM EC noted requested the ABM secretariat to assist the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel with holding the interviews, upon which information on the 20 members of the Roster of Experts will be shared with the ABM EC and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel will recommend three experts for permanent members of the ABM Methodology Panel to the ABM EC for approval per e-mail.

IV. Update by the ABM secretariat.

20. The ABM EC noted the written update provided by the ABM secretariat for the period 5 March – 1 April 2021. The ABM secretariat noted that its update on the ABM budget will be provided through the monitoring tool from now on to avoid duplication of work. The ABM secretariat highlighted orally its key activities in the period 1 April – 22 April 2021, in particular:

---

6 ABM EC/2021/10/7.int – “Update on ABM-related activities of the African Development Bank and the ABM secretariat in the period 5 March – 1 April 2021”.
(a) Presenting the ABM to the management of the Africa Global Center for Adaptation, as the ABM is included in its Africa Acceleration Initiative, which has the target of mobilizing 25 billion for adaptation by 2025.
(b) Presenting the ABM to the CPA policy initiative, which is conducting a study on resilience and adaptation;
(c) Information request from the President of the African Development Bank on the ABM for the Questions & Answers session during the Leaders’ Summit on Climate.

V. Date and place for the next meeting.

21. The ABM EC agreed to hold its next meeting on Thursday, 20 May 2021 from 14:00-17:00 GMT.

VI. AOB and closure.

22. The ABM EC Co-Chair thanked all ABM EC members for being committed and going an extra mile for delivering the ABM.

23. The tenth meeting of the ABM EC was closed on Thursday, 22 April 2021, at 16:20 GMT.