Twelfth meeting of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee

17 June 2021
The meeting took place remotely from 14:00-17:30 GMT

Report

Attendance

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

I. Opening of the meeting.

1. The twelfth meeting of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee (ABM EC) was conducted remotely. The ABM EC Co-Chair, Mr. Luc Gnacadja, opened and presided over the meeting. He noted that the Guidance on Social and Environmental Safeguards for ABM activities¹ agreed at the eleventh meeting of the ABM EC, subject to incorporation of comments, was adopted per e-mail. He also noted that there is a growing need to meet in person and is looking forward to such a meeting at least one or two times this year and alerted ABM EC members about the possibility to raise other matters under the agenda item on any other business.

2. The ABM EC adopted the agenda as proposed.

II. Discussion on documents for the meeting:

3. The ABM EC considered and decided upon the documents under agenda sub-items (a) and (b) on, respectively, an ABM Grievance Mechanism and a way forward for simplifying the validation and verification for ABM activities.

¹ ABM EC/2021/11/5
(a) ABM Grievance mechanism;

4. The ABM EC noted the draft document prepared by the ABM secretariat: “Grievance and Redress for decisions of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee and impacts of Adaptation Benefits Mechanism activities” and engaged in a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion on matters related to information requirements, deadlines and appeal.

5. The ABM EC agreed on the revised document with the exception of paragraph 13 on information requirements. The ABM EC invited further textual proposals by ABM EC members on paragraph 13 and decided to agree on this paragraph and adopt the document with the new paragraph per e-mail after the meeting.

(b) Concept note on validation and verification.

6. The ABM EC took note of the concept note prepared by the ABM secretariat, containing two options for arranging validation and verification for the ABM and engaged in a discussion on the choice of an option for the way forward and on further guidance to the ABM secretariat.

7. The ABM EC decided to use a centralized approach during the ABM Pilot Phase with the view to simplifying the procedures, curbing the timelines and reducing the costs for ABM activity developers. The centralized approach would constitute the establishment of a validation and verification team as an advisory body of the ABM EC. In accordance with rule 15 of the Rules and Procedures of the ABM EC, at least one ABM EC member shall be assigned by the ABM EC to chair, coordinate and report on the work of the team. Nevertheless, the team will have the mandate to deliver independent recommendations on validation and verification to the ABM EC. In accordance with rule 16 of the Rules and Procedures of the ABM EC, members of the team shall be appointed through a public call for expressions of interest, based on Terms of Reference agreed by the ABM EC.

8. The ABM EC requested the ABM secretariat to elaborate further the centralized approach, including the Terms of Reference. The ABM EC also guided that there should be an equitable representation of international and African experts and of auditing and adaptation experience. The ABM EC further agreed that the team should pro-actively invite relevant organizations at national level to participate in the stakeholders’ consultations, which are part of the validation and verification procedures.

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2 Document ABM EC/2021/12/5
3 Internal document ABM EC/2021/11/8.int
III. Review of the progress, priorities and timelines for the ABM Pilot Phase.

9. The ABM EC discussed the progress, priorities and timelines for the ABM Pilot Phase made in the past half year (January-June 2021), on the basis of the internal updated monitoring tool for the ABM EC work plan for 2021\(^4\).

10. The ABM EC requested the ABM secretariat for the next half-annual review to prepare in advance of the meeting a brief information note summarizing what has been achieved versus the planning agreed in the annual work plan.

11. The ABM EC agreed on the following priorities for the second half of the year:
   (a) Resource mobilization strategy;
   (b) Stakeholder engagement strategy, including communication strategy;
   (c) Partnership building;
   (d) What can the ABM EC show at COP26?
   (e) Approved methodologies.

12. Regarding working modalities, the ABM EC agreed to move to two-days quarterly meetings on technical issues, consisting of one 3-hours session per day. If needed the ABM EC will hold shorter ad hoc meetings to decide on specific time-bound or urgent items in between. ABM EC members noted that there are advantages and disadvantages of both options: monthly and quarterly meetings and that holding on-line meetings longer than 3 hours would be challenging.

13. The ABM EC requested the ABM secretariat to propose dates for the quarterly meetings in 2021, include in the agenda of the next quarterly meeting documents on the prioritized items, in particular on Resource mobilization and Stakeholders engagement, and consider options for the next quarterly meeting to be held in-person, subject to availability of resources and health restrictions.

IV. Report on the work of the Methodology Panel.

14. The Chair and the Vice-Chair of the ABM Methodology Panel reported on the progress made with the operationalization of the ABM Methodology Panel and its Roster of Experts. They reported that a successful training was held on the 16\(^{th}\) of June, 2021, organized by the ABM secretariat and OneWorld, which was attended by almost all of the experts in the Roster. It was noted that there was a good mix and possibility for cross-learning among the members and that the experts are ready to start. It was also noted that the two Francophone members selected later were missing. The ABM secretariat clarified that compensatory measures will be taken to ensure that they receive the same amount of information.

\(^4\) Document ABM EC/2021/12/3.int
15. While acknowledging that some ABM EC documents were already translated in French and that according to Rule 34 of the ABM EC Rules of Procedures the working language for the ABM EC is English, the ABM EC asked the ABM secretariat to consider options for translating all documents in French and present options at the next ABM EC meeting. The reason is that nearly half of the African countries are Francophone and the risk of exclusion from the ABM due to a language barrier should be avoided. It was further noted that the African Development Bank is bilingual and that there are institutions supporting French translation, which could be approached for assistance.

V. Update by the ABM secretariat.

16. The ABM secretariat provided an oral update on the ABM-related activities of the African Development Bank in the period 21 May – 17 June, including on bilateral meetings with governments from developed and developing countries, advancing of ABM demonstration projects and other ABM-related projects, such as a market study and promoting the ABM through presentations at events.

VI. Date and place for the next meeting.

17. The ABM EC requested the ABM secretariat to propose dates for the next meetings in accordance with the decision-making under agenda item III. The ABM EC Co-Chairs will communicate the dates for the next meeting per e-mail.

VII. AOB and closure.

18. The ABM secretariat asked the ABM EC to confirm whether documents agreed by the ABM EC are in the public domain and can be used by all as a reference without asking for a permission? The ABM Co-Chair recalled that at its 11th meeting, the ABM EC clarified that all published documents agreed by the ABM EC are on default in the public domain, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

19. The ABM EC Chair thanked the ABM EC members for the hard and expedited work. The twelfth meeting of the ABM EC closed on Thursday, 17 June 2021, at 17:00 GMT.