

**GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities**

Intervention on

**Regional Presence****Access the document:** <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b42-12>

As a maturing and learning institution that needs to better serve its developing country partners and climate change affected people and communities, we welcome the GCF's move to establish regional presence without additional delay, in what has already been a multi-year process. We therefore appreciate the efforts by the Secretariat to implement the B.41 Board decision on regional presence by outlining a phased approach to the operationalization of regional offices, that could see a decision on host countries and host cities for several regional offices already later this year. As this operationalization must fully reflect equity and regional balance against the backdrop of cost-effectiveness, a misguided call for cost-neutrality cannot be the guardrail neither for the number of regional offices selected nor their configuration.

We urge the Board to adopt a fully transparent selection and implementation process, from the evaluation and ranking of countries' offers and proposals submitted, to regular updates under the monitoring and reporting plan on the status of the implementation of regional offices, to the prompt publication on the GCF website of the host country agreements once negotiated for the selected countries and host cities. Recognizing that different jurisdictions have their own contexts, we seek assurances that such host country agreements will extend the privileges, immunities and exemptions of GCF representatives also to representatives of GCF observer organizations that might come into the country for official engagement with the GCF regional office, therefore securing their freedom of speech in the exercise of their functions. All host country agreements must include protections for the ability of observer organizations from civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities to engage on GCF matters with and at the GCF regional office and/or an outpost.

In this context, we find the criteria for the selection of host countries and host cities lacking and would urge to take into consideration broader aspects of a host country's and host city's democratic openness and commitment to protect and promote human rights as well as accessibility and impact, with a reference to human rights including but not limited to freedom of assembly, support for and protection of civil society, Indigenous Peoples and gender-diverse people as well as the existence of independent civil society in the country. These criteria and commitments are relevant for the office's accountability as part of the GCF and legitimacy in promoting and supporting true country ownership that reflects and values the needs and priorities of rightsholders and marginalized communities bearing the brunt of climate change impacts.



## 42nd Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund

June 30 - July 3, 2025, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Lastly, we want to ensure – and have this integrated as a clear deliverable in the monitoring and reporting plan – that under the hybrid structure, operational ESS personnel, including experts on gender and Indigenous Peoples, with responsibilities for project risk screening, safeguards due diligence and implementation monitoring, will be located in regional offices as a core operational need. We appreciate the additional paragraph on this matter included in this operational approach.