

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

Intervention on

Update on the Operationalization of Regional Presence

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b43-inf08>

We appreciate the report on the advances in operationalizing the GCF's regional presence, including the strong interest of many countries vying to host an office. As many applicants will have to be disappointed, this will make it necessary that the final selection process is thorough and transparent, with full public accountability for the reasons to settle on some host locations over others. This is crucial to ensure that the GCF fulfills its mandate, having developing countries as a priority, as noted in the selection process.

As we've also mentioned in previous interventions, we would want to see as part of this final assessment due consideration given to whether the host countries show strong commitment and willingness to actively engage stakeholders comprehensively, including in particular through the participation and engagement of civil society, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples in policy and decision-making processes, and their implementation, as well as a strong-track record of upholding and respecting human rights and gender equality in policy and social development, among others. For us, this is an important aspect of accountability and is required for the broader country ownership understanding that the Fund must strive to champion, including through its regional presence.

In this Board Meeting, we are also discussing multilingualism, which is particularly important in the context of regional presence. We look forward to using this opportunity to advance a fit-for-purpose approach to multilingualism, enabling more community stakeholders to have their voices and concerns heard and reflected in the whole cycle of GCF operations. Regionalization doesn't only mean installing an office and devolving functions of the headquarters, but most importantly, building rapport with the key stakeholders and rightsholders that the Fund truly serves.

Finally, we appreciate the suggested approach to staff compensation being adjusted across the regional offices and an outpost using a local-specific purchasing power parity (PPP) methodology to ensure fairness and comparability. On this note, we would like to reiterate in the strongest terms possible that the decisions about regional presence should not just be about dollars spent and saved. Regional presence should be about centering people in the delivery of effective climate finance above anything else.