



44th Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund

March 25-28, 2026, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

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

Intervention on

Operationalizing the GCF Regional Presence

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b44-17-rev01>

We remain supportive of the progress made in establishing the operationalization of the GCF's regional presence. Anchoring regional presence in a shared vision to move the Fund closer to its stakeholders, centering people in developing countries and their needs and priorities in the delivery of effective climate finance above anything else, is crucial.

However, as we've repeatedly noted, this vision should be about setting up regional presence in a way that ensures selected host countries show strong commitment to human rights, including political, social and procedural rights, and the practice and willingness to engage stakeholders, particularly civil society, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples in policy development, decision-making, and most importantly in the implementation of funded climate actions. It is worth noting that the absence of this core principle as a formal selection criterion may also pose an integrity risk, which is not addressed in the operational risk categorization.

Also, in terms of this formal selection process, we have supported and continue to support as much transparency as possible in Board documents and proceedings.

In this Board Meeting, we are also discussing the evaluation of the Fund's approach to Country Ownership, which notes that regional presence has the potential to strengthen country ownership that must be understood beyond government ownership. Realizing this will require more than incremental adjustments and cannot be traded off against cost effectiveness; it calls for significant structural changes that enable sustained and inclusive engagement among the government, civil society, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples.

We then reiterate the need for inclusive and wider stakeholder participation to ensure that inputs from civil society, local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the countries are integrated and shape decision-making, especially now in the ongoing processes around the establishment of the GCF regional presence. Only then can country ownership become genuinely representative and accountable.