GCF WATCH

46th Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund

October 26-29, 2026, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

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

Intervention on

Non-receipt of Contributions under signed agreements

Access the document: https://www.greenclimate.fund/board-document/gcf-b46-inf15

On the non-receipt of contributions under signed agreements, contributor countries' failure to fulfill their obligations is not simply an administrative matter. It's a matter of legal obligation. Under the UNFCCC and Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, developed countries have an obligation to provide climate finance to developing countries. The ICJ Advisory Opinion further affirms the legally binding nature of this obligation and emphasizes that it should be at a level capable of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, non-fulfillment of confirmed pledges must be treated as a matter of accountability and cannot be addressed by continued engagement with contributors alone.

Regardless, in replenishment discussions, the delivery of contributions is often treated as a matter of discretion, as if the Fund must work around what is convenient for contributor countries. We have consistently reminded the Board that the GCF was established to serve the Global South. Its ability to do so can neither depend on contributor countries' discretion or orient the GCF toward accommodating what is politically expedient for them.

While we acknowledge that this agenda item is an information document, how the Fund addresses the non-fulfillment of confirmed contributions has implications beyond reporting. As it is fundamentally an issue of accountability, the GCF must establish concrete actions on what to do when these efforts do not result in payment. The recently adopted Policy on Contributions recognizes the risk-of-non payment without adequately specifying how the fund should respond when such issues arise. It missed establishing escalation triggers, remedial measures the Board or secretariat should take if a contributor continues to fail to meet their obligations, and a defined accountability pathway whether or when cases should be referred to the COP for guidance.

This issue also relates directly to the discussion on Board effectiveness, which has centered around speed and efficiency in decision-making. It is difficult to reconcile the push for faster Board decisions with the continued failure to ensure that confirmed contributions are actually delivered. This is particularly concerning when half of the Board represents the very countries expected to provide those resources.

We urge the Board to establish clear procedures on this matter, including defined timelines for follow-up and appropriate accountability measures. These procedures must not only apply

to commitments made under GCF-3 and future replenishment cycles, but also to outstanding commitments from the IRM, GCF-1 and GCF-2. We also ask the Secretariat to be more explicit in reporting on outstanding contributions, including the amounts due, how long they have been unpaid and the steps planned and/or already taken to ensure payment. Ultimately, the Board should be in a position to track these commitments and act when necessary.

The full and timely delivery of climate finance contributions by developed countries is critical to the GCF's ability to fulfill its mandate, especially as countries in the Global South face increasingly severe and costly climate impacts.