

# Global Concessional Financing Facility Fourth Steering Committee Meeting

September 27, 2019, London UK

## Key Decisions

- The GCFF Steering Committee welcomed the Funding Request submitted by the Government of Lebanon for GCFF support to the Municipal Investment Program. GCFF Supporting Countries appreciated the strong rationale for the proposed program, including focus on job creation, private sector engagement, and vulnerable populations in the targeted municipalities. Supporting Countries indicated the importance of holding additional consultations to strengthen specific aspects of the program before proceeding to approval. It was therefore decided that subsequent to consultations planned in Beirut for October 4, the Government of Lebanon will recirculate through the Coordination Unit project documentation for virtual approval with a reduced non-objection period of seven (7) calendar days.
- The GCFF Steering Committee endorsed the concept note entitled “Private Sector Support Framework for the GCFF: Partial Portfolio Guarantees and their impact” and invited the Trustee to prepare, in consultation with the Coordination Unit and the Implementation Support Agencies, as appropriate, draft amendments to the GCFF Operations Manual and, if applicable, the Financial Procedures Agreement to facilitate the implementation of the PSSF proposal, for approval by the Steering Committee at the next meeting. The draft amendments should take into account the remaining concerns expressed by Supporting Countries.
- Acknowledging the request from the Government of Canada and the consent of the Trustee to add Ecuador as a benefitting country of the GCFF;  
  
Taking into account the assessment of the Venezuelan crisis by UNHCR and the additional information provided by the IMF;  
  
The Supporting Countries approved the addition of Ecuador as a benefitting country of the GCFF in accordance with paragraph 9 of the GCFF Operations Manual.
- Noting the importance of taking stock of progress towards the GCFF’s objectives and of lessons learned since the facility’s establishment in 2016, including with the recent expansion of the scope of the facility to middle-income countries in Latin America,  
  
The Steering Committee invited the Coordination Unit to prepare draft terms of reference for an independent evaluation of the GCFF in accordance with paragraph 36 of the GCFF Operations Manual, and to circulate the draft terms of reference virtually, along with the proposed timeline, to the Steering Committee for review.
- The Steering Committee selected by consensus the United Kingdom and Colombia to serve as the new co-chairs of the GCFF Steering Committee for a one-year term in accordance with paragraph 50 of the GCFF Operations Manual.

## Summary of Meeting

### **1) Opening Remarks and Status Update**

The meeting of the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) Steering Committee (SC) took place in London, UK, on September 27, 2019. The meeting commenced with welcoming remarks by the co-Chair, **Mr. Gavin Buchan**, Minister Counsellor and Executive Director, Middle East Development Programming, Embassy of Canada. Mr. Buchan thanked DFID for hosting the meeting and acknowledged the exceptional participation of Japan and the EC connected respectively from Tokyo and Brussels, as well as the presence of colleagues in Beirut (Lebanon and World Bank) and in Washington DC (IMF, GCFF team). Mr. Buchan also informed the Steering Committee that the representatives from Colombia would be connected by VC for the afternoon session and that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador would be connected from New York to present the case of Ecuador's eligibility as a new benefitting country of the GCFF (the WB site in Quito, Ecuador, also connected). **Ms. Sarah Michael**, Manager, Strategy, Analytics, Financing Solutions & Knowledge, Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group (FCV), World Bank, as representative of the GCFF Coordination Unit, proceeded with the roll call.

Co-chair of the meeting and joining by VC, **Mr. Alain Bifani**, Director General of the Ministry of Finance, Lebanon, reminded the participants the genesis of the GCFF and commended the team for the progress made to date. He also mentioned the continued assistance that the GCFF provides, despite the growing challenges that Lebanon faces. He reiterated his thanks to the SC members and called for continued and additional support.

**Mr. Richard Teuten** of DFID provided introductory remarks, noting his satisfaction and appreciation for how the GCFF had evolved over the past three years.

### Trustee Presentation

**Mr. Darius Stangu**, Trustee, presented the financial status of the GCFF FIF, as of September 25, 2019. Since inception, supporting countries have pledged USD704.6 million, of which USD620.5 million has been received in cash. The Steering Committee approved funding requests totaling USD517.8 million, of which USD511.9 million has been transferred to the ISAs, the Coordination Unit and the Trustee. The funds available in the trust fund to support new funding decisions amount to USD118 million, spread across the windows as follows: USD3.4 million in the Jordan window, USD7.6 million in the Lebanon window, USD63.8 million in the Jordan/Lebanon window, and USD43.2 million in the Global window.

### **2) Presentation of the underlying operation: Lebanon Municipal Investment Program**

**H.E. Ms. Raya Haffar El Hassan**, Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Lebanon, led the presentation of the underlying operation. The Minister described the sector challenges that Lebanon is currently facing and explained that timing is critical due to increasing sector financing constraints. Lebanon's infrastructure stock is declining, and the infrastructure deficit is constraining economic growth. Furthermore, the country is experiencing a high concentration of activities in limited number of urban centers while around 44 percent of the labor force is concentrated in Greater Beirut and Mount Lebanon. The Minister noted that Lebanon's municipal finances are not sustainable and that there is a high fiscal concentration. The problems have been exacerbated by the massive influx of Syrian refugees. The Municipal Investment

Program will focus on infrastructure, which is vital for economic growth in Lebanon. The Project could create around 3,350 jobs, promote economic growth and attract and retain businesses and private investments. The project also has a strong focus on gender and improving women participation in municipal committees, as well as improving women's living conditions.

During the discussion, the Supporting Countries expressed overall support for the project but called for additional information. **Germany** voiced support for the project's focus (municipalities, decentralization, women, and the participatory approach) but called for additional information on the project's impact on job creation, most notably for refugees and for youth. **Sweden** welcomed the comprehensive scope of the project (beyond Beirut, across the national territory) and noted the importance of the project's objectives and asked for additional information on private sector engagement. **The UK** also agreed with the rationale of the project, but raised questions related to the direct and indirect project impact on refugees, on the local capacity to deliver on the ground, and on the overall challenge of monitoring results. **Denmark** seconded other Supporting Countries in support of the underlying operation, but also questioned project implementation in the challenging Lebanese environment. **The US** echoed the comments previously made and noted that it is important to have affordable services after engaging private sector. Overall, the US welcomed the opportunity to further engage on the project components, just as **Norway** supported the proposal to hold another technical review. The **European Commission (EC)** noted the importance of supporting municipalities in Lebanon and of aid coordination to promote synergies and not overburden municipalities. Finally, while **Japan** recognized the importance of the scope and objective of the underlying operation, it shared similar questions related to the track record of Lebanon and delays incurred for project approval and effectiveness by national authorities. To recognize the different questions raised, the ISA indicated that a follow up technical meeting would be held in Beirut on October 4, which was agreed upon. Overall, the SC welcomed engaging with project teams at country level and shared its eagerness to engage upstream as much as possible.

**Minister El Hassan** thanked the SC members for their support and acknowledged the questions raised, notably relative to the impact of the project on refugees and hosting communities. The Minister was reassuring in terms of timeline and confirmed that her expectation was to have a quick approval process considering the broad focus and cross-sectoral dimension of the operation. The Minister reminded the SC of the importance to pay special attention to the hosting communities, especially at times when tensions between communities are high. The Minister reiterated her thanks and gave the floor to **Mr. Sateh Chafic El-Arnaout**, Task Team Leader (TTL), World Bank, who underscored the benefits of the project in terms of job creation. The underlying operation is also notable for a series of innovations, including PPP approaches and engagement with the private sector or new responsibilities for local authorities.

### **Decision**

*The GCFF Steering Committee welcomed the Funding Request submitted by the Government of Lebanon for GCFF support to the Municipal Investment Program. GCFF Supporting Countries appreciated the strong rationale for the proposed program, including focus on job creation, private sector engagement, and vulnerable populations in the targeted municipalities. Supporting Countries indicated the importance of holding additional consultations to strengthen specific aspects of the program before proceeding to approval. It was therefore decided that subsequent to consultations planned in Beirut for October 4, the Government of Lebanon will recirculate through the Coordination Unit project documentation for virtual approval with a reduced non-objection period of seven (7) calendar days.*

### 3) Update on the portfolio of projects for Lebanon and Jordan

#### Lebanon

**Mr. Saroj Jha**, Country Director, World Bank, presented the portfolio of projects in Lebanon. Mr. Jha explained that the World Bank has a \$650 million portfolio of projects in Lebanon benefitting from the GCFF. There is currently no backlog for GCFF approved projects, and all projects have been approved by the Lebanese authorities. By the end of this year the projected disbursement is expected to be 30 percent. He offered an update on the following Lebanon projects:

- **The Roads and Employment Project.** The first three design lots are being finalized and will be issued for tender prior to January 2020. The next three lots will proceed to tender in early 2020. CDR is expecting delivery of equipment over the coming weeks and is in active negotiations with suppliers over earlier deliveries as possible.
- **Greater Beirut Public Transport Project.** Work is advanced in preparing for the signing of the design contract, expected by December 2019. The selection of the PIU members is also underway.
- **Lebanon Health Resilience Project:** The World Bank is working closely with the Ministry of Public Health on finalizing the terms of reference for the Third-Party Agent, following which recruitment will be launched.

**Dr. Walid Abdelwahab**, Director General, Country Relations and Services, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), put special emphasis on the challenging country contexts and the continued impact of conflict and fragility in the Middle East. Dr. Abdelwahab emphasized the delicate balance between the humanitarian needs of refugees and the development imperative for both refugee and hosting communities. In terms of project design, this entails that both communities be prioritized (including indirect benefits such as access to socioeconomic services or jobs). Any review of GCFF results (internal or independent review) should take these requirements into consideration. Dr. Abdelwahab also observed that the social, economic and demographic impacts of the refugees in the benefiting countries makes the political realities on the ground more complex, which can cause delays in terms of project approval (e.g., the IsDB-financed Lebanon Health Resilience Project).

Supporting Countries welcomed the advancements in approvals, project implementation and disbursements in Lebanon and called for greater details on the impact on refugees and lessons learned from the process. **Sweden** asked for more information sharing about the projects on the ground. **The US** indicated that it would be paying special attention to the impact on refugees and hosting communities and observed that hostilities in hosting communities need to be considered already at the project design stage. **Germany** asked if a fast-track option could be used for the approval of GCFF projects and whether the refugees would be asked for work permits for the construction works. **The UK** also asked how the approval process could be accelerated and whether the impact on beneficiaries would be assessed in the future. In this context, **Denmark** suggested a strategic discussion on key directions for the GCFF.

To the point raised on the approval process. Mr. Jha highlighted the need to see this within the broader context of the internal Lebanese approval process, on average a cycle of 16-24 months. Efforts are currently ongoing to introduce a fast-track approval process, where a proposal has been submitted before the Parliament.

## Jordan

**Ms. Zeina Toukan**, Secretary General, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), Jordan, gave a comprehensive update on the portfolio of projects in Jordan, notably on GCFF-related projects such as in the sectors of electricity, water, health, and education. Ms. Toukan noted that almost 60 percent of the funds had been disbursed. Project results include a 34 percent increase in provision of electricity; 160,000 work permits that have been issued (including 30,000 this year); the introduction of flexible work permits; and the introduction of home-based businesses. In the health sector, the first Emergency Health Operation had disbursed almost 77 percent and the Additional Financing has allowed Jordan to continue to support Syrian refugees. In the education sector, over 144,000 Syrian children are now enrolled in primary education. And the budget of the Ministry of Education has been increased to face growing needs. Regarding the two wastewater projects, implementation is underway.

**Ms. Heike Harmgart**, Director, EBRD, gave a presentation of the EBRD GCFF-sponsored projects. The projects are now effective and under implementation and aim at hiring around 15 percent of all jobs created of Syrians and vulnerable Jordanians.

### **4) Items for Discussion: Presentation of the Jordan Youth, Technology and Jobs Project under preparation**

**H.E. Mr. Mothanna Gharaibeh**, Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Jordan, gave a presentation of the pipeline project for Jordan – the Youth, Technology and Jobs Project currently under preparation with IBRD as ISA. The Minister confirmed that youth unemployment rates are high in the country (40 percent), very low female participation rate (around 14 percent), and that only half of registered Syrian refugee men and 5 percent women work. 91 percent of those who work do so informally. Furthermore, while there is a skills mismatch in the ICT sector, this sector has been growing steadily and significantly and an entrepreneurship ecosystem has been emerging in Jordan. The proposed project aims at increasing access to digitally-enabled income opportunities for youth and improving the delivery of digitalized government services in Jordan. Project components are 1) support the supply of digital skills in Jordan, 2) support the expansion of digital sector in Jordan, and 3) project management and implementation support. The operation will focus on underserved youth, women and Syrian refugees. The total project budget is estimated at US\$200 million. The Minister gave the floor to **Mr. Ali H. Abukumail**, Task Team Leader (TTL), World Bank, to address some of the more technical questions.

Overall, the Supporting Countries expressed their support for the project. **Norway, the US and Denmark** encouraged closer consultation with partners on the ground. The US asked for a short summary of the project to be shared. **The UK** asked about the timing of the approval process and whether the project will allow Syrian refugees to formally work in the sector. The UK also welcomed any further information about challenges that have been encountered. **Sweden** noted that it is an interesting project but that it is focusing on the supply side rather than demand. The SC members welcomed the submission of the Funding Request and agreed on principle on the importance of this development item and the underlying operation. The Government of Jordan committed to circulating the Funding Request within four weeks.

## 5) Item for Decision: Implementation of the Private Sector Support Framework

**Mr. Buchan** then moved the discussion to the next point on the agenda, the presentation of the proposed Private Sector Support Framework (PSSF) of the GCFF. **Mr. Olivier Lavinal**, GCFF Coordination Unit, shared a brief overview of the PSSF development process. The discussion regarding the PSSF was initiated at the Third SC meeting in Amman in October 2017. The EIB took the lead on drafting the note outlining the PSSF, which was discussed at the Virtual SC meeting in April 2019. The note was circulated with the SC ahead of this SC meeting and was revised again, following comments from SC members.

**Mr. Christoph Kuhn**, Director, Mandate Management, EIB, and other EIB colleagues presented the PSSF's rationale, provided examples of individual micro finance and SME transactions that could benefit from the PSSF, and shared an outline of a potential EIB pilot operation. The presentation stressed the importance of the MSME sector in terms of number of companies and employment and confirmed a market gap that is constraining access to finance for SMEs and as a result is holding back the private sector from growing and providing jobs. The factors limiting SME lending include an unfavorable risk-return, bank-lending technologies which are not attuned to SMEs, asymmetric information, and inadequate institutional framework. The presentation also outlined how these gaps can be addressed by the envisaged PSSF where partial portfolio guarantees would increase the risk bearing capacity of financial intermediaries to lend to final beneficiaries, coupled with technical assistance to benefit financial institutions and their clients, reliable long-term financing, and an enabling policy environment. The PSSF could contribute to ensuring effectiveness of GCFF support by supporting SMEs improved access to finance through risk-sharing arrangements with financial intermediaries.

The discussion highlighted that, while the scope and objectives of the PSSF are aligned with the general approach promoted to create synergies between public and private investments, the main question remains the added value of such a framework under the GCFF. Overall, Supporting Countries welcomed the greater level of detail and concreteness of the PSSF and recognized that the initiative had matured significantly and was ready to be taken one step further. Several supporting countries did enquire about the additionality of the PSSF but also recognized the magnitude of the needs in Jordan and Lebanon. Many questions remained on the amendments needed to the Operations Manual, the indicators to track impact on refugees, the complementarities between public and private interventions and the contours of a potential pilot project. Points on transparency and on not distorting the market were made. In the end, it was reminded that Supporting Countries would have another opportunity to review the proposed amendments of the Operations Manual as well as the proposals for any pilot project.

**Mr. Buchan** proposed to move on to the question of the endorsement of the concept note and changes to the GCFF framework to facilitate the implementation of the proposal. **Canada** also asked about the recipient commitment. Jordan could not provide an answer at this stage and was open to coordinating with the project team and advancing with relevant counterparts in Jordan.

***Decision:*** *The GCFF Steering Committee endorsed the concept note entitled "Private Sector Support Framework for the GCFF: Partial Portfolio Guarantees and their impact" and invited the Trustee to prepare, in consultation with the Coordination Unit and the Implementation Support Agencies, as appropriate, draft amendments to the GCFF Operations Manual and, if applicable, the Financial Procedures Agreement to facilitate the implementation of the PSSF proposal, for approval by the Steering Committee at the next meeting. The draft amendments should take the remaining concerns expressed by Supporting Countries into account.*

## **6) Item for Discussion: Focus on the Financial Sustainability of the Colombian Health System Program-for-Result**

**H.E. Mr. Juan Pablo Uribe, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Colombia**, presented the main features of the Venezuelan migration in Colombia and the impact it has on health of Colombians. 1.4 million Venezuelans are already living in Colombia, more than 700.000 have crossed Colombia on the way to other countries, and 3.5 million of pendular migrants are crossing the border looking for health care and other services and then crossing back to Venezuela. The numbers are increasing every day. The impact on health includes: maintaining vaccination coverage with more than one million vaccinations applied; sexual and reproductive health; children malnutrition; vector transmitted diseases such as malaria; mental health (there are many aspects such as depression, violence, etc.); and comprehensive treatment in cancer and renal patients. Public health service provision has mostly been affected by the migration. The number of foreigners receiving healthcare in Colombia has risen exponentially in the last three years. Colombia is struggling with financing the health care services due to this rise. The Government has put forth a strategy to meet health care of migrants.

**Mr. Jeremy Veillard**, TTL, Program Manager, Primary Health Care Performance Initiative and co-Task Team Leader Colombia, WB, continued with the presentation of the pipeline project, Financial Sustainability of the Colombian Health System P4R. He explained that the project would help the affiliation of migrants in the general social security system, the implementation of a comprehensive health care model with migratory component, and Strengthen public health actions (e.g. prenatal controls, vaccination).

During the ensuing discussion, the Supporting Countries expressed their appreciation for what Colombia is doing for the refugees and migrants and noted the important components of the project. **The UK** asked how international partners could align in support of the project, which was echoed by **the US**. There was a general appreciation for the project and eagerness to know more about it. Supporting Countries recognized the important work that Colombia is doing with respect to the migrants.

**The Minister** replied that there was strong regional and international alignment, and that Colombia had convened the three impacted countries in the region to discuss health issues and had reached out to a larger set of countries to witness the dire situation on the border as far as health care, nutrition, housing, provided to the migrants. The representative of the Ministry of Finance of Colombia provided further explanation for the selection of project instrument.

The decision on GCF support for the project will be made once the Funding Request is submitted for virtual no-objection approval.

## **7) Item for Decision: Request made by the Government of Canada to include Ecuador as a benefitting country of the GCF**

**H.E. Mr. Jose Valencia, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ecuador**, gave a presentation of the situation in Ecuador with respect to the Venezuelan refugee crisis' impact on the country. H.E. Valencia expressed his appreciation for Canada putting forward Ecuador as a recipient country. According to estimations, 4.3 million people have left Venezuela by September this year. 95 percent of the migrants in Ecuador are from Venezuela. The estimation is that the number of Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador is close to 400.000, which includes those who have not been registered. The Government is expecting a negative growth of the country's GDP in 2019. As a dollar country, Ecuador is also dependent on the influx of dollars into its

economy. Ecuador ensures access to public services to all, including to Venezuelan migrants, which has strained the country's economy.

**Mr. Buchan** announced that following the expression of interest by Ecuador to be included in the GCF, Canada had sent a formal request to the GCF Coordination Unit to include Ecuador as a Benefiting Country of the GCF on August 19, 2019. Canada acknowledged the magnitude of the Venezuelan crisis and its impact on Ecuador, with over one million Venezuelans in Ecuador, of which more than 400,000 had chosen Ecuador as their destination country. The Government of Ecuador has implemented positive approaches to offset the impact of the influx, including offering access to health and education services to migrants. Canada also noted that according to the Coordination Platform's August 2019 update on the Response Plan for Ecuador, only 20 percent of the \$17.3 million in financial needs had been met.

To inform the decision by Supporting Countries on the item for decision, Mr. Buchan invited the following non-decision-making members of the Steering Committee to provide their contribution to the discussion: UNHCR (Mr. Ewen Macleod); IMF (Ms. Anna Ivanova); as well as the Trustee who expressed the consent of the Trustee to the addition of Ecuador as a new Benefiting Country.

**Mr. Ewen Macleod**, UNHCR, recalled what had been observed about population movements to Colombia in the context of the situation of Ecuador. The situation in both countries is similar inasmuch as the earlier Venezuelan arrivals had by and large integrated into the local economy. However, the Venezuelans arriving since 2017 have demonstrated greater levels of socio-economic vulnerability and protection needs. Moreover, the demographic profile showed a much larger proportion of families, women and children.

Ecuador hosts two main refugee populations from Colombia and from Venezuela. With respect to Colombian refugees, UNHCR estimates a total of 51,770 refugees from Colombia in Ecuador. Ecuador hosts approximately 380,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela which makes it the third largest hosting country after Colombia and Peru. Approximately one million Venezuelan arrivals were registered crossing at the borders of Ecuador in 2018 and 500,000 in 2019 (up to 29 August). Approximately 80% were in transit to countries further south whilst the remaining 20% of Venezuelans that register their entry in Ecuador continue residing in the country. Mr. Macleod confirmed that Ecuador is a State party to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and that the country is also party to the main international and regional human rights instruments recognizing the right to asylum and the protection of fundamental rights. Ecuador has adopted national laws, policies and additional protection arrangements that incorporate refugee protection standards as set out in international conventions. However, some weaknesses still exist in their application and there are concerns about proposed measures that would reduce the quality of the legal protection framework. In particular, Mr. Macleod noted that Ecuador's recent introduction of visa requirements for Venezuelans may restrict the number of Venezuelans entering the country. In recognition of the stress across the region, a solidarity conference co-organised by the European Union (EU) UNHCR and IOM will be held in Brussels on October 28.

**Ms. Anna Ivanova**, Mission chief for Ecuador and Deputy Division Chief, IMF, gave an overview of the macro-fiscal situation in Ecuador. Ms. Ivanova informed that Ecuador has started a program of US\$10 billion over the next three years which is geared towards structural changes to rebuild competitiveness. Economic growth is slowing but is expected to make a small increase next year. The macroeconomic situation is relatively stable and given the significant adjustment that the authorities are currently taking the fiscal position is being restored. Structural reforms in terms of tax system, the Central Bank, etc. are



currently underway. In short, the macroeconomic situation is challenging but the country is taking measures to address it.

During the following discussion, the Chair clarified that the addition of any new benefitting country would need to take place with the consensus of Supporting Countries and consent of the Trustee in accordance with paragraph 9 of the OM. The Supporting Countries expressed their appreciation for Ecuador's policy towards accommodating Venezuelan refugees and welcomed Ecuador's membership as a Benefitting Country to the GCFF. At the UK's request, the point was made that the inclusion of Ecuador into the GCFF should encourage it to take the necessary steps to improve its compliance with its international obligations and that Supporting Countries expected to see such changes before any project proposal is circulated.

### **Decision**

*Acknowledging the request from the Government of Canada and the consent of the Trustee to add Ecuador as a benefitting country of the GCFF;*

*Taking into account the assessment of the Venezuelan crisis by UNHCR and the additional information provided by the IMF;*

*The Supporting Countries approved the addition of Ecuador as a benefitting country of the GCFF in accordance with paragraph 9 of the GCFF Operations Manual.*

### **8) Item for Decision: Independent evaluation of the GCFF**

**Ms. Sarah Michael**, GCFF Coordination Unit, gave a presentation of how to manage the process of the upcoming 3-year evaluation of the GCFF. Ms. Michael suggested either a single phase or two-phase approach. Ms. Michael suggested that the Coordination Unit develops draft terms of reference for the recruitment of the independent evaluator for comments. In order to capture the full breadth of the global nature of the GCFF, Ms. Michael suggested that the independent evaluation start at the end of the fiscal year (June 2020). Regarding the two-pronged approach, Ms. Michael suggested that the evaluation start with the underlying operations in the MENA region and focus on Latin America at a later stage. Another option presented by the UK would be to start with impact on policies and thereafter draw lessons from emerging evidence on outcomes. The Coordination Unit agreed to prepare different options to submit to the guidance of the Steering Committee.

**Mr. Buchan** explained that the requirements of the GCFF mid-term review are considered to have been met by the two reports that have already been produced: **(i)** the IRC-CGD report titled "Refugee Compacts: Addressing the Crisis of Protracted Displacement" (2017) that acknowledges the GCFF and first results; **(ii)** the IEG report on WBG support in situations involving conflict-induced displacement (end 2018). Both reports are readily available on line and can be sent by the CU as/if needed.

### **Decision**

*Noting the importance of taking stock of progress towards the GCFF's objectives and of lessons learned since the facility's establishment in 2016, including with the recent expansion of the scope of the facility to middle-income countries in Latin America;*

*The Steering Committee invited the Coordination Unit to prepare draft terms of reference for an independent evaluation of the GCFF in accordance with paragraph 36 of the GCFF Operations Manual, and to circulate the draft terms of reference virtually, along with the proposed timeline, to the Steering Committee for review.*

#### **9) Item for Decision: Other items**

The discussion moved on to results reporting, where the SC asked for more detailed reporting on project results. It was noted that the issue of reporting will be discussed during the Global Compact in December. The GCFF results framework will be discussed after the Global Refugee Forum, as more information on results monitoring in the context of refugees will be made available. **Mr. Macleod** gave a brief overview of the indicators that have been developed, which, he noted, may be of use for the GCFF. **The CU** also informed that the latest GCFF Progress Report would be shared with the SC in October, along with the finalized version of the Annual Report. The CU agreed to align progress reporting and to ensure that it be delivered before SC meetings when appropriate. Some SC members called for the introduction of regular assessments of eligible countries of their eligibility for continuing access, looking at current policies and practices. Finally, there was general consensus on the importance of allocating more time to results and lessons learned discussions at future SC meetings.

Following **Norway's** request for a field visit and the ensuing discussion on the timing and place for the next SC meeting, it was tentatively decided that the next SC could be organized around the spring of 2020 and accommodate field visits. The SC asked the Coordination Unit to submit options by the end of this calendar year as well as to leave time to discuss strategic directions for the GCFF at the next in-person Steering Committee.

The Chair asked the SC if there were any other points to be raised. **Denmark** noted that they will be hosting the next humanitarian meeting on the 19-20 November.

#### **10) Item for Decision: Approval of the new co-chairmanship arrangement**

Mr. Buchan indicated the interest expressed by the UK and Colombia to become the new co-chairs. Mr. Buchan then turned to the SC for expressing their consensus on the selection of the new co-chairs. The SC agreed on the new arrangement of the chairmanship.

#### **Decision**

*The Steering Committee selected by consensus the **United Kingdom** and **Colombia** to serve as the new co-chairs of the GCFF Steering Committee for a one-year term in accordance with paragraph 50 of the GCFF Operations Manual.*

**On behalf of the Steering Committee of the GCFF, the host of the meeting and new co-chair, Mr. Richard Teuten, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Gavin Buchan for his leadership and commitment to the GCFF over the last two years as co-chair, and closed the Steering Committee meeting.**