



# Global Concessional Financing Facility

## Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

### Terms of Reference

**As Endorsed by the GCFF Steering Committee on July 26, 2023**

#### **Introduction**

The GCFF was established in 2016 to provide concessional financing to support middle-income countries (MICs) that provide a global public good by hosting large numbers of refugees. The Facility is a partnership that brings together refugee hosting countries, donor countries, multilateral development banks, and the United Nations to enable eligible MICs to borrow at concessional rates for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) projects that benefit both refugees and host communities. The GCFF also serves to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development assistance and enhances coordination between the UN, donors, multilateral development banks, and benefitting (hosting) countries.

Initially designed as a coordinated response by the international community to the Syrian refugee crisis, the GCFF expanded to the global level to help MICs address refugee crises wherever they occur. To date, it includes six benefitting countries, namely Colombia, Costa, Rica, Ecuador Jordan, Lebanon, and Moldova. The GCFF is currently supported by Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Development projects under the Facility are supported by five partner MDBs, acting as Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs): The World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB).

#### **Background**

The governance structure, operating principles, guidelines and procedures for the GCFF are outlined in the Operations Manual (OM). The GCFF's decision-making body is the Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from each Supporting Country (SC) and Benefitting Country (BC). ISAs and the UN (notably UNHCR and UNDP) also participate as observers and provide expertise and guidance. The Steering Committee is co-chaired by a representative from the Supporting Countries and one from the Benefitting Countries. The Steering Committee provides leadership and oversight of the GCFF, approves strategic documents of the fund, and takes decisions on Funding Requests and allocation of GCFF funds. The Steering Committee is assisted by a secretariat, referred to as the Coordination Unit (CU) and the GCFF Trustee.

As the global footprint of the GCFF has expanded, so has the nature and complexity of its work, thereby adding to the Steering Committee’s commitments. To support and facilitate the work of the Steering Committee, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) shall be established.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The TAG will complement and support the strategic oversight and decision-making responsibilities of the GCFF Steering Committee by providing a platform for technical-level discussions, preparatory work and provision of advice and guidance to inform the deliberations and decisions of Steering Committee members. The TAG will be established as a standing committee.

The TAG will have the following roles and responsibilities:

- 1. Review of Funding Requests.** The TAG is responsible for supporting the Steering Committee in the review of Funding Requests prepared in accordance with the Operations Manual. To this end, the TAG will:
  - a. In advance of the formal submission of Funding Requests to the Steering Committee, provide technical advice and feedback as needed and requested to BCs and ISAs and serve as a technical sounding board for projects being considered for submission. The outcomes and recommendations of the review will be communicated to the Steering Committee in advance<sup>1</sup> of the “Information Meeting” as technical/non-binding inputs only.
- 2. Technical advice, input and guidance on strategic and operational issues.** The TAG will provide advice and serve as a sounding board for technical and policy notes being prepared by the Coordination Unit, before they are formally submitted to the Steering Committee for review and decision.
- 3. Overview of the GCFF portfolio and fund-level investment priorities.** The TAG will periodically review the consolidated Fund-level GCFF portfolio and pipeline to examine funding priorities and needs in relation to available resources and identify priorities for future investments at window and country levels. This review, which will be based on the regularly updated GCFF Funding Plan, will inform Steering Committee deliberations on fund-level investments, priority setting and resource mobilization decisions.
- 4. Advise the Steering Committee on how the GCFF can achieve the greatest impact and contribute to its objectives as set-out in the Operations Manual.** The TAG may consider and propose technical collaborations, undertake/sponsor studies, knowledge sharing and reviews in close coordination and with the support of the Coordination Unit for the consideration and benefit of the Steering Committee.

## **Membership**

The TAG will be Co-Chaired by two representatives selected by the TAG from among its members on a consensus basis (one from the Supporting Countries and one from the Benefiting Countries). The tenure

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<sup>1</sup> Two weeks prior to the Information Meeting.

of the TAG Co-Chairs will be one year on rotation basis<sup>2</sup>. Members will include one technical level expert designated by each of the Steering Committee members, as well as representatives of the GCFF Coordination Unit and Trustee. Observers from ISAs and other stakeholders can be invited to participate in TAG meetings at the invitation of the TAG Co-Chairs.

### **Technical Advisory Group Operation Procedures**

The TAG will meet at least twice a year, prior to the organization of scheduled Steering Committee meetings. A quorum of at least half its members must be met for the meeting to be held. Meetings may also be organized on an ad hoc basis as necessary. Documentation will be made available at least 7 workdays in advance of each meeting. The TAG will also conduct business virtually over exchange of emails.

The Coordination Unit will act as the supporting secretariat to the TAG. It will be responsible for organizing and coordinating the meetings and preparing all relevant documents. The Coordination Unit will support the TAG Co-Chairs in preparing meeting agendas and also draft minutes of TAG meetings.

### **Evaluation/Duration**

After an initial period of two years the SC will review the results, operational procedures and structure of the TAG and make any changes to the present Terms of Reference that it considers necessary.

### **Considerations**

*Approval of SC* will be required for the establishment of the TAG. This will be followed by an *Amendment of OM*. There may be *financial implications* which will be financed by the GCFF based on prior approval by the SC.

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<sup>2</sup> Process for selection of Co-Chairs will commence 3 months prior to the completion of incumbent's term and will be undertaken by the Coordination Unit.