

Note from the Co-Chairs of the Board of the Green Climate Fund

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The GCF Board has been advised by Hela Cheikhrouhou, the Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund Secretariat, that she will not be seeking a new term when her current three year term ends in September. Ms. Cheikhrouhou's [press release](#) is available on the GCF website.

As Co-Chairs of the GCF Board, we appreciate the notice she has given the Board of her plans, which provides the Board with the necessary time to find and appoint her successor.

As the inaugural Executive Director, Ms. Cheikhrouhou has played an important role in the establishment of the GCF. She has overseen the establishment of the Independent Secretariat's Headquarters in Songdo, and, with her team, developed the processes and policies that underpin the operation of the GCF. She and her team have guided and assisted the Board to take the many decisions necessary to establish the Fund and ensure it was able to approve the first set of GCF projects last November, ahead of the Conference of Parties meeting in Paris in December.

Ms. Cheikhrouhou also played a key role in the mobilization of USD 10 billion in pledges to the GCF and in converting these pledges into resources for the Fund. She has also built partnerships with governments, Accredited Entities, NGOs and the private sector and secured their support for the GCF. Leading this work has been challenging, and it is a testament to Ms. Cheikhrouhou's commitment, professionalism and hard work that so much has been achieved in the last two and a half years.

Ms. Cheikhrouhou has overseen the foundation years of the Fund, which culminated in the approval of the first ever GCF projects in November 2015 and the building of the project pipeline that will be part of the important next phase of its operation – as it delivers resources to support climate adaptation and mitigation in developing countries, and takes its place as the pre-eminent multilateral channel for climate finance.

The GCF Board meets in Songdo in early March. At this meeting we will commence the process of finding Ms. Cheikhrouhou's successor. The notice that Ms. Cheikhrouhou has given the Board of her decision, allows time to find the right person for the role of Executive Director, and to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

While there will be time later in the year to formally and appropriately farewell and thank Ms. Cheikhrouhou, we do want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to acknowledge the key role she has played in making the GCF what it is today.

Ewen McDonald and Zaheer Fakir
Co-Chairs of the Board of the Green Climate Fund