

Mr Mikko Ollikainen
Manager of the Adaptation Fund Board
Secretariat
c/o Global Environment Facility
Mail stop: N 7-700
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433, USA

Bureau of Strategic Planning

20 April 2022

Ref.: DIR/BSP/22/88

Dear Mr Ollikainen,

On behalf of UNESCO, I write to confirm our interest in achieving re-accreditation with the Adaptation Fund.

We have carefully reviewed the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and the Gender Policy (GP) of the Fund and have concluded that both the ESP and GP are aligned with the relevant/comparable environmental and social and gender policies of UNESCO.

In this regard, UNESCO reaffirms its commitment to abide by the Adaptation Fund ESP and GP in the implementation of all projects and programmes supported by the Fund.

UNESCO is deeply committed to addressing environmental and social and gender risks. The Organization is continuously improving its internal policies, processes and practice with a view to completely align them with latest UN standards and requirements on these matters. UNESCO's environmental and social and gender equality policies are aligned with UN guiding principles and standards and are duly mainstreamed throughout all UNESCO's programmes and projects planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation cycles, as demonstrated by the internal UNESCO's key documents and guidelines for Programmes and Projects preparation and reporting.

In addition, UNESCO's Environmental Sustainability and Management Policy, endorsed by the Director-General, clearly outlines the commitment of the organization to minimize any negative impact on the environment by UNESCO's operations worldwide, and contribute positively to protecting the environment and communities in which the Organization operates. This Policy concerns all of UNESCO's premises, operations, policies and programme activities that have a direct or indirect impact on

. /...


the environment. The Policy is being communicated both internally (administrativemanual, intranet, newsletter) and externally (website disclaimer, UNESDOC). In order to coordinate the implementation of the Policy, UNESCO has set up a global Environmental Management System (EMS) that allows for assessing, monitoring and continuously improving environmental performance, inter alia in the areas of facility management, procurement, travel, events, printing and publishing, among others.

Environmental risks and opportunities are systematically taken into account both in operations and programming, for example: in the Organization's planning and reporting exercises; UNESCO Project Templates - when conducting due diligence for the selection of new business sector partners, including through updating its Implementation Partnership Agreement (IPA) standard arrangement in February 2020. UNESCO's due diligence process is strictly aligned with the UN-wide system approach and requirements, and is an integral part of UNESCO's Resource Mobilization Strategy. As stated in its Constitution, UNESCO pursues "universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion". UNESCO is, therefore, firmly committed towards adopting and applying social and gender equality related policies and addressing related risks. This is demonstrated by the continued improvement and adoption of dedicated policies and measures to comply with UN principles and highest standards on these matters Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women is one of the two UNESCO's Global Priorities. UNESCO is mainstreaming Gender Equality throughout all its programmes and projects' planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation.

UNESCO has a constitutional mandate to contribute to the promotion of all human rights: it has special responsibility with regard to certain rights, in particular the right to education, the right to participate in cultural life, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information, the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. UNESCO is also mainstreaming a Human rights based approach throughout all its programmes and projects. UNESCO's engagement with indigenous peoples is framed by specific provisions from the UNDRIP which are of specific relevance to the Organization's mandated areas of work

In the event that, at any time in the future, the Adaptation Fund intends to revise its ESP and GP, we would kindly request that UNESCO be informed of and be given an opportunity to review and comment on such proposed amendment.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Y. Le Saux". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

Jean-Yves Le Saux
Director