

**LAPSE OF
TIME**

EBAP/20/20

March 2, 2020

To: Members of the Executive Board

From: The Secretary

Subject: **Managing Director—Proposed Acceptance of Invitation to Continue Participating as a Co-Chair of the Global Commission on Adaptation**

Board Action: Executive Directors' **consideration** on a lapse of time basis

Deadline to Request a Board Meeting, after which Proposed Recommendation Deemed Approved: **Monday, March 9, 2020 12:00 (noon)**

Additional Information: At the request of Mr. Mojarrad, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ethics Committee, attached for consideration by Executive Directors is a memorandum to the Members of the Executive Board setting forth the recommendation of the Committee in connection with the Managing Director's request to continue participating as a Co-Chair of the Global Commission on Adaptation.



Office Memorandum

To: Members of the Executive Board

February 26, 2020

From: Mr. Mojarrad, Chair of the Ethics Committee /s

Subject: Managing Director: Proposed Acceptance of Invitation to Continue Participating as a Co-Chair of the Global Commission on Adaptation

Background

The Ethics Committee has received a request from the Managing Director to approve her proposal to accept an invitation to continue in her role as Co-Chair of the Global Commission on Adaptation (the “Commission”) until the Commission sunsets later this year. The Managing Director became a Co-Chair of the Commission prior to her appointment to the Fund and Co-Chairs alongside Ban Ki-moon and Bill Gates.

The Commission was launched in the Hague in 2018 with the support of 17 convening countries including China, Canada and the UK and low-lying countries vulnerable to climate change including Bangladesh and the Marshall Islands. It also includes 28 Commissioners representing all sectors of the globe and all sectors of development and industry. The Commission’s mandate is to encourage the development of measures to manage the effects of climate change through technology, planning and investment and is not expected to make any country-specific recommendations.

The main function of the Commission Co-Chairs is to help bring attention to the need for action on adaptation in response to climate change. As Co-Chair, the Managing Director would be asked to attend and speak at the Climate Action Summit in October 2020 and to meet or consult up to two times in advance of the Summit as needed. The Co-Chair position is an unpaid non-executive role.

Legal Standard

Under the terms of the Managing Director’s contract, she may not, without the approval of the Executive Board, apply for or accept any public or private employment or position, whether or not she receives any compensation for such employment or position. The Ethics Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Executive Board in this regard. In doing so, the Ethics Committee applies the standards of conduct applicable to Fund staff, as those are the standards applicable to the Managing Director under the terms of her contract. Under these standards of conduct, any external activities by staff members are evaluated for actual or perceived conflicts of interest with the staff member’s duty of loyalty

to the Fund. Moreover, in order for a senior staff member to play a leadership role in an organization that is involved in, or is perceived to be involved in, matters related to the Fund's mandate, such participation must be in an official rather than personal capacity, and may be approved by the Managing Director on the basis that such participation is in the interest of the Fund. Applying these standards to the Managing Director, the approval of such activity would come from the Executive Board, also based on its assessment of any conflict of interest, and (in the case of work carried out in an official capacity) its determination that the activity is in the interest of the Fund.

Recommendation

The Ethics Committee, having consulted with the Fund's Ethics Advisor, considers that the Managing Director's acceptance of the invitation to continue participating on the Commission as a Co-Chair is unlikely to give rise to any conflict of interest concerns. Among other considerations, the Committee notes that the positions do not entail the payment of any compensation to the Managing Director and require limited time commitments from her.

The Ethics Committee is of the view that the Commission would be perceived to be involved in matters related to the Fund's mandate and, as a result, participation, if allowed, should take place in an official capacity based on approval of the Executive Board. In this regard, the Ethics Committee supports the views of the Communications Department that the Managing Director's participation in these activities is in the interest of the Fund as the role would enable her to amplify and foster traction on the institution's expanding work on climate issues—an operational priority identified by the membership at the Fund's 2019 Annual Meetings.

Accordingly, the Ethics Committee recommends that the Executive Board approve the Managing Director's request to accept the proposed invitation.

Attachment

cc: Ms. Weeks-Brown
Mr. Lin

Subject: FW: Global Commission on Adaptation

Ms. Kristalina Georgieva
Managing Director
International Monetary Fund
Washington, DC 20431
United States of America

Dear Managing Director Georgieva:

I am writing regarding your participation in the Global Commission on Adaptation.

You have served as Co-Chair and a Commissioner of the Global Commission on Adaptation since its launch at the Hague in October 2018, and the Commission invites you to continue in these roles following your appointment as Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

As you know, the Global Commission on Adaptation was launched with the mandate to encourage the development of measures to manage the effects of climate change through technology, planning and investment. The Commission was launched with the support of 17 convening countries including China, Canada and the UK and low-lying countries vulnerable to climate change including Bangladesh and the Marshall Islands. It also includes 30 Commissioners representing all sectors of the globe and all sectors of development and industry. The Netherlands initiated the Global Commission on Adaptation, in close collaboration with other co-convening countries. The Global Commission on Adaptation is managed by the Global Center on Adaptation, an international organization, hosted by the Netherlands.

The Co-Chair and Commissioner positions are unpaid non-executive roles. The main function of the Co-Chairs is to help bring attention to the need for action on adaptation in response to climate change. More specifically, you would be asked to attend and speak at the Climate Action Summit in October 2020, and if needed, could be asked to meet or consult one to two times in advance of the Summit. The Commission would not be expected to make any country-specific recommendations. After the Climate Action Summit in 2020, it is expected that the Commission would sunset and the advocacy efforts of the Commission would be continued by the Global Center on Adaptation. Commission Co-Chairs are expected to continue in similar non-executive, unpaid, non-country specific honorific roles at the Global Center on Adaptation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen
Chief Executive Officer
Global Center on Adaptation
www.gca.org