



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

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FORUM ECONOMIC OFFICIALS MEETING

8 August 2023

FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING

9-10 August 2023

AGENDA 10d: APPLICATION BY GLOBAL GREEN GROWTH INSTITUTE (GGGI): FORUM ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING (FEMM) SPECIAL TECHNICAL OBSERVER

Purpose

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This paper seeks to inform Forum Economic Ministers of the application by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to be a Special Technical Observer of FEMM.

Summary

GGGI is an international organisation which supports its member governments to achieve commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through building technical and institutional capacity, providing policy advice and technical support in the development of green growth and climate change plans, policies and regulations, mobilisation of green investments and climate finance, and the implementation of green growth projects. GGGI has a presence in the region with offices in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Tonga and Vanuatu. It has cultivated a reputation as a neutral, trusted advisor and strategic development partner in the area of green growth and conservation.

A. Background

1. FEMM has largely determined its own rules and procedures, which have developed and adapted overtime in line with existing Forum practices. The admission of technical agencies and organisations as FEMM observers is determined by FEMM in accordance with the *Criteria to Guide Special Technical Observers* which was endorsed by the 2011 FEMM¹.
2. As agreed at the 2011 FEMM, the criteria is focused on observers' ability to contribute to economic performance and economic growth in FICs, as well as the extent of commitment and engagement of observer agencies to specific FEMM matters. Economic Ministers may agree to cancel the observer status of any special technical observer at any time, and upon such decision, the Secretary General shall notify the observer in writing.

¹ 2011 FEMM paper on Criteria to Guide Special Technical Observers.

3. In 2021, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders endorsed the revised Criteria and Guidelines for Forum Dialogue Partners and Forum Observers and endorsed “further consideration of the Forum’s partnership mechanisms within the context of the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent* and the scheduled Review of Regional Architecture.”

4. The Forum is currently undertaking work to strengthen its partner engagements and development coordination mechanisms to support the effective implementation of the 2050 Strategy and its implementation plan. It is anticipated that Leaders will endorse a comprehensive partner engagement mechanism at their meeting in November 2023, that will take into account PIF engagement with dialogue and development partners across the full spectrum of the PIF meetings architecture, including the FEMM.

5. GGGI applied to be a Special Technical Observer of FEMM in July 2023, and has requested to attend the upcoming 2023 FEMM as an observer. Given ongoing discussions, it is recommended that a decision on GGGI’s application for FEMM Special Technical Observer status be deferred until Leaders have endorsed the new partner engagement mechanism in the context of the 2050 Strategy and its Implementation Plan.

B. Analysis & Discussion

6. A detailed analysis of GGGI’s application against the Criteria to Guide Special Technical Observers of FEMM is provided at **Attachment A**. In all respects, the analysis supports the application of GGGI as a Special Technical Observer for the FEMM.

7. However, it is also noted that work is ongoing on the review of the partner engagement mechanism, including the observer criteria for Forum Observers as well as Observers to all Standing Forum Meetings. With this in mind, it is proposed that a decision on GGGI’s application be deferred until the review of the partnership engagement mechanism is concluded.

8. As per the *Criteria to Guide Special Technical Observers*, the following entitlements and expectations of observers will apply to GGGI should GGGI be invited to attend at the 2023 FEMM as a special technical observer:

- i) GGGI may speak when invited to do so by the Chair, and GGGI may be invited to provide written papers or submissions for the information of participants. However, GGGI is not expected to participate in the taking of consensus decisions, nor is GGGI expected to contribute to discussions on its own will during meetings.
- ii) GGGI will be required to fund its own attendance to the FEMM.
- iii) Consistent with the Forum Leaders’ 2021 Criteria and Guidelines for Forum Observers, GGGI’s invitation as a Special Technical Observer is on a one-off basis and is limited to the 2023 session of FEMM.

9. In addition to the analysis above, further information on GGGI can be accessed through its

website: <http://gggi.org>.

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
30 July 2023

Attachment A

| <i>Criteria to Guide Special Technical Observers²</i> | <i>Does GGGI Meet the Criteria?</i> |
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| (i) the organisation's affinity and commitment to the purpose and work of the FEMM, in particular, its ability to contribute to economic performance and economic growth in FICs; | <p>GGGI is an international organisation which supports its member governments to achieve commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals, through building technical and institutional capacity providing policy advice and technical support in the development of green growth and climate change plans, policies and regulations, mobilisation of green investments and climate finance, and implementation of green growth projects. Green growth means fostering economic growth and development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. Building resilience and green growth is crucial for Pacific Island countries to ensure the achievement of sustained economic growth and development which is both, environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.</p> <p>GGGI has a unique in-country presence with offices in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Tonga and Vanuatu and prominent role as a neutral, trusted advisor and strategic development partner embedded in Member and partner governments. This special arrangement or positioning sets GGGI apart from other international development and environmental development partners that collectively serve the agenda of green growth and conservation.</p> |
| (ii) the nature and extent of FEMM members' actual and/or potential engagement with the organisation concerned; | <p>GGGI has a Host Country Agreement (HCA) with Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Tonga and Vanuatu, which have also all ratified the GGGI treaty and joined as members of GGGI. Samoa has submitted its Letter of Intent to become a member of GGGI, and Solomon Islands is in the process of submitting its Letter of Intent. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Tuvalu have also expressed interest in joining GGGI as members. Australia and New Zealand, who are major Official Development Assistance (ODA) donors in the Pacific region, are resource partners of GGGI and provide earmarked funding for a number of climate change and green growth projects that GGGI is implementing in the Pacific. Australia is also a member of GGGI.</p> <p>Over the last three years, GGGI has been working with the Ministries of Finance/Economy, Planning, Climate Change, Energy and Transport in Pacific Island Countries to support green growth and climate resilient development. In particular, GGGI has a program of work dedicated to supporting Ministries of Finance/Economy and Climate Change to access climate</p> |

² The five (5) criteria were endorsed by FEMM in 2011 to assess Special Technical Observers of FEMM.

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| | <p>finance and green investment for achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and SDGs.</p> <p>The engagement of GGGI at FEMM would enable better appreciation of the key development needs and issues of Forum Island Countries, particularly in relation to strengthening of national technical and institutional capacity and long-term enabling environment of green growth in Pacific Island countries.</p> |
| (iii) technical or specialist expertise or focus on the issue(s) under discussion by the FEMM of the organisation concerned; | <p>Building resilience in the Pacific against the impact of climate change and natural disaster has been a key issue of recent FEMM. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent was welcomed at the 2022 FEMM and access to climate finance was also a key area for discussion. GGGI's Pacific Regional Strategy places a focus on supporting climate resilience and adaptation in the Pacific, as well as developing the blue economy. GGGI focusses on providing support (including capacity development) to its members on green growth and climate resilient development, focusing on supporting the transition to cleaner technologies and resilient infrastructure in key economic sectors of agriculture, energy, transport, tourism and industry development.</p> <p>GGGI's value chain as shown in our Pacific Regional Strategy cuts a wide path from green growth impact assessment to strategy and planning, to financing and implementation and knowledge sharing. By linking policy and implementation along the value chain, GGGI supports its Members to develop and implement their green growth plans and strategies which are adopted by governments, translated into green investment plans and financing vehicles aligned with national priorities and NDCs and supported by knowledge sharing and best practices, and finally - the design, financing and implementation of green growth projects. GGGI's approach in all its work is to align fully with country ownership and the use of national systems.</p> <p>Recognising the constraints regarding access to finance for the achievements of FRDP, SDG and the 2050 Strategy as well as national and sectoral development objectives in the Pacific, GGGI dedicates a significant amount of its resources to the mobilisation of climate finance and green investment. GGGI has mobilized over USD 8 billion in climate finance globally and over USD 150 million in the Pacific with a target to mobilize USD 750 million by 2027.</p> <p>GGGI works with countries to develop and identify financing for bankable projects (for example by carrying out feasibility studies such as the 100% renewable energy for Ovalau and Taveuni study in Fiji) and also provides support to set-up or strengthen national financing</p> |

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| | <p>vehicles (such as the National Green Energy Fund in Vanuatu). GGGI also supports building NDA capacity to access GCF finance and is currently supporting GCF Readiness projects in Fiji, Vanuatu and PNG. GGGI is also supporting Direct Access Entities to the GCF, such as Fiji Development Bank, to develop projects and their green portfolio and is supporting Ministries of Finance in Fiji and Vanuatu to become accredited to the GCF.</p> <p>Furthermore, GGGI's projects in the Pacific region actively supported the development of the Pacific Roadmap for Economic Development (PRED), which is set to undergo review and endorsement by FEMM in the upcoming meeting.</p> |
| <p>(iv) the level of commitment on the part of the organisation to engage with Forum member countries; and</p> | <p>GGGI has direct engagement with key policy makers of Forum Members, including FEMM issues, as six Forum Members are GGGI members, as mentioned above these are Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Tonga and Vanuatu. GGGI's commitment to long-term partnership is shown through its in-country and embedded model, whereby GGGI has established offices in Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Tonga and Vanuatu and embedded staff within its counterpart Ministries. GGGI will continue to implement this model and is committed to in-country presence to implement projects and programs with its Member and partner governments in the Pacific. GGGI was also involved in supporting the establishment of the Pacific Regional NDC Hub and has been an implementing partner of the NDC Hub since its establishment in 2018. Through the Pacific NDC Hub GGGI has supported all 14 Pacific Island Countries to design, implement and monitor NDCs. GGGI is also committed to partnerships with Pacific organisations and has an MoU with SPREP, is in the process of signing an MoU with SPC and also has MoUs with national entities such as Fiji National University and University of PNG.</p> <p>As mentioned above, GGGI has a unique in country presence and prominent role as a neutral, trusted advisor and strategic development partner embedded in Member and partner governments. For example, in Fiji, GGGI is embedded in the Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics. In Vanuatu, GGGI is embedded within the Ministry of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology & Geo-Hazards, Energy, Environment and Disaster Management and also has a staff embedded in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. This special arrangement or positioning sets GGGI apart from other international development and environmental development partners that collectively serve the agenda of green growth and conservation. Through this embedded approach GGGI aims to tailor its support to national needs, work closely on a day-to-day basis with its counterpart Ministries and support integration of green growth and climate change projects into national systems and procedures and provide support for institutional strengthening on a demand driven basis.</p> |

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| <p>(v) a membership inclusive of relevant persons or entities from Forum member countries.</p> | <p>Six Forum Island Countries (Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu) are members of GGGI. Except Australia, GGGI has HCA with the other 5 FICs. GGGI's objectives and activities in support of developing countries and emerging economies are detailed in the Establishment Agreement ratified by Member countries in 2012. Membership to GGGI is open to any member state of the United Nations that subscribes to the organisation's goals and objectives. The FSM, Tuvalu, Samoa, and Solomon Islands have also expressed interest in becoming members.</p> <p>Regional integration organisations are also eligible for GGGI membership, for example the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is the first Regional integration organization to be a member of GGGI. The European Union, who is also a Forum Dialogue Partner of PIF, has submitted their interest as well to become a member of GGGI as a regional integration organisation.</p> |