CVF Leaders Meeting on a New Era of Accountability: An Adaptation Package, Debt Solutions, and Health Resilience for Vulnerable Nations

24 September 2025, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM (EDT)
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York City

Please allow me to first congratulate you all for enacting the declaration, and I think a lot of the content of that declaration is very aligned with the mission of GCF. I'm very humbled and honored to be speaking on behalf of GCF, because I'm surrounded by our partners. I see some of our National Designated Authorities, some of our Board Members, some of our Accredited Entities. And this is exactly what GCF is all about. It is a partnership driven by countries and supporting countries in its journey of climate action.

As the Minister of The Gambia said, we need to focus on what countries are prioritizing, and we need to work with our partners on how to deliver on that. GCF has a mandate to invest at least 50% of our adaptation resources in the most vulnerable, small island developing states, least developed countries in Africa. Mafalda Duarte, our Executive Director, alongside the senior management that I represent, have been focused on reforming GCF to enhance access, to be a lot quicker in how we implement change and to put all our resources to the countries by using our readiness to support country platforms, original platforms.

Madam Mia Mottley, when she was in CARICOM, we launched a regional Caribbean platform. We recently also launched a country platform in Brazil, and we hope to launch a lot more in COP30. However, we really also need to make sure that our adaptation finance is also driven by direct access entities and is also driven by players at the local level who are closer to the real need in order for us to make sure that we are enhancing locally-led climate action. This is what we aim to do. This is what our Board is keeping us accountable for. But more importantly, we want to be the country's climate financier of choice.

We cannot do it alone, but we do it with our partners, Accredited Entities, and others. But our finite capital can be truly catalytic, and we would like to use that capital in a smarter way, to crowd-in. And the Board has taken a bold action by bringing GCF closer to our countries with regional presence. We'll be bringing this to the Board, most likely in the First Board of 2026 and hopefully by 2027, we will be closer to the regions, trying to deliver the best and most impactful climate action.

Thank you very much, and please count on the Green Climate Fund for all your efforts, and also we remain engaged in listening to you in order to improve how we operate. Thank you.

MR. HENRY GONZALEZ
Chief Investment Officer
Green Climate Fund