



RESOLVE



CIF Announces Stakeholder Observers Selection Process for the 2021–2022 Term

The [Climate Investment Funds](#) (CIF) officially announced the selection process for the 2021-2022 cohort of its Stakeholder Observers Program through a well-attended webinar on August 13, 2020, co-hosted with partner organizations [RESOLVE](#) and [Clima Capital Partners](#) (CLIMA). The webinar, moderated by *Andres Falconer* (CIF Stakeholder Engagement consultant) and attended by over 50 online participants across time zones, including former, current, and prospective observers, aimed to describe the observers program rationale and details of the selection process.

CIF Observers represent constituencies from civil society, private sector, indigenous peoples, and local communities. They participate actively in CIF decision-making bodies at the global level, influence climate strategies at the national level, and contribute to monitoring the implementation of projects at the local level. Stakeholder representation is enshrined in the bylaws of the CIF and aims to promote transparency, ensure trust, and enhance impact, as explained by *Dora Cudjoe* (Head of Stakeholder Engagement at the CIF) during the opening of the webinar ([learn more](#)).

John Garrison (CIF Stakeholder Engagement consultant), shared the findings and recommendations of an independent [study](#) and CIF assessment survey summarized in a [Background Paper](#) on the CIF Stakeholder Observers Program and selection of the new 2021 – 2022 cohort of observers. Recommendations included enhancing the transparency of the selection process, engaging a broader range of constituencies, involving the Stakeholder Advisory Network (SAN), and setting a high selection bar to ensure observers have the requisite technical expertise and relevant networks to operate effectively. The webinar itself was a direct result of the independent evaluation recommendations for greater transparency and clarity, and a welcome innovation for the selection process.

Maya Breitburg-Smith (project lead for RESOLVE) and *Andrea Bacher* (lead for CLIMA), whose organizations will be independently conducting the self-selection process for civil society and the private sector respectively, presented the common selection [framework](#) underpinning the process, including the eligibility and selection criteria to be used. The presenters also described the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Joint Observers Advisory Committee that will review the final recommended candidates of the different constituencies. Edna Kaptoyo, a current indigenous peoples' observer from Kenya, described the unique process by which observers are selected by regional indigenous networks. The call for applications for civil society, private sector, and indigenous peoples' observer candidates will be disseminated in late August or early September.

In the discussion that ensued, Margaret-Ann Splawn (private sector observer in the UK) highlighted the observer's role as a valuable learning experience and a unique opportunity to serve in CIF's governance structure. Ali Sheikh (civil society observer from Pakistan) emphasized the responsibility of being the voice of vulnerable communities and groups at the global stage, while Saro Pyagbara (indigenous peoples' observer from Nigeria) described the challenges observers face to carry out their representation role with a wide range of constituents while serving on a voluntary capacity.

A lively question and answer session took place concurrently on the online chat window, with queries about the participation of minority groups, issues of gender balance, and how CIF assesses the effectiveness and impact of the observers program. **Watch the full webinar on YouTube [\[here\]](#).**

Persons to contact for more information on the selection process:

Civil Society Observer Process: Maya Breitburg-Smith, RESOLVE (mbreitburg-smith@resolve.ngo); Visit the [CSO Observer Selection website](#) to learn more about the CSO process.

Private Sector Entities Process: Andrea Bacher, CLIMA (abacher@climacapitalpartners.com); For further information: Private Sector Selection Process website (coming soon).

Indigenous Peoples Process: Edna Kaptoyo, PACEP (ednakptoyo@yahoo.com)

CIF Work and Activities: Dora Cudjoe, CIF (dcudjoe@worldbank.org)