To Board Members and Advisors:

The 272 undersigned organizations write to express our significant concern regarding the use of GCF resources to support large hydropower, and, in particular, the following proposals in the GCF’s pipeline: (i) Qairokkum Hydropower Rehabilitation, Tajikistan; (ii) Upper Trishuli-1, Nepal; and (iii) Tina River Hydro Project, Solomon Islands.

The GCF can and should help pay for the incremental costs of renewable energy sources, which are often less “bankable” (though less so all the time). However, we wish to highlight that large dams are different from wind, solar and other technologies because they fail to fulfill the GCF Investment Criteria. For example:

(i) Impact potential: Dams emit significant amounts of greenhouse gases, particularly methane, and damage carbon sinks;
(ii) Paradigm shift potential: Large hydro is a non-innovative technology that has not seen significant technical or financial breakthroughs in decades;
(iii) Sustainable development: Dams have high negative co-impacts with regard to the environment, human rights, and economic cost. By interrupting rivers and flooding lands, they irreversibly harm livelihoods and ecosystems. Because they routinely cost double their estimates, large dams stretch government budgets and increase borrowing costs;
(iv) Needs of the recipient: Hydropower projects are particularly vulnerable to climate change, and many countries are already alarmingly over-dependent on hydropower (as is the case with Tajikistan and Nepal). GCF should support efforts in these countries to diversify their energy mix, helping them improve their resilience and adaptive capacities; and,
(v) Efficiency and effectiveness: Dams all over the world are losing generation capacity because of climate change-induced droughts.

In addition, each of the dam-related projects in the GCF’s pipeline suffers significant deficiencies:

- **Qairokkum Hydropower Rehabilitation**: This funding proposal is expected at the April board meeting. The board should reject it. The project aims to extend the life of a Soviet-era dam, built in the 1950s. It is not innovative in any way, deepens Tajikistan’s already alarming overdependence on climate-vulnerable hydro, and fails to address critical environmental problems of the original dam, among other concerns.
- **Upper Trishuli-1**: Though not up for consideration at the April board meeting, Upper Trishuli has been in the project pipeline for many months and should be expeditiously removed from it. With more than 30 hydro projects either operating, in construction, or planned on the Trishuli River, the project would have no transformational impact. It faces severe climate and disaster risks, would deepen Nepal’s overdependence on climate-vulnerable hydro, and would have significant impacts on indigenous communities and the environment that have not been adequately studied or addressed. There is also no assessment of the project’s vulnerability to earthquakes, despite the area being highly seismic.
- **Tina River Hydro Project**: Expected at the April board meeting, this 15 MW project is intended to reduce the Solomon Islands’ reliance on imported diesel. The project does not include an

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1. *Should We Build More Large Dams? The Actual Costs of Hydropower Megaproject Development*, Ansar et al
assessment of climate vulnerability, threatens a world-class biodiversity hotspot, and is very costly. Meanwhile, Solomon Islands has considerable renewable energy potential that has not been sufficiently studied.

These issues and others are detailed in a letter sent previously to the Board. Thank you for your attention to this most important matter. We look forward to working with you and the Secretariat to ensure that the GCF is a transformational institution of the highest social and environmental caliber. That cannot be accomplished if the GCF finances large hydropower.

Sincerely,

Greenpeace
International Rivers
Friends of the Earth International
LDC Watch
Socio-Ecological Union International
Umbrella Habitat International Coalition
Rivers without Boundaries International Coalition
Indigenous Environmental Network

Foro Indigena del Abya Yala
NGO Forum on ADB
ARENA
Coalition pour la Protection du Patrimoine Génétique Africain (COPAGEN)
Focus on the Global South
Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
SEAFISH for Justice
South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)
Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
Europarc Federation
Friends of the Earth Europe
Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe (GFLAC)
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
South East Europe network for energy, transport and natural resources (SEENET)

Foro Del Buen Ayre
EcoLur
Finance & Trade Watch
Aid Organization
Bangladesh Jatiyo Sramik Jote (Trade Union)
Bangladesh Krishok Federation (Farmers)

2 Letter sent to GCF Board and Advisors regarding concern on the use of GCF support for large hydropower
Community Development Library (CDL-Bangladesh)
EquityBD
Maleya Foundation
National Federation of Hawkers Bangladesh
SUPRO
Unnayan Onneshan
VOICE
Carbon Market Watch
Colectivo Árbol
Coordinadora para la Defensa de la Amazonía
Red Jurídica Amazónica Bolivia
Salvaginas
Fundación Jubileo
Trenzando Ilusiones
Centar za životnu sredinu/Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina
Engajamundo
Aprema-SC - serviços ambientais
Articulação São Francisco Vivo
Associação Alternativa Terrazul
Centro de Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Maravilha (CDECMA)
Ecoa- Ecology & Action
Fórum da Amazônia Oriental (FAOR)
Fórum Mudanças Climáticas
Instituto Transformance: Cultura & Educação de Marabá
Movimento Tapajós Vivo
Projeto Saude e Alegria
Rede Brasileira de Arteducadores (ABRA)
Uma Gota no Oceano
Association of Parks in Bulgaria
Balkanka Association Sofia
Bulgarian Association for Alternative Tourism
Balkani Wildlife Society
Cambodia Human Rights Task Forces (CHRTF)
Wild Earth Allies
Centre for Nature Conservation and Development (CNCD)
Collectif Camerounais des Organisations des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie (COCODH)
Green Development Advocates
Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad
Public Interest Law Center (PILC)
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FEDES
Amerindian Peoples Association
Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)
Plateforme des Organisations Nationales et Territoriales de la Societe Civile Haitienne (PONT-SCH)

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Freedom from Debt Coalition  
Gitib  
Our Rivers Our Life  
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMJC)  
Sanlakas Philippines  
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)  
Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education  
WomanHealth Philippines  
International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside (ICPPC)  
Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza  
Environmental Citizens' Association "Front 21/42"  
Social-Ecological Union/Friends of the Earth Russia  
Association of Journalists-Environmentalists of the Russian Journalist Union  
Baikal Nature Reserve  
Biodiversity Conservation Center  
Buryat Regional Union for Lake Baikal  
Climate Secretariat of Russian Socio Ecological Union (Friends of the Earth - Russia)  
Eyege Ecological Education Center  
Krasnoyarsk Regional Environmental Organization (PLOTINA)  
Sibecocenter  
Taiga Research and Protection Agency  
КРОО "Камчатская лига независимых экспертов"  
Primorye Regional Non Government Organization "Bureau for Regional Outreach Campaigns - BROC"  
Lumiere Synergie pour le Developpement  
People and Water  
GroundWork, Friends of the Earth, South Africa  
Global Citizens Alliance  
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance  
Ecologistas en Acción  
COAGRET  
InspirAction  
JEMS Progressive Community Organisation  
Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname  
International-Lawyers.Org
Pro Natura / FoE Switzerland
Mom Loves Taiwan
Ujamaa Community Resource Team
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
Indigenous Women’s Network of Thailand (IWNT)
Mekong Community Institute Association
Worldview
JVE International
Les Amis de la Terre - Togo
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)
Regional Centre for International Development Corporation (RCIDC)
Foundation for GAIA
Oil Vay: Jewish Climate Action Network
This Changes Everything
Ecosfera
Heinrich Boell Stiftung-North America
Friends of the Earth-US
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Institute for Policy Studies
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
Amazon Watch
Bank Information Center (BIC)
Crude Accountability
Gender Action
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Sustainable Obtainable Solutions
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
Students for a Just and Stable Future
SustainUS
Amigos del Viento
Agrupamiento Mburucuyá
Agriculture and Forestry Research & Development Centre for Mountainous Region (ADC)
The Law and Policy of Sustainable Development Research Center
Basilwizi Trust

Switzerland
Taiwan
Tanzania
Thailand
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The Gambia
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