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 hydro (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,

[Signatures and list of organizations]

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Letter sent to GCF Board and Advisors regarding concern on the use of GCF support for large hydropower.
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ONG FIMA  
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Coalición Ecuménica por el Cuidado de la Creación  
Comité Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF)  
Fundación Terram  
Coalicion Ciudadana por Aysén Reserva de Vida  
Asociacion Ambiente y Sociedad  
ASOQUIMBO  
ClimaLab  
Educar Consumidores  
Fundación Red Colombiana Para la Defensa De los Derechos Humanos, el Medio Ambiente y la Paz  
Justicia para la Naturaleza  
Asociación PROAL-JÄKÜII Ra Idëll  
Federación costarricense para la conservación del ambiente (FECON)  
CEE Bankwatc Network  
Centre for transport and energy  
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)  
Action Paysanne contre la Faim  
Actions pour les Droits, l'Environnement et le Vie (ADEV)  
Centre d'Accompagnement des Autochtones Pygmées et minoritaires Vulnérables (CAMV)  
Observatoire d'etudes et d'appui a la responsabilite sociale et environnementale (OEARSE )  
Conseil Regional Des Organisations Non Gouvernementales de Developpement  
Pour le Service d'Action au Développement Communautaire (SADEC)  
CREDDHO  
Acción Ecológica  
The Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)  
Asociación Salvadoreña de Ayuda Humanitaria-PRO VIDA  
CESTA Friends of the Earth  
Association Toxicologie Chimie  
Brainforest  
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Italy  
Endorois Welfare Council  
Japan  
Friends of Lake Turkana  
Kenya  
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Kenya  
Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization  
Kenya  
TI-Korea  
Kenya  
Friends of the Earth - Malaysia  
Korea  
Monitoring Sustainability of Globalisation (MSN)  
Malaysia  
Institute for the Research and Promotion of Alternatives in Development (IRPAD)  
Malaysia  
Fundar Centro de Análisis e Investigación  
Mali  
Comunicacion y Educacion Ambiental SC  
Mexico  
EDUCA  
Mexico  
Effect Platform for Human Rights and Environmental Justice  
Mexico  
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia  
Mexico  
Frente Regional de Pueblos del Bajo Mixe Choápan  
Mexico  
Centro de Ecologia y Desarrollo  
Mexico  
Eco-TIRAS Intl Assn of River Keepers  
Mexico  
OT Watch  
Moldova  
Reporters Without Borders (RwB)  
Mongolia  
Rivers without Boundaries  
Mongolia  
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Mozambique  
Shan Sapawa  
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All Nepal Peasant's Federation (ANPFa)  
Myanmar  
All Nepal Womens Association  
Nepal  
Campaign for Climate Justice  
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Central Department of Geography, TU  
Nepal  
Community Empowerment and Social Justice (CEmSoJ) Foundation  
Nepal  
GEFONT - trade union federation  
Nepal  
Human Rights Alliance Nepal  
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Nepal  
Rural Reconstruction Nepal  
Nepal  
Trade Union Policy Institute(TUPI)  
Nepal  
BothENDS  
Netherlands  
EuSAIN  
Netherlands  
Alianza Nicaragüense ante el Cambio Climático  
Nicaragua  
Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21st)  
Nigeria  
Remando Juntos  
Peru  
Forum Solidaridad  
Peru  
Conservamos por Naturaleza  
Peru  
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)  
Peru  
Fundación Ecuménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz (FEDEPAZ)  
Peru
Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Sociedad (IIDS) Peru
Marañón Waterkeeper Peru
TierrActiva Peru Peru
Bulig Visayas Peru
Campaign for a Life of Dignity (KAMP) Philippines
DIGNIDAD Alliance Philippines
Freedom from Debt Coalition Philippines
Gitib Philippines
Our Rivers Our Life Philippines
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) Philippines
Sanlakas Philippines Philippines
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) Philippines
Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education Philippines
WomanHealth Philippines Philippines
International Coalition to Protect the Polish Countryside (ICPPC) Philippines
Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza Poland
Environmental Citizens' Association "Front 21/42" Portugal
Social-Ecological Union/Friends of the Earth Russia Republic of Macedonia
Association of Journalists-Environmentalists of the Russian Journalist Union Russia
Baikal Nature Reserve Russia
Biodiversity Conservation Center Russia
Buryat Regional Union for Lake Baikal Russia
Climate Secretariat of Russian Socio Ecological Union (Friends of the Earth - Russia) Russia
Eyege Ecological Education Center Russia
Krasnoyarsk Regional Environmental Organization (PLOTINA) Russia
Sibecocenter Russia
Taiga Research and Protection Agency Russia
КРОО "Камчатская лига независимых экспертов" Russia
Primorye Regional Non Government Organization "Bureau for Regional Outreach Campaigns - BROC" Russia
Lumiere Synergie pour le Developpement Russia
People and Water Senegal
GroundWork, Friends of the Earth, South Africa Slovakia
Global Citizens Alliance South Africa
South Durban Community Environmental Alliance South Africa
Ecologistas en Acción Spain
COAGRET Spain
InspirAction Spain
St Vincent and the Grenadines

JEMS Progressive Community Organisation Suriname
Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname Switzerland
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)
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Oil Vay: Jewish Climate Action Network
This Changes Everything
Ecosfera
Heinrich Boell Stiftung-North America
Friends of the Earth-US
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Institute for Policy Studies
Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
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Bank Information Center (BIC)
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Sustainable Obtainable Solutions
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Students for a Just and Stable Future
SustainUS
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The Law and Policy of Sustainable Development Research Center
Basilwizi Trust