**Green Accountability Call for Proposals – Additional Information**

The GPSA Green Accountability Call for Proposals (CfP) will support CSOs to develop monitoring processes and innovative actions to strengthen an emerging participatory and transparent architecture for accountability in climate finance and action. CSO grants will contribute to ensuring that marginalized communities have a seat at the climate policy table and improve outcomes and reduce the risks of corruption and capture. As multilateral development banks (MDBs) and climate finance institutions prepare to massively scale up financing for climate action, it is essential to ensure that these financial flows reach targeted communities, follow do-no-harm principles, strengthen institutions, and empower citizens.

The CfP will focus on transformative use of social accountability to solve pressing development challenges in climate action and finance. The GPSA will identify in collaboration with its leading CSO partner a list of countries where proposals on green accountability will be targeted based on climate impact and the applicant CSO's network. The design of GPSA financed projects is based on the use of collaborative social accountability (please find more detail on this in the GPSA's Theory of Action). You can find a collection of past GPSA projects here.

The goal of the green accountability[1] grants is to co-create solutions to jointly identified problems in the selected thematic areas: i) transparency allocation and use of funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation, ii) effective participation of local citizens (including indigenous peoples, women and vulnerable groups) in shaping investments and projects in their communities to address the impacts of climate change, iii) promoting innovative approaches to climate action across finance, markets, policy and technology through citizen engagement, iv) monitoring the implementation of investments for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Information generated from social accountability processes can enable corrective measures to be taken, and lead to the improvement of policymaking, program implementation and delivery of services.

- Description of grant components

Grant proposals are expected to address three distinct components, described illustratively below, including the *global and country systems level*.

Component 1: Global Green Accountability Knowledge and Innovation Nexus. This component focuses on fostering an ecosystem and knowledge nexus for green accountability. Activities under this component should foster innovative practitioner networks and creatively expand partnerships. The component would look to create a strong global platform for transparency, accountability and participation activities for climate finance and climate action. We envision a structure that includes some dimensions of the following, which applicants can tailor based on their expertise:

- Establishing a "Green Accountability Innovation Lab" that encourages experimentation and the piloting of novel approaches to transparency, accountability, and participation in climate finance and climate action. The lab would engage with practitioners, researchers, and technology experts to co-create and test innovative solutions that can be scaled up and adapted to various contexts.
- Developing a "Global Green Accountability Network" that connects practitioners, CSOs, government representatives, and private sector stakeholders to share experiences, exchange

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[1] Green accountability creates systemic ways for people to have a voice and role in the climate decisions that most impact their lives. It aims to place citizens and civil society at the heart of climate finance to direct funding, implement solutions, and hold decision-makers accountable for effective and equitable climate action.

best practices, and collaborate on joint initiatives. This network could host regular virtual and in-person events, such as webinars, workshops, and conferences, to facilitate dialogue and learning among its members to further green accountability globally.

- Creating a dynamic "Green Accountability Online Platform" that features an interactive knowledge repository, real-time data tracking, and collaboration tools. The platform would collect best practices, lessons learned, and key interventions related to civil society engagement in climate finance and climate action. It could also incorporate features such as discussion forums, webinars, and e-learning modules to support capacity building and continuous learning for stakeholders worldwide.
- Launching a "Green Accountability Mentorship Program" that pairs experienced practitioners with emerging leaders in the field to promote knowledge transfer, develop leadership skills, and strengthen the global community of green accountability practitioners. This program would help ensure that lessons learned from successful projects are passed on to the next generation of change-makers, enhancing the overall impact of climate finance and climate action initiatives.

**Component 2: Pilot country system strengthening through sub-granting to local CSOs.** Activities under the component will focus on strengthening country systems for green accountability by providing sub-grants to CSOs in GPSA opted-in countries carrying out activities related to transparency, accountability and participation in climate finance and action through social accountability mechanisms. The main CSO recipient of the grant is expected to on-grant financial support to CSOs working in pilot countries. Pilot country CSO support is indicatively divided into larger country system focused sub-grants of up to US$ 250,000 linked to a handful of smaller grants of around US$ 25,000 to pilot green accountability mechanisms. The CSO that legally receives the GPSA grant will hold fiduciary responsibility for entering into sub-granting agreements with recipient CSOs. The financing for these sub-grants will be part of the total budget for the grant. Country system grants could finance activities related, but not limited to:

- Collaborating with governmental authorities to provide transparent data on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction, estimated impacts, and progress on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
  - This could include building online platforms that visualize emission reduction efforts or creating open data portals for public access to climate-related information.
  - Real-time tracking of climate initiatives, enabling stakeholders to monitor progress, identify gaps, and align their efforts for greater impact. Dashboards could also integrate citizen feedback channels and interactive data visualization tools to promote transparency and engagement.
- Implementing participatory methods for community involvement in climate budget and expenditure monitoring and oversight, including the use of technology platforms to systematically gather and respond to citizen feedback and engagement.
  - This could include developing mobile/SMS applications for reporting environmental or climate action concerns or for tracking climate finance expenditures
  - It could also support AI/ML supported systems for generating insights for decision-makers on finance allocation and program delivery based on aggregated civic feedback from multiple data sources.
- Developing climate service delivery indexes and utilizing community scorecards to verify climate action (e.g., carbon market verification, independent third-party monitoring, verification of end use for large-scale locally delivered activities like reforestation)
- Establishing or enhancing systems for sustained country-level collaboration between governments, civil society, citizens and the private sector

- Developing climate action accelerators and CSO empowerment programs that combine intensive collaborations between government, private sector and civil society, with capacity-building initiatives for civil society organizations. These programs would foster cross-sector partnerships, involve citizens in the development of actionable climate strategies or prototypes, and strengthen the role of CSOs in driving climate action and promoting participatory approaches.

Small grants will focus on piloting local solutions to transparency, accountability and participation in climate finance and climate action and could for example include:
- Facilitating community-level climate action plan development
- Organizing community-based hackathons centered on green accountability and local-level climate finance budget tracking
- Conducting local-level verification of emission reduction programs
- Performing social climate finance and action audits to assess the effectiveness of climate-related initiatives

Country system grants will be allocated in the same countries as the strategic sub-grants, targeting smaller CSOs that typically will lack the capacity to implement larger projects.

**Component 3: Project Management, Knowledge and Monitoring and Evaluation.** Under this component, activities will focus on project management. A dedicated monitoring and evaluation system should be developed that includes a theory of change, a detailed results framework, benchmarking and data collection.

Considerations for applicants:
- **CSO Eligibility Criteria.** CSOs eligible to receive GPSA grants must be legal entities that fall outside the public or for-profit sectors and are eligible to receive foreign funding under the country's applicable legal framework.[2] The GPSA encourages consortium of CSOs to apply, but a lead CSO which will hold the fiduciary and legal responsibility should be designated.

- **Opt-in Country Status.** The GPSA can support global CSOs to perform knowledge tasks. Pilot activities can happen in countries that are opted in/ based and/or operating in countries that have opted in. Country governments 'opt-in' to the GPSA and thereby accepting GPSA project activities in their countries. The GPSA can then operate within the country without requiring governmental approval for each project. Please refer to the list of opted-in countries for more information.

- **Sub-granting.** The GPSA will select an eligible CSO for sub-granting and developing programmatic, institutional strengthening, and mentoring activities related to promoting social accountability in climate finance and action. The eligible CSO will develop a sub-granting component to provide CSO support that is divided into larger systematic grants of up to US$ 250,000 and smaller grants of around US$ 25,000. The sub-granting organization (or

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[2] These include non-government organizations, not-for-profit media organizations, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional organizations, labor unions, other workers' organizations, associations of elected local representatives, private foundations, and policy development or research institutes, provided that these CSOs do not have partisan associations and their grant applications do not include "activities which, because of the high inherent risk of political interference, are likely to raise Articles issues. These activities include political governance, for instance, support of efforts to help organize political parties, or to the organization, running and monitoring of elections." (GPSA Board Paper, Annex C. Activities Not Eligible for Funding and Conflicts of Interest, paragraph 7, page 41).

consortium) will hold fiduciary responsibility for entering into sub-granting agreements with recipient CSOs.

<u>GPSA Grant Application Review and Selection Process</u>

The Call prioritizes CSO-led collaborative social accountability approaches that entail coalition efforts that engage local communities and citizens including vulnerable groups, and work with public sectors, at local, regional, and national levels. The goal is to co-create solutions to jointly identified limitations and problems related to transparency, accountability and participation in climate finance and climate action. CSO proposals will need to show how they will include marginalized and vulnerable groups in the social accountability processes. It will be critical to make the links between the CSO-led processes and appropriate initiatives or programs led by the public sector at different levels to promote climate finance and climate action. Lead CSOs will also demonstrate clear objectives and methods for strengthening both civil society and state capacities, particularly for working adaptively and collaboratively, and for advancing social accountability knowledge and learning in climate finance and climate action.

<u>GPSA grants applications are assessed based on the following criteria:</u>

- **Focus on climate impact (mitigation, adaptation, NDCs, CCDRs…)**

Ability to present a coherent strategy that focuses on maximum global climate impact by targeting countries for sub-granting that either (i) contribute significant shares of GHG emissions and thus have high mitigation requirements and NDC commitments; or (ii) are highly exposed to climate change impacts and thus require strong adaptation measures. Successful applications should draw from existing knowledge and analysis such as CCDRs, global stocktake efforts etc.

- **Focus on specific governance and development challenges related to green accountability**

Ability to focus on a concrete governance and/or development challenge in the form of a well-defined public policy problem or issue related to climate change, climate finance and action, using supporting data evidencing it and showing the relevance of the proposed target problem.

- **Approach to state-civil society collaborative engagement**

Ability to reflect GPSA's problem-solving, solution-driven approach by providing well-articulated and convincing answers to three key questions:
✓ Which public (and private) institutions can solve the problem identified and what are they already doing to solve it?
✓ Why will they be interested in establishing a collaborative framework with CSOs to produce meaningful feedback and support citizens' active participation in service delivery and public decision-making?
✓ What type of problems will this collaborative framework help them to solve in public institutions and across service delivery chains and public policy?

- **Justification of social accountability approach**

Ability to provide a sound rationale for the need to establish new or strengthen existing social accountability mechanisms and processes:
✓ Why the proposed approach will work better than past or existing initiatives -or add value to an existing initiative- to promote citizens' active participation through social accountability

✓ Key aspects that will help the approach to become sustainable after the project's closing, as well as the aspects considered to expand or scale up the approach (through both state-led and civil society-led actions and mechanisms)

✓ Roles of public sector institutions, CSOs and citizen groups throughout project implementation, and how the roles will evolve as the social accountability process becomes sustainable or is scaled up

✓ How the proposed approach will complement and add value to information systems and institutional/management processes. In which ways will social accountability mechanisms help to make a difference in climate finance and action?

✓ How the approach will combine multiple, inter-connected actions and tactics, including at the sub-national and national levels, to promote state's responsiveness and accountability.

- **Collective action through partnerships and coalition-building**

✓ The proposal acknowledges the need to engage different stakeholders within and outside government to address the identified challenges. It includes formal or informal partnership arrangements with a clear allocation of functions according to each actor's expertise, outreach capacities and influence.

✓ The proposal includes partnership arrangements with other CSOs based on complementary expertise and outreach capacities. It puts forth a reasonable and fair scheme to share grant funds with partner CSOs, according to implementation roles and responsibilities in targeted countries[3].

- **Appropriate Budget and experience with on-granting.**

✓ Clarity and reasonableness of the proposal's budget as reflected in (i) the balance between the proposal's duration and the requested budget, (ii) proven track record of managing global and/or regional on-granting projects which include managing due diligence assessments, setting clear objectives, a theory of change, and monitoring and evaluation components. Ability to clearly and reasonably lay out the project management for the green accountability on-granting in the application will also be rated.

The Budget will detail the resources that will be used for implementing each component of the work.

Component 1 will support knowledge and learning on green accountability at the global level.

Component 2 will support grants to civil society organizations working in the agreed targeted countries, including country system grants of US$ 250,000, and small grants of US$ 25,000.

Component 3 will cover the monitoring and evaluation function and the operational management of the total envelope for this CfP.

## Identification / Concept Review Stage

All GPSA grant applications undergo a two-step preliminary review process before being submitted to the GPSA Steering Committee (SC) for concurrence at the Project Concept Stage.  Please refer to the GPSA Operational Manual (para. 16) for more detail.

1. An initial eligibility screening consists of verifying the following: (i) proposal alignment; (ii) legal status of applicant CSOs; (iii) proven track record of applicant CSOs; (iv) no political interference.

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[3] Global and regional CSOs are eligible to receive GPSA support when their own local offices have an independent administrative and governance structure in the "opted-in" country.  In addition, global and regional CSOs based in countries that have not "opted in" can participate provided they can demonstrate that they have an established and effective relationship with a local CSO in a country that has "opted-in" to the GPSA. The list of available countries is available here: https://thegpsa.org/grant-making/grant-selection-process/#countries

2. Technical review of proposals by an independent Roster of Experts (RoE) with strong regional, country, sector or technical capabilities. These RoE evaluations use a standardized point scale system, allowing the GPSA Secretariat to rank eligible proposals with respect to the RoE reviews. The reviews will be used by the Secretariat to (i) request clarifications from applicants and any other additional information as necessary; and (ii) inform the final list of proposals to be recommended for pre-selection before the GPSA Steering Committee.

## Project Concept Stage - GPSA Steering Committee Concept Review Decision

Following the Concept Review Stage, the GPSA Secretariat presents to the Steering Committee its short-listed grant applications for concurrence on a consensus basis.

Following the Concept Review Decision, the GPSA Secretariat prepares the project with the winning CSO for internal World Bank processing. The final award of the grant is dependent on the CSO meeting the related requirements and due diligence assessments, including a financial management assessment.

## Communicating with winners CSOs

The GPSA Secretariat will inform the pre-selected grantee that the project has been pre-selected by the Steering Committee. In this communication the Secretariat informs the next steps to the CSO to approve the grant internally in the World Bank, including any recommendations made by the GPSA Steering Committee to revise the grant proposal. In the case of unsuccessful applications, the GPSA Secretariat will generate an automatic email informing the applicants that they were not selected.

## Orientation Session

The GPSA will host orientation sessions for CSOs related to the CfP – the first will be on May 9th, 2023. You can find more information on www.thegpsa.org and via Twitter @GPSA_org. The session will cover Frequently Asked Questions, grant selection process, and further details about the Call for Proposals, and respond to questions from participants who attend the session.

## How to Apply
1. Applications are submitted through the GPSA website: www.thegpsa.org
   - ✓ Please visit the GPSA website and click on the link to the Green Accountability Call for Proposals.
   - ✓ Review the FAQ and the Additional Information document on the Call for Proposals
   - ✓ Download the Word Application Form template.
   - ✓ Fill out the Application Form and submit it to the GPSA by email to GPSACall4Proposals@worldbank.org by **May 24th, 2023**
2. Please note: all grant applications, without exception, must be submitted in English. The GPSA will not consider applications written in other languages.
3. If you have any questions about the grant application process, you may contact the GPSA's Help Desk at gpsa@worldbank.org.