21 October 2023

Subject: Increased transparency in governance process

To whom it may concern.

In light of recent increased negative media focus on governing standards, projects and project developers, there have been concerns raised within the Project Developer Forum (PDF) regarding a perceived lack of clarity on the process by which Board members or similar governance bodies are appointed by [Standard]. Therefore, the PDF is seeking increased transparency regarding the Board's specific roles and the policy for managing conflicts of interest at this level of decision making.

We would appreciate information on the mechanisms that [Standard] may have in place to ensure that conflicts of interest at the [Standard] Board level are addressed and mitigated, particularly with regards to ensuring that the interests of individual project developers do not supersede the interests of the wider project developer community.

We are writing to you regarding this concern because we are committed to upholding integrity and accountability in the carbon market.

Furthermore, the PDF and its members appreciate the inclusion of project developers and other relevant stakeholders in different technical committees – whether program specific or topic specific where, these committees are established to seek feedback, comments and suggestions and only play an advisory role to the standard. Thus, differentiating them from the board which makes overarching decisions.

The PDF is a collective voice to represent the interests of companies developing greenhouse gas emission reductions and removal projects in international markets, including in the Voluntary Carbon Market, with more than 40 current members from diverse international jurisdictions. We already work constructively with a multitude of stakeholders in the carbon market, and we value the relationships that have been built between the organisations. It is crucial that we retain a working relationship that is open and equitable yet reflects the need for objectivity and independence. We propose that this relationship continues to grow in an open and, crucially, transparent manner to allow for effective dialogue between Project Developers as a group and [Standard].

We believe that working closely with the Project Developer Forum will allow [Standard] to obtain effective, unbiassed feedback from an important stakeholder group, and will establish an open, transparent, and sustainable dialogue with [Standard] Project Developers for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sven Kolmetz (on behalf of the members of PD Forum)

✓ Will be available on pd-forum.net