Submission by Gambia on presenting the Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) Facility in the Gambia to the call of submission by Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties of the Paris Agreement (CMA) on the Work Programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8 of the Paris Agreement

I. Introduction on COUNTRY

The Gambia is the smallest country on main land Africa, with area of 11,295 km^2 having a population of 2.6 million. The Gambia has a Sahelian climate, characterised by a long dry season (November to May the following year) and a short wet season (June to October). Average temperatures range from 18° to 30°C during the dry season and 23° to 33°C during the wet season. Since 1960, the country has experienced increasingly erratic rainfall patterns, higher intensity storms, intra-seasonal drought and increasing average air temperatures, accompanied by periodic cold spells and heat waves.

Country climate change context

Studies have concluded that, the country is highly vulnerable to climate change and will exert a considerable impact on vulnerable economic sectors and industries.

With respect to agriculture, several studies indicate that climate change negatively influences yields of major crops grown in The Gambia, such as millet, sorghum, maize, and groundnuts. This is particularly concerning for a country where the majority of the population relies on agriculture for its subsistence. Productive forest is also projected to shrink significantly in size, between 30 and 46.7 percent of land area, by 2030 and to decrease further, between 20 and 42.7 percent, by 2050, creating uncertainty for the wood processing industry. The tourism sector is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, which will decrease the attractiveness of the shoreline and degrade amenities.

Construction and real estate could also be significantly impacted, as they are exposed to the risks and costs of climate-induced damage to infrastructure. Finally, decades of fishing pressure, coupled with climate impacts, are highly likely to force changes in marine species diversity, geographical distribution and inter-species relationships. This could impact the fisheries sector.

Vulnerability to climate change in The Gambia is linked to the country's widespread poverty and limited adaptive capacity to deal with the effects of changes. Limited access to resources to make quick changes to lifestyles, especially with respect to food supplies, and low access to risk-spreading mechanisms, render many people very susceptible to the current variability and future climatic changes. Highly-vulnerable groups include women and youth

Observed temperature trends

Temperature measurements since the 1940s reveal a rising trend in the order of 0.5°C per decade (GoTG, 2007). The lowest mean temperature of 25.8°C was recorded in 1947 whilst the highest mean temperature of 28.2°C was recorded in the year 2000 (GoTG, 2012). There are insufficient observations to identify trends in most daily temperature extremes. However, the average number of 'hot'1 nights per year increased by 28 (an additional 7.8% of nights) between 1960 and 2003

Observed rainfall trends

From 1950 to 2000 annual rainfall amounts have decreased by about 30%. This decrease has been evident in the reduction in the length of the rainy season and also the quantity of rainfall amounts recorded in the month of August, particularly during the period 1968 to 1985, and in 2002. An additional feature of the rainfall records is the extreme variability of low rainfall amounts around the long-term average over the last forty years. The size of the area with average summer rainfall - cumulative July-August September (JAS) - of less than 800 mm has increased from 36% in 1965 to 93% of the country (GoTG, 2007). In addition, the linear trends indicate that wet season (JAS) rainfall in The Gambia has decreased significantly between 1960 and 2006, at an average rate of 8.8 mm per month per decade. The decline in rainfall is spatially variable across the country, with greater changes in the western half of the country (GoTG, 2007). These rainfall trends are consistent with the most recent data from the Sahel region, which indicate a clear transition to a phase of great variability with abrupt alternation between wet and dry years, but with overall diminishing total rainfall. This rainfall pattern has led to devastating droughts during the last three decades of the 20th century, alternating, however, with periods of intense rainfall that have also led to increasingly numerous flooding events.

Sea Level Rise

Brown et al. (2011) used the Dynamic Interactive Vulnerability Assessment (DIVA) model to project sea level rise in The Gambia of a significantly higher level than the IPCC predictions of 0.13 m in 2025, 0.35 m in 2050, 0.72 m in 2075 and 1.23 m in 2100 (in comparison with 1995 levels)

Wind and dust storms

The frequency and intensity of dust and sand storms in many parts of the world are steadily increasing due to droughts and climate change. During the cool dry season, atmospheric dust is a major element of the Saharan and Sahelian regions, with dry and dust-laden Harmattan winds blanketing the country for extended periods. The frequency of occurrence of dust storms has also increased in The Gambia over the last twenty-five years (Jaiteh and Sarr, 2011). Contributing factors to the increase in dust storms include human impacts such as overgrazing and deforestation, which create a new source of dust. Storms and strong winds are also in the increase in frequency and intensity as witnessed in last year's rainy season recording two storms of 85km/hr and 75km/hr respectively with August and September 2021

Country NDC and/or climate policies with a focus on adaptation and local level action

The Gambia's NDC1 has received the positive distinction of being considered '1.5°C Paris Agreement-compatible' by the Climate Action Tracker (CAT). The nation is one of the few developing countries with a conditional target that sets emissions on a downward trajectory.

In developing the NDC2, the Government of The Gambia (GoTG) is committed to retaining and, where possible, enhancing its strong ambition, while strengthening the integration of the

identified mitigation measures into national planning processes. The recently validated 2050 Climate Vision of The Gambia underscores the high level of commitment to decarbonisation; it establishes the political aspiration for The Gambia to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, guiding the NDC2. This aspiration serves as a guiding rod for the NDC2. Belonging to the group of least developed countries, the Gambia could have communicated strategies, actions and plans as its NDC (as per Article 4.6 of the Paris Agreement), but has chosen to submit quantified targets instead.

The NDC2 represents an advance relative to the NDC1 in the following respects.

First, sectoral coverage has been extended to include all greenhouse (GHG) emissions in The Gambia. The NDC2 covers the entire Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector, in line with the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) guidelines, while the NDC1 addressed only agricultural emissions. The waste sector now includes emissions for both solid waste and wastewater, while the NDC1 did not include wastewater emissions.

Second, an additional 13 mitigation measures have been included. The NDC1 identified 10 mitigation options. The NDC2 revises and strengthens those mitigation measures and includes additional ones identified through the metabolic analysis and IRENA's work on the power sector. An additional eight mitigation measures were identified through the UNDP supported metabolic analysis, while IRENA defined eight for the power sector through the cost-effectiveness analysis of renewable energy mitigation options (five of which from the NDC1 were strengthened) and ICLEI added another two new options. All of these are included in the NDC2.

Third, the NDC2 relies on an enhanced and more robust database to estimate baseline emissions. The NDC1 relied on two scenarios: a low baseline scenario and a high baseline scenario, resulting in a significant difference (87percent) in estimated 2030 emissions. The NDC2 updates the sectoral data and assumptions were refined to derive a single, 'best guess' scenario.

In addition, the 2010 emission level serving as the starting point for the projections had not been fully determined when the NDC1 was being drafted because The Gambia's National GHG Inventory Report had not yet been completed. The NDC2 places the baseline projections on a more solid footing by using the emissions in the official inventory report, as published in The Gambia's Third National Communication (TNC) (2020).

This generated the following change: while the NDC1 projected a 2030 business-as-usual (BAU) scenario level of 3,858 GgCO2e, the NDC2 revises that projection to 6,617 GgCO2e. The NDC1 mitigation scenario projects a reduction of around 1,800 GgCO2e. The mitigation measures proposed in the NDC2 project GHG emissions of 3,327 GgCO2e in 2030, a reduction of 49.7 percent (3,290 GgCO2e in absolute figures) against BAU.

Fourth, the adaptation section was strengthened, providing more details on The Gambia's climate vulnerability, envisaged adaptation action and finance needs.

Nevertheless, developing the NDC2 was also a challenging undertaking. The most recent available inventory data dates back to 2010, which complicates the projections of baseline emissions. With the 2010 starting point emissions corrected, The Gambia's overall emissions increased substantially, from 1,758 GgCO2e and 3,711 GgCO2e in 2010 (NDC 1 low and high scenarios) to 4,033 GgCO2e (NDC2). This has repercussions for the subsequent projections, generating higher baseline emissions in 2030. Another challenge involved the limited integration of the mitigation measures identified in the NDC1 into the country's actual development plans. The COVID-19 pandemic also posed a significant challenge as it

hindered data collection and reduced the number and quality of consultations with stakeholders. On the positive side, however, considerable progress was made in the electricity sector, with new investments in renewable energy in preparation (primarily in solar PV and hydropower).

II. About the Local Climate Adaptive Living (LoCAL) Facility

In line with the Paris Agreement, the LoCAL Facility is recognising the local and sub-national dimensions of adaptation needs and implementation has supported vulnerable countries efforts towards enhancing their adaptative capacity and strengthening resilience. Since its establishment in 2011, the LoCAL Facility through the LoCAL Mechanism has contributed to reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience of local communities by establishing a standard and internationally recognized country-based mechanism to channel climate finance to local government authorities for adaptation efforts.

The LoCAL Mechanism combines performance-based climate resilience grants (PBCRGs) that ensure programming and verification of climate change expenditures at the local level while offering strong incentives for performance improvements in enhanced resilience with technical and capacity-building support and monitoring and quality assurance across.

LoCAL is overseen by the LoCAL Board, which comprises representatives of governments participating in the global mechanism and development partners. The Board is co-chaired by the Chair of LDCs group of the UNFCCC and the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group of the United Nations. UNFCCC and UNFCCC financial mechanisms are observers to the LoCAL Board.

III. The LoCAL Mechanism as Non- Market Approach

The Gambia presents the LoCAL Mechanism as an existing non-market approaches in line with Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement, decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 39, and the Glasgow decisions. The LoCAL Mechanism responds to the mandates of Article 6.8 that states the importance of non-market approaches being available to Parties to assist in the implementation of nationally determined contributions, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

1.1. LoCAL Mechanism - *assisting Parties to implement their NDCs in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication*

The LoCAL Mechanism enables Parties to implement their NDCs through local climate action and implementation by increasing local investments and related capacity building and technical support in countries, thereby building resilient communities and local economies and contributes to the achievement of the Paris Agreement and related Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. The LoCAL Mechanism particularly contributes to:

- **Poverty Eradication (SDG 1):** the LoCAL Mechanism in Gambia has contributed to improving the livelihoods for households and individuals by promoting green and resilient communities and local economies.
- **Zero Hunger (SDGs 2):** through LoCAL, Gambia invests in climate resilient agriculture, contributing towards achieving food and nutrition security. An estimated sizable investment financed under LoCAL in Gambia relate to the agriculture sector, with more related to water, transport and storage.

- **Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6):** LoCAL countries invest in clean drinking water and sanitation, including climate proofing of water supply system. An estimated 20% of the investments financed under LoCAL relate to the water sector.
- **Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11):** LoCAL countries invest in climate adaptative infrastructure which are resilient to climate change and/or contribute to climate change adaptation. An estimated good percentage of the investments financed under LoCAL in Gambia relate to construction, transport, storage, and other social and infrastructure services.
- **Climate Action (SDG 13):** The main SDG that the LoCAL Mechanism contributes to is SDG 13. The LoCAL Mechanism has promoted the climate agenda in the Gambia and in 8 other West African countries by the following:

- increased awareness and capacities to respond to climate change at local level;
- integration of climate change adaptation into local government planning and budgeting in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner; and
- increased financing available to local governments for climate change adaptation investments.

II. LoCAL Mechanism- Promoting mitigation and adaptation ambition

The LoCAL Mechanism promotes enhancing adaptation ambition and contributes to the implementation of NDCs. The Mechanism integrates climate change adaptation into existing local development planning and budgeting processes.

LoCAL Mechanism aims to respond to the local, subnational, national, and regional dimensions of the impacts of climate change in accordance with the Paris Agreement. The LoCAL Mechanism supports adaptation ambition among the most exposed to the impacts of climate change, at the local government level.

The LoCAL Mechanism supports adaptation ambition among the most exposed to the impacts of climate change, at the local level, by addressing the following:

- weak or lack of institutional capacities to deal with climate change issues at the lowest administrative level
- lack of appropriate budgetary allocations from the national level leading to unfunded mandates for addressing climate change across climate sensitive sectors,
- local government' inability to absorb the incremental costs of climate change adaptation, and
- the lack of decentralisation of climate finance to the local government level, and/or the lack of use of country systems for that purpose.

As it addresses the above stated challenges, the LoCAL Mechanism deploys the following features:

- Systemic and scalable; as it uses government systems rather than project or parallel approaches;
- Flexible and sustainable; as it is tailored to national circumstances and contextualized for local climate risks and response; and
- Standardized; in its design, quality assurance, monitoring and reporting

If the LoCAL Mechanism is scaled up nationally in the 30 countries currently participating in the Mechanism, it would reach over half a billion people.

2.1. LoCAL Mechanism - Enhancing participation of public and private sector and civil society organizations in the implementation of NDCs

The LoCAL Facility and Mechanism increase awareness and capacities to respond to climate change through the local level, integrate climate change adaptation into local government planning and budgeting in a participatory manner and increase the financing available to local governments for climate change adaptation investments, in LoCAL countries.

LoCAL is by design a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach to climate change adaptation, as it brings the planning and budgeting process for climate change adaptation closer to the communities – especially those who are disproportionally affected by climate change effects.

2.2. LoCAL Mechanism - Enabling opportunities for coordination across instruments and relevant institutional arrangements

The LoCAL Mechanism is implemented by deploying an instrument for the programming and verification of climate change expenditure at the local level and using the demonstration of its effect to trigger further flows for local adaptation, including national fiscal transfers and access to global climate finance for local governments (through their national governments) and for private sector and public-private adaptation initiatives.

III. Synergies of the LoCAL Mechanism with the focus areas of the Non-Market Approach

(a) Adaptation, resilience, and sustainability

The LoCAL Mechanism supported local governments to increase local resilience to climate impacts by aligning with their mandates, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), local adaptation plans and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The LoCAL also contributes to the achievement of the Paris Agreement through the local level implementation of adaptation action and adaptation co-benefits with mitigation, including reforestation, conservation, and sustainable agricultural systems.

In April 2019, the LoCAL guidelines were endorsed as supplementary material to the NAP technical guidelines by the LDC Expert Group at the UNFCCC. The LoCAL Mechanism guide support developing countries efforts by creating strategic linkages between country national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions at the subnational level in a coordinated and standard manner – bringing a financing dimension to the vertical integration of the NAP and NDC processes. Furthermore, the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee has recognized LoCAL as a tool and method for enhancing resilience UNFCCC adaptation knowledge portal.

In addition, LoCAL was recognised as tool and method for subnational adaptation and included as such on the UNFCCC adaptation knowledge portal. The 53th SBI session further approved the report of the stocktaking meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group which includes the work with LoCAL as “financing mechanism for subnational and local climate action based on performance-based climate-resilient grant systems and for integrating adaptation into subnational development plans" among experience, good practices and lessons learned in relation to support provided by organizations to the least developed countries. Last, the UNFCCC Secretariat included in its Note on “Progress in the process to

formulate and implement national adaptation plans" activities to integrate climate change adaptation into local government planning and budgeting systems under the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility.

(b) Mitigation measures to address climate change and contribute to sustainable development and (c) Development of clean energy sources

The LoCAL Facility contributes to the achievement of the Paris Agreement through the local level implementation of adaptation action and adaptation co-benefits with mitigation, including Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and renewable energy. An estimated good percentage of investments financed under LoCAL in Gambia relate to the AFOLU and energy sector. As mentioned earlier, the LoCAL Facility contributes to addressing sustainable development across a range of SDGs, in particular SDG 1, SDG2, SDG 6, SDG 11, and SDG 13.

IV. LoCAL Mechanism responding to the mandate Article 6, paragraphs 8–9, decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 39, and CMA decision non-market approaches under the framework

4.1.1. Finance

The LoCAL Mechanism combines performance-based climate resilience grants (PBCRGs) that ensure programming and verification of climate change expenditures at the local level while offering strong incentives for performance improvements in enhanced resilience with technical and capacity-building support and monitoring and quality assurance across. The UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance 2021 Biannual Report (paragraph 304) refers to LoCAL as an "initiative supporting domestic national budget systems to target adaptation actions at the local level, while reinforcing transparency and reporting through those systems".

4.1.2. Technical and capacity building support

The LoCAL Facility provides technical and capacity building support to both local governments and ministries responsible for climate change, finance, planning and local government.

The technical and capacity building support is provided alongside the PBCRGs through specialised technical assistance; on-the job learning; and specific training; as well as south-south cooperation among countries engaged with LoCAL.

The technical and capacity building support ranges from CRVA for subnational adaptation; local information systems for adaptation (LISA); local risk-informed planning and budgeting; execution and procurement of local adaptation investments; and monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, the capacity building supports sensitization of communities on climate change issues and risks, encourages participatory approaches to resilience building and reinforces bottom-up responses for locally led adaptation.

V. LoCAL Mechanism as an existing relevant non-market approach

5.1.Alignment of the LoCAL Mechanism with the NMA Principles

The LoCAL Mechanism is aligned with the principles of the non-market approaches agreed at COP26. As highlighted in this submission LoCAL is aligned with and contributes to:

- implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- enhanced linkages and synergies between mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, and capacity building;
- resilience and cooperative actions that are not reliant on market approaches;
- innovation approaches for enhancing adaptation ambition; and
- achievement of the long -term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

5.2.LoCAL Mechanism - in accordance with the provisions referred to in chapter II of the annex

The LoCAL Facility is engaged with more than 30 countries following the request of support from the participating countries on voluntary basis. Over the last years, LoCAL has been supporting over 300 local governments representing over 11.5 million people, across in 17 countries (Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, The Gambia, Ghana, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Tanzania, Tuvalu ,and Uganda), with 13 more countries having formally expressed interest to benefit from the global mechanism and actively preparing to do so (Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Liberia, Jamaica, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tunisia, Vanuatu, and Zambia).

Therefore, as highlighted in the submission, the Gambia would to supports the recognition of LoCAL Mechanism intervention in Non-market approach (NMA) under the Paris Agreement.