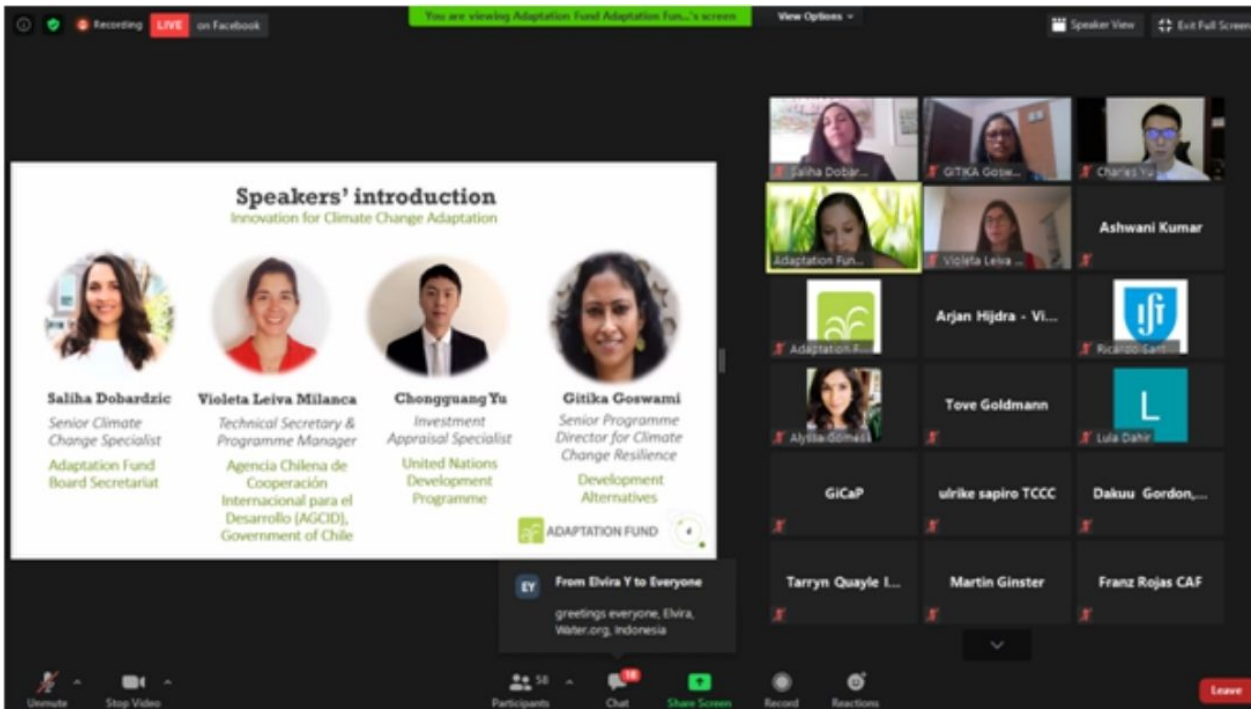

Webinar: Innovation for Adaptation to Climate Change

As part of the World Water Week At Home, bringing together convener-hosted, virtual sessions on water and climate change, the Adaptation Fund organised a webinar on 25 August 2020 titled *"Innovation for Adaptation to Climate Change".* Increasing climate change impacts as well as compounding risks highlighted by COVID-19 demonstrate an urgent need for innovation in the area of climate adaptation and building resilience. This session, and accompanying panel discussion, provided an opportunity to showcase different perspectives on the role of innovation for climate change adaptation in the water sector, including national and multilateral development institutions, as well as civil society in vulnerable developing countries.

Ms. Gitika Goswami, Senior Programme Director, Development Alternatives and Representative, Adaptation Fund NGO Network, was invited to present the perspective of civil society working on concrete adaptation projects with a water focus to stress upon the need for innovation for climate adaption in the water sector. Ms. Goswami stressed upon the need for more innovation in climate change adaptation and shared important learnings and experiences of working on ground level innovations in the water sector, focusing on examples from India and Ecuador.

Ms. Goswami shed light on the limited technological innovations in climate change adaption as compared to climate change mitigation, and the heavy concentration of these patented innovations in a few countries across the globe. Even as countries in the global south have witnessed a large number of traditional innovation mechanisms at pilot stages, they see few large scale innovation processes. She went on to discuss climate vulnerabilities, and issues and challenges in climate change adaptation in India, at present followed by noble examples of innovations that have taken place and succeeded in the water sector in India. One that featured prominently, was the practice of watershed management and climate adaptive planning leading to sustainable agricultural practices that provide enhanced food and livelihood security. Similarly, other practices of building water harvesting structures for agriculture from traditional and scientific knowledge have also shown myriad benefits in the availability of food, fodder

and fuel; improvements in nutritional status of family and communities and increase in farmer family incomes, contributing to decreased migration.

A case study example of ground participatory watershed management in the Datia district of Madhya Pradesh, was presented as an example of an integrated solution for improving the livelihood of vulnerable populations and regenerating the natural resource base of the area itself. Numerous societal problems were overcome, and benefits seen included increased food and water security, biodiversity conservation, better income opportunities, strengthening community institutions and partnerships and new avenues for recreation, education and research.

Ms. Goswami also shared a poignant example of innovation in financing in water sector from Ecuador, through the case of Water Funds. 24 Water Funds created in Ecuador, have served as an alternative to guarantee the existence of growing financial resources to improve conditions for climate resilience and to preserve the quality and quantity of the water resources. These Funds offer technical, financial and governance solutions through the financing of Nature Based Solutions for the protection and maintenance of water resources and its ecosystems. Through these examples, Ms. Goswami highlighted how successful innovations in climate change adaptation in the water sector can be if planned, designed and invested in appropriately. In conclusion, she discussed the possibility of replicating good practices on a larger scale through the Adaptation Fund's innovation challenge fund or others and the role of civil society too, in addressing needs of innovation in the water sector effectively.