

**Draft decision --/CP.8**

**Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention,  
for the Least Developed Countries Fund**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries referred to in Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention,

*Reaffirming* the need for the adoption and operationalization of simplified procedures and expedited access to the Least Developed Countries Fund by the least developed country Parties,

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure complementarity of funding between the Least Developed Countries Fund and other funds with which the entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention is entrusted,

*Welcoming* the arrangements made by the Global Environment Facility as the entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for operationalizing the Least Developed Countries Fund,

*Recalling* its decisions 5/CP.7 and 7/CP.7 establishing the Least Developed Countries Fund to support the programme of work for least developed countries,

*Welcoming* the progress in mobilizing voluntary contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund,

*Recognizing* the specific needs of least developed countries with regard to training in negotiating skills and language,

*Recalling* its decision 27/CP.7 containing the initial guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, and 29/CP.7 mandating the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to serve in an advisory capacity to the least developed countries on the preparation, and strategy for implementation, of national adaptation programmes of action, through, inter alia, workshops, upon request by least developed countries Parties,

1. *Decides* to adopt the following additional guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund established under decisions 5/CP.7 and 7/CP.7;
2. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, including its implementing agencies, to ensure the speedy release and disbursement of funds and timely assistance for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action;
3. *Requests* the entity in its capacity referred to in paragraph 1 above to support, where sufficient voluntary funding has not been provided from bilateral sources, the organization, under the guidance of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, of four regional workshops in 2003 (one in Africa for francophone least developed countries, one in Africa for anglophone least developed countries,

one in Asia, and one in a small island developing State) to advise least developed countries in order to advance the process for preparing national adaptation programmes of action in these regions;

4. *Requests* the entity referred to in paragraph 1 above to undertake the necessary arrangements for the implementation of the above-mentioned guidance, and to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session the specific steps it has undertaken to implement this guidance;

5. *Encourages* Annex II Parties, and Parties included in Annex I that are in a position to do so, to address the needs of least developed countries with regard to training in negotiating skills and language through bilateral and other sources of funding;

6. *Invites* all Parties, and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and the Global Environment Facility and its implementing and executing agencies, to submit to the secretariat, by 15 April 2003, views on strategies for implementing national adaptation programmes of action and ways and means to address the various elements of the least developed countries work programme, in order to meet the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of least developed countries, for consideration by Parties at the eighteenth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a compilation of views received pursuant to paragraph 6 above;

8. *Decides* to consider providing further guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund, at its ninth session.

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