

## SUBMISSION BY NEPAL

Kathmandu, 16 August 2011

### **Subject: Views on National Adaptation Plans**

Nepal welcomes this opportunity to submit its views on the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) regarding: (a) the process to enable LDC Parties to formulate and implement NAPs, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing NAPAs FCCC/SBI/2011/L.16, paragraph 5; and (b) the modalities and the guidelines for LDCs and other developing country Parties to employ the modalities formulated to support NAPs (FCCC/SBI/2011/L.16 paragraph 7) as inputs for the possible Expert Meeting on NAPs.

1. Nepal acknowledges the support of the GEF, Governments of the United Kingdom and Denmark, UNDP and all stakeholders for their active participation in NAPA preparation process. The NAPA in Nepal enhanced public awareness on climate change impacts, identified most urgent and immediate adaptation options, and strengthened institutional capacities. The NAPA process led to the preparation of LAPA (Local Adaptation Plan of Action) framework and LAPA manual to integrate adaptation options in the local planning process. The LAPA process provides opportunities to further assess site-specific climate vulnerabilities, identify adaptation options, and implement most urgent and immediate adaptation actions with people's participation.
2. Nepal is ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> most climate vulnerable country worldwide. More than 4,000 people died in Nepal over the last ten years due to increased climate induced disasters, which caused economic losses of USD 5.34 billion. Every year more than 1 million people are directly impacted by climate induced disasters such as drought, landslides and floods. Similar events and their frequency are likely to increase in the future.
3. The NAPA preparation was completed through extensive country-driven consultative process. This consultation has twin benefits - enhanced awareness and people's participation, and increased expectation with the hope that developed countries will provide support to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change, the climate vulnerable communities are increasingly facing. During its implementation, Nepal is experiencing co-financing for adaptation actions from LDC Fund, complex process to access funding, and communications amongst Parties, GEF and GEF IAs as major barriers. In other words, NAPA document preparation is comparatively easier than securing and transferring funds for NAPA implementation.
4. As NAPA focused on most urgent and immediate adaptation needs and climate change has affected peoples, their livelihoods and mountain ecosystems and increased snow and glacier melting process, Nepal underscores the importance of preparing and implementing NAPs to address climate change impacts through medium- and long-term adaptation planning process.

**I. Views on the process to enable LDC Parties to formulate and implement NAPs, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing NAPAs.**

5. The NAP process should be distinct and build upon the experience of NAPA preparation and implementation. The NAP process should not delay the implementation of NAPA priorities. The NAP preparation could benefit from experiences of the LDCs and the LDC Expert Group (LEG). Nepal believes that experience gained in NAPA implementation would provide a basis to prepare practical and implementable NAPs.
6. The NAPA was prepared in relatively short time period to identify most urgent and immediate adaptation actions. The NAP preparation process should, *inter alia*, adopt a more comprehensive vulnerability assessment through defined and user-friendly vulnerability assessment tools and downscaling of climate models. The NAP process should follow participatory vulnerability assessment and identification of medium- and long-term adaptation actions that counts on the challenges faced by the vulnerable communities, sectors and ecosystems.
7. The NAP process should be directed to strengthen national capacities at systemic, institutional and individual levels.
8. The NAPs formulation should be adequately funded to promote medium- and long term adaptation planning. In addition, Nepal emphasizes that the process must provide clear direction to provide long-term, scaled-up, predictable, new and additional finance for the implementation of NAPs. Up-front funds to national-level institutions and civil society for the planning process, particularly to ensure inclusive planning and consultations of vulnerable communities and populations, are critical in the process of developing NAPs.
9. The process should be country-driven, participatory, gender-sensitive and socially inclusive, and transparent as well taking into account indigenous knowledge and approaches that embrace vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems. Meaningful participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, youth, private sector, indigenous people, disadvantaged and affected communities and the civil society at all levels will also ensure opportunities to build and/or enhance national and local capacity to address the challenges of climate change impacts. As a participatory approach based on national circumstances, the process should also promote synergy and strengthen linkages with national, regional and international organizations, centers and networks in order to enhance the development and implementation of NAPs, and ensure efforts are informative and mutually supportive.
10. In order to ensure coherence, the process should complement cross-sectoral approaches, recognizing the value of existing and future planned national and local climate change related policies and actions in coherence with cross-sectoral policies, plans and strategies like the National Plans, Sustainable Development Agenda, National Biodiversity Strategy and National Action Programme on land degradation, etc. Coordinating related strategies enables countries to capitalize on linkages among different sectors and to ensure the integration of adaptation into those plans. This can also promote implementation of good practices and enable effective and informed decision making. The process should also be

coherent with relevant plans as elaborated under the UNFCCC, UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biological Diversity and other MEAs (Multilateral Environment Agreements).

11. Communications and Knowledge Management: Learning, Sharing and Documenting: This process should aim for shared learning among LDCs and other developing countries taking into consideration the geography such as mountains, and lowlands. This is particularly important in countries with boarder communities and varied ecosystems that may be impacted by climate change.

## **II. Views on the modalities and guidelines for LDC parties and other developing country parties to employ the modalities formulated to support NAPs**

12. Nepal believes that NAPs should be an iterative national process with periodic updating and review preferably once in a decade. It should not be an end in itself rather provide a strategic overview of adaptation needs linked to current climate projection models and a process for review along with monitoring and evaluation, capacity building and communication as climate science and knowledge on impacts.
13. This requires a participatory planning process combining available climate science, analysis, modeling and assessments, vulnerability analysis of existing medium- and long-term strategic sectoral plans and robust consultation and coordination across agencies and stakeholders as mentioned in Paragraph 9 above. It may need, for example, the development of processes for informed decision-making to enable trade-offs between present and future needs, upstream and downstream communities and so on.
14. **Modalities:** For the preparation and implementation of NAPs, the following modalities could be opted:
  1. An existing system, engaged in NAPA preparation process in LDCs or the climate change focal point of the Parties should be the focal agency for coordinating and facilitating the preparation and implementation of NAPs. At the national level, as per countries' processes (country-driven approach), the focal agency could set up a national multi-stakeholder NAP team. The NAPs could be prepared through the formation and mobilization of Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of workable size. There might be core TWGs and wider reference group representing government organizations and civil society groups as mentioned in paragraph 9 above to add value to the process in preparing and implementing the NAPs.
  2. The NAP team should preferably work with the multidisciplinary teams of in-country experts which will carry out various assessments to prepare the NAPs. The assessments would include:
    - a) Comprehensive vulnerability Assessment in different sectors to identify climate vulnerable communities, sectors and ecosystems and to provide medium- and long-term adaptation actions to address climate change challenges in geographical areas/sectors.

- b) Detailed assessment of existing systems - institutions, policies, strategies, plans and programmes from climate change perspectives;
  - c) Gaps analysis amongst the relevant sector plans to know the coverage of climate impacts, and possibility for making socio-economic development and infrastructure climate smart and/or resilient.
  - d) Identify appropriate measures and indigenous practices to address medium- and long-term climate change impacts and adaptation actions and the required financial resources.
3. There should be a clear and transparent provision for adequate funding for NAP preparation with comprehensive analysis and implementation of adaptation actions.
15. **Guidelines:** The NAP preparation guideline should be user-friendly. Nepal emphasizes that the guidelines should clearly provide guidance in promoting country-driven and country-led approaches, adopting flexible procedures based on national circumstances, considering adequate participation of climate vulnerable communities and ecosystems (e.g., mountain, forests, watersheds etc.) and to be based on best available climate science. The guidelines should equally provide guidance in promoting participation of multi-stakeholders, particularly vulnerable local communities, be gender-sensitive and ensuring social inclusion. The guideline should also provide opportunities for ensure transparency and adopting multi-disciplinary approach, promoting shared learning, integrating performance monitoring and evaluation process, and promoting periodic/regular review and update for the medium- and long-term adaptation planning. Clear guidance on tools related to vulnerability assessment, prioritizing medium- and long-term adaptation actions, exploring finance, technology development and transfer, and implementation modalities would provide better opportunities to build in-country capacity, and ensure effective implementation of NAPs.

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