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**Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda
Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention
Matters relating to the least developed countries**

Report on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This note reports on the ninth meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 6 to 8 April 2006. It also responds to decision 4/CP.11, which requests the LEG to develop a work programme that includes the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twenty-fourth session.

* This document was submitted after the due date as a result of the timing of the meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.

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I. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 29/CP.7, established the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to advise on the preparation and implementation strategy for national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), and adopted the terms of reference of the LEG. According to these terms of reference, the LEG is to convene twice each year, and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its subsequent sessions.

2. By its decision 4/CP.11, the COP decided to extend the mandate of the LEG under its original terms of reference and to review the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the group, and to adopt a decision thereon, at its thirteenth session (December 2007).

II. Summary of the ninth meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

3. The Government of Bangladesh hosted the ninth meeting of the LEG in Dhaka from 6 to 8 April 2006. Financial support for the meeting was provided by the Governments of Belgium, Canada and New Zealand.

4. As requested by decision 4/CP.11, the LEG developed, at its ninth meeting, a work programme for its new term 2006–2007 that includes implementation of NAPAs, for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-fourth session.

A. Election of officers of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

5. Paragraph 5 of the terms of reference of the LEG (annex to decision 29/CP.7) states that the LEG is to elect annually a Chair, a Vice-Chair and two rapporteurs from among its least developed country (LDC) members. At the first meeting of the LEG (report contained in document FCCC/SBI/2002/5), the group agreed on the functions of each of its officers, and at its seventh meeting it established the post of lusophone Rapporteur (FCCC/SBI/2005/12). At the ninth meeting the group elected the following officers:

- (a) Mr. Bubu Pateh Jallow (Gambia), Chair
- (b) Mr. Chanel Iroi (Solomon Islands), Vice-Chair
- (c) Ms. Madeleine Rose Diouf-Sarr (Senegal), francophone Rapporteur
- (d) Mr. Almeida Alberto Siteo (Mozambique), lusophone Rapporteur
- (e) Mr. Karma L. Rapten (Bhutan), anglophone Rapporteur.

B. Review of preparation of national adaptation programmes of action

6. In reviewing the status of NAPA preparation, the LEG took note of the three NAPAs that had been submitted to the secretariat by the end of 2005. Based on the LEG's interaction with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies, the information available to the LEG indicated that a large number of NAPAs were at an advanced stage of preparation as a result of ongoing efforts and many of them are expected to be submitted during 2006–2007.

7. The LEG noted the efforts made by the implementing agencies in providing support to LDC Parties and NAPA teams for the development of project proposals, for capacity-building and for the provision of technical advice. The LEG also reviewed its responsiveness to requests from NAPA teams

for technical comments on draft NAPAs and noted that its recommendations had been translated by NAPA teams into improvements in the NAPAs submitted.

C. Consideration of implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

8. In decision 4/CP.11, the COP requested the LEG, serving in an advisory capacity to the least developed countries, to develop a work programme that includes implementation of NAPAs. The LEG, at its ninth meeting, in considering its work programme, benefited from the participation of many of its members in the GEF consultation on the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) held in Dhaka, that preceded the ninth meeting of the LEG.

9. The LEG in reviewing its mandate, in particular paragraph 9 (a)–(e) of the Annex to decision 29/CP.7, identified activities and related actions in support of NAPA implementation and detailed them in its work programme for 2006–2007 (see annex I). Members assumed responsibility for further detailing the work programme in order to track its progress over the biennium.

D. Efforts to advise on capacity-building needs and to facilitate the exchange of information

1. LEG members' participation in the GEF–LDCF consultation meeting

10. The ninth meeting of the LEG was held back-to-back with a consultation organized by the GEF on the LDCF and efforts of the GEF to operationalize this fund. Several members of the LEG participated in this meeting. The GEF programming paper for the LDCF was introduced and considered.

11. Representatives of the GEF and its implementing and executing agencies were invited to the LEG meeting to provide an update on their NAPA activities, as detailed below.

2. LEG interaction with the GEF and implementing agencies on NAPA preparation

12. The GEF and its implementing agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, provided the LEG with an update on their efforts to support NAPA preparation through capacity-building, technical feedback and outreach efforts with NAPA teams in workshops, training activities and visits to countries. The scope of efforts by UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (executing agency of NAPA related projects) was detailed to the LEG members as were constraints in the provision of support and technical advice. The implementing agencies reported that a high level of confidence was evident in NAPA teams; despite this, however, technical and institutional constraints continue to hamper the NAPA preparation process.

13. The GEF and its implementing agencies noted that the LEG supported their efforts by playing an active role in advising LDC Parties in the NAPA preparation phase.

14. The LEG concluded that continued and closer collaboration is needed in order to support those LDC Parties that have yet to prepare NAPA proposals for funding, and to support NAPA teams that are in various stages of NAPA preparation. The LEG identified the need to continue monitoring bottlenecks and constraints in the preparation of NAPAs through targeted questionnaires. The group also recognized the need to provide technical advice to LDC Parties in the preparation of project proposals to support NAPA implementation.

3. LEG interaction with Bangladesh's NAPA team

15. In conjunction with its ninth meeting, and in keeping with its practice of interacting with NAPA teams of the host country, the LEG conducted an interactive session with representatives of the Bangladesh NAPA team.

16. The Bangladesh NAPA team noted that it had already submitted its NAPA¹ to the secretariat. The team presented the LEG with its main findings and reported on the prioritization of activities and identification of urgent and immediate projects for implementation. It detailed the extensive national consultations that had been held, as well as the scope of involvement of national experts and their related agencies in the preparation of the NAPA.

17. The Bangladesh NAPA team explained that results of various stakeholder consultations on the NAPA activities and related projects will address, among other concerns, the impacts of climate change on the lives and livelihoods of communities, poverty reduction and sustainable income generation, as well as enhancing adaptive capacity at the community and national levels. It was also pointed out that some projects included in the Bangladesh NAPA represent ongoing pilot research projects that are expected to be implemented. The team also highlighted that the next step in the the NAPA process would include meetings to seek support for the development of project documents and co-financing through bilateral and multilateral sources, which could complement resources from the LDCF in the implementation of NAPAs.

III. Elaboration of the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2006–2007

18. As requested by the COP in decision 4/CP.11, the LEG developed, at its ninth meeting, a work programme for 2006–2007 that includes elements for implementation of NAPAs (see annex I).

19. In preparing its work programme, the LEG, in considering decision 4/CP.11, noted that its ongoing efforts to fulfil its mandate, as detailed in decision 29/CP.7 (annex, paragraph 9 (a)–(e)), continue to be relevant and will serve as the principal means of supporting NAPA implementation.

20. The LEG considered it essential to keep under review, based on NAPAs submitted, as well as drafts of NAPAs referred to it for comments, the activities detailed in its mandate. It considered that there is a continuing need for it to provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation of NAPAs, to advise on capacity-building, to facilitate the exchange of information, and to advise on efforts to mainstream adaptation into development planning. It also recognized that LDC Parties would require advice on NAPA implementation.

21. The LEG also considered that closer collaboration with the implementing agencies will continue to be important in the NAPA preparation and implementation phases, because technical and institutional constraints for NAPA preparation and implementation continue to arise.

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/nap/bannap01.pdf>>.

Annex I

**Work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group
for 2006–2007**

Mandate Annex to decision 29/CP.7	Activities	Related actions
Paragraph 9 (a). To provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation and on the implementation strategy of NAPAs, including the identification of possible sources of data and its subsequent application and interpretation, upon request by LDC Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide support to LDCs engaged in the NAPA preparation phase • Initiate support for LDCs that have started their NAPA implementation 	<p>NAPA preparation phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a synthesis of information contained in submitted NAPAs in order to provide further advice to Parties that have yet to prepare NAPAs • Continue providing support to lusophone LDCs, including through a training workshop, as needed • Advise LDCs to consider including an implementation strategy in their final NAPA documents <p>NAPA implementation phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an assessment of project profiles in completed NAPAs to determine their technical and support needs as well as possible synergy for providing support, in collaboration with relevant actors • Periodically update, through questionnaires and other initiatives, the implementation of activities and projects identified as urgent and immediate in NAPAs submitted to the secretariat • Identify technical constraints encountered by LDCs
Paragraph 9 (b). To serve in an advisory capacity to the LDCs, for the preparation and strategy for implementation of NAPAs through, inter alia, workshops, upon request by the LDC Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide advice and support to LDCs through workshops and other outreach activities in the NAPA preparation and implementation phases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with other actors engaged in providing technical support to LDCs • Develop, as appropriate, guidance on NAPA implementation • Collect and disseminate information on financial and technical programmes available for NAPA preparation and implementation
Paragraph 9 (c). To advise on capacity-building needs for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs and to provide recommendations, as appropriate, taking into account the Capacity Development Initiative of the GEF and other relevant capacity-building initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advise on capacity-building needs and collaborate with other relevant initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify technical capacity-building needs in relation to access to and management of NAPA related data and information and explore solutions with relevant actors • Formulate general advice aimed at strengthening technical and institutional capacity to undertake the implementation and monitoring of projects
Paragraph 9 (d). To facilitate the exchange of information and to promote regional synergies, and synergies with other multilateral environment conventions, in the preparation and in the implementation strategy of NAPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue collaborative efforts aimed at promoting cooperation and synergy among and between expert groups and other relevant actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further discuss the need for collaboration, including through a joint workshop on adaptation and other cross-cutting issues • Cooperate with the EGTT in the assessment of adaptation technology needs of NAPAs • Cooperate with the CGE on integrating NAPAs into national communications • Participate in MEA and UNFCCC initiatives relevant to NAPA preparation and implementation
Paragraph 9 (e). To advise on the mainstreaming of NAPAs into regular development planning in the context of national strategies for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine NAPAs submitted to the secretariat in an effort to determine efforts aimed at mainstreaming of NAPAs into development planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine completed NAPAs in order to determine LDCs' efforts at mainstreaming NAPAs into development planning • Consider, on the basis of NAPA activities, means of providing advice on possible means for monitoring and assessing the impacts of NAPA projects at the programmatic level, including the integration of NAPAs into national strategies for sustainable development • Identify best practices for adaptation activities that could support the LDCs during the implementation phase

Note: CGE = Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention; EGTT = Expert Group on Technology Transfer; GEF = Global Environment Facility; LDC = least developed country; MEA = multilateral environmental agreements; NAPA = national adaptation programmes of action; SBI = Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

Annex II**Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 1 March 2006**

Ms. Madeleine Rose Diouf-Sarr ¹	Senegal
Mr. Chanel Iroi	Solomon Islands
Mr. Bubu Pateh Jallow	Gambia
Mr. Ahmed Jameel	Maldives
Mr. Mahmood H. Khan	Bangladesh
Mr. Erwin Kuenzi	Austria
Ms. Mariette Maillet	Canada
Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda
Mr. Samuel Raboqha	Lesotho
Mr. Karma L. Rapten	Bhutan
Mr. Almeida Alberto Siteo	Mozambique
Ms. Renata Vandeputte	Belgium

¹ Also a member of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.