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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Twenty-ninth session

Poznan, 1–10 December 2008

Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

Financial mechanism of the Convention

Least Developed Countries Fund

Implementation of national adaptation programmes of action including on accessing funds from the Least Developed Countries Fund

Submissions from Parties and relevant organizations

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its twenty-sixth session, invited Parties and intergovernmental organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2008, information on implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, including on accessing funds from the Least Developed Countries Fund, for consideration by the SBI at its twenty-ninth session.
2. The secretariat has received five such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic system, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

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PAPER NO. 1: MALAWI

MALAWI'S SUBMISSION ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND (LDCF); INFORMATION FROM PARTIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES OF ACTION (NAPAs), INCLUDING ON ACCESSING FUNDS FROM THE LDCF

Malawi joins the Chair of the LDCs, the Maldives, in welcoming the efforts made by the Conference of Parties (CoP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in successfully establishing the LDCF to finance implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) from the Least Developed Countries. We, together with all LDCs applaud the countries from the developed world that have contributed to the LDC Fund.

Malawi also notes with appreciation the efforts made by the GEF to shorten the project cycle approval period, as well as the adoption of "access on equitable basis" approach as this will enable Parties access the funds timely and equitably.

Malawi is among the Least Developed Countries that completed and submitted their NAPAs. We submitted ours in April 2006.

We appreciate the progress made so far by the GEF through the African Development Bank to prepare a full project proposal from our NAPA to assist the vulnerable communities in a number of selected administrative districts. We also further appreciate that the GEF Chief Executive Officer approved our Project Identification Facility (PIF) as prepared by the African Development Bank (AfDB) end of August 2007. This gave us a nod to proceed to prepare a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) for consideration.

We, however, wish to register our concerns at the speed the whole NAPA process is taking considering that section V paragraph 36 of the GEF Programming paper for funding the implementation of NAPAs under the LDC Trust Fund (GEF/C.28/18) calls for "expedited support to address the urgent and immediate needs of LDCs to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change". We believe therefore that it must not take this long to approve a NAPA project for the vulnerable communities to be assisted in a timely manner.

Further, we would like to join all the LDCs in the quest to explore how subsequent NAPAs shall be financed; we support the call for the participation of local institutions to participate in the implementation in order to enhance our capacities; and to reiterate that LDCs face human capacity constraints since each project requires setting up new teams that ultimately drain expertise from existing activities.

Allow us to close this statement by requesting for a more explicit capacity building approach in all GEF and NAPA projects.

PAPER NO. 2: MALDIVES ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

SUBMISSION BY MALDIVES ON BEHALF OF THE LDC GROUP

Information from Parties and Intergovernmental organizations on implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), including on accessing funds from the LDCF

Maldives, on behalf of the LDCs Group and its Member States, welcomes the opportunity to submit views of LDCs on NAPA preparation and implementation, to provide support and guidance to further work on LDCs.

The LDC Group understands that Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention recognizes the specific needs and special attention of the least developed countries (LDC) in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology. The Conference of the Parties, at its seventh session, adopted a package of decisions (decisions 5/CP.7, 7/CP.7, 27/CP.7, 28/CP.7 and 29/CP.7) to support LDCs in their adaptation actions to climate change. This included establishing the LDC work programme which was to provide, inter alia, support for the development of NAPAs by LDCs.

We also do realize that NAPAs were meant to provide a process for the LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regards to climate change adaptation. Our hope in this regard, therefore, has been that this special approach to addressing the needs of the LDCs would ultimately lead to enhancing our capacity to adapt to current climate variability, which in turn would help to address the adverse effects of climate change, sooner rather than later.

The LDCs Group believes that the various reports by the Secretariat on the preparation and implementation of NAPA in all provide an adequate and comprehensive basis for monitoring progress made on the implementation of the NAPAs. These reports include the documents prepared as a report of the stocktaking meeting on NAPAs that took place in Bangkok in September 2007 (FCCC/SBI/2007/32, and the LEG report of its twelfth session FCCC/SBI/2007/31), as well as other LEG reports including the latest one (FCCC/SBI/2008/14), which includes a synthesis of responses by many LDCs on a questionnaire that was conducted by the LEG during SBI 28 (June 2008).

We wish to welcome the information from the GEF, which indicates that, as at 29 September 2008, 48 LDCs have been supported by the GEF through its various implementing agencies to prepare NAPAs based on funds from the LDCF. Of this number, 38 have been completed and submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. The analysis of the long time it took to access funding and time to completion of NAPAs was discussed during the stocktaking meeting last year.

The LDCs Group wishes to register its dis-satisfaction on the speed at which the whole process of preparation has moved, and more so with the slow speed in arriving at implementation of projects on the ground, despite the fact that all countries followed the NAPA guidelines and, as required, integrated the NAPAs with national planning and development frameworks (e.g. poverty reduction strategy papers and the United Nations Millenium Development Goals). In addition to concerns already expressed and noted in the reports mentioned above, we wish to specially highlight the following challenges that we still meet in the process to prepare and implement our NAPAs:

1. Delays in accessing funds for actual project implementation activities in the country on the ground, after the formal GEF approval at the various stages (PIF and PPG, etc),
2. Change in the use of the PDF-A to a PIF in the GEF project cycle caused a lot of delays due to re-formulation of project proposals (including previously approved projects), it is not clear how the new additional requirements for information now tally with the original COP guidance to the

GEF for the management of the LDCF for NAPA implementation, given the LDCF was supposed to be managed independently of other GEF funds,

3. A gap in guidance for the preparation of NAPAs from the GEF Implementing Agencies to reflect the differing information requirements in completing the PIF.

At this juncture, the Group would like to suggest the following measures targeted at further expediting the process so as to assist the communities that are vulnerable and whose resilience is already very low:

1. Reduce the requirements for showing adaptation-additionality of proposed projects, since the co-funding scale using the GEF sliding scale is really supposed to determine contribution from the LDCF rather than basing the contribution on the cost of addressing the additional concerns due to climate change.
2. The LEG should prepare templates for common project types to assist in project development to facilitate implementation of the NAPAs, since most of the delays seem to be associated with a lengthy project proposal preparation phase.
3. We propose conduct of training workshops on project development and project management, including how to absorb funds once they become available in meeting project objectives.
4. We propose that the SBI 29 take a second look at the LDC Work programme that is given in Decision 5/CP.7, broaden it to include more work on adaptation, and then design an approach for its speedy implementation. The list of activities should be expanded to move beyond “clean energy” and NAPA to also emphasize areas such as the following:
 - a. Strengthening/ Establishment of Research and Systematic Observatory stations
 - b. Capacity building for development of technology and their transfer for adaptation
5. Support the exchange of experience and lessons through regional meetings, to the benefit of the Parties in various stages of adaptation. For instance, Parties would have found it very useful to have budgeted for developing an implementation strategy and project proposals, in their funding for the preparation of NAPAs, and there are useful solutions for common adverse effects for which others could learn from.
6. There is a desire to update priorities in the NAPA regularly as well as a need to use the results from the NAPA in conducting vulnerability and adaptation assessment under their second and subsequent communication.
7. There is a need for staff training at the country offices of the GEF agencies in the procedures for accessing the LDCF for NAPA preparation and implementation was topical so that all agencies adopt a consistent approach;
8. Promoting knowledge sharing through regional workshop to discuss NAPA implementation, support, best practices and technologies needs to be encouraged.

PAPER NO. 3: SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka wishes to congratulate the Secretariat and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for their assistance to Least developed Countries through the LDCF.

Developing countries like Sri Lanka would like to share experiences with Least Developed Countries regarding development and implementation of NAPAs.

PAPER NO. 4: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Supporting LDCs with implementing NAPA follow up projects

UNDP, 27 October 2008

On-going support

- UNDP is supporting 31 NAPA projects.
- UNDP is supporting NAPA follow-up projects in 27 countries (see table)
- 70% of the submitted proposals under the Least Developed Countries Fund are supported by UNDP (<http://www.undp.org/climatechange/adapt>)
- 66 NAPA priorities have been addressed through the through the 18 LDCF projects that have already been submitted and/or approved

Streamlining processing and substantive support to LDCs on project formulation and implementation

Development of in-country capacities to support programming

1. UNDP has taken a number of steps to ensure that procedural responses to country requests for support with NAPA follow up projects is as efficient as possible. A team of Regional Technical Advisors based in Pretoria, Dakar and Bangkok, with backstopping provided by Global Technical Advisors, is available to support country offices and their partners with project design and implementation. UNDP is also in consultation with governments in order to improve the speed of in-country consultation and approval processes.
2. UNDP is currently undertaking various initiatives to strengthen internal capacity to respond to country requests. First, a number of UNDP Country offices are recruiting additional adaptation specialists (e.g., Mozambique, Madagascar, Zambia, Malawi) to provide increased support to countries. UNDP is also investing in training regionally-based international staff to provide technical support for project development. Secondly, UNDP has been conducting a series of training sessions for country office and regionally-based staff on programming adaptation and will launch a web-based training module on climate change in late 2008.

Partnerships to support country efforts

3. UNDP is working in partnership with specialised agencies to offer Governments broad-based implementation support. Currently, UNDP is collaborating with UNEP in Comoros and Rwanda, FAO in Lesotho, African Development Bank in Burundi. In addition, products and services developed through partnerships with Asian Development Bank and World Bank in other programming areas are brought to bear in LDCF programming. Moreover, UNDP's in-house centres, such as the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (for specialist input on disaster risk reduction, <http://www.undp.org/cpr>) and Drylands Development Centre (for input on drought management and land degradation issues, <http://www.undp.org/drylands>) are also utilized.

Programming and Methodological Guidance

4. UNDP promotes the use of country programmes as an entry point for adaptation activities. The NAPA is promoted as a platform on which to attract bilateral funding for adaptation and to develop a broader programme based approach.
5. UNDP has designed programming guidance and methodological tools to support adaptation. Operational technical guidance on key questions, setting up effective implementation arrangements, etc. have been created and shared with project proponents. This work is reflected in a number of GEF documents on Monitoring and Evaluation and Results Based Management and has been shared with

other agencies in order to further develop and streamline technical and operational guidance. (<http://www.undp.org/climatechange/adapt/program.html>)

Global/Regional initiatives to complement LDCF programming

6. UNDP is launching a number of global and regional initiatives that have relevance to LDCF programming. These include:
- *UNDP/Spain MDG Achievement Fund* (\$22 million, launched in 2007, <http://www.undp.org/mdgf>);
 - *Supporting Integrated and Comprehensive Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation in Africa* programme (\$92.1 million, UNDP will assist 21 countries in Africa in implementing integrated and comprehensive adaptation actions and resilience plans);
 - *Capacity Development for National Policy Makers to Address Climate Change* (\$7 million, the project strengthens the national capacity of developing countries to assess climate change policy options across different sectors and economic activities, which could serve as inputs to their national positions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change);
 - *Climate Change and Development – Adapting by REducing Vulnerability* (\$9 million, CC-DARE is a three-year programme, in partnership with UNEP, focusing on supporting sub-Saharan African countries to identify climate risks and ensure that development efforts serve to reduce, rather than increase, vulnerability to climate change), global initiative to promote *Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change* (\$10 million, http://www.undp-adaptation.org/projects/websites/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=203),
 - *Integrating Climate Change Risks into Development Planning and Programming* (\$3 million initiative, ICCPP will assist developing countries to design climate change strategies, action and investment plans, programmes and related products)
 - *Towards Carbon Neutral and Climate Change Resilient Territories* (a service platform that local decision-makers and planners can use to identify, formulate and implement strategies and various adaptation and mitigation options in the context of local/regional development).

In addition, GEF-UNDP's supports LDC's to programme adaptation by providing services through the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP: <http://ncsp.undp.org>), which develops and disseminates guidance to NC teams on mainstreaming climate change into national development through the NC process and on conducting policy relevant Vulnerability & Adaptation assessments, and the GEF/UNDP/WB/UNEP Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM: <http://www.adaptationlearning.net>), which supports evolving efforts to integrate adaptation to climate change in development planning by providing a knowledge-sharing platform that accelerates the process of learning through experience.

QUICK FACTS

REGION	STATUS	# OF COUNTRIES
Africa E&S	1. Project proposal under preparation	3
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	2
Africa E&S Total		6
Africa W&C	1. Project proposal under preparation	4
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	2
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	5
Africa W&C Total		11
Arab States	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
Arab States Total		2
Asia	1. Project proposal under preparation	2
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
	3. Project under implementation	1
Asia Total		5
LAC	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
LAC Total		1
Pacific	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
	2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	1
Pacific Total		2
Grand Total		27

STATUS	# OF COUNTRIES
1. Project proposal under preparation	9
2. Project proposal submitted and/or cleared or under implementation	17
3. Project under implementation	1
Grand Total	27

PAPER NO. 5: UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Supporting LDCs in the Implementation of NAPAs
UNEP, November 3, 2008

On-going support for NAPA implementation:

- UNEP supported the preparation of NAPAs for 15 countries, 2 of which have just begun and the remainder which have been completed.
- UNEP is currently working to support NAPA follow-up projects in 8 countries. At the time of writing, 3 of those concepts have been approved, 3 have been submitted for approval or are about to be, and 2 are under preparation.
- 7 out of 8 of these follow-up projects are in Africa while one is in Asia.
- The subjects covered in the follow up projects are determined by the priorities identified in the NAPAs and are primarily in the areas of flooding in coastal zones and watersheds, enhancing early warning systems for climate change monitoring and policy mainstreaming of adaptation to climate change.

Lessons Learned from the Preparation of NAPAs

- In 2007/08, UNEP launched an independent evaluation of the preparation phase of the NAPAs to which it provided support, with a view to informing improvements to the preparation process as well as tailoring UNEP's support to follow-up projects. The points below are excerpts from this evaluation.
- The report covered 13 countries and included desk studies, field visits, questionnaires and interviews with NAPA teams and other stakeholders in the countries. Country reports were shared with each team as well as a consolidated report which was shared with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) for their consideration.
- Most NAPAs were considered as presenting a high degree of relevance and potential synergies in relation to country priorities, and in a few cases, evidence of NAPA integration into regular country planning processes has been found. The selected adaptation options can also be considered highly relevant as compared to development priorities and needs, but presented varying degrees of relevance in relation to climate change.
- Most countries acknowledged that the preparation phase itself provided an important learning opportunity, including through the creation of dynamic multi-disciplinary teams. In some cases, the NAPA can be said to have contributed to creating new paths of interdepartmental coordination (e.g. Rwanda, Uganda), a cadre of expertise that could be called upon for future initiatives (e.g. Mauritania and Uganda), or to setting new directions to existing policies (e.g. Haiti, Lesotho). This momentum is an important basis on which to build for the follow-up projects.
- The presentation of priority projects for implementation varied greatly across NAPAs, where some presented fewer larger programmes (i.e. 4 priority programs) while others presented longer lists of smaller projects (up to 40). The quality of project profiles and the level of cross-government buy-in to these priorities has influenced the ability to move quickly to the implementation phase. Many countries noted the high level of technical capacity required to develop follow-up project as an obstacle.
- The evaluation identified a number of needs for the follow-up stage including: greater capacity building for mainstreaming, methodologies for economic analysis, additional guidance on resource mobilization from varying sources, exchange platforms for country teams moving in to the implementation phase, further engagement of the private sector, training for the media to facilitate greater public participation and, strengthened meteorological services, climate data availability and climate monitoring capacity in all countries, so as to increase predictive capacity and to facilitate an ongoing process of adaptation.

Further Support for the Implementation of NAPAs:

In addition to direct support to LDCs for NAPA implementation projects, UNEP is launching a number of programmes and partnerships which will be leveraged to provide additional technical support to LDCs undertaking NAPA implementation. Some of these, where specific support to priorities identified in NAPAs is being developed include:

1. *Technical support to LDCs:* Recognizing that adaptation cuts across many sectors, increased engagement of sectoral expertise in supporting adaptation projects is needed. An adaptation training was organized in April 2008 to train UNEP experts working on water, coastal zone management, ecosystem services, land degradation, poverty reduction, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, chemicals management and capacity building in order to increase the technical expertise provided to countries. This new capacity is being used to provide support to the design of NAPA follow-up projects.
2. *Climate Change and Development – Adapting by REducing Vulnerability, CC-DARE,* is a three-year programme, in partnership with UNDP, focusing on supporting sub-Saharan African countries to identify climate risks and ensure that development efforts serve to reduce, rather than increase, vulnerability to climate change. Many of the pilot projects are also taking place in line with needs identified in NAPAs.
3. *UNEP* is a partner in the *Spanish MDG Achievement Fund*, led by UNDP. *UNEP* is working through this programme in four LDCs and synergies between these programs are being developed.
4. *UNEP* is also currently developing a *Global Adaptation Network* which aims to enhance the *adaptive* capacity of developing countries through mobilizing the world’s best knowledge and technologies to help build the climate resilience of vulnerable ecosystems and economies. It will have a strong focus on supporting the implementation of the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change through its contribution to local, national, regional and international climate change adaptation initiatives. Also, information needs required to strengthen NAPA implementation are being factored in to the design of the Network.
5. Phase I of the *UNEP GEF* funded project “*Assessment of Impacts of and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC)*” contributed substantively to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (Working Group II report) through bridging the knowledge gaps in the most vulnerable yet least developed countries. *UNEP* has started phase II, which will be focusing on vulnerability analysis and adaptation planning including capacity building in most vulnerable countries. The NAPA final evaluation and NAPA reports are also being assessed to design this program to deliver information which supports NAPA implementation.
