



Facilitator of Discussions on National Adaptation Plans

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Subject: Inputs to Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) on (a) the process to enable least developed country (LDC) Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing NAPAs; (b) The modalities and guidelines for least developed country Parties and other developing country Parties to employ the modalities formulated to support national adaptation plans.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) thanks the SBI for the opportunity to comment on the important work that is about to commence on National Adaptation Plans in 2011.

UNDP recognizes the value that National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) could potentially provide as a strategic national framework for climate change adaptation. In this context, it is important that further discussion on NAPs build on lessons learned from the design and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs). UNDP's experience in supporting countries to both formulate NAPAs – in 30 countries—and access finance for implementing NAPA priorities is relevant for the discussion on NAPs.

Based on this experience, UNDP would like to suggest consideration of the following factors in the context of the NAP-related discussions:

- A. **Holistic Framework:** NAPs provide an opportunity for countries to affect a transformative shift or expansion of the national framework for climate-resilient development. Rather than only providing ad hoc short-term and project-based measures, the NAP process should advance holistic approaches to climate change. Parties may therefore want to identify the most efficient and effective delivery mechanisms and develop realistic implementation targets. In this approach, the NAPs focus on results as opposed to activities.
- B. **Strategic Approach:** To pursue a holistic framework, Parties may choose to focus on a strategic approach that builds ownership to spur cross-government action on climate change adaptation. NAPs would then go beyond discrete activities that are limited by a time bound period. UNDP is of the view that the NAP process ought to lead to more than a document or 'programme of action' as the main output, and further inform national strategic processes.
- C. **Access to finance, including the private sector:** The discussions on NAPs ought to be in the context of positioning countries to benefit from the emerging architecture on climate change finance. In a departure from the NAPA process, NAPs need to be conceptualized, formulated and eventually implemented with the recognition that finance is going to be available from a broad range of sources and funds, including the private sector. Specifically, engaging with the private

sector could ensure that the public and private sector are pursuing common objectives in climate resilience and new products or services (such as green technologies, risk analysis, insurance) are available.

- D. **Consultative Process:** The NAPs, like the NAPAs, will benefit from an extensive consultative process during its formulation phase. At the same time, efforts should be made to promote engagement from an even wider cast of partners, especially drawing on sub-national government institutions, civil society, including women's groups and gender-focused organizations, and the private sector.
- E. **Long-term political ownership:** The NAP process should cultivate long-term political ownership. To ensure this ownership, a mechanism could be in place from the beginning of the NAP formulation phase. This mechanism can build on the NAPAs and complement the consultative process by targeting government officials and key development partners.
- F. **Analytic information:** The NAP process should also benefit from strengthened climate-related information that incorporates a substantive analysis of the short, medium and long term context. NAPs should incorporate a range of analyses already undertaken in National Communications, National Climate Profiles and Scenarios, and other relevant documents. There is also a need to disaggregate this data by gender, to ensure differing needs are met.
- G. **Institutional Coordination:** The NAPs provide for an opportunity to strengthen national systems and institutional capacity to make informed decisions on climate change and channel funds in an effective and transparent way. The process of NAP formulation can be the starting point for strengthening this capacity and promoting cross-governmental ownership of the process. Finance and Planning Ministries should play a more significant role than they did in the case of the NAPAs. Strong technical input and support from Environment Ministries and other line Ministries will be essential.
- H. **Link with ongoing National Development Processes (NDP) and Initiatives:** NAPs ought to be closely aligned (if not integrated) with national, sub-national and sectoral development priorities and plans, such as Green Low-Emission and Climate-Resilient Development Strategies. This includes alignment with the review cycle used for updating such plans. The strongest NAPAs are integrated into national and sectoral development plans with clear targets. To make this happen, countries may consider establishing cross-sectoral working groups, enhancing visibility at the political level, and strengthening the transparency and inclusiveness of the NDP. In this context, countries may wish to institute long-term (as opposed to project based) cross-sectoral platforms to facilitate NAP formulation, review, and oversight and avoid compartmentalization.
- I. **Consideration of Gender:** It is important for NAPs to be guided by gender equality principles. This means considering, assessing and analyzing the different gender-based vulnerabilities, coping abilities, capacities to adapt, and resiliencies in relation to climate change. There is also an opportunity to promote synergies between NAPs and gender in NDPs.
- J. **Partnerships with other Bodies and Processes:** It remains important to clearly indicate a relationship with other regional and international bodies that can contribute to capacity building in adaptation, such as the LDC Expert Group and the Nairobi Work Programme. It is also important to link up to and reference other international commitments and agreements including the Millennium Development Goals, Hyogo Framework for Action, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and others.

UNDP recognizes that the discussion concerning NAPs is still nascent and looks forward to hearing the expectations LDC Parties have for NAPs and the role the plans can play in supporting national adaptation efforts. UNDP is currently involved in discussions taking place in the context of LDCs through the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and stands ready to assist Parties as requested, bringing to bear its knowledge and expertise. UNDP recognizes that NAPs can provide an important opportunity for countries to accelerate achievement of their national objectives and pursue Low-Emission and Climate-Resilient Development.