



Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Thirty-seventh session

Doha, 26 November to 1 December 2012

Item 7(b) of the provisional agenda

Matters relating to Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention

Matters relating to the least developed countries

Report on the twenty-second meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This document reports on the twenty-second meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), held in Funafuti, Tuvalu, from 26 to 29 September 2012, and provides an update on the efforts of the LEG to implement its work. It includes a summary of the work of the LEG on the following: technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan (NAP) process, including the technical guidelines for NAPs and identifying support needs; support for the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the least developed countries (LDC) work programme; and the organization of the regional training workshops on adaptation for the LDCs for 2012–2013. It also includes progress on outreach activities of the LEG, interaction with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies, linkages with other bodies under the Convention and collaboration with other organizations, agencies and regional centres in supporting the LDCs. Furthermore, it elaborates on the interaction of the LEG with the Tuvalu NAPA team.

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

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Mandate	1–2	3
II. Summary of the twenty-second meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.....	3–66	3
A. Proceedings	3–5	3
B. Status of the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action	6–10	3
C. Technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan process	11–23	4
D. Regional training workshops for 2012–2013.....	24–29	7
E. Technology in national adaptation programmes of action.....	30–33	8
F. Outreach on national adaptation programmes of action, the least developed countries work programme, national adaptation plans and the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.....	34–38	9
G. Monitoring and evaluation of national adaptation programmes of action and the least developed countries work programme.....	39	10
H. Conducting in-depth case studies in the least developed countries	40–42	11
I. Linkages with other bodies under the Convention	43–49	11
J. Discussion with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies.....	50–60	12
K. Collaboration with other relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres.....	61–62	13
L. Interaction with the Tuvalu national adaptation programme of action ..	63–66	14
III. Update on priority activities of the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2012–2013.....	67–68	14
Annex		
Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 26 September 2012		16

I. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by 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). Under its current term (2011–2015), the LEG mandate includes providing support to the least developed countries (LDCs) on NAPAs, the LDC work programme and the national adaptation plan (NAP) process.

2. In response to decision 6/CP.16, the LEG developed a work programme for 2012–2013¹ at its twenty-first meeting, which was considered by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its thirty-sixth session. The SBI endorsed the work programme of the LEG for 2012–2013 and requested the LEG to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions,² in accordance with decision 6/CP.16.

II. Summary of the twenty-second meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

3. The twenty-second meeting of the LEG was held in Funafuti, Tuvalu, from 26 to 29 September 2012.

4. The meeting was opened jointly with the LEG regional training workshop for the Pacific LDCs by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Mr. Willy Telavi. He welcomed the LEG and the participants to the workshop in Tuvalu. He highlighted the particular vulnerability of Tuvalu, as a low-lying coral atoll, to the impacts of climate change. He also noted the importance of the LEG and its support to the LDCs and voiced his pleasure in hosting its twenty-second meeting and the workshop.

5. During the meeting, the LEG focused its work on technical guidelines for the NAP process, support needs for the NAP process, regional training workshops on adaptation for the LDCs for 2012–2013, preparation and implementation of NAPAs, LEG outreach activities, case studies of existing national adaptation strategies and plans, adaptation technology for the LDCs, monitoring and evaluation of NAPAs and the LDC work programme, in-depth case studies in the LDCs, mobilization and collaboration with relevant organizations, agencies, regional centres and networks, and linkages with other bodies under the Convention.

B. Status of the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

1. Status of the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action

6. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) reported that, as at 29 September 2012, 49 LDCs had been supported with funding for the preparation of their NAPAs with grants amounting to USD 11.76 million. Out of those, 47 LDCs have successfully completed their

¹ FCCC/SBI/2012/7, annex I. A detailed version of the work programme, including specific objectives, expected outcomes and a timeline, is available on the UNFCCC website at <<http://unfccc.int/6897>>.

² FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraph 88.

NAPAs. Of the two remaining, Myanmar is in the final stages of NAPA preparation and Somalia, which received funding in June 2012, is in the early stages of preparation.

7. At least three LDCs, including Bangladesh, Bhutan and Senegal, have revised and/or updated their NAPAs. The LEG took note that the LDCs continue to rely on technical guidance and advice in revising and updating their NAPAs and that it stands ready to provide support upon request.

2. Status of the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

8. With regard to the implementation of NAPAs, the GEF reported that of the 47 LDCs that have completed their NAPAs, 45 had officially submitted one or more NAPA projects to the GEF in the form of a project identification form (PIF). Twenty-five countries had submitted at least two projects and 10 had submitted three or more projects.

9. The GEF indicated that, in total, 82 projects (comprising six medium-sized projects and 76 full-sized projects) had been approved by the GEF Council, with Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) grants amounting to USD 357.85 million. Of the projects approved, 42 had been endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF and are under various stages of implementation.

10. The GEF further reported that, as at 31 August 2012, donors had pledged USD 537.99 million to the LDCF, and that the new ceiling for each LDC for implementing NAPA projects had been set at USD 20 million, based on the principle of equitable access.

C. Technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan process

1. Technical guidelines for national adaptation plans

11. The COP, by decision 5/CP.17, adopted the initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs by the LDC Parties.³ It requested the LEG to prepare technical guidelines for the NAP process based on the initial guidelines. The LEG continued its work on the technical guidelines based on the approach discussed during the twenty-first meeting of the LEG.⁴

12. Following the structure contained in the initial guidelines, the LEG elaborated ideas on the steps, guiding questions and tasks for each of the phases and steps of the NAP process. It considered options for decision support tools, the expected outputs and the components of a monitoring and evaluation system for the respective phases and steps of the NAP process.

13. The LEG discussed approaches to enable each country to define its entry point, based on existing circumstances and progress in addressing adaptation at the national level. The LEG further discussed potential decision-making processes and the role of various national institutional arrangements for an effective NAP process. The LEG noted that in addition to existing national climate change focal points, the NAP process will benefit from the engagement of broader institutional arrangements covering all dimensions of society, as well as scientific and/or research institutions.

14. The LEG also touched upon potential reporting channels for the LDCs on their NAP process, which included communication of progress through national communications, wide dissemination of a completed NAP as part of the NAP process, including through the secretariat, and updates on the progress of the NAP process through annual information notes and a questionnaire, including using a web-based questionnaire, managed by the LEG.

³ Decision 5/CP.17, annex.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2012/7, paragraphs 22–27.

15. The LEG also discussed its activities to support the NAP process, including through the provision of information material to support the launch of the national process and subsequent steps. In addition, it touched upon the need for strengthening the role of the national climate change focal points in initiating and guiding the process. It was agreed that clearer guidance is needed on how to monitor and evaluate the NAP process, including the establishment of baselines and the formulation of appropriate indicators. The LEG will address that issue through the elaboration of the monitoring and evaluation approach paper and case studies on NAPAs, the LDC work programme and NAPs.

16. The LEG worked on the technical guidelines in preparation for the review meeting on those guidelines, which took place on 29–31 October 2012, in Bonn, Germany.

2. Support needs for national adaptation plans

17. The COP requested⁵ the LEG to identify support needs for the process of the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

18. In considering that item, the LEG reflected on its past work in analysing adaptation projects in the LDCs, in particular the experience of the LDCs in implementing NAPA projects, as well as other programmes such as the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience⁶ and the Africa Adaptation Programme.⁷ The LEG also used the results of the country interviews it conducts during the subsidiary body sessions. The interviews provide an opportunity for the LEG to collect information from the LDCs on NAPAs, the LDC work programme and the NAP process. The LEG recognized that the LDCs are at different stages in terms of their capacity and needs in addressing adaptation, and that each country will likely need to select specific tasks under the NAP process based on national circumstances.

19. The LEG identified the following initial list of areas for which support would be needed by the LDCs in undertaking the NAP process, and which could be delivered through the various modalities listed in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 12:

(a) Defining capacities for essential functions at the national level necessary to address adaptation, the identification of gaps based on an analysis of existing capacities and the implementation of strategies and activities to address the gaps;

(b) Understanding of existing policies and how they address and enable climate change adaptation with a view to revising or designing new legislation and policies, where needed, to facilitate successful adaptation;

(c) Design of research and systematic observations to support vulnerability and risk analysis and adaptation planning;

(d) Data collection, management and archiving, and subsequent analysis covering all relevant sectors and disciplines, including analysis of observed and simulated climate data, and subsequent presentation of such data and analyses to various stakeholders to support decision-making;

(e) Use of appropriate geospatial data management and analysis tools in managing data and information over space and time, to underpin assessments as part of adaptation planning and the iterative and ongoing nature of such assessments as part of the NAP process;

(f) Analysis of climate data and the development and application of climate change scenarios in assessing climate change risks at the national, sectoral and local levels;

⁵ Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 16.

⁶ <<http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/ppcr>>.

⁷ <<http://www.undp-aap.org/>>.

- (g) Design and conduct of vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including the development and application of assessment models, application of applicable decision support tools, such as cost–benefit analysis, and the ranking of adaptation options;
- (h) Development of strategies, projects and programmes to support the implementation of specific adaptation activities under the NAP process, taking into account existing adaptation efforts and how financing is being provided;
- (i) Synthesizing the best available science on climate change, as well as other forms of knowledge, and translating it into support for decision-making, including how to make such decisions considering the uncertainty of future climate change;
- (j) Integration of NAPs into national development plans and priorities, including by facilitating recognition of climate risks and the need for adaptation within relevant policies, integrating climate change vulnerability and risks in the formulation of policies, and prioritizing resource allocation to the areas, sectors or populations most at risk;
- (k) Access to information and experience of others in applying different technologies in adaptation to facilitate the selection, installation and operation of appropriate technologies for local problems;
- (l) Financial and technical support for the NAP process, including for the formulation and implementation of adaptation measures as well as identified gaps in capacity for successful adaptation planning;
- (m) Design and operation of innovative financing for climate change, including issues of direct access, absorption of funds and setting up trust funds and other national climate change funds;
- (n) Design of effective monitoring and evaluation systems, including for overall coordination of work at the national or sectoral levels, in defining objectives and targets, selecting indicators and means of verification, identifying data sources and collection methods, supporting data and information management, undertaking special assessments, and facilitating reporting and review;
- (o) Capture and management of knowledge on impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptations, to build up a decision-support system for future adaptation planning, including through the development of knowledge bases and expert or rule-based systems;
- (p) Development and deployment of communications, public awareness and outreach on adaptation and the facilitation of public access to information on climate change adaptation, including an easy to read short summary of the NAP process that could be used by the LDCs and translated into local languages;
- (q) Communication of up-to-date information on organizations, regional centres and networks that can provide support to the LDCs on the NAP process, including on financial support, technical guides and papers, and capacity-building;
- (r) Exchange of case studies, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation at the national, regional and international levels;
- (s) Communicating the above needs through an international event that could bring together the LEG, LDC Parties, adaptation practitioners, organizations, development agencies, regional centres and networks, as a way to: set a stage for sharing information on the NAP process and how it will build on the NAPAs and fit in with other existing adaptation initiatives at the national level in LDCs; and to provide an opportunity for the LDCs to communicate their support needs for the NAP process, and to jointly discuss support activities for the LDCs for the NAP process with the entities mentioned in this paragraph.

3. Compilation of case studies on national adaptation strategies and plans

20. In its work programme for 2012–2013, the LEG compiled information on approaches and steps used by different countries in designing medium- and long-term adaptation plans, using a case study approach.

21. During the meeting, the LEG discussed in detail examples from Nigeria, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America showing their progress from starting to address adaptation, to the process of institutionalizing adaptation and the development of national adaptation plans. The case studies included the years in which milestones were reached and the respective administrative levels involved. The LEG further looked into examples from other locations, namely Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, the New York State of the United States and the Caribbean Community States.

22. The LEG acknowledged the usefulness of looking at other country examples and identified important lessons and key points to consider from the case studies, including the institutional set-up for developing NAPs, legislative requirements of adaptation activities, useful indicators for prioritization and timelines considered in the examples for the implementation process.

23. The LEG also identified several aspects to be further analysed and elaborated upon, including the following:

- (a) The financial resources used by countries to produce their plans;
- (b) The institutional arrangements, especially those of the LDCs that have embarked on adaptation planning;
- (c) The legal requirements of adaptation activities in the case study countries;
- (d) Additional case studies showing different approaches and an analytical comparison, for example with regard to the prioritization of adaptation actions, mainstreaming adaptation into development planning, and best practices and lessons learned.

D. Regional training workshops for 2012–2013

24. The LEG is scheduled to conduct regional training workshops on adaptation for the LDCs in accordance with its work programme for 2012–2013. At its twenty-first meeting, the LEG agreed on the objectives, expected outcomes, topics, methodology, selection of participants and tentative schedule for the workshops.⁸

25. The LEG worked on the final elements of the training materials for the workshops, mainly focusing on tailoring the interactive discussions, specific themes and case studies for the Pacific LDCs workshop that took place from 28 September to 3 October 2012 in Funafuti.

26. The LEG further discussed the logistical arrangements for the remaining regional workshops, one for anglophone African LDCs, one for francophone LDCs and one for Asian LDCs. Lusophone LDCs will be able to attend either the African anglophone or francophone training workshops. The LEG agreed to strive to hold all three workshops in the first half of the year.

27. The LEG discussed how the training materials for the workshops could be enriched with case studies and examples drawn from key issues specific to each region, drawing

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2012/7, paragraphs 15–18.

upon resource persons with expertise in each of the regions. The materials would also need to be translated into appropriate languages.

28. In organizing the Pacific LDCs workshop, the LEG worked together with various organizations, agencies and regional centres, through an advisory group that consisted of the GEF and its agencies, regional organizations and development agencies in the Pacific region, and representatives of the Pacific LDCs. In particular, the GEF and three of its agencies (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), two regional organizations (the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)), two development agencies (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)) and the United States Agency for International Development ADAPT Asia-Pacific Project played significant roles in developing materials related to specific topics of the workshop. Representatives of AusAID, FAO, the GEF, GIZ, SPC and SPREP attended the workshop and served as resource persons.

29. The LEG collected early feedback from the participants and the resource persons on the workshop in order to assess the impact of the workshop and potential areas for improvement. The feedback pointed to the need to include more examples and case studies from the region in the training materials. The LEG agreed that overall feedback on the workshop will be collected through a questionnaire, the results of which will be compiled and used to inform the work of the LEG, including the organization of the remaining workshops.

E. Technology in national adaptation programmes of action

30. The LEG discussed the role and application of technology in addressing vulnerability and adaptation in the LDCs, looking at both 'hard' and 'soft' technologies. The LEG addressed a number of opportunities for the application of adaptation technology in different sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, water resources, coastal zones, urban areas and human health.

31. Case studies from different regions were discussed, including a glacial lake outburst flood early warning system in Bhutan, a climate-resilient rice production system in Sierra Leone and floating islands in Maldives. The LEG noted the importance of exploring other examples on adaptation technology.

32. The LEG further considered the potential challenges for technology transfer and diffusion, with human capacity emerging as a key challenge for the LDCs in terms of the operation, installation and maintenance of adaptation technologies. Members discussed the importance of sharing practical information about what technologies exist and how they can be accessed.

33. The LEG proposed expanding its outreach efforts on adaptation technologies, including through an expansion of the local coping strategies database.⁹ That will be done with a view to promoting the exchange of best practices and innovative ideas among countries and regions. That effort will be further enhanced through the best practices platform on the LDC portal.¹⁰ The LEG Chair will interact with the Chair of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to explore how to best collaborate on its work on adaptation technologies.

⁹ <<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation>>.

¹⁰ <unfccc.int/4751>.

F. Outreach on national adaptation programmes of action, the least developed countries work programme, national adaptation plans and the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

1. Best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the least developed countries

34. The LEG discussed the outline and the progress made in drafting the second volume of the best practices and lessons learned publication. The publication will focus on the implementation aspects of NAPAs, including the experience of the GEF agencies, and other adaptation initiatives in the LDCs.

35. The publication will present best practices and lessons learned on the following themes:

(a) The role of institutional arrangements in ensuring effective alignment of adaptation planning with broader development planning and national systems;

(b) Effective coordination of national programmes to ensure long-term sustainability;

(c) The role of the climate change focal point in promoting the active engagement of relevant stakeholders within and outside the government;

(d) Strengthening considerations of vulnerability by targeting vulnerable groups;

(e) Approaches for the mobilization of financial resources, including the organization of donor round tables and the setting up of national trust funds;

(f) Experience with accessing resources under the LDCF, including adopting a programmatic approach at the national level as well as implementing adaptation measures that are not only tied to capacity-building but also to concrete projects;

(g) Experience with developing and managing adaptation projects, taking into account the diverse procedures among GEF agencies and other development agencies and stakeholders;

(h) The importance of documenting the national adaptation process from data or information and assessments, through to the terminal and subsequent reports of adaptation projects;

(i) Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures at the project and national levels for planning and implementation;

(j) Consideration of deploying sectoral approaches at the regional level.

2. Least developed countries portal

36. The LEG discussed the progress made in the new phase of the enhancement of the LDC portal, including progress in designing a NAPA information system and enhanced web pages on information about the work of the LEG. It noted that this will form only one part of its greater outreach effort, given the difficulties some LDCs face in terms of Internet access. It discussed the different components of the enhancement, which are as follows:

(a) An online collaboration platform for the LEG, the LDCs and relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres to share information, experiences and best practices and lessons learned on NAPAs, the NAP process, the LDC work programme and the work of the LEG;

(b) A NAPA information system to showcase information on NAPAs submitted to the secretariat, including revisions and updates, identified priorities, including by sectors and/or themes, projects being implemented under the LDCF and any other information from relevant partners on the implementation of NAPAs;

(c) A NAP common information system to serve as a central hub for information on the NAP process to support COP considerations on NAPs, to show progress made by countries on their national processes, including a repository of relevant NAP documents, and to support the LDCs with links to relevant data, information and tools for the NAP process, to be populated with inputs from countries as well as from relevant organizations, regional centres and networks, and the research community. That would be realized through enhanced mobilization of those in a position to contribute data and information;

(d) A best practices and lessons learned platform as a central knowledge hub for sharing country experiences, case studies, and outreach materials, best practices and lessons learned in the LDCs in addressing adaptation through NAPAs, NAPs and the LDC work programme;

(e) A LEG platform that will serve as a user-friendly interactive interface for the compilation and dissemination of technical guides, tools, information and outputs of the LEG for easy access by the LDC Parties;

(f) An LDC monitor that will serve as an information system to support monitoring and evaluation of adaptation in the LDCs through NAPAs, NAPs and the LDC work programme.

37. The LEG devoted time to further refine the concept and requirements of the NAP common information system, which can serve as a global information hub for the NAP process. It will offer a gateway to the NAP technical guidelines, global and regional data and information that would be useful for the NAP process in countries, access to commonly used tools and models, and links to information sources from partnering agencies and organizations involved in supporting the NAP process. The common information system is motivated by lessons learned from the NAPA process, where multiple web sites offered information on NAPAs, but over time some sites were not updated, leading to less than optimal information being shared on NAPAs. The LEG hopes that this will reduce confusion among the LDCs and other stakeholders. As with the development of any information system, the LEG will pilot the system and collect feedback to further enhance its design, and will carefully assess its utility.

3. Least developed countries information note

38. As another form of outreach, the LEG will continue to share on a regular basis news on the LDC work programme through an information note to the LDCs, as a means of further enhancing communication between the LEG and the LDCs. The next information note will be sent before COP 18 and will provide an update of NAPA preparation and implementation, funds available per LDC under the LDCF, a short summary of the LEG's twenty-second meeting and training workshop for the Pacific LDCs, and any upcoming deadlines for invitation for submissions from Parties under the UNFCCC process.

G. Monitoring and evaluation of national adaptation programmes of action and the least developed countries work programme

39. The LEG discussed the outline for an approach paper on the monitoring and evaluation of NAPAs and the LDC work programme. It recommended balancing the approach paper to give equal recognition to the monitoring and the evaluation of national

adaptation processes. For that, it suggested defining clear and, to the extent possible, quantitative goals for the NAPA process and the LDC work programme. Furthermore, it recommended departing from a general discussion of the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation to a more detailed analysis of requirements for a national monitoring and evaluation system. The LEG agreed to consider the approach paper at its next meeting.

H. Conducting in-depth case studies in the least developed countries

40. The LEG discussed progress and further actions in conducting in-depth case studies in the LDCs. The case studies are, according to the LEG, an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the LDCs' experiences with NAPAs, the LDC work programme and the NAP process, with a view to informing the LEG on how to best structure and deliver its support to the LDCs in those areas. Detailed objectives and activities for the case studies are contained in the report on the twenty-first meeting of the LEG.

41. The LEG agreed that the in-depth case studies will, in the future, place more emphasis on the link with the case studies on national adaptation processes and strategies, in addition to NAPAs and the LDC work programme. Furthermore, the LEG agreed that the case studies will need to include an understanding of experiences and capacity needs in the LDCs with respect to the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, and the costing of adaptation measures, including the management of financing for adaptation at the national level.

42. The LEG noted that two case studies, for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and for Malawi, had been carried out. The LEG agreed that additional in-depth case studies need to be carried out in more countries, and that they should seek to strike a balance across all the geographical regions in order to cover the different contexts.

I. Linkages with other bodies under the Convention

43. The LEG discussed linkages with other bodies under the Convention, in particular the Adaptation Committee (AC), the TEC and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE).

44. The LEG discussed linkages with the AC based on relevant mandates from the COP, such as in decisions 2/CP.17 and 5/CP.17.¹¹ The LEG raised the following recommendations for possible consideration by the AC as it undertakes its work:

(a) The AC would integrate and communicate the support needs of the LDC Parties for NAPAs while performing its function on exchanging information with relevant Convention bodies and others, including the Standing Committee and the TEC, on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building, with a view to enhancing support to the LDC Parties in addressing adaptation;

(b) The AC would prioritize the consideration of regional centres and networks supporting adaptation in the LDCs when making recommendations to Parties on ways to enhance the role of regional centres and networks in supporting adaptation at the regional and national levels.

45. The LEG also noted that it has information on experiences, best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, particularly through NAPAs, the

¹¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 99 and 104, and decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 17.

LDC work programme and NAPs, that the AC could draw upon in undertaking its functions.

46. Given the central role of the TEC in addressing technology issues, the LEG discussed the need for coordination with the TEC on that area. As a first contribution, the LEG identified issues relating to adaptation technology in the LDCs and the NAPs, to help the TEC to focus on issues that would directly benefit the LDCs. It suggested that the TEC could assist in providing technical advice and guidance on the following:

- (a) How the LDCs can address the barriers to adaptation technology development and transfer;
- (b) Policies and programme priorities related to adaptation technology development and transfer for the LDCs for the NAP process;
- (c) Appropriate adaptation technologies (through feasibility analyses and cost-benefit analyses), as well as their installation, operation and maintenance.

47. The LEG discussed the possibility of the LEG Chair meeting the Chair of the TEC during SBI sessions to exchange ideas on collaboration. The LEG agreed to communicate with the TEC in the coming months, to further advance collaboration.

48. It was also discussed that the Climate Technology Centre and Network could play a role as an additional support mechanism for the above-mentioned support needs and that the LEG can learn more about opportunities for utilizing its outputs.

49. With respect to the collaboration with the CGE, the LEG agreed that the Chair of the LEG will communicate with the Chair of the CGE to share information on the regional training workshops for 2012–2013.

J. Discussion with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies

1. Proceedings

50. The LEG held discussions with the GEF on the third and fourth days of its meeting. The discussions focused on the latest experiences, challenges and lessons learned in accessing resources from the LDCF for the implementation of NAPAs, updates on a UNDP and UNEP proposal for a support programme to assist the LDCs in the NAP process, collaboration on the NAP technical guidelines and the regional training workshops for 2012–2013.

51. UNDP and UNEP also made written inputs to the meeting on their support to the NAPA process and on their planned support to the LDCs for the NAP process.

2. Main issues raised

52. The GEF provided an overview of the status of the preparation and implementation of NAPAs (see paras. 6–10 above), key trends and support provided by the GEF to the other elements of the LDC work programme as well as to the NAP process.

53. With regard to the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, the GEF noted that observed trends show that countries are making progress in accessing resources under the LDCF, particularly in increasing project size and decreasing the time between NAPA completion and the approval of the first NAPA implementation project and between project approval and endorsement by the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF.

54. The GEF provided information on its support, through the provision of funds under the LDCF, to the following elements of the LDC work programme:

(a) Strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of NAPAs;

(b) Technology transfer;

(c) Public awareness, capacity-building for negotiators and strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points.

55. The GEF underlined that it stands ready, together with its agencies, to support the NAP process in the LDCs through the LDCF based on its experience and through its operational modalities. However, it informed the LEG that additional, designated contributions to the LDCF would be needed for the GEF to support the NAP process.

56. The UNDP input focused on its support to the LDCs in accessing funding through the LDCF, the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), the GEF Trust Fund, the Adaptation Fund (AF) and bilateral sources (Australia and Japan). It listed the projects supported in different LDCs and elaborated on the LDCs currently supported to convert approved concepts (PIFs) to implementable projects. It also discussed the LDCs that are currently supported to access additional finance from the LDCF (concept development) and highlighted support for NAPA priorities.

57. Other relevant support provided by UNDP to the LDCs includes support with strengthening the capacities of ministries of finance and planning. That support includes climate public expenditure and institutional reviews, the Capacity Building Programme on the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation and the Boots on the Ground Programme, which aims to improve the capacity of governments and other stakeholders to integrate climate change concerns into development planning and policy processes.

58. The input also reported on UNDP's efforts in supporting the LDCs to undertake NAPs, through support with readiness preparation, accessing finance and implementing NAP priorities that emerge.

59. UNEP also made an input on its continued support to the LDCs. It mentioned how it supports the LDCs to access funds from the LDCF, SCCF and AF and how it implements the UNEP Ecosystem-based Adaptation Programme and other related initiatives. It elaborated on progress made by different LDCs in both NAPA preparation and implementation.

60. In terms of future support, UNEP's input elaborated that the UNEP GEF Climate Change Adaptation unit will continue to assist countries to access funds from the LDCF, SCCF and AF to implement the priorities laid out in their NAPAs. In addition, it will assist the LDCs to develop and implement NAPs, by helping them to develop tools and methodologies for long-term adaptation planning.

K. Collaboration with other relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres

61. Building on the work of its twenty-first meeting, the LEG continued the discussion on the mobilization of regional organizations, centres and networks, as well as global entities with regional programmes, that could add value to the NAP process. The LEG updated its list of entities to be engaged for that purpose, identifying entities with work areas that can directly enhance the LEG's support to the LDCs for the implementation of the LDC work programme and for the NAP process. The LEG focused, in particular, on entities that can be mobilized to support the upcoming regional training workshops.

62. As a step forward in engaging relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres, the LEG organized the Pacific LDCs workshop through an advisory group that consisted of the GEF and its agencies, regional organizations and development agencies in the Pacific region and representatives of the Pacific LDCs (see para. 28 above). The LEG agreed to continue to engage relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres in all its areas of work, including the organization of the remaining regional training workshops for 2012–2013.

L. Interaction with the Tuvalu national adaptation programme of action team

63. In keeping with its practice of interacting with the NAPA team of the host country, the LEG conducted an interactive session with representatives of the Tuvalu NAPA team. The team, represented by the NAPA project coordinator and members of the board of the NAPA, including a village chief, presented Tuvalu's experience in addressing adaptation through the NAPA, and led the LEG on a field visit to three NAPA project implementation sites in Funafuti.

64. The Tuvalu NAPA team shared its experience with accessing resources from the LDCF. The team mentioned that it took longer to access resources from the LDCF than it does for accessing resources from other forms of support, such as bilateral support programmes. The team members also indicated that they often faced difficulties on agreement with the implementing agency on the budget for project activities despite the unique circumstances in Tuvalu. As an example, the team indicated that transport costs are always higher than any other project costs, owing to the remoteness of the islands, which usually results in higher costs than the global estimates usually used by the implementing agencies. The team members also indicated they have to rely on inter-island boat transport, which has a limited schedule and carrying capacity, often resulting in delays in implementing activities.

65. On further experiences, the team indicated that one of the primary challenges had been high staff turnover. However, NAPA project boards established on each island have helped to keep the institutional memory of the projects and facilitated smooth progress in the implementation of projects despite staff changes.

66. The team took the LEG to three NAPA project implementation sites in Funafuti: two sites for the planting of trees (pulaka trees) to prevent further coastal erosion and one site for piloting salt-tolerant pit grown taro. The team demonstrated how the local communities are engaged in the projects, including local schools. Students from local schools are assigned to look after and care for the trees, which they helped to plant along the coast.

III. Update on priority activities of the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2012–2013

67. In fulfilling its work programme for 2012–2013, the LEG identified several activities that have contributed, or would contribute, directly to prioritized support for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans.¹² Those include producing and launching the NAP technical guidelines following a peer review, identifying support needs for NAPs and prioritizing those needs that can be addressed under its current work programme, further expanding its work on compiling and synthesizing information on steps of the NAP process, integrating elements of the NAP process in the design of the upcoming

¹² Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 14.

LEG training workshops to be held in 2013 and enhancing the LDC portal to offer a common platform on information on the NAP process.

68. The LEG concluded that good progress has been made in implementing its work programme and that most of the activities are on track. It, however, further recognized that the LDC Parties will continue to need support as they continue with the implementation of their NAPAs and are now about to initiate NAP processes at their national levels.

Annex**Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at
26 September 2012**

Mr. Abias Huongo	Angola
Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
Mr. Thinley Namgyel	Bhutan
Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
Mr. Matti Nummelin	Finland
Mr. Mphethe Tongwane	Lesotho
Mr. Bennon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
Mr. Jan Verhagen	Netherlands
Mr. Douglas Yee	Solomon Islands
Mr. Paul Abiziou Tchinguilou	Togo
Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi	Tuvalu
Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
