



Submission of Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States on information from Parties on their experience with the application of the initial guidelines for the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), as well as any other information relevant to the formulation and implementation of NAPs

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Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a group of 43 islands and low-lying coastal countries that are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, welcomes this opportunity to present information on experience with the application of the initial guidelines for the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) set out in the annex to decision 15/CP.17, as well as other information relevant to the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

The experiences of AOSIS countries with the application of the initial guidelines differ from country to country and from region to region. Some countries are still at the early planning phase of their NAPs; some have not done NAPs; some have developed other paths.

Accordingly, this submission is intended to highlight some of the common challenges facing all SIDS in the context of NAPs, complementing any national submissions that may be put forward by individual AOSIS members.

Background

The Alliance of Small Island States is uniquely positioned to comment on the NAP process, in that it has both LDC and non-LDC members.

By decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 15, the Conference of the Parties established a process to enable **Least Developed Country (LDC) Parties** to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, as a means of identifying their medium and long term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address these needs, building upon their experiences in preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Actions (NAPAs).

By paragraph 16 of the same decision, **non-LDC developing country Parties** were invited by the COP to employ the modalities formulated for the LDC NAP process to support their own efforts with respect to planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions, including projects and programmes in the areas of water resources, health, agriculture and food

security, socio-economic activities, terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, and coastal zones, as well as actions identified in national and subnational adaptation plans and strategies, national communications, technology needs assessments and other relevant national planning documents.

Following work by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, the "*Initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans by least developed countries*" were agreed as set out in the Annex to decision 15/CP.17.

Challenges

The adverse impacts of climate change pose a threat to the very existence of many SIDS, making the adaptation planning process a very real necessity. At the same time, SIDS: whether LDC or non-LDC, face well-recognized financial, human and technical resource constraints in the preparation, elaboration and implementation of national adaptation plans.

Given the disproportionate burden that SIDS face from the impacts of global greenhouse gas emissions, and the enormity of the adaptation challenge, all SIDS should receive scaled up, predictable and adequate support under the UNFCCC for their NAP processes.

Some of the challenges faced by Non-LDC SIDS in the application of the initial guidelines include, inter alia:

- The lack of awareness that initial guidelines for NAPs exist;
- A misconception that the guidelines are there only for LDCs;
- The timing of the release of these guidelines, as some national processes may already be in place;
- The lack of funding for Non-LDC NAPs under the UNFCCC, which has resulted in some countries opting to work on their institutional arrangements instead of on their NAPs.

Financial and technical support for NAPs

All SIDS require predictable and adequate financial support, capacity-building and technical assistance to produce and update national adaptation plans.

In regards to capacity-building and technical assistance, AOSIS applauds the efforts of the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP), a UNDP-UNEP programme, financed by the LDCF. The NAP-GSP assists LDCs in advancing their national adaptation plans. AOSIS would like to take this opportunity to remind Parties and other relevant organizations that COP19 decision 18/CP.19 invited UN organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to consider establishing or enhancing support programmes for the national adaptation plan process for developing country Parties that are non-LDCs, and to submit to the UNFCCC secretariat information on how they have responded to this invitation. AOSIS looks forward to learning more about how these organizations plan to extend their support to non-LDC developing

countries, and in particular to non-LDC SIDS.

To date, financial arrangements for the formulation and implementation of NAPs have been addressed under decisions 15/CP.17, 12/CP.18 and 18/CP.19. Under these decisions, the Parties have encouraged support to the NAP process for LDCs through the LDC Fund (LDCF). Similar encouragement has more recently been given to donors to fund the planning process for non-LDCs through the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and other bilateral and multilateral channels.

However neither the LDCF nor the SCCF is part of the financial mechanism of the Convention. Both are voluntary donor funds, administered by the GEF but separate and apart from the GEF Trust Fund. As a result, both suffer from inadequate and unpredictable financing.

A paragraph from the *Progress Report on the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund*, prepared for the June 2013 LDCF/SCCF Council meeting, explains the problem under a heading "Lessons, Challenges and Opportunities", as follows:

33. There are persistent barriers to further scaling up and mainstreaming adaptation. The current supply of resources for adaptation continues to fall far short of current and projected demand. ***In particular, 17 eligible SIDS that are not LDCs have yet to access resources from the SCCF, despite their considerable exposure to the effects of climate change.*** In addition, adaptation finance remains highly unpredictable, providing vulnerable countries with few opportunities and incentives to invest in longer-term capacity building, institutional frameworks, planning and investments. As a result, adaptation remains inadequately coordinated and monitored in many countries. Rapid progress notwithstanding, there is a continued lack of awareness and data of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation options.¹

In addition to the financial and technical support that LDCs require, which must be substantially scaled up, non-LDC SIDS also require financial and technical support for the elaboration of their NAPS.

Developed countries have agreed under Article 4.3 of the Convention to provide the financial resources needed by developing countries to meet the incremental costs of implementing measures in Article 4.1, which include the development of plans for adaptation as highlighted under Article 4.1. Accordingly, special consideration should be given to ensuring that all

¹ http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF-LDCF.SCCF_.14-03.%20Progress%20Report%20on%20the%20Least%20Developed%20Countries%20Fund%20and%20Special%20Climate%20Change%20Fund%2C%202013-05-23_1.pdf

SIDS are provided with the necessary financial and technical support for their NAP processes.

Support for SIDS' and developing countries' NAPs should come from the GEF Trust Fund, with due consideration given to vulnerable countries such as LDCs and SIDS. It is expected that over time, the GCF will become the main climate fund and therefore a major channel for providing adaptation financing, including for NAPs.

Therefore AOSIS:

1. Recommends the COP to request the Board of the GCF, in conformity with provisions of its Governing Instrument, to support developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS, in formulating and implementing their NAPs as soon as the Fund is operational and its resources become available, by the end of 2014.
2. Calls on Developed Country Parties to provide scaled up, adequate and additional resources to the LDCF and to the GCF in the context of its initial capitalization to meet the needs of particularly vulnerable developing countries, such as LDCs and SIDS, to develop and implement their NAPs.
3. Stresses the need to ensure that procedures for accessing finance and support for developing countries' NAPs are simplified, expeditious, flexible and practical to take into account the different stages of development of NAPs in different countries, their specific circumstances and the urgency of their adaptation needs.
4. Encourages UN organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to consider establishing or enhancing support programmes for the national adaptation plan process for developing country Parties that are non-LDCs.