



Submission by Hungary and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

**This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.**

*Budapest, ... May 2011*

**Subject: EU views on matters related to para 15/16/17 of 1/CP.16  
(enhancing adaptation to the adverse effect of climate change in LDCs)**

1. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is and will continue to be one of the most pressing challenges facing all countries, and especially so in particularly vulnerable countries. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change needs to be a country-driven process, and it will require longer term preparation for the future, even in view of uncertain and incomplete climate information and predictions. Against this background, the EU welcomes the decisions in Cancun to continue supporting the efforts of LDCs to adapt to climate change.
2. Given that the SBI is mandated to elaborate modalities and guidelines related to a process to enable least developed country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (para 15 and 16 of 1/CP.16) for adoption by the Conference of the Parties already at its seventeenth session, the EU wants to stimulate discussion on this important issue.
3. The EU is mindful that countries have already started processes to identify, plan and respond to the risk of climate change, at national level but also subnational level, including National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), national or sectoral adaptation strategies, integrated climate change action plans, etc.. NAPAs have been a useful tool to communicate the vulnerabilities and priorities of countries and to inform planning processes. The EU also observes that adaptation planning is increasingly being addressed in the context of development planning.
4. Experiences with these approaches should be a starting point to identify what countries need to be able to further their actions to adapt to climate change, and to define the value added by the UNFCCC process. There might be a need to synthesize these experiences and extract best practices.

5. The EU is conscious of the specific vulnerability and needs of LDCs and aims to focus on LDCs' needs in this discussion. The EU has been continuously supportive of the NAPAs in least developed countries, primarily through contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund<sup>1</sup> (LDCF), other multilateral<sup>2</sup> and bilateral support, and through contributions to the Least Developed Countries Experts Group (LEG).
6. It will be important to ensure that these discussions take into account the work of the GEF and LEG to support efforts of LDCs regarding improvement of the quality of NAPAs, the integration of adaptation actions into development planning, and the identification of medium- and long-term adaptation needs, as mandated in Cancun. Duplication of work stipulated by the Convention needs to be avoided.
7. The EU proposes to explore
  - what is needed to enhance planning and implementation processes in LDCs,
  - what the role of the Convention can be in facilitating, as appropriate, effective, country-owned, climate resilient development planning and facilitating international cooperation to enhance the implementation of such planning,
  - how to draw on the experiences of the NAPA process,
  - how to draw on the work of other relevant organizations (e.g. related to the UNCCD, UNCBD, Hyogo Framework for Action, development cooperation and others)
8. The EU sees this process as an opportunity to enhance learning and better understanding about effective planning and integrating adaptation priorities into broader sustainable development processes, implementation and following up on the results.
9. The EU views the process as facilitative rather than prescriptive; not resulting in a requirement for LDCs to prepare specific plans.
10. The EU is looking forward for a fruitful discussion with other Parties and especially the least developed country Parties on this important subject.

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (Status Report on the LDCF and the SCCF, April 28, 2011 (GEF/LDCF.SCCF.10/Inf.2). In addition, a new pledge of EUR 150,000 was received from Romania in April 2011.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. the Pilot Program on Climate Resilience, Global Climate Change Alliance, Adaptation Fund