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**Addressing vulnerability to climate change in LDCs**

**Statement by His Excellency Mr. Collin Beck, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands to the United Nations**

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It has been ten years since we established an LDC work programme under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The road for the implementation of the work programme has not been smooth. As LDCs, we have had a number of challenges and bottlenecks along the road. Similarly we also had number of best practices, and lessons that we believe if taken onboard into the future, they will allow us to be better informed in implementing future plans, and to avoid past mistakes.

**1. NAPAs are widely viewed as a success story**

*Best practice:* The preparation of NAPAs has provided a valuable experience to the climate change process. In many LDCs, this was the first opportunity to undertake different climate change related studies and to align adaptation projects with national development priorities. The NAPA preparation process also improved the level of awareness and capacity at the national and community levels, and this increased capacity has benefited other processes.

*Lesson:* Guidelines for the preparation and the implementation of a plan need to be done concurrently, in order to guide finalization of the plan so no information is missed and the plans can be implemented without delay.

**2. Regular interaction between the LDC Expert Group and LDCs has been very useful for the countries**

*Best practice:* Regular interaction between the LDC Expert Group and Parties as well as with the GEF and its agencies, has created a useful bridge between all stakeholders in the NAPA process, and has led to many difficulties being resolved to facilitate smooth preparation and implementation of NAPAs. The diverse membership in the LEG has also contributed to balanced support being given to LDC Parties, building on the individual expertise and experience of each and every member.

*Lesson:* Guidance materials developed by the LEG greatly assisted LDCs on how to prepare NAPAs and also shared experiences from others.

### **3. Engaging the stakeholders from the NAPA preparation stage present a series of advantages**

*Best practice:* Involving potential donors when preparing the NAPA and developing an implementation strategy improves the alignment of implementation to on-going projects and programmes for the country from different sources of funding, and greatly enhances the process of identifying additional resources. The involvement of multiple stakeholders and disciplines ensures that the outcome of the NAPA is fully owned by those that prepared it. Endorsing the NAPA at appropriate levels of government further ensures that the NAPA is fully owned by national governments.

### **4. A good interaction with the GEF agency results in a smoother implementation of NAPA projects**

*Best practice:* Experience shows that countries that chose an agency with which they had had a previous positive experience in other projects were more satisfied, mostly because a better interaction also meant more transparency in the exchange of information, a clear understanding of each party's roles and responsibilities, a better ownership of the projects and more realistic expectations regarding the whole process.

*Lesson:* Good working relations with an agency at the country level can lead to a very positive interaction and smooth implementation of NAPA projects.

### **5. Designing a consistent implementation strategy can improve the effectiveness of NAPA implementation**

*Best practice:* Thorough implementation strategies can help take advantage of opportunities as increased funding becomes available. Countries that were able to carefully consider and plan their implementing strategy during NAPA preparation process generally had a seamless transition into the implementation phase.

*Lesson:* Absence of early guidelines for the implementation of NAPAs has prohibited the development of a comprehensive implementation strategy during the NAPA preparation phase.

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