

Oral intervention by the Chair of the LEG, Mr. Batu Uprety

In-session workshop on Long Term Finance

Bonn, Thursday 4 June 2015

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), I would like to thank you warmly for giving me the opportunity today to present to you briefly the work of the LEG related to the discussions at this important event.

[LEG mandate]

The LEG, in its current term (2011–2015), is mandated to provide technical support and advice to the least developed countries (LDCs) on national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the other elements of the LDC work programme. The LEG is also mandated to provide technical guidance and support to LDCs for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs).

[From NAPAs to NAPs]

NAPAs taught the world a lot about adaptation – both in planning and implementation – as highlighted in several documents about NAPAs. While the NAPAs tend to focus on urgent and immediate (short term) needs, it highlighted the importance of addressing local community needs and paved the way for the consideration of medium and long-term adaptation needs, in particular through the process to formulate and implement NAPs. This process encourages countries to advance from NAPAs and other individual adaptation experiences towards comprehensive and long-term planning and implementation for adaptation.

[Value of NAPs: Scaled up effects through programmatic and integrated approaches]

NAPs are being formulated such as to scale up adaptation plans from the project-based NAPAs to more ambitious programmes. In fact, coherent and integrated adaptation planning is needed at the national level to develop relevant and ambitious programme portfolio at the national level to achieve the transformational change the GCF is ready to support.

The LEG recognizes this and is fully engaged, with other relevant organizations, in the work on ensuring coherence and integrated approaches and methods to effectively support the process to formulate and implement NAPs in LDCs. For example, one

opportunity to do so, is looking at the water/energy/food nexus, recognizing that actions in one area more often than not have impacts in one or both of the others.

Dear colleagues,

[LEG modalities of support]

The LEG provides support to LDCs for assessing their vulnerabilities, identifying their adaptation options and turning these into adaptation projects and programmes through various modalities.

One of the modalities used by the LEG is the collaboration with relevant organizations. The LEG has collaborated very actively with the GEF and its agencies to assist LDCs in accessing the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for the implementation of their NAPA. This collaboration and the LEG close interaction with the LDCs, have helped overcome some of the barriers that countries faced at the beginning in accessing the LDCF.

Since Lima, the LEG has had fruitful discussions with the GCF at three events the LEG organized in the first half of 2015. The LEG agreed to continue to collaborate with the GCF, through its secretariat, to provide relevant information on the operation of the GCF to the LDCs. The LEG hopes that the interaction will also contribute in the alignment of the strategic framework for countries engagement with the GCF with the NAPAs and the process to formulate and implement NAPAs.

Another modality used by the LEG is the conduct of regional training workshops, with some modules dedicated to:

- developing implementation strategies, including ambitious programmes to implement adaptation priorities, and
- Accessing financial resources.

The next training workshops are planned as follows:

- Anglophone Workshop (northern/western Africa) – July 27-31, Egypt
- Asia – August 10-14, venue tbc
- Lusophone and other African small island states – September 7-11, venue tbc
- Francophone – 5-9 October, venue tbc

Dear colleagues,

[Call for LDCF and GCF]

The GEF indicated that as at 2 June 2015, 29 NAPA project proposals, 10 of which are proposals to support elements of the NAP process, have been cleared by the GEF secretariat but are awaiting funding. The LEG is concerned that the current situation in the LDCF might not only slow down the full implementation of NAPAs but also undermine the momentum created for the process to formulate and implement NAPAs.

The LEG encourages the GEF to find ways to mobilize sufficient resources this year to at least fund the projects I have just mentioned.

The LEG also hopes that the GCF is fully ready for countries to rapidly access the available resources.

Those were some of the thoughts I wanted to share with you.

Thank you all for your attention.