

The Gambia's submission on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on information on support to the national adaptation plan process in least developed countries.

The least developed countries (LDCs) welcomes the invitation to provide their views on **information on support to the national adaptation plan process in the least developed countries**. This information is of great importance in order to build upon decisions 1/CP.16 par 15-18 and 5/CP.17 and to create the necessary conditions to enable LDCs to effectively formulate and implement NAPs.

From the LDCs perspective, there is a need to take a number of additional necessary provisions to make the previous decisions concerning the NAPs effective, coherent and applicable and to guarantee the success of the NAPs process in LDCs. These provisions include:

1. A specific and dedicated process for enabling activities for the formulation of NAPs in LDCs, where it is appropriate.

The formulation of NAPs in LDCs will require accelerating the establishment of the necessary arrangement to undertake **enabling activities** in LDCs country Parties, where appropriate, to assist these countries formulating their NAPs. Exception will be made to the LDCs parties, which special circumstances allow adoption of a country-project based approach.

These enabling activities should be based on ongoing processes at country level in connection with development planning and adaptation. Considering the specific circumstances of LDCs as recognized by the Convention, the support for such enabling activities is the most appropriate way to accompany LDCs overcome the limits and difficulties they are facing regarding planning, assessment and implementation of adaptation. Any delay or failure in establishing such process, would allow partners and institutions to provide their supports on ad-hoc and voluntary basis and would thereby not guarantee the overall objective pursued in the Cancun Adaptation Framework to enhance adaptation action, and strengthen least developed countries, as a group, in their effort to adapt to climate change. LDCs call upon the SBI to recommend to the COP for its consideration and adoption at its eighteenth session a decision urging and requesting the Global Environment Facility to make available support to LDCs Parties for the formulation of NAPs as early as possible and on the basis of **agreed full cost funding**. Furthermore the LDCs call upon the SBI to recommend the organization of an inception workshop by March/April 2013 to expedite the NAPs process in LDCs.

2. The need to make available financial, technical and institutional support

The success of such process will require to clearly identify the scope of support required but also the mechanisms and channels for such support. These will include financial, technical and institutional supports.

- Financial support

The financial support should be made available for LDCs parties only through public funds for both formulation and implementation of NAPs and should allow review every five years.

- Financial support for the NAPs formulation:

Given the enormity of the adaptation needs, which will be fulfilled largely based on results from a well articulated adaptation planning process, the call made in Durban to invite various partners, including the United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to support the LDCs in this process is relevant and welcomed. However the launch of the NAPs process should be supported through specific funding. For this purpose, the LDCs lay stress on the need for this support to be provided at its early stage through invitation to developed countries to contribute, new and additional financial resources to NAPAs implementation funding to the LDCF, in order to support the NAPs formulation on the basis of full agreed costs¹. Thus, for the setting up and the design of NAPs, the LDCF should be used but there should be clear separation from the funding for the NAPAs to avoid confusion. The financial needs in order to set up and formulate or design the NAPs has been estimated at a range of USD \$500,000 to \$1, 000, 000. The setting up and designing period of NAPs should be two to three years.

At the same time, specific guidance should be given to the operating entity or entities of the financial mechanism, namely the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, to fund the formulation of LDCs' national adaptation plans. The modalities of access to resources for NAPs shall be made either through the means of implementing entities or through direct access for enabling activities (GEF/C.38/06/Rev.1), as appropriate for each LDC.

Furthermore, the funding to support setting up and designing the NAPs should be separate from implementation funding.

¹ During the negotiation in 2011, LDCs made a proposal for a Global Support Program for the formulation of the NAPs. Institutions, including the GEF, have been invited to submit their views on how to: « *support the national adaptation plan process in the least developed countries and, where possible, to consider establishing support programmes for the national adaptation plan process within their mandates, as appropriate, which could facilitate financial and technical support to least developed countries* ». LDCs expect the information to be provided by these organisations will help clarify the nature of support to be provided during SBI 36.

- Financial support for NAPs implementation

The entity or entities entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Convention, as well as other institutions, namely the United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies shall all collaborate to make available the necessary financial arrangement and support for the implementation of national adaptation plans for the Least developed countries. All the financial resources to be allocated for adaptation activities in LDCs should exclusively be grants and cannot in any cases refer to concessional lending.

- Technical support and capacity building

Despite progress in addressing adaptation issues in LDCs, there is still a huge need for support to these countries to perform scoping of climate change issues, assess and map vulnerability, undertake other assessments to identify the impacts on vulnerable communities and sectors, build internal capacity in the long-term, train personnel and strengthen regional centres etc. In order to fulfill these needs, the Least Developed Countries should be provided with, the necessary technical support required in the context of the NAPs to successfully conduct this process. This support will include technical assistance, capacity development, tools needed in order to support (1) enhanced understanding of the vulnerability at all levels, be they national, regional, sectoral, systemic etc., (2) the integration of adaptation into sectoral and regional planning, and into strategic tools (ie. into the environmental assessment tools), (3) modeling, data gathering, processing and analysis, (4) systematic observation and research, (5) adaptation practices etc.

The capacity building activities to support the LDCs NAPs process should include support to set up national implementing entities and national financial institutions with high accountability and fiduciary standards. The capacity of LDCs experts to managing funding and projects for climate change should be improved in a sustainable manner. South-South cooperation must be promoted to exchange knowledge, learning and skills.

- Institutional arrangement at national level

The financial support should be provided for LDCs to establish, develop and enhance the institutional framework at national level aiming at improving the coherence of all activities undertaken on adaptation. This arrangement should enhance collaboration, coordination and synergies between all the relevant sectors, and with regions and sub-regions. This framework should include the arrangement for the management of the different sources of funding. Indeed, all the LDCs should be supported to create, funding entities to mobilize and administer both domestic and international resources at national level.

3. The need to take stock and learning lessons from the NAPAs formulation and implementation

A successful NAPs process should be built not only on the formulation of NAPAs, but also on their implementation. There is a need to expedite the process of funding allocation for NAPAs implementation through efficient and streamlining projects cycle, in order to capitalize lessons learnt to inform the preparation and implementation of the NAPs.