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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Fifteenth session

Marrakesh, 29 October - 8 November 2001

Agenda item 4

MATTERS RELATING TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its fifteenth session, decided to recommend the following draft decision for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session:

Draft decision -/CP.7

Establishment of a least developed countries expert group

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision -/CP.7,

Recognizing the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries referred to in Article 4.9 of the Convention,

Recalling the provisions of paragraph 20 of its decision -/CP.7, in which, *inter alia*, it decides that, at its seventh session, consideration should be given to the establishment of a least developed countries expert group, including its terms of reference, taking into account geographical balance,

1. *Decides* to establish a least developed countries expert group, pursuant to the terms of reference included in the annex to this decision;
2. *Decides also* that, taking into account the unique circumstances of the least developed countries, the establishment of the group referred to in paragraph 1 above does not set a precedent for the establishment of similar groups for other categories of countries;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the work of the least developed countries expert group in accordance with the terms of reference included in the annex to this decision;

4. *Decides* to review, at its ninth session, the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the group, including the duration of the term of office of its members, and to adopt a decision thereon, taking into account the implementation needs identified in completed national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), as well as the experience of least developed country Parties which have started implementing their national adaptation programmes of action.

ANNEX

Terms of reference of the least developed countries expert group

1. The objective of the least developed countries expert group is to advise on the preparation and implementation strategy for national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), which would meet the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of the least developed countries (LDCs). This includes the provision of technical advice relating to the identification of relevant data and information to be synthesized as part of integrated assessment. The expert group will also provide advice on capacity-building needs for LDCs in support of the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. The expert group will coordinate and collaborate with other relevant efforts relating to adaptation activities for LDCs, including within the greater development context. The expert group will not be directly involved in the execution of identified activities and projects.
2. The group shall consist of 12 experts having recognized competence and appropriate expertise to assist in the development of NAPAs. The group shall consist of five experts from African LDC Parties, two experts from Asian LDC Parties, two experts from small island developing States which are LDC Parties, and three experts from Annex II Parties. At least one selected LDC expert and at least one selected expert from Annex II Parties shall also be a member of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I. The experts will be selected by the Parties from their respective regions or groups, and shall have expertise in vulnerability and adaptation assessment. The group may draw upon additional expertise as deemed necessary.
3. The expert group shall conduct its work until the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, subject to a decision by the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 4 of this decision.
4. Members of the group shall serve in their personal capacity and shall have no pecuniary or financial interest in the issues under consideration by the group.
5. The group shall elect annually a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and two rapporteurs from amongst its LDC members.
6. The chairperson, or a representative of the expert group, shall attend meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the Conferences of the Parties.
7. The group shall convene twice each year, as appropriate and, if possible, the secretariat will organize one meeting in 2002 of the expert group back-to-back with the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I, in order to establish a link on issues relating to adaptation.
8. The group shall report on its work and shall propose a programme of work for the remainder of its term, for consideration at the sixteenth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, and shall report on its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions.

9. The group shall be mandated as follows:

(a) To provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation and on the implementation strategy of NAPAs, including the identification of possible sources of data and its subsequent application and interpretation, upon request by LDC Parties;

(b) To serve in an advisory capacity to the LDCs, for the preparation and strategy for implementation of NAPAs through, *inter alia*, workshops, upon request by LDC Parties;

(c) To advise on capacity-building needs for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs and to provide recommendations, as appropriate, taking into account the Capacity Development Initiative of the Global Environment Facility and other relevant capacity-building initiatives;

(d) To facilitate the exchange of information and to promote regional synergies, and synergies with other multilateral environmental conventions, in the preparation and in the implementation strategy of NAPAs;

(e) To advise on the mainstreaming of NAPAs into regular development planning in the context of national strategies for sustainable development.

10. The group shall also be mandated to provide input into the review, and if necessary revision, of NAPA guidelines at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties.

11. The secretariat shall support the implementation of the above-mentioned activities and facilitate the preparation of the group's relevant reports, which will be made available to the Parties for consideration at subsequent sessions of the subsidiary bodies.
