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**Submission by the United Nations Development Programme
and the United Nations Environment Programme
on the establishment and implementation of a Global Support Programme for assisting
Least Developed Countries with country-driven processes to advance their National
Adaptation Plans, as per the invitation from 18/CP.19 paragraph 4 & 5**

I. Background

1. At the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Durban, December 2011)¹, Parties adopted a decision on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Through this decision the Parties *invited* United Nations (UN) agencies, amongst others, to consider establishing support programmes within their mandates, which could facilitate financial and technical support to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to advance the NAP process.
2. At the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP19) of the UNFCCC, Parties again *invited* developed country Parties, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to continue to enhance financial and technical support to the NAP process for the LDC Parties, and other interested developing country Parties that are not LDCs; Parties *also invited* United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to consider establishing or enhancing support programmes for the NAP process within their mandates, as appropriate, which could facilitate the provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties that are not least developed countries, and to submit to the secretariat, by 26 March 2014, information on how they have responded to this invitation.
3. Parties further invited relevant organizations to submit, by 26 March 2014, information on their experience with the application of the initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs², as well as any other information relevant to the formulation and implementation of the NAPs, for compilation by the secretariat into a miscellaneous document, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its fortieth session in June 2014.
4. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) welcome the opportunity granted by the Parties to the UNFCCC to share information on the how they have responded to the CoP invitation to assist both Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as well as non-LDCs³ with their respective NAP processes.
5. This submission builds upon the previous joint submission made in early 2012 by UNDP and UNEP, following the invitation made by COP 17. It further builds upon submissions,

¹ Contained in paragraphs 22 to 24 of the decision text included in document FCCC/CP/2011/L.8/Add.11.

² FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1, available from:

http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/national_adaptation_plans/application/pdf/na_p_initial_guidelines_annex_to_decision_5cp17_eng.pdf

³ By non-LDCs, this submission refers to developing countries which are not least developed countries (LDCs) under the list of Non-Annex I parties to the UNFCCC.

updates and presentations made to the recent LDC Expert Group (LEG) and Adaptation Committee on the NAPs held respectively in February and March 2014.

II. Responding to the invitations made by the CoP on the NAPs for LDCs

(a) NAP Global Support Programme (GSP) for LDCs - general information:

6. In response to the invitation made by the COP 17 to the UNFCCC, in June 2013, UNDP and UNEP established a **Global Support Programme** for assisting LDCs with their respective country-driven efforts to advance the NAP process. The programme is commonly referred to as NAP GSP and is currently exclusively financed by the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) as per a grant endorsed by the LDCF Council on 29 May 2013.

7. The NAP GSP is a collaborative support programme with a number of agencies and entities involved in different capacities. FAO, GIZ, GWP, IFAD, UNISDR, UNITAR, and WHO are actively involved as collaborating organizations. The GEF Secretariat and the UNFCCC Secretariat (including the LEG), work closely with UNDP and UNEP staff to ensure alignment of NAP GSP activities with the objectives of the LDC Fund, as well as LEG technical guidelines⁴ on NAPs. Other joint programmes of UNDP and UNEP, such as the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), National Communications Support Programme, Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme and PROVIA are also capitalized on to ensure that countries receive well-coordinated support that is also anchored on sound science and knowledge. UNDP's ongoing work on supporting readiness, access to and governance of climate change finance, Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews (CPEIRs), capacity development for economics of adaptation, and the Boots on the Ground programme are complementary initiatives. NAPs support is being extended in conjunction with these initiatives.

8. The support provided by UNDP and UNEP through the NAP GSP draws from over 20 years of experience and technical expertise⁵ in assisting countries, especially LDCs, to foster an enabling environment for pursuing sustainable climate resilient development and making sure that adaptation measures are environmentally sound and sustainable in the long-term.

9. The goal of the programme is to facilitate effective medium- to long-term planning for adaptation to climate change in LDCs. The technical support facility is based on three main pillars: i) institutional support; ii) technical support; and iii) knowledge brokering. The objective of these pillars is to strengthen institutional and technical capacities for iterative development of comprehensive NAPs in LDCs, ensuring that these are country-driven, and based on existing national development priorities and strategies and processes. The goal and objective of the NAP GSP will be achieved when LDCs have taken steps on their own to: i) develop work plans to advance their respective NAP process, and start to integrate medium- to

⁴ Available from:

http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/national_adaptation_programmes_of_action/items/7279.php

⁵ UNDP and UNEP have provided technical, administrative and financial support to countries, including LDCs, to enable them to meet their obligations and commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants through support for National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSAs), National Communications (NCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) for climate change technologies, National Reporting for CBD, and UNCCD Country Support Programme (CSP) and the National Dialogue Initiative (NDI) National Adaptation Plans for both UNCCD and the Stockholm Conventions.

long-term adaptation planning processes within existing national and sub-national development plans; ii) use existing tools and approaches available to support key steps in the NAP process; and iii) exchange lessons learned and knowledge through South-South and North-South Cooperation.

10. The support available under the programme is intended to benefit all LDCs. Thus far, requests for assistance have been received from a total of 26 LDCs in Africa and Asia (including West Asia).⁶ Given current resource constraints, initial support will be provided to a handful of these countries while additional resources are being secured.

(b) Progress of the NAP GSP to date:

Since its inception, the NAP GSP partners have assisted a number of countries directly under the 1st pillar of the programme (institutional support):

- In August 2013, support was extended to **Malawi** and in October 2013, to **Benin** to sensitize their Governments and discuss entry points for advancing NAP processes. In **Malawi**, UNDP is engaged with supporting the government on NAP development through the National Climate Change Programme. In **Benin**, UNEP facilitated the discussion of the potential entry points for the NAP process and did a rapid stock-take of activities supporting the NAP process to date, that include the set-up of a multidisciplinary national NAP team.
- In February 2014, staff had initial discussions with the Government of **Nepal** to introduce the NAP process and identify the priority needs for support which included revitalizing national teams, stock-taking, and the development of a NAP road-map. Support will be provided jointly with PEI, other ongoing programmes such as the ECCA program, and UNDP's climate finance and readiness initiatives.
- In February 2014, the NAP GSP in collaboration with GIZ undertook a mission in **Cambodia** to undertake a stock take for the NAP process and draft a road-map for the NAP process.
- In January 2014, discussions were held with the Ministry of Environment, **Niger** for defining the scope for a stock-taking exercise for the NAP process which will be undertaken in the second quarter of 2014.
- Also in February 2014, NAP GSP provided a technical review of the draft NAP for **Burkina Faso**, with the support of GWP, GIZ and UNITAR.
- In March 2014, staff briefed the Ministry of Environment of the **Gambia** on laying the groundwork for the NAP process through an inter-ministerial discussion at the working level so as to identify needs for technical assistance on work-planning or stock-taking.
- Initial discussions were undertaken in February 2014 with the Ministry of Environment of the **Comoros**, on initiating the NAP process. Forthcoming country support is expected contribute to drawing up a draft road-map for NAP and focusing on capacity development for the NAP process.
- In-country missions are going to take place during April-June 2014 in Niger, Timor Leste, Lao PDR, Tanzania, Sudan, Senegal, and Bhutan.

⁶ The 26 countries as of 1 March 2014, are Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo (DRC), Djibouti, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania, Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

11. Under the second pillar of the programme (technical support) the NAP GSP and its partners brought together 8 LDCs from Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Yemen), with 3 participants per country representing Ministries of Environment, Finance, and Planning in a regional workshop which took place between 17-20 February, 2014 in Pattaya, Thailand.

12. The objective of this 4-day training workshop was to facilitate a regional exchange and provide technical support in the form of explaining existing guidance and tools, including the LEG technical guidelines, to support policy makers and technical officials to advance the NAP process within their countries. The feedback from workshop participants and partners was positive and lessons learnt from the first regional training are being fed into the upcoming trainings scheduled for African LDCs, to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 14-17 April for Africa (Anglophone countries) and 21-24 April 2014 for Africa (Francophone countries), with Haiti also invited to participate. The African Lusophone countries have been invited to participate in either of the two trainings based on their preference.

13. A “User Companion Document” to support NAP development with PROVIA guidance was launched by the PROVIA team at the Asia regional training workshop. UNITAR contributed an E-introduction to the NAP process and conducted thematic interviews with participants, whereby they expressed their views on potential entry points of the NAP GSP in their countries.

14. Under the third pillar of the programme (knowledge brokering):

The programme has launched an interactive web platform, housed on UNDP’s Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) portal. This platform includes partners’ news on events/workshops/ national support; dissemination of tools; North-South, South-South knowledge exchange; and links to practitioners’ networks. The web platform is available from: <http://www.undp-alm.org/nap-gsp-countries>. The NAP GSP monthly e-newsletter reaches more than 1,300 subscribers.

(c) Lessons learnt from 8 months of implementation of NAP GSP:

15. Fostering country-driven NAP processes is important while laying the groundwork for the NAP process. There is no “one size fits all” approach, and so depending on national context, approaches for NAP processes need to be customized. Countries require support to identify existing national and sub-national institutional mechanisms for climate mainstreaming that can offer a foundation to build on. In some cases, ongoing work related to implementing priorities identified through the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) process, may also offer elements that could be harnessed to advance the NAP process. Using the framework of the LEG technical guidelines, it is critical for a country to undertake a gap analysis and identify how these can be addressed in a cost-effective way that avoids duplication and parallel processes. Addressing these gaps through technical and financial support will bring value-added for each country.

16. The NAP process needs overarching efforts and partnerships between Planning, Finance and Environment Ministries. This requires investment and focused effort towards making sure that all stakeholders are aware of their respective role in the NAP process and are able to forge such partnerships. Medium- and long-term national adaptation planning requires greater coordination between these three key structures and their functions in government. Not all country level government representatives consulted to date by the NAP GSP are

sufficiently aware of the broad institutional nature of the NAP process. How exactly the NAP process differs from the NAPA, in terms of process, outputs and rewards, is also not sufficiently understood by all those who must be part of medium- and long-term planning.

Certain sectoral ministries such as those for Agriculture, Water, Infrastructure and Local government also have to play a key role in the NAP process. Existing institutional coordination mechanisms such as climate change councils and climate working groups provide a basis that can be leveraged. An enabling institutional environment that supports joint efforts will be better able to capitalize on NAP-related activities such as technical assessments and stakeholder discussions to advance the NAP agenda via existing in-country coordination mechanisms.

17. South-South and North-South exchange can support countries for learning and exchanging solutions. Exchange of information and experiences between non-LDCs and LDCs offers opportunities to make different steps in the NAP process more tangible at country level through learning from case studies. Regional exchange between policy makers, decision makers, specialized institutions, public and private organizations within and across Asia and Africa (and other countries such as Haiti), offers an important entry point for advancing the NAP process. Experiences from the North show alignment of their National Adaptation Planning process with the LEG technical guidelines.

18. One-on-one country support is essential. LDCs require one-on-one support for identifying capacity gaps and strengths in terms of undertaking a NAP process, as well as technical assistance in “drafting” NAP workplans. Given the level of awareness and capacities, dedicated in-country targeted assistance has been requested from the NAP GSP. This requires technical expertise to provide face-to-face and remote support for inter alia: developing terms of reference for laying the groundwork for the NAP process such as stock-takings; convening and conducting national consultations on the NAP process involving different Ministries and institutional coordination; mobilising national or international experts; building up capacities to access and/or direct/re-direct climate finance to support the NAP process; and harnessing technical skills (sector level vulnerability analysis, economics and appraisal of medium- and long-term adaptation options, reviewing planning and budgeting, addressing political economy considerations, etc.). These are time-consuming and technically intensive tasks that need to be planned and resourced adequately if meaningful results are to be achieved.

19. Regional thematic workshops provide an avenue for technical training as well as South-South Exchange. Regional and sub-regional training and exchange provide countries with an opportunity to learn about and exchange experiences on specific aspects of the NAP process. This includes interpreting the LEG technical guidelines, hearing from experts on methodologies and tools that could be applied, and sharing solutions on what has worked in different countries.

20. Knowledge management complementing one-on-one support and regional thematic workshops is important for continuity and improving access to tools and experts. The significant efforts of the programme in terms of knowledge exchange and promoting communities of practice through monthly e-newsletters, updates in the web portal, and workshops allows not only for more systematic awareness-raising, but also enables LDCs to proactively coordinate and engage in the NAP process.

21. Key considerations arising from the lessons learnt to date:

- There is considerable demand from countries, particularly LDCs, for one-on-one support for their NAP processes which needs to be planned for and addressed.
- Scaling-up of existing support mechanisms will be required more than ever as countries now seek technical assistance to “map out” and budget for required activities that need to be implemented in order to further advance their NAP process. Scaling up is also needed to extended support to all LDCs. As more countries move from NAP-planning to NAP-implementation, additional resources for technical assistance and for financing implementation will also be required.
- More opportunities for enhanced knowledge exchange, face-to-face and through web-based tools such as the website, networks and webinars will be important to support countries to advance their own NAP process and require dedicated support.

III. Responding to the invitations made by the CoP on the NAPs for non-LDCs

(a) NAP Global Support Programme (GSP) for non LDCs – general information:

22. In response to the invitation made by the COP19 to the UNFCCC, in January 2014, UNDP and UNEP submitted a PIF for a Full Size Project for a Global Support Programme for assisting non-LDCs with country-driven processes to advance National Adaptation Plans, subject to funding from the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). The duration of the NAP GSP for non-LDCs is expected to be 3 years. The PIF is built upon the model, lessons learnt, and partnerships forged under the NAP GSP for LDCs. The PIF has been endorsed by the GEF CEO and is awaiting the GEF Council Approval. Arrangements for the start of the PPG implementation are under way.

(b) Further considerations:

23. UNDP and UNEP welcome the guidance from the Adaptation Committee on the applicability of the LEG technical guidelines for non-LDCs. UNDP and UNEP are further willing to work closely with the Adaptation Committee through its NAP Task Force towards the implementation of its work plan.

IV. Next steps towards scaling up the support to LDCs

24. Given the growing number of requests by LDCs to receive one-on-one support from the NAP GSP and the invitation from COP 19 to continue to enhance support to LDCs, the intention of UNDP and UNEP, as discussed with GEF Secretariat, is to extend the one-on-one support to all LDCs as well as the regional trainings. This will assist with strengthening local understanding and skills development that will, in turn, help move the NAP process forward. To-date, discussions have taken place with the GEF Secretariat on submitting a Full Size Project for scaling up support to LDCs with financing from the LDCF. Efforts are also underway to respond to requests from LDCs that have expressed interest to receive one-on-one support under the NAP GSP by leveraging resources from other sources including bilateral sources, and through partnerships.