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The 34th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Report by the secretariat

Summary

The 34th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 21 to 24 August 2018. At the meeting, the Group discussed progress on the implementation of its rolling work programme for 2018–2019. The meeting included discussions with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies on their continued provision of support to the least developed countries (LDCs) for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and the implementation of the LDC work programme, which includes the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action. The meeting included discussions with representatives of other relevant organizations on collaboration in providing support to the LDCs. It also provided a venue for interaction with officials from the Government of Sierra Leone on their work on adaptation.

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I. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its twenty-first session, extended the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under its current terms of reference¹ to cover the period 2016–2020, and mandated the LEG to undertake a number of additional activities,² including supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.³
2. Accordingly, the LEG is mandated to develop a two-year rolling work programme for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its first sessional meeting of each year and to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.⁴

II. Summary of the 34th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

3. The 34th meeting of the LEG was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 21 to 24 August 2018. The meeting was opened by the deputy Minister of Transport and Aviation of the Government of Sierra Leone, Mr. Sadic Sillah.
4. The LEG extended invitations to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies, and other relevant organizations, to participate in the meeting in order to discuss the provision of support to the least developed countries (LDCs). Representatives of the following entities took part in the meeting: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the GEF secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The GCF secretariat and the International Institute for Sustainable Development serving as the secretariat of the NAP Global Network provided written updates to the meeting. The LEG also invited an expert on measuring progress on adaptation to present and take part in the discussions on monitoring and assessing progress made on national adaptation plans (NAPs).
5. The meeting included interactions with the Government of Sierra Leone to discuss the country's progress, challenges, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.
6. The LEG elected Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed (Sudan) as Vice-Chair. The list of current members of the LEG is included in the annex.
7. The LEG took note of the following members who are representing it in its ongoing collaborative activities with other bodies under the Convention:
 - (a) Ms. Beth Lavender (Canada) and Mr. Aderito Santana (Sao Tome and Principe) in the Adaptation Committee (AC) NAP task force;
 - (b) Mr. Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) in the work of the AC on the technical examination process on adaptation;
 - (c) Mr. Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) in the task force on displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
 - (d) Mr. Ewin Künzi (Austria) in collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee;

¹ Decisions 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18 and 3/CP.20.

² Decision 19/CP.21, paragraphs 1–3.

³ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45.

⁴ Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 3.

- (e) Ms. Mohamed in the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building;
- (f) Ms. Mery Yaou (Togo) in the work of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP).

B. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

1. Progress made by developing countries in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

8. The LEG noted that most developing countries are undertaking various activities in order to formulate their NAP. It noted that, as at 21 September 2018, 11 developing countries had completed and submitted their NAPs on NAP Central:⁵ Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Kenya, Saint Lucia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan and Togo. One developing country (Fiji) submitted its NAP framework.

9. The LEG also noted that none of those countries had as yet applied for funding from the GCF for implementing prioritized policies, projects or programmes identified in their NAPs.

2. Progress made in relation to support provided

10. The LEG took note of the information supplied at the meeting on support provided for the process to formulate and implement NAPs between March and August 2018,⁶ as summarized in paragraphs 11–16 below.

11. The LEG, in collaboration with the AC, convened a meeting of Party experts to assess progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs from 7 to 9 February 2018, in Sao Tome, Sao Tome and Principe,⁷ and conducted the NAP Expo from 4 to 6 April 2018, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.⁸ The LEG also advanced its work on the technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs (see chapter III.A below).

12. Since March 2018, the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP), jointly administered by UNDP and UNEP, has provided one-on-one technical support to four more LDCs, for a total of 21 LDCs being supported with this modality under the NAP-GSP since 2013.⁹ The support included stocktaking exercises, stakeholder consultations, development of NAP road maps and training on specific topics. A regional training workshop for the Pacific region was conducted from 28 to 31 May 2018 in Nadi, Fiji, focusing on the appraisal and prioritization of options for adaptation planning. Four more regional training workshops are planned to take place in 2018–2019: two in September 2018 for Africa, focusing on climate finance, and another two in October 2018, one for Asia and one for Latin America and the Caribbean. The programme has also compiled NAP case studies from Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Haiti, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Niger and Senegal to facilitate the exchange of experience.

13. From March to August 2018, UNDP supported three more LDCs (Benin, Haiti and Madagascar) in developing and submitting their funding proposals to the GCF.

14. FAO continued to support 7 global and regional programmes and 10 national programmes, covering 10 LDCs and 22 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean on activities related to the process to formulate and

⁵ Available at <http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>.

⁶ This section covers information made available to the LEG by the time of its 34th meeting by the respective bodies and organizations.

⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/node/28634>.

⁸ See <http://napexpo.org/2018>.

⁹ The four additional LDCs are Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea and Senegal. Already supported are Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Vanuatu.

implement NAPs. Furthermore, through the joint FAO–UNDP Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans programme,¹⁰ 11 countries,¹¹ of which 4 are LDCs, have continued to receive support for integrating agriculture-related climate change risks and opportunities into their NAPs.

15. Between March and August 2018, the NAP Global Network supported the following NAP-related activities in the LDCs: gender analysis in Benin, Guinea, Madagascar and Togo; awareness-raising in Kiribati; stocktaking in Nepal; development of a draft NAP framework in Sierra Leone and workshops on and the documenting of implementation strategies in Ethiopia.

16. The table below provides a summary of project proposals on NAPs submitted by developing countries for funding under the GCF support modality for NAPs under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, which provides up to USD 3 million per country,¹² and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). For the GCF, the figures related to the LDCs are shown in parentheses.

Summary of project proposals for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund for the formulation of national adaptation plans

| <i>Funding source</i> | <i>Region</i> | <i>Number of submitted proposals</i> | <i>Approved or endorsed proposals</i> | <i>Funds disbursed</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Green Climate Fund | Africa | - | 11 (6) | 8 (2) |
| | Asia and the Pacific | - | 5 (3) | 4 (2) |
| | Eastern Europe | - | 2 | 1 |
| | Latin America and the Caribbean | - | 8 | 6 |
| | Total (GCF) | 60 | 26 (9)^a | 20 (4) |
| Least Developed Countries Fund | Africa | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| | Asia and the Pacific | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | Latin America and the Caribbean | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total (LDCF) | 9^b | 9^b | 0 |

Note: Based on figures supplied by the secretariats of the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility as at 28 September 2018. For the Green Climate Fund, the figures in parentheses indicate the number of the least developed countries.

^a Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

^b Bangladesh, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and South Sudan.

¹⁰ See <http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/en>.

¹¹ Colombia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zambia.

¹² See GCF Board decision B.13/09, paragraph (e).

C. Status of implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

17. The LEG took note of the information supplied by the GEF secretariat on support provided to the LDCs for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs),¹³ as summarized in paragraphs 18–20 below.

18. As at 24 August 2018, 263 projects from the LDCs for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs had been approved by the GEF Council for funding from the LDCF since its establishment in 2001. The demand for LDCF resources continues to exceed the funds available for new approvals; additional contributions are urgently needed to enable the LDCF to address the priority adaptation needs of the LDCs.

19. As at 30 April 2018, 18 NAPA implementation project proposals submitted by the LDCs, accounting for a total of USD 157 million, had been technically cleared by the GEF secretariat and were awaiting the availability of resources from the LDCF. An additional 11 project proposals, accounting for a total of USD 92 million, had been endorsed by countries' operational focal points and formally submitted for technical review by the GEF secretariat.

20. As at 30 June 2018, the total cumulative donor pledges to the LDCF amounted to USD 1.33 billion and the total paid contributions to USD 1.27 billion.¹⁴ The funding ceiling for each LDC is currently USD 50 million, with a cap of USD 10 million per country for the period 2018–2022.

21. The LEG also noted that the LDCs continue to rely on technical guidance and advice for revising and updating their NAPAs and that it stands ready to provide support upon request.

D. Implementation of the other elements of the least developed countries work programme

22. The LEG took note of the information supplied by UNDP and UNEP indicating that 144 LDC negotiators have been trained under the LDC negotiators capacity-building programme since 2013. The programme is funded with USD 4.5 million from the LDCF.

III. Progress in the implementation of the rolling work programme for 2018–2019

A. Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and the work of the national adaptation plan technical working group

1. Open NAPs

23. The LEG took note of the following positive results from the application of the Open NAPs:¹⁵

(a) The Open NAPs helped to provide a quick practical overview of how the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be rolled out at the national level;

(b) They contributed to the bottom-up evolution and development of the integrative framework for NAPs and the Sustainable Development Goals (NAP-SDG iFrame);

(c) They also helped to identify important results in the application of the NAP-SDG iFrame, such as with regard to the definition of systems, knowledge and methodologies

¹³ As per GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.24/04 and updates provided to the LEG.

¹⁴ As footnote 13 above.

¹⁵ Open NAPs cases for Bhutan, Haiti, Madagascar, Malawi and Tuvalu have successfully been advanced and were applied in designing the regional training workshops on NAPs conducted in 2017.

to associate with specific systems and the role of different actors and stakeholders (see chapter III.A.2 below for more details).

24. The LEG also took note of the growing demand from countries to participate in the Open NAPs and of the interest of many organizations to contribute to the Open NAPs.

25. The LEG agreed to continue expanding the Open NAP case studies to more countries, as well as to groups of countries in the same region, so they can consider regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation. It also agreed to explore ways to further actively engage partners on areas of expertise required in the Open NAPs.

26. The LEG noted the preparation of a concept paper by the NAP technical working group on the following, among other topics:

- (a) A description of the Open NAP concept;
- (b) A methodology for conducting Open NAP case studies;
- (c) Indicative questions that could be addressed through Open NAPs;
- (d) A strategy for mobilizing partners.

2. Integrative framework for national adaptation plans and the Sustainable Development Goals

27. The LEG considered the draft publication describing the NAP-SDG iFrame. The NAP-SDG iFrame aims to help to integrate various assessment approaches into NAPs and enable the consideration of ways to contribute to addressing relevant SDGs in conjunction with NAPs. The LEG noted that it will be important to include examples from the LDCs on the different aspects of the NAP-SDG iFrame, including on the possible end-to-end application of the framework. It agreed to develop a policy brief version of the publication for easier communication, in addition to a detailed technical version.

28. The LEG also took note of the following results and takeaways from the application of the NAP-SDG iFrame both in guiding the regional training workshops conducted under the LEG work programme for 2017–2018 and in the Open NAPs:

(a) The NAP-SDG iFrame helped demonstrate how a systems approach helps to focus stocktaking, making assessments, identifying and monitoring actions and facilitating the achievement of coherence and the synergy of adaptation across scales (over time and in different places), levels (e.g. sectoral, subnational and national) and frameworks;

(b) A potential exists for consistency in the definition of systems for a given country, especially for areas that are well studied. In some cases, a finite number of systems would cover most of the effort required to address adaptation sufficiently in a country;

(c) Stakeholders and actors (agencies and organizations) can be clearly identified and major gaps or areas of overlap easily determined;

(d) Knowledge and methodologies, including metrics of success and adequacy, are easier to associate with specific systems;

(e) Further elaboration and harmonization of the taxonomy and nomenclature used in adaptation would help to facilitate collaboration between sectors and work areas, including the tracking and monitoring of activities.

29. The LEG further took note of the ongoing work under the NAP technical working group on preparing supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, which are to describe the NAP-SDG iFrame and supporting tools, and it agreed to compile a list of systems and relevant tools to enrich the supplements.

3. Supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans

30. The LEG took note of the following supplements¹⁶ to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs:

(a) *Addressing Fisheries and Aquaculture in National Adaptation Plans – Supplementary Guidelines* and the *Supplementary Material for Addressing Forests in National Adaptation Plans* by FAO;

(b) *Supplementary NAP Guidelines for Systemic Subnational Adaptation: Experiences from the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL)* by the United Nations Capital Development Fund;

(c) *Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction in National Adaptation Plans: A Supplement to NAP Technical Guidelines* by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

(d) *Integrating Human Settlements in the National Adaptation Plans* by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

31. The LEG agreed that the supplements play an important role in providing detailed information on specific issues, but noted the continued need for stronger alignment of the supplements to the guidelines to strengthen integrative approaches and avoid silo approaches. It also agreed to continue to work with organizations that are developing supplements to explore how best to align them with the guidelines.

32. The LEG further agreed to update the guidance on the development of the supplements to include information on how to best link them with the NAP-SDG iFrame. In addition, the LEG considered developing navigation guides for the application of supplements in the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

4. Monitoring and assessing progress made on national adaptation plans

33. The LEG took note of the following elements from the presentation of an expert invited to contribute to the discussion on monitoring and assessing progress made on NAPs:

(a) Effective assessment of progress on adaptation involves both descriptive and evaluative assessments;

(b) Descriptive assessments can be based on country level data from various sources, and evaluative assessments on country profiles, national participatory processes, and expert and progress assessments;

(c) There are methodologies for aggregating source data for use in a national level assessments of progress (e.g. through a national audit and systematic synthesis, participatory assessment of alignment, and expert assessment of progress) and data from a national level assessment for use in a global level assessment (e.g. through meta-synthesis of country profiles, progress narratives, gaps, adequacy and effectiveness);

(d) Factors in an effective assessment include: embracing and allowing assessment across a diversity of national contexts; ensuring that data and relevant methodologies allow for aggregation and comparison; minimizing the aggregation of subnational diversity and narratives; conceptual scalability across levels, sectors and institutions; focusing on concepts rather than indicators; allowing for longitudinal assessment and consideration of mitigation progress; reflecting diverse values and principles; and transparent, systematic and rigorous approaches.

34. The LEG noted that in addition to serving as a national reporting tool, the NAPs will play an important role in facilitating reporting under the Paris Agreement. It agreed to consider how NAPs can comprehensively capture information on adaptation at the national level to underpin assessments, with a view to including such consideration in further technical guidance on NAPs.

¹⁶ In development or being finalized.

5. Learning from climate shocks

35. Based on presentations from the NAP Expos and other recent events, the LEG noted that the experience from climate shocks (such as storms, floods, droughts and heatwaves) offers valuable lessons on how governments and communities are reacting and responding before, during and after the shocks.

36. The LEG noted that the evolution of these events also offers new insights on how the impacts evolve and propagate between systems. For example, impacts of droughts propagate from immediate water shortages within the affected region to longer-term impacts on commodity production and prices, conflicts, migration and other stresses that can reach a global scale. In some cases, major shocks can result in impacts that cascade through regional supply chains.

37. The LEG further noted that the experience helps to highlight vulnerabilities in ways that traditional vulnerability assessments cannot. The experience helps to identify the shortcomings in or failures of measures that were supposed to protect systems from the expected impacts of climate change. It also contributes to exploring the synergy between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and to informing regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation.

38. The LEG agreed to continue to provide opportunities for countries to share their experience related to climate shocks at the NAP Expos, side events, workshops and other events, with a view to exploring at its subsequent meetings how such experiences can best inform adaptation planning and implementation.

6. Training on national adaptation plans

39. The LEG discussed the strategy for the training on NAPs to be conducted in 2019 as part of the LEG work programme for 2018–2019. The LEG will engage the NAP technical working group to support the design of the training, including exploring possible groupings, identifying training topics, developing training modules and proposing participants, and to deliver the training.

40. The LEG noted that initial considerations for the grouping of countries may include a country's stage in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, geographic location, language, potential for mutual learning and exchanges, and other factors.

41. The LEG agreed that the workshops would focus on topics that will best benefit the respective countries. Special attention could thus be given to countries that are still far behind in the process to formulate and implement NAPs while also allowing for a focus on the implementation of NAPs through policies, projects and programmes. The topics for each group of countries will be determined in consultation with the countries involved.

7. Supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans through NAP Central

42. The LEG took note of the ongoing enhancements to NAP Central, including the implementation of the country profiles and the NAP tracking tool.

43. The LEG noted that there are currently NAPs from 11 developing countries on NAP Central¹⁷ and encouraged all developing countries to continue to share their NAPs and related outputs through NAP Central.

8. Workplan of the national adaptation plan technical working group

44. The LEG took note of the progress made by the NAP technical working group in continuing to support the work of the LEG relating to technical guidance and support for NAPs. It recalled the meeting of the group held at the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies in April 2018 to discuss progress on enhancements to NAP Central, Open NAPs, training activities on NAPs for 2018–2019, developing country gaps and needs in relation to

¹⁷ Available at <http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>.

the process to formulate and implement NAPs, supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and integrative approaches. Representatives from 15 organizations¹⁸ took part in the meeting.

45. The LEG agreed to continue to strengthen the work of the NAP technical working group through continued engagement in the development of technical methodologies for NAPs and strategic collaboration with relevant organizations and with regional centres and networks.

46. The LEG also agreed to continue to exploit opportunities to continue to advance its work at its meetings, held including in conjunction with the NAP Expos and sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies.

B. Matters relating to access to the Green Climate Fund

47. The LEG considered the draft frequently asked questions addressing the emerging needs and challenges faced by countries with regard to accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The LEG agreed to finalize and implement online the questions by the end of November 2018.

48. The LEG took note of the active engagement of the GCF secretariat at the NAP Expo 2018 and conducted sessions targeting country experts (NAP teams and GCF focal points) on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.¹⁹ The LEG also took note of the interest from the GCF secretariat to engage in the organization of the 2019 NAP Expo, referred to in chapter III.C below.

C. NAP Expos

49. The LEG discussed the following issues in relation to the NAP Expos: a publication on highlights from the NAP Expos, arrangements for the NAP Expo 2019 and the strategy for regional and national NAP Expos.

50. The LEG identified a set of key messages and topics that would help to capture the technical advances in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and thus serve as the main components of that publication. These will be accompanied by a collection of examples of data, tools, assessment approaches, adaptation solutions, technological innovations and other specific country experiences such as on learning from climate shocks. The publication will be based on the content from all the NAP Expos conducted thus far and will document the rich interactions and outcomes from the events. The publication is planned to be completed by November 2018.

51. The LEG considered initial elements of a concept note to guide the organization of the NAP Expo in 2019, planned to take place in April 2019 in the Republic of Korea. Exact dates and venue will be publicized in due course. The event will be organized under the overriding theme of the NAP Expos of “advancing NAPs”. Building on the previous events, the NAP Expo in 2019 will facilitate outreach on technical guidance on NAPs, discuss access to funding for NAPs, provide a platform for sharing innovative approaches on implementing adaptation and a platform for fostering partnerships between countries and all actors and stakeholders in NAPs.

52. The LEG will launch an advisory group for the NAP Expo in 2019 in October 2018 composed of representatives of Parties, UNFCCC bodies and relevant organizations, and regional centres and networks. Together with the NAP technical working group, the advisory group will assist the LEG with identifying topics for the NAP Expo, identifying keynote

¹⁸ CCAFS, Climate Service Center Germany, Conservation International, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, FAO, Global Water Partnership, NAP Global Network, Stockholm International Water Institute, Sri Lankan Youth Climate Action Network, UNDP, UNEP, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and WMO.

¹⁹ See <http://napexpo.org/2018/schedule>.

speakers, developing and refining the programme for the event and mobilizing and funding participants.

53. The LEG noted that regional NAP Expos help to deepen the engagement of the actors and stakeholders at the regional and national level and their understanding of the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The LEG agreed to expand the interactive nature of the events to maximize learning. Two more regional NAP Expos are scheduled to take place in 2018: one during the Third Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Libreville, Gabon, from 9 to 12 October 2018, and one during the NAP-GSP workshop for Latin American countries from 22 to 24 October 2018. The regional NAP Expos will be conducted with the support of the NAP technical working group.

54. On national NAP Expos, the LEG took note of the interest expressed by some countries to conduct national NAP Expos in order to strengthen political buy-in and awareness and mobilize and facilitate the engagement of all national actors and stakeholders. The LEG also took note of the request by some of the countries for support in conducting their national NAP Expos. The LEG agreed to provide technical materials for such events upon request and to the extent possible, but made it clear that it would not be in a position to take an active role in the conduct of such events.

D. Technical guidance and advice on vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in adaptation planning and implementation

55. The LEG continued its consideration of the draft paper on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in adaptation planning and implementation.

56. The paper will communicate examples of best practices in vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems adapting to climate change and provide concrete guidance or recommendations. It will also address the linkages between vulnerable communities and groups and the vulnerable ecosystems in which they live.

57. The LEG agreed to finalize the paper in December 2018. The paper will be used as part of the supplements to the guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

E. Implementation of national adaptation plans

58. The LEG continued its consideration of the mandate from the SBI for the AC and the LEG, following the 2018 NAP Expo, to consider ways to assist with the implementation of NAPs.²⁰ Based on observations from the NAP Expo, the LEG noted that initial challenges include those relate to access to funding, strong leadership and coordination, institutional and technical capacity for developing bankable proposals and for their execution, monitoring and evaluation, and effective stakeholder engagement.

59. The LEG agreed to consult with Parties to further identify needs and challenges related to implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs. It decided to engage the NAP champions in communicating the importance of strong leadership in facilitating the implementation of adaptation actions. The LEG also agreed to coordinate its actions with those of the AC to ensure complementarity in addressing the mandate.

60. The LEG noted that in addition to the implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified in the NAPs, countries will need to continue to undertake activities aimed at supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs, such as the following: maintaining effective coordination and leadership arrangements; collection, compilation, processing and dissemination of data, information and knowledge; identifying and addressing capacity gaps and needs; risk assessments; monitoring, review and updating, and reporting and outreach.

²⁰ FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraph 73.

F. Country profiling of the least developed countries

61. The LEG discussed its strategy for tracking progress on NAPs and related challenges that the LDCs continue to face. It tasked each of its members with following the status of specific LDCs in that regard and identifying priority gaps and needs for consideration by the LEG at each of its meetings. The members will work with the support of the secretariat and liaise with the national focal points and other relevant partners working actively with the countries. The information will be shared online through the NAP tracking tool and will inform future technical support and advice from the LEG.

G. Collaboration with other bodies and programmes under the Convention

62. The LEG took note of the following collaborative activities with relevant bodies and programmes under the Convention that have taken place since its 33rd meeting:

(a) Engagement in the work of the AC task force on NAPs and the work of the AC on the technical examination process on adaptation. The LEG presented its work on vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems²¹ at the technical expert meeting on adaptation at the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies;

(b) Engagement in the task force on displacement²² of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism;

(c) Ongoing engagement with the Technology Executive Committee on developing a paper on aligning technology needs assessments and NAPs;

(d) Engagement with the Standing Committee on Finance on climate-finance related matters;

(e) Exchange of information with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on capacity-building support provided to the LDCs and potential areas of collaboration;²³

(f) Engagement with NWP partner organizations in the organization of the 2018 NAP Expo and the work of the NAP technical working group, including participation at the NWP side event at the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. The LEG consequently took note of the request by the Subsidiary Body for Technological and Scientific Advice (SBSTA) to encourage NWP partner organizations to produce usable knowledge products and catalyse action, including in relation to NAPs in cooperation with the LEG;

(g) Participation in the gender dialogue to provide details on the work of the LEG on technical guidance and advice on strengthening gender considerations in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;²⁴

(h) Participation in the SBSTA research dialogue to discuss the needs of the LDCs on climate change research and research-related capacity-building.²⁵

H. Discussion with the Government of Sierra Leone

63. The LEG held discussions with the adaptation team of the Government of Sierra Leone on the country's progress, challenges, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The team was led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Aviation, Mr. Brima S. T. Kebbie, and included experts from the Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Ministry of Lands, Housing and the Environment, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Activities, Ministry of Transport and Aviation,

²¹ Available at <http://tep-a.org/sessions/technical-expert-meeting-2018>.

²² See <https://unfccc.int/wim-excom/sub-groups/TFD>.

²³ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LEG%20Intervention_PCCB.pdf.

²⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LEG%20Gender%20and%20NAPs.pdf>.

²⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/node/61001>.

Ministry of Water Resources, National Tourist Board, Office of National Security, Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency and a NAPA project implemented with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

64. The team indicated that concrete implementation of adaptation actions has only been initiated through the NAPA, and that major successes and lessons are yet to be realized. They presented details on the implementation of a NAPA project on integrating adaptation into agricultural production and food security in Sierra Leone,²⁶ and on how that has created awareness, built capacity and generated preliminary lessons and best practices to inform the formulation and implementation of Sierra Leone's NAP.

65. The team provided the following details regarding the progress made on the country's NAP:

- (a) The process was effectively launched in March 2018;
- (b) It is led by the Environmental Protection Agency and guided by the National Environmental Policy (1997) and the Environmental Protection Act (2004);
- (c) A road map has been developed containing, among other activities, the establishment of a NAP team; stakeholder consultations; assessments at national, subnational and sectoral levels; compilation of a NAP document and communication of progress;
- (d) A framework is currently being developed to set the approach for the formulation and implementation of Sierra Leone's NAP with the assistance of the NAP Global Network;
- (e) The process will draw on lessons from previous and ongoing adaptation activities, particularly the NAPA, and will also incorporate lessons from recent disasters that include the catastrophic mudslides that occurred in Freetown in August 2017 and the Ebola epidemic;
- (f) The University of Sierra Leone undertakes relevant research, such as an ongoing study on gender and climate change adaptation in Sierra Leone;
- (g) Learning from neighbouring countries such as Liberia will be pursued.

66. The team expressed the country's need for more funding to expand the NAPA project referred to in paragraph 64 above by covering more of the priority regions identified in the country's NAPA. The team also expressed the need for technical support to advance the formulation of the NAP, including compiling good practices for the formulation of the NAP and the implementation of adaptation actions as a knowledge resource.

67. The Government officially requested the LEG to extend support to Sierra Leone under the Open NAPs. A strategy will be put in place for the support that will also include the engagement of other partners that are or will be supporting the country in formulating and implementing its NAP.

68. The Government took the meeting participants on a study tour of climate-related disasters and community responses. The following communities were visited: a coastal community along river Number 2 in Freetown to see how the community is generating income and building livelihood resilience by protecting the coastal ecosystem from the impacts of climate change; and the Mortomeh community, where a mudslide that led to a massive loss of lives occurred in 2017, to hear from Government officials and local communities about the experience before, during and after the disaster and related responses by the Government.

I. Discussions with relevant organizations

69. The LEG held discussions with the representatives of the GEF secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, WMO and CCAFS on progress and latest developments with regard to support to the LDCs on adaptation and further collaboration in supporting the LDCs in specific areas

²⁶ Available at <https://www.thegef.org/project/integrating-adaptation-climate-change-agricultural-production-and-food-security-sierra-leone>.

(linkages of NAPs with nationally determined contributions (NDCs), NAP Expos, training on NAPs for 2019, the work of the NAP technical working group and NAP Central). The LEG took note of related inputs from the GCF secretariat and the International Institute for Sustainable Development. The remainder of this subchapter summarizes the discussions on the latest developments and collaboration on support to the LDCs. Information on the support provided is summarized in chapter II.B and C above.

70. Regarding progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, the LEG reminded the organizations of the vision of the LEG for, among other elements, all LDCs to have formulated their first generation of NAPs by 2020. The LEG and the organizations noted that some countries had not made any significant advancements yet, and that it will be important to examine potential causes, including lack of support. They agreed that it will be important to map support provided to the countries with a view to identifying cases where little or no support is being provided. They also agreed to continue to strengthen efforts to coordinate the support provided to the countries for the formulation and implementation of NAPs. They noted that the NAP technical working group, the NAP calendar and regular interactions between the LEG and relevant organizations play an important role in facilitating that coordination.

71. The GEF secretariat provided highlights on the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation for the LDCF and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) (2018–2022)²⁷ and related operational improvements for the LDCF. The key improvements are as follows:

(a) The project selection and approval process will be based on a work programme to be approved by the LDCF/SCCF Council, with projects selected based on prioritization factors (see para. 68(b) below) as opposed to on a first come, first served basis, as previously done;

(b) Funding proposals will be prioritized according to: alignment with national needs and priorities; alignment with the GEF programming strategy; opportunities to leverage or catalyse support; level of LDCF resources accessed; and other factors such as potential for private sector engagement, geographic balance, extenuating circumstances and timing of technical approval;

(c) The total funding ceiling for each LDC has been raised to USD 50 million, with a cap of USD 10 million per country for the period 2018–2022;

(d) Additional capacity-building support will be provided to the LDCs for planning and programming, including by integrating LDCF and SCCF planning into country dialogues; conducting project development workshops for the LDCs; exploring regional and global initiatives for capacity-building, knowledge management and sharing of lessons; and integrating technical assistance in project design;

(e) Reassessing the current relevance of the existing pipeline of NAPA projects that had been technically cleared by the GEF secretariat, and aligning the projects with the vision for the seventh replenishment of the GEF.

72. The LEG and the relevant organizations noted the importance of synergy and coherence of adaptation information in NAPs and NDCs. The organizations recommended that the LEG develop a policy brief on the synergy and coherence of NAPs and NDCs and invite countries to share related experience, best practices and possible challenges at LEG side events at climate change conferences or at NAP Expos.

73. The LEG provided highlights on plans for the 2019 NAP Expo and the regional NAP Expos (as summarized in chapter III.C above), and invited input from the relevant organizations on the topics, design of the events, and mobilization of and support for participants. The organizations provided preliminary input, including on adding topics on linkages between NAPs and NDCs and on measuring progress prior to the 2019 event. They reaffirmed their readiness to actively engage in the organization of NAP Expos.

²⁷ Available at <https://www.thegef.org/events/gef-climate-change-adaptation-strategy-2018-2022-ldcf-and-sccf>.

74. The LEG introduced the status of planning for training on NAPs (see chapter III.A.5 above). The organizations emphasized the critical importance of the training by the LEG for helping countries develop NAP road maps and frameworks for the effective engagement of all partners.

75. The LEG reminded the relevant organizations of the recommendation of the NAP technical working group at its meeting held during the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies for the organizations to continue to contribute information for inclusion on NAP Central on progress made in supporting countries in the formulation of NAPs and in recording NAP-related events and activities in the NAP calendar. The LEG invited the organizations continue to provide such information as and when it becomes available, and to work with countries to share relevant outputs and outcomes from the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The organizations suggested that it would be useful to help countries to establish knowledge management systems for the audit of their adaptation activities so they can maintain a systematic record of their progress on adaptation and be better prepared to effectively engage in the transparency framework and the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement.

76. The organizations expressed their appreciation for the continued facilitation by the LEG of the coordination of activities and collaboration on supporting the LDCs.

J. Highlights on priority activities for 2018–2019

77. A number of activities under the LEG work programme for 2018–2019 have been successfully delivered, including the following:

(a) Supporting the SBI assessment of progress made on NAPs by developing terms of reference for the assessment, leading data collection and analysis, mobilizing relevant organizations to contribute towards the collection and analysis of data, conducting a meeting of Party experts and reporting to the SBI;²⁸

(b) Recommendations to the SBI on updating the LDC work programme;²⁹

(c) Compilation of gaps and needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement and COP 21 decisions;³⁰

(d) NAP Expo from 4 to 6 April, in Sharm El Sheikh,³¹ and a regional NAP Expo at the 11th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation.³²

78. Other priority activities include developing a strategy and outline for the training on implementation of NAPs in 2019, organizing the regional NAP Expos and advancing preparations for the NAP Expo in 2019 referred to in chapter III.C above.

79. The LEG will finalize the following deliverables before COP 24: the NAP-SDG iFrame; a technical report on the consideration of vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in NAPs; and highlights from the NAP Expos. It will also continue the online implementation of the frequently asked questions on the GCF and NAPs.

80. Other key activities include addressing the mandate from SBI on advising on the implementation of NAPs, ongoing development of Open NAPs, preparations for LEG events and effective engagement at COP 24.

²⁸ See document FCCC/SBI/2018/6 and <https://unfccc.int/node/28634> for more details.

²⁹ FCCC/SBI/2018/4, paragraphs 62–66.

³⁰ FCCC/SBI/2018/4, paragraphs 50–52.

³¹ See <http://napexpo.org/2018>.

³² See <http://napexpo.org/malawi>.

Annex**Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group
as at 21 August 2018**

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. Erwin Künzi | Austria |
| Ms. Sonam Khandu | Bhutan |
| Mr. Idrissa Semde | Burkina Faso |
| Ms. Beth Lavender | Canada |
| Mr. Kenel Delusca | Haiti |
| Ms. Michelle Winthrop | Ireland |
| Mr. Benon Yassin | Malawi |
| Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal | Nepal |
| Mr. Aderito Santana | Sao Tome and Principe |
| Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed | Sudan |
| Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa | Timor-Leste |
| Ms. Mery Yaou | Togo |
| Mr. Fredrick Manyika | United Republic of Tanzania |
