

Dear Co-facilitators

Lesotho will be speaking on behalf of the LDC group. I would like to thank all parties and groups that have reflected some of the challenges and way forward on adaptation. I would also like to call upon LDC member countries to highlight some of the contextual challenges they face in their respective countries.

Climate change adaptation is not a future concern but a present necessity. LDCs have been facing widespread impacts on health, economy and livelihoods; frequent and severe climate impacts; compounded by pre-existing developmental challenges. High poverty rates, limited basic services, and inadequate social safety nets exacerbate the vulnerability of our communities, making each climate event exponentially more devastating for us than for the rest of the world. It is therefore imperative, more than ever, that we need to scale up our efforts to do what we can, to protect ourselves from these shocks.

The LDC Group recognizes that the current adaptation strategies and global climate responses fall short of our needs. Often, these externally dictated, short-term projects, operating in isolation and failing to strengthen our in-country institutional capabilities for the long term. Our countries are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events, including hurricanes, floods, and droughts. These events can devastate infrastructure, disrupt livelihoods, and cause significant loss of life. Limited resources and weak infrastructure further exacerbate the challenges faced during and after such events

These difficulties are further magnified by financial constraints that restrict LDCs' ability to invest in resilience-building measures such as infrastructure upgrades, early warning systems, and crop diversification. Access to international climate financial mechanisms is often a struggle due to complex application processes and stringent eligibility criteria. This restricts our ability to secure the necessary financial resources for implementing adaptation projects and programs.

We call for a shift towards holistic, society-wide responses that support local communities most in need, with ambitious targets for support and finance reaching these levels. Global cooperation and support are fundamental to overcoming the challenges we face. We urge developed countries, international organizations, and stakeholders to provide financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building initiatives, and technical assistance to help bridge the adaptation gap and support sustainable development.

Many LDC have limited access to advanced technologies and lack the necessary technical expertise to effectively adapt to climate change. This hampers our ability to develop and deploy innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture, water management, and renewable energy, among other critical sectors. Affordability and accessibility of environmentally sound technologies are crucial for climate change adaptation, but barriers such as high costs, intellectual property rights, and lack of technical know-how must be addressed to improve our adaptive capacity.

LDCs often rely heavily on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Climate change impacts, such as changing rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and increased pests and diseases, threaten food security, livelihoods, and economic stability in these countries. Access to timely and accurate climate information is crucial for effective adaptation

planning. However, there remains major challenges in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating climate data. Insufficient weather monitoring systems and weak institutional capacities limit our ability to make informed decisions for adaptation. Limited access to training, research facilities, and knowledge-sharing platforms hinder our ability to develop and implement context-specific adaptation strategies. Many LDC face challenges in building the necessary capacity and expertise to implement effective climate change adaptation measures.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving international cooperation, financial support, technology transfer, capacity-building initiatives, and policy reforms. Efforts should focus on empowering LDCs to enhance their respective resilience and adaptive capacity, reduce full dependency on climate-sensitive sectors, and promote sustainable development in the face of climate change.

Gender inequalities and social disparities can intersect with climate change impacts, further exacerbating vulnerabilities within LDC. Women, children, indigenous communities, and marginalized groups often bear a disproportionate burden of climate change impacts and may face additional barriers in accessing resources and decision-making processes for adaptation.

Effective adaptation requires robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of adaptation measures, identify gaps, and learn from both successes and failures. LDC may face challenges in establishing monitoring systems and using the knowledge gained to inform future adaptation actions.

Addressing climate adaptation at the global level is key, The Global Goal on Adaptation must lead us towards more enhanced adaptive capacity, strengthened resilience and reduced vulnerability for all developing countries. We believe that having an overarching target will guide the achievement of the GGA as presented in paragraph 7.1. Our group will be fully engaged in future workshops this year under the GlaSS work programme, and it is our hope that COP28 will deliver a GGA framework with targets and indicators to guide adaptation action on all levels.

The Paris Agreement recognizes the need for public and grant-based resources for climate change adaptation, in particular with regard to least-developed countries and small-island developing states. Acknowledging that not all financial resources will come from public sources, additional resources from private finance that is leveraged through public finance is required. However, it is important to note here that it is difficult to attract private finance for adaptation particularly for countries such as LDCs where 80% of the private sector accounting from Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in developing countries. Requiring them to provide and contribute finance for adaptation is not financially feasible in LDCs, especially now that the COVID-19 pandemic has put our weak economies on their knees.

Unless a scaled-up, new and additional finance is secured, a significant deficit of adaptation funding is likely. It is critical that efforts by all developed countries to mobilize and make accessible climate finance continue with an upward trend from the current levels; particularly grants for adaptation- which is a vital priority for developing countries in particular for LDCs.

Increased migration and displacement due to climate change presents another significant challenge. Managing the impacts of internal and cross-border migration, including providing essential services and livelihood opportunities for displaced populations, is a concern for many LDCs.

Experiences, best practices, and knowledge opportunities among LDC can foster collaboration and learning in climate change adaptation. South-South cooperation, where countries with similar contexts and challenges support each other, can play a vital role in addressing adaptation gaps and building resilience.

Integrating climate change adaptation into long-term development planning is essential for mainstreaming resilience. LDC may face challenges in aligning adaptation strategies with national development plans and integrating climate considerations across sectors, policies, and institutions. We wish to emphasize the crucial importance of the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plan and we want highlight that we continue to face significant challenges in this process which are exacerbated by limited financial resources, technological constraints, and capacity gaps.

We believe it is pivotal to treat adaptation with the same urgency and importance as mitigation. It is crucial that we prioritize the formulation and implementation of our national adaptation plans. And addressing the widening gap in resources needed and those provided.

In this context, we note with concern the yet unfulfilled promise of doubling adaptation finance. This pledge, crucial to our efforts, must not be left hanging in uncertainty. Timely, predictable, and adequate financial support is essential to enable our countries to plan, implement, and enhance their adaptation actions.

Addressing the challenges that we have outlined requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach that involves a combination of policy support, financial assistance, technology transfer, capacity-building efforts, and knowledge sharing. By recognizing the unique challenges faced by LDC and providing targeted support, we can promote climate resilience, reduce vulnerability, and ensure a sustainable future for all.

Thank you co-facilitators,