

DRAFT TEXT

on

SBI 52–55 agenda item 11 Matters relating to the least developed countries

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took note of the oral report by the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) on the implementation of the LEG work programme for 2021–2022 and expressed its appreciation to the LEG for the progress it has made under its work programme over the last two years.
2. The SBI welcomed the reports on:
 - (a) The 37th meeting of the LEG, held in Antananarivo, from 6 to 8 February 2020;¹
 - (b) The stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG, held in Antananarivo, from 10 to 12 February 2020;²
 - (c) The 38th meeting of the LEG, held virtually, from 17 to 21 August 2020;³
 - (d) The 39th meeting of the LEG, held virtually, from 10 to 12 March 2021;⁴
 - (e) The 40th meeting of the LEG, held virtually, from 10 to 13 August 2021;⁵
 - (f) The progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG.⁶
3. The SBI also welcomed the successful organization of a writing workshop on national adaptation plans (NAPs), held virtually from 30 August to 3 September 2021, for those least developed countries (LDCs) in the early stages of the process to formulate and implement NAPs [[or those transitioning to the implementation phase]].
4. The SBI expressed its appreciation to the Government of Madagascar for hosting the 37th meeting of the LEG and the stocktaking meeting referred to in paragraph 2(a–b) above and expressed its gratitude to the Government of Ireland for its provision of financial support for the work of the LEG.
5. The SBI also expressed its gratitude to the LEG and the secretariat for their work on supporting the LDCs and for continuing to coordinate support activities with relevant organizations.
6. The SBI noted that, as at 1 November 2021, 9 of the 30 NAPs submitted by developing countries were from the LDCs.
7. The SBI also noted that 24 of the 71 proposals received from developing countries for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for the formulation of NAPs that had been approved by the GCF secretariat as at 4 November 2021 were from the LDCs.
8. The SBI further noted that 65 of the 71 proposals referred to in paragraph 7 above had received or were in the process of receiving funds from the GCF, and that 22 of those were from the LDCs.

¹ FCCC/SBI/2020/6.

² FCCC/SBI/2020/7.

³ FCCC/SBI/2020/14

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2021/6.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2021/13.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2020/8.

9. The SBI invited delivery partners of the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for the formulation of NAPs to strengthen efforts to support the LDCs with the goal of expediting the submission of readiness proposals to the GCF.

10. The SBI noted that all 46 LDCs have initiated the process to formulate and implement NAPs but there is slow progress in advancing the process.

11. The SBI also noted the implementation of adaptation projects in the LDCs, with 35 LDCs having successfully accessed funding for such projects from the GCF.

12. The SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totalling USD xx million, made by the Governments of Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden to the Least Developed Countries Fund and urged additional contributions to the Fund.

13. The SBI invited Parties and relevant organizations to actively engage in supporting the LDCs in making tangible progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and in implementing elements of the LDC work programme.

14. The SBI welcomed the ongoing collaboration of the LEG with the Adaptation Committee, other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, partners of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and a wide range of relevant organizations, agencies and regional centres and networks, and encouraged the continuation of this collaboration.

15. The SBI initiated the review of the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG and took actions and steps that resulted in the following outcomes:⁷

(a) The LEG convened a meeting with representatives of Parties and relevant organizations to take stock of its work;⁸

(b) Parties submitted their views on the work of the LEG;⁹

(c) The secretariat prepared, and the SBI considered, a report on the LEG stocktaking meeting¹⁰ as input to the review;

(d) The secretariat prepared a synthesis report on the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG¹¹ on the basis of submissions from Parties, reports of the LEG, the report on the LEG stocktaking meeting and other relevant information.

(e) The SBI considered the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat referred to in paragraph 15(d) above and completed its consideration of the review of the LEG.

(f) The SBI recommended a draft decision on the extension of the mandate of the LEG for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-sixth session.¹²

16. The SBI expressed its appreciation to members of the LEG during 2015–2021 and encouraged them to facilitate a smooth transition of work to new members.

17. The SBI took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat.

18. The SBI requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

⁷ As per decision 19/CP.21, para. 14.

⁸ The stocktaking meeting of the work of the LEG held in Antananarivo, from 10 to 12 February 2020.

⁹ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2020/7.

¹¹ As contained in document FCCC/SBI/2020/8.

¹² For the text of the draft decision, see document FCCC/SB/2021/L.X/Add.X

Draft decision -/CP.26

Extension of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 5/CP.7, 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.10, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18, 3/CP.20, 1/CP.21, 19/CP.21, 16/CP.24, 7/CP.25, 11/CMA.1 and 19/CMA.1,

Recognizing Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention and the preamble of the Paris Agreement on taking full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology,

Noting the importance of adaptation for the least developed countries and the role of national adaptation plans in addressing national, subnational, sectoral and local, as well as regional and transboundary, issues,

Having considered the reports on the 37th, 38th, 39th and 40th meetings of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (hereinafter referred to as the Group), the report on the stocktaking meeting on the work of the Group, the views of Parties on the work of the Least Group, and the synthesis report on the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the Group and the recommendations contained therein,¹

Also having considered the views shared by Parties during official events on this matter,²

Recognizing the value of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in providing support for addressing the priority needs of the least developed countries,

Expressing its special appreciation to the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on its 20th anniversary,

Expressing its appreciation to the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for its successful work in implementing its work programme for 2015–2021 and in supporting the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, other elements from the least developed countries work programme, and the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans,

Recognizing the experience of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in successfully supporting the formulation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action in the least developed countries,

Also recognizing the value of information provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, in collaboration with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, to the least developed countries, and on the engagement of a wide range of organizations, including through the Open NAP initiative and the national adaptation plan technical working group, in supporting the least developed countries,

Noting the importance of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as a body that provides high-quality information on adaptation for the least developed countries,

¹ FCCC/SBI/2020/6, FCCC/SBI/2020/7, FCCC/SBI/2020/8, FCCC/SBI/2020/14, FCCC/SBI/2021/6 and FCCC/SBI/2021/13.

² Enhancing support to the least developed countries: insights from a recent stocktaking meeting of the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (for information, see <https://unfccc.int/node/227958>); technical dialogue with Parties and observers held by the SBI Chair on experience, good practices and lessons learned from LEG work to inform the review of the LEG (for information, see <https://unfccc.int/node/257183>); information event on the work of the LEG in supporting the least developed countries on adaptation (for information, see https://unfccc.int/event/info_event_LEG_SB2021).

Also noting that the least developed countries continue to require support for, inter alia, undertaking the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, applying regional approaches to adaptation, engaging with the Green Climate Fund and implementing the least developed countries work programme,

Further noting the need to continue to support all the least developed countries in achieving the vision of having produced their first national adaptation plan by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (hereinafter referred to as the Group) under its current terms of reference;³
2. *Also decides* that the next review of the mandate of the Group will take place at its thirty-sixth session (2031);
3. *Further decides* to take stock of the work of the Group in order to review its progress and its terms of reference at its thirty-first session (2026), the midway point before the review of the mandate of the Group at its thirty-sixth session (2031), as a way to reflect on the evolving needs of the least developed countries;
4. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to review the progress of the Group as it relates to implementation of the Paris Agreement at its X session (2026) as part of the stocktake referred to in paragraph 3 above;
5. *Decides* to outline at its [[twenty-ninth session (November 2024)]] the steps for the stocktake referred to in paragraphs 3-4 above;
6. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Group in enhancing the accessibility and transparency of its meetings and information, and requests it to continue its efforts, building on the experience of other constituted bodies, while taking into account its nature as a technical expert group, and to provide information on these efforts in its reports;
7. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations to continue to provide resources for supporting implementation of the Group's work programme;
8. *Requests* the Group to continue to provide technical guidance and support to the least developed countries in advancing the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans, including in relation to the work on improving [[their]] access to funding under the Green Climate Fund, build capacity to measure adaptation outcomes, and enhance linkages among national adaptation plans, national and subnational development plans and strategies, Sustainable Development Goals and relevant frameworks;
9. *Invites* the Group to consider under its workplan the possibility of creating, as needed, thematic working groups to expand its technical support in specific areas, building on the experience and success of its national adaptation plan technical working group and taking into account the ongoing workload of the Group and its available resources;
10. *Requests* the Group to include information within the scope of its outreach activities on various sources of financing for adaptation additional to the Financial Mechanism [under][of] the Convention and the Paris Agreement, drawing on the existing work of other constituted bodies, as appropriate;
- 10 Alt Requests* the Group to include in its outreach activities the sharing of information on various sources of financing for adaptation outside the Financial Mechanism [under] [of] the Convention and the Paris Agreement, drawing on the existing work of other constituted bodies, as appropriate;
11. *Also requests* the Group to support the least developed countries in understanding the modalities for and ways of accessing means of implementation;
12. *Further requests* the Group, in collaboration with relevant constituted bodies, to assist the least developed countries in addressing adaptation-related provisions under the

³ Decisions 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18, 3/CP.20, 19/CP.21, 8/CP.24, 16/CP.24 and 7/CP.25.

Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the submission and updating of adaptation communications in accordance with decision 9/CMA.1.

13. *Requests* the Group to continue to collaborate with the Standing Committee on Finance on matters relating to access to the Green Climate Fund and other funds under the Financial Mechanism by the least developed countries for funding of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans;

14. *Also requests* the Group to continue to collaborate with the Adaptation Committee and other constituted bodies working on adaptation, as well as on work under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, in providing support to the least developed countries for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and to include relevant information thereon in its reports to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;

15. *Encourages* the Group to ~~[[consider]]~~~~[[prioritizing certain]]~~ elements in its mandate on the basis of the needs of the least developed countries and the availability of resources;

16. *Recognizes* the positive engagement of a broad range of organizations, networks and experts in supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans through the national adaptation plan technical working group;

17. *Requests* the Group to mobilize more partners to address specific priority needs of the least developed countries, as appropriate;

18. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Group from the least developed countries by three to cover the areas referred to in para 19 below;

18 alt Decides to adjust the composition of the Group as follows:

(a) Five members from African States that are least developed countries;

(b) Two members from Asia-Pacific States that are least developed countries;

(c) Two members from small island developing States that are least developed countries;

(d) One member from a least developed country;

(e) Four members from developed countries;

19. *Encourages* Parties, when nominating members to the Group, to take into account, inter alia, gender balance, youth engagement, familiarity with private sector considerations regarding the Green Climate Fund, expertise in project design and implementation; expertise in indigenous and traditional knowledge, and education;

20. *Requests* the Group to develop its draft rules of procedure, contained within its terms of reference, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Parties at its twenty-seventh session (November 2022) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session (November 2022), taking into account current practices of the Group;

21. *Also requests* the Group to include in the draft rules of procedure referred to in paragraph 20 above, inter alia, nomination, term limits and rotation of members;

22. *Encourages* Parties, when nominating members to the Group, to take into account, inter alia, gender balance, youth engagement, experience in climate finance, expertise in project design and implementation, expertise in indigenous and traditional knowledge, and education.