

# Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

## Recommendations for addressing the challenges faced by the least developed country (LDCs) in accessing funding and support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs) – 22 August 2024

### 1. Mandate

COP 26 requested the LEG to continue to collaborate with the SCF on matters relating to access to the GCF and other funds under the Financial Mechanism by the LDCs for funding the process to formulate and implement NAPs.<sup>1</sup> COP 27 invited the LEG and the Adaptation Committee to continue formulating recommendations on ways to facilitate the mobilization of support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs with a view to addressing the challenges experienced by developing countries in accessing funding and support from the GCF for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and to submit the recommendations to the SCF for consideration.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, SBI 59 requested the LEG to convene a meeting with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF and other relevant organizations, as part of NAP Expo 2024, to identify ways to assist the LDCs in expeditiously implementing adaptation action based on priorities identified in their NAPs, and to include recommendations in its reports to the SBI with a view to addressing the challenges, gaps and needs that the LDCs continue to face in accessing funding for implementing NAPs. It also requested the LEG to identify the challenges faced by the LDCs in initiating and/or completing the process of accrediting direct access entities (DAEs) as well as the challenges, gaps and needs faced by the LDCs in gaining approval of projects by their DAEs and include the findings thereon in its report for consideration at SBI 61.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Recommendations

The table below provides recommendations from the LEG based on the ongoing work of the LEG in capturing progress, gaps and needs, challenges and barriers of the LDCs in the formulation and implementation of NAPs including in accessing support, as well as results of the activities in responding to the mandate from SBI 59.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 15/CP.26, para. 13.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 9/CP.27, para. 5.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBI/2023/21, paras. 83 and 84.

**Table 1: Recommendations to address challenges faced by the LDCs in accessing funding and support from the implementation of NAPs – input to the SCF recommendations on draft guidance to the Green Climate Fund**

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Proposed COP guidance to the GCF</i>	<i>Background to the inputs</i>
Challenges faced by the LDCs in securing delivery partners to support project development and implementation	<p>The COP to invite the GCF secretariat to support enhanced collaboration between accredited entities and the LDCs, in particular with respect to support for accessing funding from the GCF for the formulation and implementation of NAPs</p> <p>The COP to urge the GCF secretariat to continue to enhance its support for accredited direct access entities from LDCs in developing and submitting projects to implement relevant priorities from the NAPs, including through its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme and Project Preparation Facility</p>	The LDCs continue to face significant challenges in accessing funding for the formulation and implementation of NAPs (FCCC/SBI/2023/21, para. 82). Regarding implementation, the primary difficulty encountered by many LDCs is securing delivery partner(s) to support project development (FCCC/SBI/2023/17, para. 25). This is due to multiple factors including, inter alia, lack of awareness of the range of available delivery partners for specific projects; mismatch between intended project scope and the strategic priorities of the delivery partners for a given time frame; and inability for some delivery partners to take on more projects.
Challenges faced by the LDCs in initiating or completing the process of accrediting DAEs as well as the challenges, gaps and needs faced by the LDCs in gaining approval of projects by their DAEs	The COP to invite the GCF Board to continue its efforts to enhance access to funding, including through use of the Simplified Approval Process (SAP), the Project Specific Assessment Approach (PSAA), and simplifying accreditation policies and processes, as appropriate	Following the mandate from SBI 59, the LEG launched a survey with the LDCs, targeting DAEs, GCF national designated authorities and NAP teams, the GCF and other relevant actors to identify challenges, gaps and needs. Primary challenges identified include lack of or limited institutional, financial and technical; capacity of LDCs DAEs that is required from accreditation, to developing and managing GCF projects; lack of awareness of accreditation requirements and procedures; GCF stringent procedures