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Matters relating to the least developed countries

Stocktaking meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This report concerns the stocktaking meeting on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) held in Antananarivo from 10 to 12 February 2020. It contains a summary of achievements, good practices and lessons learned from the work of the LEG in 2016–2020 as identified at the meeting. It also contains a summary of opportunities, challenges, gaps and needs related to the work of the LEG and the support provided to the least developed countries. It further contains information on key areas of work for the LEG to address, current and future needs of the least developed countries, and key modalities for delivering effective support.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
LDC	least developed country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WHO	World Health Organization

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The COP decided to review, at COP 26, the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG with a view to adopting a decision thereon, taking into account, as appropriate, new processes and needs that may arise prior to that session.¹
2. It also decided on a set of actions to initiate that review, including requesting the LEG to convene, before June 2020 and with the assistance of the secretariat, a meeting with representatives of Parties and relevant organizations to take stock of its work in 2016–2020, and requesting the secretariat to prepare a report on the stocktaking meeting for consideration at SBI 52 as input to the review.²

B. Proceedings

3. The stocktaking meeting was held from 10 to 12 February 2020 in Antananarivo³ directly following the 37th meeting of the LEG, held from 6 to 8 February 2020. Both meetings were hosted by the Government of Madagascar.
4. The LEG extended invitations to the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, and other relevant organizations, regional centres and networks to participate in the meeting. Representatives of the GCF, GIZ, UNCDF, the United Nations Development Programme, UNDRR, WHO and the World Meteorological Organization took part in the meeting.
5. The meeting was opened by the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar, Vahinala Raharinirina.
6. It was attended by 66 participants (17 women and 49 men), representing Parties, United Nations organizations and agencies, other relevant organizations, regional centres and networks.
7. The LEG prepared a background document for the meeting, providing a summary of mandates, activities, achievements, good practices and lessons learned related to the work of the LEG in 2016–2020.⁴
8. The meeting was interactive, with breakout groups to stimulate discussion and exchange of views. Participants were encouraged to take note of key messages throughout the meeting.

C. Objective

9. The overall objective of the meeting was to take stock of the work of the LEG in 2016–2020. This was achieved through the following specific activities, which were reflected in the agenda of the meeting:
 - (a) Identifying experience, good practices and lessons learned related to the work of the LEG;
 - (b) Discussing opportunities, challenges and gaps related to the work of the LEG;
 - (c) Identifying good practices in the delivery of support by the LEG.

¹ Decision 19/CP.21, para. 13.

² Decision 19/CP.21, para. 14.

³ See <http://napexpo.org/legstocktaking>.

⁴ Available at <http://napexpo.org/legstocktaking/documents>.

D. Submissions from Parties

10. COP 21 invited⁵ Parties to submit their views on the work of the LEG via the submission portal⁶ by 1 February 2020 for consideration at SBI 52 as one of the necessary steps for the SBI to initiate its review of the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG. As at 10 February 2020, two submissions had been received: from Bhutan on behalf of the LDCs, and Croatia and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States. Representatives of the Parties that made the submissions were invited to present highlights from them at the stocktaking meeting to inform the discussions referred to in chapters II.B–C below.

II. Summary of the meeting

A. Key achievements of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

11. The LEG invited the secretariat to make a presentation on its behalf on the mandates, activities and achievements of the LEG in 2016–2020. Table 1 summarizes the key achievements presented, and further details are contained in the background document referred to in paragraph 7 above.

Table 1

Key achievements of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2016–2020 as at 16 March 2020

<i>Modality/work area</i>	<i>Key achievements</i>
Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs	<p>Development and application of the integrative framework for national adaptation plans and the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>Technical papers on gender; vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; and regional synergy</p> <p>Provision of guidance on the development of supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs</p> <p>Organization of NAP Expos in 2016, 2018 and 2019 and regional NAP Expos in 2017 (one) and 2018 (three)</p> <p>Regional training workshops on NAPs in 2017</p> <p>Continued development of NAP Central</p>
Direct country support through the Open NAP initiative and training	<p>Open NAP country case studies for six countries</p> <p>Open NAP initiative for 18 LDCs in the early stages of the NAP process, including an Open NAP workshop in September 2019</p>
Engaging and exchanging information with the GCF and GEF secretariats and other relevant entities on accessing funding	<p>Involvement of the GCF and GEF secretariats in all LEG meetings</p> <p>Sessions at NAP Expos on GCF support, run by the GCF secretariat, and on LDCF support, run by the GEF secretariat</p> <p>Continued exchange of information on experience, good practices, obstacles and challenges in relation to LDCs accessing funding</p> <p>Mobilization of relevant agencies to provide support to all the LDCs</p>
Technical guidance and support for the LDC work programme and national adaptation programmes of action	<p>Monitoring of progress</p> <p>Regular outreach to organizations at LEG meetings, events and negotiation sessions</p> <p>Provision of recommendations to SBI 48 on updating the LDC work programme</p>

⁵ Decision 19/CP.21, para. 14(b).

⁶ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<i>Modality/work area</i>	<i>Key achievements</i>
Gender, vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; and regional approaches in adaptation planning and implementation	<p>Technical sessions on gender sensitivity in NAPs at all NAP Expos</p> <p>Training modules as part of NAP workshops in 2017</p> <p>Publication of a toolkit for a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement NAPs^a</p>
Monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness, gaps and adequacy in the process to formulate and implement NAPs	<p>Development and testing of the tool for monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps</p> <p>Launch of the online NAP tracking tool</p>
Identifying and addressing gaps and needs of the LDCs	Ongoing compilation, analysis and addressing of gaps and needs of the LDCs with regard to adaptation (see document FCCC/SBI/2020/6, annex II, for the latest compilation of gaps and needs)
Collaboration with other bodies under the Convention	<p>Work with the AC on NAPs, access to funding from the GCF for NAPs, monitoring and evaluation, and addressing mandates from COP 21, COP 24 and CMA 1</p> <p>Engagement with partners of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the work related to gender; vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; NAP Expos; and training on NAPs</p> <p>Provision of input to the work of the Technology Executive Committee on linkages between technology needs assessments and NAPs</p> <p>Engagement with the task force on displacement of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts</p> <p>Provision of inputs to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on the capacity-building needs of the LDCs</p>
Engagement with organizations, regional centres and networks	Active engagement of organizations, regional centres and networks through the NAP technical working group in supporting all core activities of the LEG
Supporting implementation of the Paris Agreement	<p>Development of modalities and methodologies for adaptation under the Paris Agreement in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paras. 41 and 45, and decision 11/CMA.1</p> <p>Consideration of gaps and needs related to NAPs and how to address them in accordance with decision 8/CP.24</p>
Supporting the assessment by the SBI of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs	<p>Provision of support for the SBI assessment in 2018</p> <p>Preparation of the annual progress report on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and regular reporting of information on progress in LEG reports</p>

^a NAP Global Network and UNFCCC. 2019. *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines for the NAP Process*. A Dazé and C Church (eds.). Winnipeg, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at <http://www.napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-gender-responsive-national-adaptation-plans/>.

B. Good practices in the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

12. The secretariat was invited to make an introductory presentation on behalf of the LEG on good practices and lessons learned in delivering support to the LDCs. A representative of

the NAP technical working group⁷ was also invited to provide reflections on the experience of organizations, regional centres and networks in working with the LEG in supporting the LDCs.

13. To guide the discussions, the LEG then invited participants to consider how countries had accessed its support, what the experience of those countries had been, and key lessons learned that could be used to improve its future delivery of support.

14. The following good practices in the work of the LEG were identified:

(a) The technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs⁸ have helped to establish a framework and benchmark for the work on NAPs by the LDCs and other Parties and relevant actors;

(b) The Open NAP initiative has been useful in providing direct country support and has helped to advance work on NAPs in the LDCs;

(c) The NAP Expos are instrumental in facilitating face-to-face interaction and sharing of experience, best practices, lessons learned and key challenges among the LDCs, providers of support and other relevant actors;

(d) The regional training workshops on NAPs have been effective in helping countries to better understand the process to formulate and implement NAPs, with a focus on addressing national priorities while considering key regional needs and contexts;

(e) The hosting of LEG events by the LDCs provides numerous benefits to the host countries, such as enabling direct interaction between the LEG and the country teams for the provision of technical advice, facilitating high-level political awareness of and engagement in climate change adaptation, and promoting enhanced coordination among different actors;

(f) Engagement between the LEG and the GCF and GEF secretariats has been effective in facilitating exchange of information on LDCs' progress and specific challenges in accessing funding for adaptation, including for formulating NAPs, and in exploring ways to address those challenges;

(g) Effective collaboration between the LEG and other constituted bodies under the Convention has allowed for effective coordination, communication, alignment and delivery of support to the LDCs;

(h) The NAP technical working group has been effective at mobilizing, coordinating and aligning the technical support provided by different actors to the LDCs for their formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(i) The LEG plays an important role in identifying gaps and needs in terms of the support required by the LDCs, and in communicating them to relevant actors and stakeholders;

(j) The development by the LEG of a vision to guide its work on providing support to the LDCs has helped it in prioritizing and aligning its activities with desired outcomes. The vision has also served as a guide for others providing support to the LDCs to align their activities with the work of the LEG.

C. Lessons learned from the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

15. Participants highlighted the following lessons learned from the work of the LEG:

⁷ The NAP technical working group was created in 2015 by the LEG to mobilize organizations to work on technical aspects relating to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and to coordinate activities for providing support to the LDCs. It is composed of representatives of various organizations and individual experts working on NAPs.

⁸ LEG. 2012. *National Adaptation Plans: Technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Guidelines/Pages/Technical-guidelines.aspx>.

(a) The LEG has established a diverse set of modalities and tools to support the LDCs in adaptation. Additional effort is needed to enhance awareness of these modalities and tools among the LDCs;

(b) There are many supplementary guidelines, technical papers and tools available to support the formulation and implementation of NAPs at different levels, including the integration of cross-cutting issues. Additional support is needed to raise awareness about them and to facilitate their application by the LDCs;

(c) The regional training workshops on NAPs have helped to enhance knowledge and understanding of the process to formulate and implement NAPs in the LDCs. More work needs to be done to further tailor the workshops to the needs of the LDCs, and to support countries immediately after the workshops in applying what they have learned in their work at the national level;

(d) The technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs were published in 2012, and the delivery of funding from the LDCF and the GCF for countries to undertake activities related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs started in 2016. This made it difficult for countries to link their NAPs to the resources required for implementation, as relevant details on what information is required to access the funding were not available at the time of the preparation of the technical guidelines by the LEG;

(e) There is a need for the LEG to continue delivering support to enhance the linkages between national- and subnational-level adaptation planning and implementation;

(f) The LEG has focused its activities on supporting the LDCs with the formulation of NAPs as that is where support was initially needed. As more LDCs complete and submit their first NAPs, there is a need for the LEG to enhance its support for the implementation of NAPs while continuing to support the LDCs that are in the process of formulating their respective NAPs;

(g) There are overlaps in the mandates of various constituted bodies in supporting the adaptation-related work of developing countries. The AC considered ways to enhance the coherence of the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements.⁹ It was pointed out at the stocktaking meeting that overlaps between the mandates of the LEG and the AC in supporting the LDCs remain, especially with respect to support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and that this matter could be revisited by Parties.

D. Opportunities and challenges in enhancing delivery of support to the least developed countries

16. To facilitate consideration of opportunities and challenges, the LEG highlighted the requirements of the LDCs under the Convention and the Paris Agreement regarding adaptation, mitigation, means of implementation, outreach and education, and related reporting obligations. It also mapped out future trends and milestones relevant to the LDCs, which included:

(a) The vision that each LDC, by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter, should have a well-structured adaptation planning process; a NAP formulated; priority adaptation needs identified in the NAP addressed with funding from the GCF and other sources; and demonstrable results in building adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change;¹⁰

(b) The submission by all Parties of their next round of NDCs (new or updated) by 2020, and every five years thereafter;¹¹

⁹ See decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 2–7.

¹⁰ See document FCCC/SBI/2016/7, paras. 15–18.

¹¹ See decision 1/CP.21, paras. 23–24.

(c) The preparation and submission of other relevant reports, including adaptation communications, national communications, biennial update reports (until 2024) and biennial transparency reports (from 2025 onwards);

(d) The commitment of developed countries to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries;¹²

(e) The provision of scaled-up financial resources to achieve a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation, taking into account the priorities and needs of particularly vulnerable developing country Parties such as the LDCs and small island developing States;¹³

(f) The commencement of activities related to the first global stocktake;¹⁴

(g) The commitment to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the next 10 years;¹⁵

(h) The adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is expected to take place at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2020;¹⁶

(i) The adoption of the new programme of action for the LDCs for 2021–2030, which is expected to take place at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs, to be held in March 2021.¹⁷

17. On the basis of the trends and milestones referred to in paragraph 16 above and relevant outcomes of all the preceding discussions at the meeting (see chaps. II.A–C above), the LEG invited participants to consider how it could work more effectively and efficiently, whether there were any opportunities to enhance its delivery of support, what current and future challenges could affect its performance, and how those challenges might be addressed.

18. The following opportunities were identified with regard to enhancing the work of the LEG and its delivery of support to the LDCs:

(a) The outlook is positive for the existing modalities of the LEG for delivering support to the LDCs for their formulation and implementation of NAPs, such as the NAP Expos, Open NAPs, NAP technical guidelines, the NAP technical working group and NAP Central. Future initiatives could draw and build on those modalities;

(b) Available technical support for the LDCs for the process to formulate and implement NAPs is increasing. The NAP technical working group could be further strengthened to deliver more collaborative and coordinated support to the LDCs. Additionally, the Open NAP initiative presents opportunities to pool available resources and offer direct and coherent support to each LDC for the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(c) The NAP technical working group could continue its plans, in coordination with the LEG, to develop an integrating supplement that would help to link all existing and new supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and support the LDCs in navigating them;

(d) Additional working groups or task forces could be set up under the LEG to address specific issues and topics in greater depth, such as disaggregation of gaps (referred to in para. 20 below) by country to better target support, development of funding proposals, access to adaptation technologies, facilitation of peer-to-peer learning and matching of countries on specific challenges faced by the LDCs, gender, and private sector engagement;

(e) The NAP Expos present opportunities to bring together different actors and stakeholders to advance the formulation and implementation of NAPs, share experience,

¹² See decision 1/CP.16, para. 98.

¹³ See Article 9, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement.

¹⁴ Including synthesis reports on adaptation-related themes to be prepared every two years starting in 2020, under the guidance of the AC and the LEG, in accordance with decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

¹⁵ See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

¹⁶ See <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020>.

¹⁷ See <http://unohrls.org/unldc-v>.

good practices and lessons learned, and deliver training and guidance on accessing finance for adaptation;

(f) Engagement of politicians and decision makers is crucial for fostering national leadership and coordination of adaptation efforts at all levels and creating interfaces with regional and international mechanisms. Additional efforts could be made to raise the awareness of politicians and decision makers in the LDCs and to promote their engagement;

(g) Countries graduating from LDC status continue to face challenges and require ongoing support, with several countries expected to graduate from LDC status in the next few years. In response to United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/221 regarding support for graduating countries, SBI 50 and COP 25 adopted provisions¹⁸ that create opportunities for the LEG and relevant entities to extend support to countries graduating from LDC status for a period of three years from the date of their graduation;

(h) In its future work, the LEG could take into account and leverage emerging initiatives and programmes, such as the LDC 2050 Vision, the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience and the Global Commission on Adaptation, in addition to the work of the United Nations and other multilateral entities outside the UNFCCC process that contributes to adaptation efforts in the LDCs.

19. The following challenges were identified in relation to the delivery of support to the LDCs by the LEG:

(a) The publication of supplementary materials and the provision of support in English only, or translated into French or Portuguese but with long delays, constitutes a barrier for non-English speakers in the LDCs to applying those materials and benefiting from that support;

(b) Most LDCs are supported by regional and international organizations in their adaptation work. The progress and quality of the work, including project proposals for accessing funding from the GCF, are therefore largely tied to the support received;

(c) The process for accessing funding from the GCF remains cumbersome and requires further attention to help countries to receive funding in a timely manner. Furthermore, the use of external delivery partners hampers progress in processing proposals for accessing funding from the GCF in some countries, as the proposals need to be processed within the systems both of the countries and of the delivery partners before they can be submitted;

(d) Less support is available for implementing the policies, projects and programmes identified in NAPs than for formulating the NAPs;

(e) Data availability and lack of appropriate tools for interpreting and analysing the data continue to be challenges in many LDCs;

(f) Measuring outputs in terms of adaptation has proven challenging, especially when measuring the level of impact;

(g) The limited capacity of the LDCs to manage already weak monitoring and evaluation systems restricts their ability to measure adaptation outcomes;

(h) Commitments such as NAPs, NDCs and biennial update reports were found to impose a heavy reporting burden on the LDCs. They also overlap somewhat, leading to duplication of efforts. This, combined with strict reporting timelines, could drive some countries to report merely for the sake of reporting and to lose sight of the importance of actually implementing adaptation action.

¹⁸ See document FCCC/SBI/2019/9, paras. 73 and 75, and decision 13/CP.25, para. 10.

E. Gaps and needs related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement in the least developed countries

20. The LEG invited participants to discuss LDCs' gaps and needs related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement that could be addressed through the work of the LEG. The following aspects were considered:

- (a) The LDC work programme;
- (b) Needs related to adaptation arising from the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- (c) Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs;¹⁹
- (d) Information captured so far at the meeting by the participant rapporteurs.

21. Participants noted that the LDC work programme, as updated in 2018,²⁰ provides comprehensive support for the LDCs to meet their responsibilities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

22. Regarding gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, discussions focused on the following areas, drawing on the compilation of gaps and needs referred to in paragraph 20(c) above:

- (a) Accessing financial and other forms of support;
- (b) Institutional arrangements and coordination;
- (c) Active learning from practice;
- (d) Linkages with national and international development agendas;
- (e) Monitoring, evaluation and learning;
- (f) Accessing and using technology;
- (g) Risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management;
- (h) Climate scenarios, science and translation to the local context;
- (i) Guiding principles (such as gender sensitivity, multi-stakeholder engagement, and consideration of vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems).

23. The participants reviewed the gaps and needs identified and attempted to rank and prioritize the needs to help inform the work of the LEG. The exercise highlighted that priority gaps and needs vary among the LDCs depending on their country-specific circumstances and status with respect to the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

24. The participants noted that the LEG has a role to play in addressing certain gaps and needs, particularly those related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, but others would need to be addressed by other relevant bodies and organizations under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

F. Modalities for delivering support to the least developed countries

25. The LEG introduced its modalities for delivering support to the LDCs in 2016–2020, namely Open NAPs and case studies; NAP Expos; training workshops; technical guidelines and papers; NAP Central and the NAP tracking tool; and collaboration with other bodies and organizations.

26. Each of the modalities was then discussed to gather feedback on their effectiveness in delivering support to the LDCs (what worked well), ways to enhance them (what needs to be improved) and potential new modalities (what is missing). Table 2 summarizes participants'

¹⁹ The latest compilation is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2020/6, annex II.

²⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/node/202064>.

inputs. A suggestion was made to evaluate the impact of the modalities in advancing adaptation in the LDCs.

Table 2

Effectiveness and possible enhancement of the modalities of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for delivering support to the least developed countries

<i>Modality</i>	<i>Examples of effectiveness</i>	<i>Possible enhancements</i>
Open NAPs	<p>Helped to advance provision of direct support to the LDCs</p> <p>Helped to trigger specific NAP-related activities at the national level</p>	<p>Hold an Open NAP outreach event twice a year</p> <p>Conduct Open NAP activities in multiple languages relevant to the LDCs</p> <p>Continue to broker expertise at the regional and international level in designing and implementing adaptation activities</p>
NAP Expos	<p>Contributed to exchange of good practices and lessons learned, enhancing collaboration, facilitating engagement with providers of support and creating partnerships</p>	<p>Enhance efforts to mobilize support for the participation of more LDC experts, beyond the one person per LDC funded by the LEG</p>
Training workshops	<p>Interactive discussions during the training were useful in engaging participants in learning and exchanging experience</p> <p>Holding regional workshops in different languages enhanced the delivery of the training</p> <p>Technical content and facilitation of the workshops helped to facilitate learning</p>	<p>Ensure that workshops are tailored to LDC needs</p> <p>Ensure that all core materials are available in different languages</p> <p>Create post-workshop activities to facilitate continued interaction and learning among participants</p> <p>Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the training workshops</p> <p>Explore ways to ensure that the training is provided to a broader range of national experts</p>
Technical guidelines and papers	<p>Technical papers were tailored to the context and needs of the LDCs and provided useful information for them</p> <p>Technical materials have helped countries to conduct their work related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs</p>	<p>Make technical papers available in English, French and Portuguese</p> <p>Tailor technical papers to specific audiences such as scientists and general practitioners from the LDCs</p> <p>Increase the visibility of technical papers to the local, national and regional resource centres of the LDCs</p> <p>Prepare technical guidance as input to other processes on how the LDCs can best be supported (e.g. to the AC regarding the preparation of adaptation communications; and to the GEF and the Consultative Group of Experts regarding transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement)</p> <p>Develop a map of available tools and guidelines for the LDCs, and offer tutorials</p>
NAP Central	<p>A universal hub for NAP-related information</p> <p>Maintains useful information on NAPs for the LDCs</p>	<p>Create opportunities for data-sharing</p> <p>Increase the visibility of NAP Central</p> <p>Enhance the exchange of views and learning from best practices</p>
Collaboration with other bodies and organizations	<p>Enhances coordination, alignment and delivery of support to the LDCs</p> <p>Responses to mandates related to the Paris Agreement that were issued to the AC and the LEG were of high quality and broad scope</p>	<p>Synthesize country-specific gaps and needs and share with relevant organizations</p> <p>Expand collaboration to include youth, the private sector and others working on adaptation in the LDCs</p> <p>Continue ongoing coordination and collaboration among bodies and organizations to avoid duplication of work</p>

27. The following new modalities were proposed:

(a) Support for the LDCs in developing project proposals for accessing funding from the GCF, the LDCF and other sources;

(b) Guides for the LDCs on navigating existing data and tools for their work on adaptation, and the tools, guidelines and other products of the LEG and other organizations.

G. Experience, good practices and lessons learned in relation to support provided by organizations to the least developed countries

28. The representatives of the organizations that took part in the meeting (GCF, GIZ, UNCDF, UNDRR and WHO) were invited to briefly present, on behalf of their organization, experience, good practices, lessons learned and opportunities in relation to providing support to the LDCs in the context of NAPs and the LDC work programme in 2016–2020, whereby the following was highlighted:

(a) Various activities are being implemented by the organizations to provide support to the LDCs in different areas of adaptation such as for accessing funding, by the GCF secretariat; for vulnerability and risk analysis, by GIZ in partnership with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; for establishing financing mechanisms for subnational and local climate action based on performance-based climate-resilient grant systems and for integrating adaptation into subnational development plans, by UNCDF; for integrating disaster risk reduction into NAPs, by UNDRR; and for integrating health into NAPs, by WHO;

(b) Additional materials and online resources are available to assist the LDCs in formulating and implementing their NAPs;

(c) Up-to-date information on the specific needs and challenges of the LDCs is crucial in helping the organizations supporting the LDCs to design and target support for them. The LEG could continue to collect and share that information with the organizations;

(d) The NAP technical working group, NAP Expos and other related activities hosted by the LEG provide an effective platform for the organizations to connect their support activities with the work of the LEG;

(e) Unless for specific support programmes or projects, the support provided by organizations is mostly demand driven and is based on requests from the countries. Countries interested in specific support should initiate requests;

(f) Additional coordination among the organizations is required to complement the coordination efforts of the LEG and to facilitate exchange of information at the national level;

(g) Different organizations are also supporting the LDCs in developing sectoral adaptation plans. Coordination between the different actors should be enhanced to ensure coherence between the different adaptation plans and their linkage with national plans.

III. Summary of key areas and modalities of support for the least developed countries

29. Participants identified the following key areas of needs that would continue to require significant input from the LEG in terms of technical guidance and support to the LDCs on the basis of its existing mandates and areas of work:

(a) Implementing the LDC work programme;

(b) Formulating and implementing NAPs;

(c) Considering gender, vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems in adaptation planning and implementation;

(d) Accessing funding from the GCF, the LDCF and the Adaptation Fund for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and the implementation of other elements of the LDC work programme;

(e) Accessing funding and other support from other sources for the implementation of NAPs and other elements of the LDC work programme;

(f) Identifying and addressing specific gaps and needs related to the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(g) Promoting coherence and synergy between climate change adaptation and related issues;

(h) Mobilizing and engaging relevant bodies and a wide range of organizations in supporting implementation of the LEG work programme and the LDCs in general.

30. For the LEG to effectively and efficiently deliver on its mandate in view of the key areas identified in paragraph 29 above, participants encouraged continuation of the following modalities, while recognizing the room for improvement:

(a) Technical guidance and support;

(b) Technical guidelines and supplements;

(c) Technical papers;

(d) Open NAPs and case studies;

(e) Training workshops;

(f) NAP Expos;

(g) NAP Central and the NAP tracking tool;

(h) Writing workshops and facilities for developing funding proposals;

(i) Collaboration with other bodies and organizations.

IV. Concluding remarks

31. Participants agreed that the LEG has been effective in carrying out its work and has provided continuous and focused support to the LDCs as per its original mandate and terms of reference. In 2016–2020, the LEG has effectively considered the specific needs and contexts of the LDCs in designing and implementing its activities; enhanced collaboration with other constituted bodies and other organizations working on adaptation at various levels in response to specific mandates; and raised awareness and improved common understanding of the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

32. Participants reaffirmed the continued value of the LEG in supporting the LDCs, and that the LEG will continue to be essential in supporting the LDCs. They noted that the current mandates for supporting the LDCs, especially in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, are central to the support provided by the LEG to the LDCs.

33. Participants also noted that, while the LEG has made significant efforts to deliver effectively on its mandates, the extent to which it can support the LDCs is dependent on its mandates, capacity and resources. The capacity needs of the LDCs cannot be fully met through existing modalities, such as engaging with countries through their national focal points and NAP teams, organizing training workshops, and preparing guidelines and technical papers. The complementary activities of other bodies and organizations are therefore crucial in comprehensively supporting the LDCs in meeting their commitments under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.