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The 38th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Report by the secretariat

Summary

The 38th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group took place virtually from 17 to 21 August 2020. The Group discussed progress in implementing its activities for 2020–2021; with representatives of the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility and its agencies, the continued provision of support to the least developed countries for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and the implementation of the least developed countries work programme, which includes the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action; and with representatives of the least developed countries and relevant organizations, collaboration on providing support to the least developed countries.



Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations and acronyms	3
I. Mandate	4
II. The 38 th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.....	4
A. Proceedings.....	4
B. Intersessional work and events	5
C. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.....	6
III. Progress of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in implementing its rolling work programme for 2020–2021	9
A. Adjustment of work programme activities.....	9
B. Direct country support	9
C. Technical guidance on national adaptation plans and the work of the national adaptation plan technical working group	10
D. Matters related to accessing funding.....	11
E. Advice on implementing national adaptation plans	14
F. NAP Expos	15
G. Tracking progress on national adaptation plans and country case files	15
H. Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans	16
I. Addressing the mandates from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session	16
J. Publications and technical papers	17
K. Collaboration with other bodies under the Convention	18
L. Discussions with representatives of the least developed countries and relevant organizations	18
IV. Priority activities of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2020–2021.....	20
Annexes	
I. Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 17 August 2020	21
II. Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans	22
III. Updated Least Developed Countries Expert Group work programme activities for 2020–2021	28

Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
LDC	least developed country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LDC work programme	least developed countries work programme
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NAP Global Network	National Adaptation Plan Global Network
NAP-GSP	National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme
NAP-SDG iFrame	integrative framework for national adaptation plans and the Sustainable Development Goals
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
PEG M&E tool	tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIM Executive Committee	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. Mandate

1. COP 21 extended the mandate of the LEG under its current terms of reference¹ and mandated the Group to undertake a number of additional activities.²
2. In addition, CMA 1 mandated the LEG to undertake activities to facilitate implementation of the Paris Agreement,³ and COP 24 mandated the Group to continue to support implementation of the LDC work programme.⁴
3. Furthermore, COP 22 requested all constituted bodies under the Convention to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes.⁵
4. Accordingly, the LEG is mandated to develop a two-year rolling work programme for consideration by the SBI at its first sessional meeting of each year and to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.⁶

II. The 38th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

5. The 38th meeting of the LEG was held virtually from 17 to 21 August 2020. At the meeting, the LEG discussed direct country support through Open NAPs, NAP country dialogues, and the training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement; technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group; matters relating to accessing funding from the GCF and the LDCF; tracking progress on NAPs; gaps and needs related to NAPs; matters relating to NAP Expos; advice on implementing NAPs; addressing mandates from CMA 1; its publications and technical papers; and its priority activities for 2020–2021. The LEG also discussed matters relating to integrating a gender perspective into its work in response to decision 21/CP.22, paragraph 14.
6. The LEG extended invitations to the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, and other relevant organizations to participate in the meeting in order to discuss the provision of support to the LDCs. Representatives of 19 organizations⁷ took part in the meeting.
7. Additionally, the LEG extended invitations to other constituted bodies to engage in discussions on the training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement, technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group, tracking progress on NAPs and the country case files, implementing NAPs and addressing the mandates contained in decisions 11/CMA.1, paragraphs 13 and 35, and 19/CMA.1, paragraph 24. Representatives of the AC, the CGE, the NWP, the PCCB, the SCF, the TEC and the WIM Executive Committee took part in the meeting.

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, paras. 1–3.

³ Decisions 11/CMA.1, paras. 5, 13, 35 and 36; and 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

⁴ Decision 16/CP.24, paras. 5–6.

⁵ Decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

⁶ Decision 6/CP.16, para. 3.

⁷ African Development Bank, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, Climate Service Center Germany, FAO, GCF, GEF, GERICS, GIZ, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Institute for Sustainable Development (representing the NAP Global Network), Regional Training Centre for Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology and their Applications, UNCDF, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, WHO and WMO. The representatives of UNDP and UNEP were also representing the NAP-GSP.

8. The LEG also extended an invitation to LDC Parties to participate in the meeting. The virtual nature of the meeting made it possible for 11 representatives of eight LDCs⁸ to participate, instead of just representatives of a host country.
9. The LEG welcomed Ben Siddle (Ireland) as a new member.
10. The LEG took note of the following members who represent the Group in its ongoing collaborative activities with other bodies under the Convention:
- (a) Nikki Lulham (Canada) and Hana Hamadalla Mohamed (Sudan) in the AC NAP task force;
 - (b) Sonam Lhaden Khandu (Bhutan) and Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) in the work of the AC on the technical examination process on adaptation;
 - (c) Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) and Adao Soares Barbosa (Timor-Leste) in the task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee;
 - (d) Erwin Künzi (Austria) and Ram Prasad Lamsal (Nepal) in collaboration with the TEC;
 - (e) Kenel Delusca (Haiti) and Ben Siddle (Ireland) in the work of the CGE and the PCCB;
 - (f) Mery Yaou (Togo) and Benon Yassin (Malawi) in work under the NWP.
11. A list of the members of the LEG as at 17 August 2020 is provided in annex I.

B. Intersessional work and events

12. The LEG took note of the activities carried out during the intersessional period.
13. With the support of the secretariat, the LEG conducted NAP country dialogues with the LDCs as part of the Open NAP initiative. The dialogues targeted the 18 LDCs in the early stages of the process to formulate and implement NAPs⁹ in order to help them achieve their goal of producing a NAP by the end of 2020 or soon after. Burkina Faso was also engaged in the dialogues so it could receive technical guidance on preparing the next iteration of its NAP.
14. The NAP technical working group conducted several rounds of discussion on development of the integrative supplement to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs¹⁰ and ways to support the Open NAP initiative (see chaps. III.B–C below).
15. The LEG held an event entitled “Enhancing support to the LDCs: Insights from a recent stocktaking meeting of the work of the LEG”¹¹ and participated in the event entitled “Advancing NAPs and climate-resilient recovery under COVID-19”¹² as part of the June Momentum for Climate Change virtual event series. Both events reaffirmed that any new shock wave, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, aggravates the existing vulnerabilities of the LDCs, and that efforts to support them require accelerated and innovative approaches that go beyond current practices.
16. The LEG took note of the outcomes of its teleconferences in advancing work in relation to various deliverables, including Open NAPs, the training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement, technical guidance and support for countries graduating

⁸ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nepal, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

⁹ Afghanistan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and Yemen.

¹⁰ 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>.

¹¹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/enhancing-support-to-the-ldcs-insights-from-a-recent-stocktaking-meeting-of-the-work-of-the-leg>.

¹² See <https://unfccc.int/event/advancing-naps-and-climate-resilient-recovery-under-covid-19>.

from LDC status, the fourth volume of its publication¹³ on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, and a technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning. The LEG revised the modalities for the delivery of its work programme activities in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

17. The LEG took note of the continuing progress of developing countries in relation to the different elements of the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It noted that, as at 17 August 2020, 20 developing countries¹⁴ (of which 5 are LDCs¹⁵) had completed and submitted their NAPs¹⁶ on NAP Central.¹⁷ It also noted the sectoral and thematic strategies and other relevant outputs of the process to formulate and implement NAPs submitted by the developing countries.¹⁸

2. Progress of developing countries in implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their national adaptation plans

18. The LEG noted that the LDCs that had submitted their NAPs as referred to in paragraph 17 above had also prepared and submitted proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for implementing priority actions identified in their NAPs. The proposals relate to funding for projects addressing climate risks in the areas of agriculture, energy, health and water resources.

3. Progress in relation to support provided

19. Regarding financial support for formulating NAPs, table 1 provides a summary of project proposals submitted by developing countries for funding from the GCF support modality for formulating NAPs (under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme), which provides up to USD 3 million per country,¹⁹ or from the LDCF.

Table 1

Status of project proposals for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund or the Least Developed Countries Fund for formulating national adaptation plans as at 30 September 2020

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Number of submitted proposals</i>	<i>Number of proposals approved or in approval process</i>	<i>Number of projects with funds disbursed</i>
GCF	Africa	39 (25)	26 (17)	19 (12)
	Asia-Pacific	18 (6)	12 (4)	9 (4)
	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	12	10	4
	Latin America and the Caribbean	19 (1)	13 (1)	13 (1)
	Total		88 (32)	61 (22)
LDCF	Africa	8	8	4
	Asia-Pacific	2	2	–

¹³ Previous volumes of the publication are available at <https://unfccc.int/node/740>.

¹⁴ Brazil (2016), Burkina Faso (2015), Cameroon (2015), Chile (2017), Colombia (2018), Ethiopia (2019), Fiji (2018), Grenada (2019), Guatemala (2019), Kenya (2017), Kiribati (2020), Paraguay (2020), Saint Lucia (2018), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2019), Sri Lanka (2016), State of Palestine (2016), Sudan (2016), Suriname (2020), Togo (2018) and Uruguay (2019).

¹⁵ Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Sudan and Togo.

¹⁶ In response to decision 3/CP.20, para. 9, and subsequent iterations.

¹⁷ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>.

¹⁸ See https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/NAP_output.aspx.

¹⁹ See GCF Board decision B.13/09, para. (e). Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/boardroom/decisions>.

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Number of submitted proposals</i>	<i>Number of proposals approved or in approval process</i>	<i>Number of projects with funds disbursed</i>
	Latin America and the Caribbean	0	0	–
Total		10	10	4

Note: Figures are based on data shared by the GCF and the GEF in connection with the 38th meeting of the LEG. For the GCF, the first figures shown are for all developing countries and those in parentheses indicate the number of LDCs. Funds have not been disbursed for all approved projects. A detailed table with a list of the countries involved is available at https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/accessing_funding_for_NAPs.aspx.

20. Regarding financial support for implementing NAPs, table 2 provides a list of project proposals submitted by the LDCs referred to in paragraph 18 above to the GCF related to implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs.

21. Regarding technical support, the LEG continued offering direct support through the Open NAP initiative to advance the formulation of NAPs and the implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified in NAPs; developing the training course for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement; engaging with organizations through the NAP technical working group to extend provision of technical guidance and support for NAPs; engaging with the GCF and GEF secretariats to discuss matters relating to supporting the LDCs in accessing funding; compiling the gaps and needs of the LDCs and using this information in designing support for them; and developing various technical papers and tools in order to expand the available technical guidance on NAPs. Detailed information on the support provided by the LEG is contained in chapters III–IV below.

22. The LEG took note of the information supplied by the organizations²⁰ supporting the LDCs on support provided between February and August 2020 for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including:

(a) Technical assistance for preparing and submitting projects proposals or for implementing projects for the formulation of NAPs under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme and the LDCF;

(b) Developing and updating climate change adaptation related policies, road maps and frameworks; assessing institutional, data and technical capacity needs; and strengthening national institutional and coordination mechanisms;

(c) Digitizing historical climate data and producing climate scenarios from available sources, including regional data;

(d) Creating user manuals for integrated vulnerability and risk assessment, covering implementation of assessments, review of results and development of reports;

(e) Developing resource mobilization strategies, concept notes for submission of project proposals to the GCF, and specific strategies for mobilizing the private sector;

(f) Outreach events and assistance in relation to developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(g) Integrating subnational considerations into the formulation of NAPs to enable and enhance the flow of finance for addressing subnational adaptation needs;

(h) Capturing and sharing lessons learned on adaptation planning in agriculture and subnational adaptation.

23. Several organizations continued to contribute to the development of supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

²⁰ African Development Bank, FAO, GCF, GIZ, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, NAP Global Network, NAP-GSP, Regional Training Centre for Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology and their Applications, Sri Lankan Youth Climate Action Network Trust, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR, WHO and WMO.

Table 2

Status of project proposals submitted by the least developed countries for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund for implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in national adaptation plans as at 30 September 2020

<i>Country/ies^a</i>	<i>Project title</i>	<i>Delivery partner</i>	<i>Cost (USD million)</i>	<i>Concept note submission date</i>	<i>Approval date/status</i>
Burkina Faso	Africa Hydromet Program: Strengthening Climate Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa: Burkina Faso Country Project	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; World Bank	22.5	19 Jan. 2017	27 Mar. 2018
	Promoting modern irrigation to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso	West African Development Bank	8.4	26 Feb. 2018	Concept note
	Increasing people's resilience in Koubri and Bakata municipalities affected by rainwater floods and climate change shocks through adaptation-based approaches for ecosystem, forest, water resource and river basin management in Burkina Faso	West African Development Bank	9.9	17 Feb. 2018	Concept note
Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger	Regional Programme for Sustainable Land Management and Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Communities and Ecosystems to Climate Change in the Liptako-Gourma Region	West African Development Bank	36.1	6 Feb. 2019	Concept note
Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda	Strengthening Climate Information Systems for Climate Change Adaptation in the Greater Horn of Africa through regional cooperation	UNDP	14.5	24 Mar. 2020	Concept note
Sudan	Impact Forecast-Based Early Warning Systems	UNEP	10.0	25 Nov. 2018	Concept note
	Strengthening Capacity of Rural Primary Health Care Services to Address Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on Health	UNDP	25.7	30 Apr. 2018	Concept note
	Building resilience in the face of climate change within traditional rain-fed agricultural and pastoral systems in the Sudan	UNDP	40.0	18 Apr. 2016	Concept note
Togo	Strengthening the resilience of communities and ecosystems vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in the Mono-Togo basin	UNDP	16.0	27 Jul. 2019	Concept note

Note: A summary of the projects of all developing countries will be provided in the 2020 progress report on the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

^a For multi-country projects, the names of countries whose NAPs are involved are in bold.

III. Progress of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in implementing its rolling work programme for 2020–2021

A. Adjustment of work programme activities

24. The LEG analysed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its work programme deliverables and adjusted its activities accordingly. In conducting its analysis, the LEG strived to ensure that its work could be delivered using a variety of alternative means, without compromising the outcomes, to the extent possible. Updated work programme activities for 2020–2021 are presented in annex III.

B. Direct country support

1. Open NAPs

25. The LEG noted that a number of Open NAP case studies are under way, in collaboration with partner organizations, with the aim of supporting countries in preparing their first NAP; implementing policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs; and reviewing and updating their NAPs. The LEG also noted that the work to date has provided useful insights into how to refine the NAP-SDG iFrame and into related work on data and tools, risk management approaches, monitoring and evaluation, and linkages across different assessment frameworks.

26. The LEG agreed to continue to support all the LDCs in formulating their first NAP by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter through the Open NAP initiative, and to continue its direct interaction with country teams and the GCF delivery partners working with countries on their projects under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.

27. The LEG also agreed to mobilize organizations under the Open NAP initiative to support the LDCs by:

(a) Making available data and information for addressing gaps, or sources of such data and information, and tools and models for risk and vulnerability assessment work in the context of NAPs;

(b) Ensuring that the information contained in NAPs supports the main uses of the NAP, such as the information needed for submitting quality proposals to the GCF for implementing identified policies, projects and programmes, and information that fulfils reporting requirements;

(c) Offering technical assistance to the LDCs for formulating NAPs and writing project proposals for the implementation of adaptation projects under the GCF and other sources of finance.

2. National adaptation plan country dialogues

28. The LEG took note of the ongoing support, including several rounds of NAP country dialogues, for the 18 LDCs in the early stages of the process to formulate and implement NAPs. As at 17 August 2020:

(a) Eight countries were on track to completing their NAP soon: the Central African Republic, Haiti, South Sudan and Timor-Leste already had draft NAPs, while Chad, Malawi, Mozambique and Sierra Leone were on track to finishing their draft soon;

(b) Four countries (Burundi, Comoros, Lesotho, and Sao Tome and Principe) had initiated preliminary work but required additional assistance to make further progress;

(c) Six countries (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Somalia and Yemen) had yet to start actually drafting their NAP.

29. The LEG noted that the key barriers to progress faced by the countries referred to in paragraph 28(b–c) above are lack of readily available data and assessments or lack of

financial resources for consolidating such information in order to prepare a NAP; and the absence of financial resources to fund the necessary national processes to formulate a NAP, such as initial stocktaking and consultation, drafting and validation activities. Additionally, as they advance their work on NAPs, countries have expressed the need for technical guidance to enhance the quality of their NAPs, such as in relation to addressing linkages across different systems and issues in their assessments; what information to include that could facilitate access to GCF funding; metrics and indicators for measuring progress on adaptation; and what information could inform the adaptation component of the nationally determined contribution and the adaptation communication under the Paris Agreement.

30. The LEG agreed to continue to engage the LDCs in one-on-one dialogues so as to maintain progress and address any questions or challenges they may have.

3. Training for the least developed countries on implementing the Paris Agreement

31. The LEG took note of the details of the training for the LDCs on effectively and efficiently navigating and addressing many elements of the Paris Agreement. This training is encapsulated in a tool called PA-ALIGN. The training had originally been planned as a series of in-person events starting in June 2020 but, owing to COVID-19, it will now be implemented as a self-directed, online training course.

32. The LEG noted that LDC Parties and several bodies and organizations²¹ have contributed to designing the training course. The LEG also noted that relevant modules developed by other constituted bodies have been incorporated into the training course, and hence the PA-ALIGN tool, through coordination between the teams supporting the bodies within the secretariat.

33. In agreement with the representatives of the bodies that attended the meeting, the LEG proposed the following in relation to implementing the training course:

(a) The training course should lead to successful capacity-building of the LDCs, ensuring that knowledge is retained and applied;

(b) The LEG should continue to closely engage other constituted bodies in developing and implementing the training course, drawing on existing knowledge and resources;

(c) The LEG should organize a testing phase for the training course and establish a testing group of representatives of LDC Parties, the LEG, other constituted bodies and relevant organizations;

(d) The implementation of the training course should take into account the limited Internet access and the language needs of the LDCs.

C. Technical guidance on national adaptation plans and the work of the national adaptation plan technical working group

34. The LEG noted that the NAP technical working group continues to make steady progress in producing an integrative supplement to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs (using the NAP-SDG iFrame) with the aim of consolidating, to the extent possible, the information in individual supplements into a single coherent guide. Several organizations are actively working on thematic products that will form part of the integrative supplement, including the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security on agriculture, FAO on agriculture, forests and fisheries, UNCDF on local government, UNEP on ecosystems, WHO on health, the Global Water Partnership on water and the Climate Service Center Germany on climate scenarios and hazard risk. WMO is updating its supplement on climate information services.

35. The LEG also noted and discussed the increasing focus on risk-based approaches to adaptation planning. It further noted that a number of efforts are under way to apply

²¹ For example, the CGE, GIZ, the NAP Global Network, UNDP and UNEP.

risk-based approaches, including under the WIM Executive Committee²² and UNDRR. It took note of examples of risk assessment and risk management activities from Canada²³ and New Zealand,²⁴ from which lessons could be learned and aspects that could be applied by the LDCs could be explored.

36. The LEG noted that the LDCs are increasingly requesting technical assistance for developing and including monitoring and evaluation systems in their NAPs. It also noted that there are supplements and other resources that can be recommended to those requesting support. The LEG further noted that longer-term capacity-development issues of the LDCs should be included in the list of priority projects and programmes in their NAPs so they can be addressed over the medium and long term.

37. The LEG agreed on the following actions to be undertaken, with the support of the NAP technical working group:

(a) Completing the integrative supplement and testing it in a few countries as part of the Open NAP case studies. The testing could involve assessing how adaptation goals, objectives and targets are framed in NAPs, and how countries can apply good practice principles and take steps towards carrying out monitoring and evaluation;

(b) Expanding use of the PEG M&E tool for assessing the outcomes of adaptation efforts set out in NAPs, building on the best available science and tools;

(c) Incorporating into the NAP-SDG iFrame examples and lessons learned from other countries, such as Canada and New Zealand, in relation to risk-based approaches to adaptation planning;

(d) Preparing a paper on risk-based approaches to adaptation assessment and planning, with inputs from different communities working on climate risk such as the disaster risk reduction and loss and damage communities;

(e) Compiling and showcasing case studies featuring methodologies and tools used to achieve particular adaptation outputs and outcomes;

(f) Advancing development of a NAP data dictionary on Google Earth Engine, which was initiated at the NAP Expo, to address the difficulties faced by many LDCs in using climate data and tools to inform their adaptation assessment and planning work;

(g) Compiling information on how the supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs are being used to inform further development and application of the integrative supplement and promote good practices.

D. Matters related to accessing funding

1. Accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund

38. The LEG noted that accessing funding from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs continues to prove challenging for many LDCs, despite the numerous awareness-raising workshops conducted by the GCF secretariat and the LEG. Of the 47 LDCs, 12 have yet to prepare or submit proposals for accessing funding from the GCF modality for formulating NAPs (i.e. the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, which provides up to USD 3 million per country), which has been accessible since 2016. Figure 1 presents a timeline of the submission of NAP readiness proposals to the GCF since 2016. The number of proposals submitted by the LDCs for adaptation projects and programmes is low despite the interest of the GCF in receiving more submissions in this area.

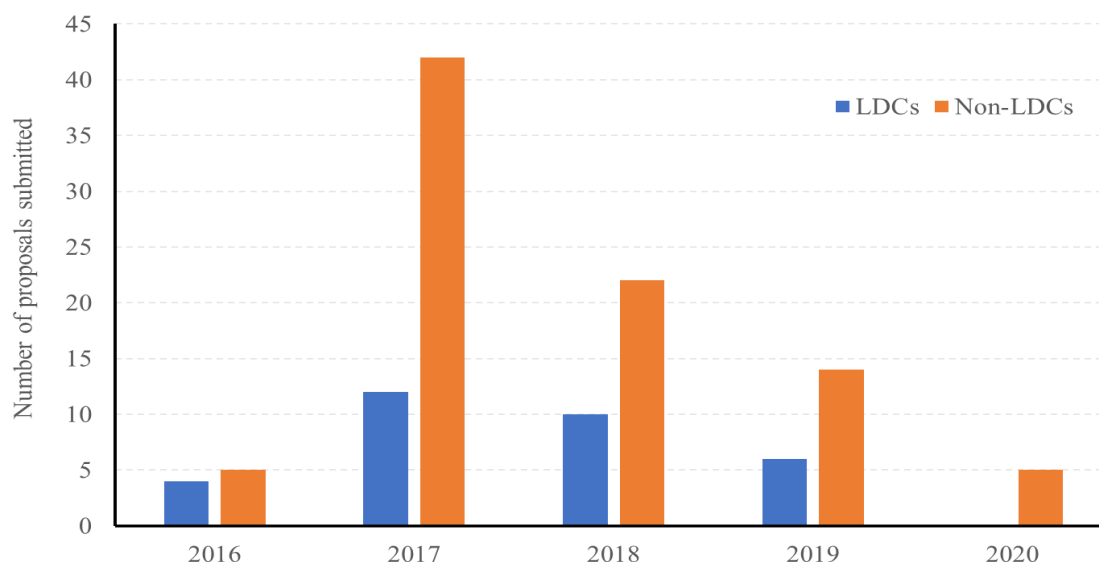
²² Through its technical expert group on comprehensive risk management.

²³ Council of Canadian Academies. 2019. *Canada's Top Climate Change Risks*. Ottawa, Canada: Expert Panel on Climate Change Risks and Adaptation Potential, Council of Canadian Academies. Available at <https://cca-reports.ca/reports/prioritizing-climate-change-risks/>.

²⁴ New Zealand Ministry for the Environment. 2020. *National Climate Change Assessment for New Zealand*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry for the Environment. Available at <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/national-climate-change-risk-assessment-new-zealand-main-report>.

Furthermore, there are fewer national accredited entities in the LDCs than in other developing countries (see table 3 for a list of the GCF-accredited entities in the LDCs).

Figure 1
Number of proposals from developing countries seeking funding under the Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for national adaptation plans in 2016–2020



Note: The figures for 2020 cover until 30 September only.

39. The LEG also noted that 12 of the 45 accredited national direct access entities in developing countries are in the LDCs.

Table 3
Direct access entities in the least developed countries accredited by the Green Climate Fund

Accredited entity	Country	Project size accreditation ^a
Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	Nepal	Small
Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation	Bhutan	Medium
CRDB Bank PLC	United Republic of Tanzania	Medium, micro and small
Ecological Monitoring Centre	Senegal	Micro
Infrastructure Development Company Limited	Bangladesh	Micro
Ministry of Environment	Rwanda	Small
Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation	Ethiopia	Small
Ministry of Water and Environment	Uganda	Small
National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development Secretariat	Cambodia	Micro
National Fund for Environment and Climate	Benin	Micro
Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation	Bangladesh	Medium

^a Accredited entities may only submit funding proposals for projects up to the size for which they have been accredited; for example, entities accredited for “medium” can submit funding proposals for medium-, small and micro-sized projects or programme activities but not for large projects or programme activities (micro = accredited for funding of up to USD 10 million; small = up to USD 50 million; medium = up to USD 250 million; and large = USD 250 million or more).

40. The LEG had planned to conduct proposal writing workshops with the GCF secretariat during the 2020 NAP Expo. Given the postponement of the NAP Expo, the LEG and the GCF secretariat have discussed hosting such workshops virtually in 2020 and 2021. In order to participate in the workshops, the LDCs will need to identify priority project ideas, executing entities and delivery partners that they will work with to submit a proposal.

41. In addition, the LEG agreed to further develop the idea to establish a writing facility for the LDCs that would support the development of proposals for submission to the GCF and to any other sources of adaptation financing for implementing NAPs, and, where relevant, proposals for accessing readiness support for NAPs and broader readiness activities.

42. The LEG also agreed to continue to collect information on specific challenges faced by the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs in order to better understand their actual situation.

2. Accessing funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund

43. The LEG took note of the information from the GEF secretariat on the approval by the LDCF or the Special Climate Change Fund Council of eight projects, totalling USD 59.59 million in funding.²⁵ The projects are drawn from or aligned with national adaptation programmes of action and address climate change risks in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, water resources, terrestrial ecosystems, coastal areas and community livelihoods.

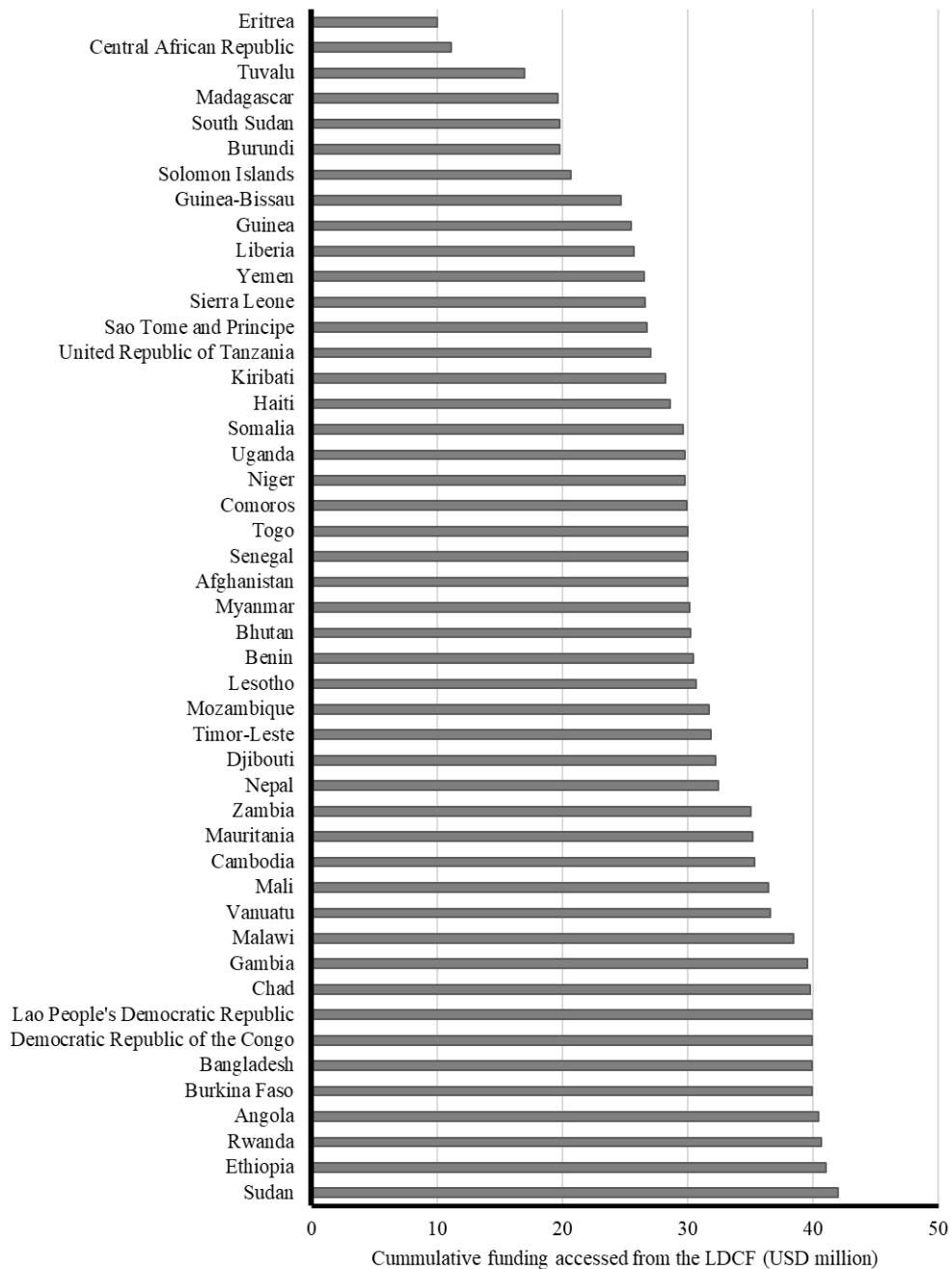
44. The LEG also took note of the information from the GEF secretariat that there is possibly a lack of awareness among the LDCs of the current availability of resources under the LDCF. Fewer proposals are being submitted to the LDCF since demand began to exceed available resources in recent years. The LEG agreed to communicate to the LDCs, especially those with less cumulative funding accessed under the LDCF (see fig. 2), the opportunities available to develop and submit proposals for funding under the LDCF in line with their national priorities and needs.

45. The LEG further took note of a new project for the LDCs entitled “Strengthening Endogenous Capacities of Least Developed Countries to Access Finance for Climate Change Adaptation”,²⁶ accounting for USD 2 million, to be funded by the LDCF and implemented by UNEP. The project will support universities in four LDCs (Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nepal and Uganda) to help strengthen the capacity of the countries to achieve scaled-up and effective adaptation by fostering sustained endogenous technical services for project development, policy mainstreaming and creation of an enabling environment for adaptation to climate change.

²⁵ The projects are planned to be implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Vanuatu.

²⁶ See <https://www.thegef.org/project/strengthening-endogenous-capacities-least-developed-countries-access-finance-climate-change>.

Figure 2
Cumulative funding accessed under the Least Developed Countries Fund by the least developed countries as at June 2020



Source: GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.28/03. Available at <https://www.thegef.org/council-meetings/ldcfscf-council-meetings-28>.

E. Advice on implementing national adaptation plans

46. The LEG continued its consideration of the mandate from the SBI to advise on the implementation of NAPs,²⁷ following on from its agreement at its 37th meeting to consider how adaptation projects are designed and implemented in order to address key vulnerabilities and priority areas for effectively adapting to climate change in the medium and long term.²⁸

²⁷ FCCC/SBI/2017/19, para. 73.

²⁸ FCCC/SBI/2020/6, paras. 47–51.

47. The LEG noted that implementation of adaptation projects addressing different climate hazards such as drought, floods, rainfall variability and rising temperatures is progressing under the GCF. These projects have so far been derived from existing strategies and plans as most countries have yet to prepare their first NAP.

48. The LEG also noted that the GCF has developed a programming manual that provides a comprehensive set of steps for a given project or programme activity cycle.²⁹ It further noted that the GCF helps countries and their delivery partners through a variety of activities to prepare and submit project proposals.

49. The LEG noted that, despite the ongoing efforts of the LEG, the GCF and other entities, the majority of the LDCs continue to face challenges in accessing funding for implementing NAPs, and different approaches are required in relation to addressing those challenges and offering direct support to the LDCs in this regard.

50. The LEG also noted that the greatest challenge for the LDCs is completing the initial steps of the project cycle, including funding proposal development and approval. The following recommended solutions were discussed:

(a) To facilitate the first stages of the project or programme activity cycle, the GCF could draw on lessons learned from implementing national adaptation programmes of action. Once completed and submitted to the UNFCCC, they were subject to quality assurance by the GEF. The priorities identified in them were regarded as national adaptation priorities and used as the basis for further consideration of projects for implementation under the LDCF. This approach eliminated the need for any prerequisites to validate the nationally driven nature and importance of the project concepts;

(b) Each LDC could develop and/or implement a new GCF project by the end of 2021, drawing on the vision of the LEG,³⁰ so that they have a specific target to work towards.

51. The LEG agreed to continue to work with the GCF secretariat to address these challenges, including through the activities referred to in paragraph 37 above.

F. NAP Expos

52. The LEG took note of the offers and readiness of the Governments of Botswana and the Republic of Korea to host the next NAP Expo and a regional NAP Expo for Asia, respectively, once it is permitted to convene international in-person events.

53. The LEG also took note of the implementation through alternative arrangements of some of the activities that had been planned for the NAP Expo. These include NAP country dialogues, which have been carried out virtually since May 2020; advancing the work of the NAP technical working group through virtual means; and holding a NAP champions event entitled “Advancing NAPs and climate-resilient recovery under COVID-19” (see para. 15 above).

54. The LEG agreed to continue carrying out the activities that had been planned for the NAP Expo by making alternative arrangements, to the extent possible.

G. Tracking progress on national adaptation plans and country case files

55. The LEG continues to collect information on progress in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, support provided and received, challenges, and gaps and needs. The information is collected through various channels, including direct interaction with countries, a NAP Central online questionnaire, recent national reports and regular solicitation of inputs from the GCF, the GEF and relevant organizations.

²⁹ GCF. 2020. *GCF Programming Manual. An introduction to the Green Climate Fund project cycle and project development tools for full-size projects*. Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea: GCF. Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/programming-manual>.

³⁰ See document FCCC/SBI/2016/7, paras. 15–16.

56. The LEG took note of how the information collected has been used, such as for documenting progress on NAP Central;³¹ informing the LEG assessment of countries' progress, effectiveness and gaps, and challenges in formulating and implementing NAPs; and informing the SBI assessment of progress on NAPs.³² The LEG noted that this work and the information collected will also inform other activities, including its preparation of reports for the CMA as part of the global stocktake.

57. The LEG agreed to collect further information on outcomes of activities and support received in order to strengthen the database for assessing the effectiveness of adaptation.

H. Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

58. The LEG continued its consideration of gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs.³³

59. The LEG took note of the preliminary compilation of country-level gaps and needs of some of the LDCs that were captured through the Open NAP dialogues and inputs from the NAP technical working group, and agreed to continue updating the compilation on the basis of inputs from countries (see annex II). It noted that most of the needs are related to meeting the major milestone set by most of the countries to formulate their first NAP by the end of 2020 or soon after, and developing project and programme concepts and proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for implementing adaptation action. The LEG agreed to invite organizations and other constituted bodies to provide additional inputs to the compilation.

60. The information referred to in paragraph 59 above will also be added to the online compilation of gaps and needs and ongoing activities of the LEG, the AC and relevant organizations related to addressing those gaps and needs.³⁴

I. Addressing the mandates from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session

61. The LEG considered its progress in the following, addressing mandates from the CMA:

(a) Preparing synthesis reports on specific adaptation themes, focusing on the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties;³⁵

(b) Contributing to the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support by continuing to compile existing methodologies;³⁶

(c) Preparing a synthesis report in its area of expertise for the technical assessment component of the global stocktake.³⁷

62. Regarding the synthesis reports on specific adaptation themes, the LEG took note of the ongoing development of the fourth volume of its publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, which will constitute its response to the mandate (see para. 61(a) above).

³¹ For example, see <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/global-summary.aspx>.

³² Annual progress reports on the process to formulate and implement NAPs are available at <https://unfccc.int/node/747>.

³³ On the basis of decisions 8/CP.24, para. 17; and 7/CP.25, paras. 2–4.

³⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/node/210550>.

³⁵ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

³⁶ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 35.

³⁷ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

63. Regarding the work to compile methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support, four relevant submissions³⁸ had been received as at 17 August 2020. A synthesis of the submissions was prepared for consideration by the LEG and the AC and will be used to guide the compilation of the methodologies. The LEG decided to consider conducting case studies of a few countries to evaluate and compare support provided with the effectiveness of adaptation outcomes as a way of informing the selection of appropriate methodologies. This work is being carried out in coordination with the AC.

64. Regarding the synthesis report for the technical assessment component of the global stocktake, the LEG identified the areas set out in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1 that are closely related to its expertise or work: the state of adaptation efforts, support, experience and priorities; barriers and challenges, including finance, technology and capacity-building gaps, faced by developing countries; and good practices, experience and potential opportunities to enhance international cooperation on mitigation and adaptation and to increase support under Article 13, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement. The LEG agreed to develop its synthesis report on the basis of those areas and plans to submit its synthesis report to the CMA by March 2022.

J. Publications and technical papers

65. The LEG took note of progress in developing the following publications and technical papers:

(a) The fourth volume of its publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, which is currently being drafted and presents best practices and lessons learned in the areas of food security, energy security, water resources, human life and safety, coastal zones, economic planning and activities, human settlements, ecosystems and infrastructure. The publication will also serve as the synthesis report on specific adaptation themes mandated in decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 13;

(b) The technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning. The LEG is conducting a final review of the paper, after which it will be circulated to stakeholders for comments. The paper presents lessons learned, good practices and challenges in developing and implementing regional (cross-border or transboundary) adaptation action; and an approach to integrating regional approaches into the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The LEG agreed to finalize the paper by the end of November 2020;

(c) A publication on outcomes, experience and lessons learned in relation to NAPs, including on dealing with climate shocks, as contained in the LEG work programme for 2019–2020. The LEG had agreed to conduct writing workshops with countries during the 2020 NAP Expo, in collaboration with the organizations engaged in the NAP technical working group, to advance the drafting of countries' contributions. Owing to the circumstances related to COVID-19, the LEG has agreed to conduct these workshops virtually instead;

(d) The annual progress report on the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The LEG reviewed the topics to be covered in the report, including progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs; progress in achieving the objectives of the process as contained in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 1; progress in addressing the guiding principles of the process as contained in decision 5/CP.17, paragraphs 3–5; support provided and received in the process; and obstacles and challenges faced by developing countries in the process. The report is scheduled to be published by the end of October 2020;

(e) A technical note on the NAP-SDG iFrame. The LEG is conducting final revision of the note, which presents examples of how the tool is being used to introduce a systems approach to adaptation assessment and planning, as applied in the Open NAPs and recent NAP workshops. The NAP-SDG iFrame facilitates consideration of multiple entry points to adaptation planning, while promoting a risk-based approach to adaptation assessment and planning. It facilitates coherence with important frameworks such as the

³⁸ Per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 36.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The NAP-SDG iFrame is being used to produce an integrative supplement to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, which will incorporate materials presented in various supplements.

K. Collaboration with other bodies under the Convention

66. The LEG invited the constituted body representatives participating in the meeting to contribute to the discussions on the training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement; the technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group; tracking progress on NAPs; implementing NAPs; and addressing the mandates from CMA 1. The bodies agreed to continue to enhance their collaborative efforts.

67. The LEG took note of the following ongoing collaborative activities with other bodies and under other processes under the Convention:

(a) Coordination with the AC on addressing the mandates contained in decision 11/CMA.1, and continued engagement in the AC NAP task force and technical examination process on adaptation;

(b) Engagement with NWP partner organizations in the work on NAPs and complementary activities under the NWP;

(c) Continued contribution to the work of the task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee, including the development of its two-year workplan;

(d) Engagement of the CGE in developing the training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement, and in coordinating training on assessing vulnerability and other aspects of adaptation;

(e) Contribution to the work of the PCCB on coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and relevant processes under the Convention;

(f) Coordination with the TEC on adaptation technologies.

68. The LEG agreed to continue to engage in these collaborative activities, including through active participation by the LEG members referred to in paragraph 10 above.

L. Discussions with representatives of the least developed countries and relevant organizations

69. Building on its practice of interacting with LDCs' NAP teams, the LEG extended an invitation to the LDCs, through the LDC group Chair, for representatives to attend the meeting. The virtual nature of the meeting made it possible for 11 representatives of eight LDCs to participate, led by Bhutan as the presiding country. The LEG engaged representatives of organizations participating in the meeting in discussing the supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and related work of the NAP technical working group, supporting the Open NAP initiative and offering general support to the LDCs in relation to climate change.

70. The LDC representatives communicated the LDCs' key priorities for which the LEG should play a significant role in providing technical support. Firstly, funding for formulating and implementing NAPs is a priority for all LDCs: they need effective access to the USD 3 million available through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme and to GCF funding to implement adaptation projects and programmes identified in their NAPs. Secondly, the implementation of NAPs is crucial to ensuring that the LDCs can effectively build resilient societies. The LDCs need technical assistance for creating projects that address the main NAP objectives of reducing vulnerability and facilitating integration of adaptation into development planning.

71. The LDC representatives indicated that the models by which LDCs are supported using external expertise and international accredited entities reinforce their lack of readiness

and the absence of direct access to the GCF. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that such models are not sustainable. The LDCs need a support system that accommodates their special situations and specific needs. The LEG should support the LDCs in developing bankable projects through capacity-building and brokered support from different organizations.

72. The LDC representatives expressed strong support for the Open NAP initiative, and emphasized the need for continued expedited support for formulating and implementing NAPs, in particular for the LDCs that face greater barriers to progress. They also expressed support for the training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement, and appreciated that their input was sought in designing the training. They requested the LEG to ensure that as many trainees as possible from the LDCs have access to the course in order to maximize its impact.

73. The representatives also requested the LEG to enhance its technical guidance and support to assist the LDCs in creating monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including indicators, that would help them to assess the impact of adaptation measures being implemented on reducing vulnerability to climate change.

74. The LEG provided an update on the development of the integrative supplement by the NAP technical working group. The supplement elaborates on the key steps in formulating and implementing NAPs regarding key systems; climate hazards, vulnerabilities and risks; adaptation options and their ranking and appraisal; implementation strategies; access to finance; implementation of adaptation action; assessment of outcomes; and the iterative review and update of NAPs. The supplement follows a systems approach³⁹ to coordinating the different entry points or aspects (e.g. hazards, sectors, actors, development goals and scale) of the adaptation planning cycle. The goal is to explore how best to support countries in coordinating their work throughout all the steps, covering all key issues at the national level, while also ensuring the effectiveness of measures. The LEG indicated that the plan is for different actors to complement the integrative supplement by creating modules covering the aforementioned details. This could include extracting information from existing supplements to create new content for the integrative supplement. Several organizations are already working on products that will form part of the integrative supplement (see para. 34 above). The NAP technical working group will continue to further develop and test the supplement.

75. The LEG provided highlights on the consideration of a risk-based approach to managing climate risk, as well as potential ways for countries to self-assess their vulnerability to climate change.

76. The LEG also provided highlights of progress in the Open NAP initiative. It presented a list of what would be useful to include in NAPs for them to be effective in fulfilling their different end uses, which include:

- (a) Serving as the main national programme and coordinating mechanism for adaptation in the country;
- (b) Triggering action towards reducing vulnerability and facilitating integration of adaptation into development planning (the NAP objectives);
- (c) Providing a summary of the assessment of impacts, vulnerability and risk in a structured way that facilitates regular updates as new and additional information is collected;
- (d) Presenting the country's adaptation priorities to facilitate their further use by different actors and stakeholders;
- (e) Presenting national policies, projects and programmes for implementation;
- (f) Aligning the national priorities and implementation strategy with the GCF country programme;
- (g) Facilitating monitoring of vulnerability and risk over time;

³⁹ International Organization for Standardization standard 14090:2019 on adaptation to climate change also proposes a systems approach to adaptation planning.

(h) Presenting opportunities for coherence and synergy of climate change adaptation efforts with efforts and activities in relation to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and other international, regional and national frameworks;

(i) Providing information on adaptation that fulfils reporting requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement as the adaptation communication, as appropriate.

77. The representatives took note of the different end uses of NAPs and proposed that efforts be coordinated to ensure that the NAP structure is coherent with such uses, especially specific end uses such as accessing funding from the GCF for implementing the policies, projects and programmes identified in NAPs.

78. Updates from organizations on support provided to the LDCs between February and August 2020 are summarized in chapter II.C.3 above. The LEG expressed its appreciation to the organizations for their continued provision of information on NAP support activities. It reminded them to provide information on the outcomes of their support when providing such updates.

IV. Priority activities of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2020–2021

79. The LEG considered its work programme activities and deliverables in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. It updated its priority activities for 2020–2021, considering the following factors:

(a) Prioritizing activities that support the LDCs in achieving their goal of producing a NAP by the end of 2020 or soon after;

(b) Prioritizing activities that support the LDCs in developing proposals for accessing funding from the GCF and any other sources of adaptation financing for implementing NAPs;

(c) Finalizing activities or deliverables that are nearing completion;

(d) Delivering on mandates with fixed delivery timelines.

80. The following priority activities for 2020–2021 were identified:

(a) Enhancing provision of direct support to the LDCs that have not yet formulated any NAP to help them meet their goal of submitting their first NAP by the end of 2020 or soon after;

(b) Effectively helping all the LDCs to initiate and submit a proposal to the GCF for implementing at least one of the priority adaptation needs associated with their NAP;

(c) Delivering the following activities and deliverables that are nearing completion:

(i) The training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement;

(ii) The technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning;

(iii) The technical note on the NAP-SDG iFrame;

(iv) The integrative supplement, on the basis of the work of the NAP technical working group;

(v) The fourth volume of the LEG publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs.

81. The updated activities of the LEG work programme for 2020–2021 are described in detail in annex III.

Annex I**Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group
as at 17 August 2020**

Erwin Künzi	Austria
Sonam Lhaden Khandu	Bhutan
Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
Nikki Lulham	Canada
Kenel Delusca	Haiti
Ben Siddle	Ireland
Choi Yeeting	Kiribati
Benon Yassin	Malawi
Ram Prasad Lamsal	Nepal
Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor-Leste
Mery Yaou	Togo
Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania

Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans identified as at 7 October 2020

[English only]

<i>Area</i>	<i>Need^a</i>	<i>Countries that identified the need</i>
Accessing financial and other support	Adequate and effective access to financial support, including from the GCF, as well as other forms of support for formulating and implementing NAPs	All LDCs
	Capacity to write proposals for accessing GCF funding under its different windows	Afghanistan, Angola, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
	Understanding of the latest requirements of GCF funding proposals	Angola, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania
	Promotion of funding proposals among multiple stakeholders, including those at the subnational and local government level	Eritrea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste
	Capacity to ensure that proposals submitted to the GCF for formulating NAPs are aligned with the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and address both the objectives and guiding principles of the process to formulate and implement NAPs	All LDCs
	Coordination among providers of support at all levels to ensure that support is coherent but avoids duplication at the national level and is in line with national priorities and needs	Chad, Gambia, Haiti, Lesotho, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone
	Systems for ensuring that countries' support needs for a long-term process are met through limited, one-time funding designed for projects over a fixed time frame	Bhutan, Gambia, Haiti, Sudan
	Establishment or enhancement of mechanisms and systems at the national level to mobilize and facilitate the flow of resources and information across different levels of government, with strong emphasis on transparency and accountability, such as performance-based grant systems	Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania

<i>Area</i>	<i>Need^a</i>	<i>Countries that identified the need</i>
Institutional arrangements and coordination	Establishment or enhancement of institutional arrangements for the process to formulate and implement NAPs in order to foster national leadership and coordination of adaptation efforts at all levels and create a primary interface with regional and international mechanisms	Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Chad, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan
	Establishment or enhancement of legal frameworks for institutional arrangements and coordination	Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste
	Establishment or enhancement of systems at the national level to facilitate the flow of resources and information across different levels of government (climate-responsive budgeting)	Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Chad, Gambia, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
	Establishment of stakeholders or focal points within different institutions with clearly defined roles and responsibilities	Benin, Chad, Gambia, Haiti, Timor-Leste
	Technical guidance and capacity-building for national working groups for formulating and implementing NAPs, and for preparing proposals for accessing funding from the GCF; guidance on formulating NAPs; help in identifying a delivery partner to support access to GCF NAP readiness funding; national experts and international consultants to draft NAPs	Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Institutional arrangements and systems for monitoring and evaluation	Chad, Sierra Leone
Climate scenarios, science and translation to local context	Capacity for national, subnational and sectoral experts to work effectively with climate data and climate change scenarios that facilitate consideration of long-term climate impacts in decision-making	Afghanistan, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Availability and accessibility of climate data and climate change scenarios to underpin effective adaptation assessment, planning and implementation, taking into account specific needs at the national, subnational and sectoral level	Angola, Benin, Cambodia, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Haiti, Gambia, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda
	Capacity-building for national, subnational and sectoral experts to apply climate change scenarios in adaptation decision-making	Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Haiti, Gambia, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
	Methods and tools for translating climate data and climate change scenarios to the local context	Angola, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti,

<i>Area</i>	<i>Need^a</i>	<i>Countries that identified the need</i>
		Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Ways to effectively translate long-term vision and planning from the national to the subnational level in order to guide adaptation assessments	Bhutan, Chad, Guinea, Sierra Leone
Risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management	Capacity to frame, analyse and define baselines, and assess, manage and monitor climate change risk and vulnerability at different levels and scales	Afghanistan, Angola, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Specific methodologies and guidelines that facilitate understanding of the baseline and the progression of vulnerability and risk, which is an important aspect of measuring and assessing progress in reducing vulnerability	Bhutan, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan
	Comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessments covering all key sectors and systems at the national, subnational and sectoral level, as well as vulnerability hotspots	Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Institutionalization of risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management at all levels of governance and in key sectors	Benin, Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Sudan
	Ways to build evidence for adaptation additionality arguments in funding proposals for submission to the GCF	Bhutan, Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Sierra Leone
	Technical support for identifying effective adaptation solutions and actions after the assessment of climate vulnerability and risk	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Timor-Leste
	Ways to promote consistency, synergy and coherence among different risk and vulnerability assessment and risk management frameworks	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Malawi, South Sudan, Timor-Leste
	Ways to improve the quality of assessments over time, for example through peer-review processes	All countries
	Identification of areas where participatory approaches can significantly improve risk and vulnerability assessment	Bhutan, Chad, Haiti, Lesotho, South Sudan, Sudan
Implementation strategies	Technical capacity to develop proposals for accessing funding from the GCF and other sources	Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda,

<i>Area</i>	<i>Need^a</i>	<i>Countries that identified the need</i>
		Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Ways to link the implementation strategy for the NAP with the GCF country programme	Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Yemen
	Technical capacity and tools for ranking and prioritizing adaptation options	Afghanistan, Angola, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Yemen
Access to and use of technology	Application of the latest technologies in planning and implementing climate change adaptation (e.g. big data, artificial intelligence and machine learning)	Benin, Bhutan, Haiti, Lesotho, Gambia, Guinea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania
	Promotion of technological developments related to climate change adaptation in climate services, agriculture, water systems, health systems, disaster management, banking and other sectors	Bhutan, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste
	Mobilization of financial resources for applying available technologies	Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Capacity-building, training and awareness-raising on available technologies within the LDCs	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Gambia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan
	Access to information and the experience of other countries in applying different adaptation technologies to facilitate selection, installation and operation of appropriate technologies for local problems	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea, Haiti, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Sudan
	Systems to stay abreast of the latest developments in technical guidance and assistance	Benin, Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone, Sudan
Monitoring, evaluation and learning	Establishment or enhancement of national monitoring and evaluation systems	Angola, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda

<i>Area</i>	<i>Need^a</i>	<i>Countries that identified the need</i>
Linkages with development agenda	Establishment of linkages to broader national monitoring and evaluation systems related to development	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone
	Systematic monitoring and observation relevant to adaptation planning and implementation, and subsequent monitoring and evaluation of adaptation outcomes and impacts	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania
	Methodologies and guidelines for applying quantitative and qualitative metrics and indicators when analysing and assessing vulnerabilities, hazards and systems, including examples thereof	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania
	Development of theories of change on climate change adaptation	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Lesotho
	Compilation of information to support monitoring, review and evaluation of progress in addressing adaptation	Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Yemen
	Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of support received	Bhutan, Chad, Gambia, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania
	Capacity to effectively address climate change adaptation in the national context within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Articulation of the co-benefits of climate change adaptation proposals to the GCF	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Sierra Leone
	Training on the concept of integrating adaptation into development planning, and on ways to integrate international processes relevant to adaptation planning using the appropriate frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the New Urban Agenda	Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Guinea, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania
	Identification of effective entry points for integrating adaptation into development planning	Afghanistan, Angola, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen

<i>Area</i>	<i>Need^a</i>	<i>Countries that identified the need</i>
	Prioritization of adaptation in development, including by communicating the development or economic value and benefits of implementing adaptation measures	Angola, Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Guinea, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda
Active learning from practice	Capacity to apply experience and lessons learned from adaptation planning and implementation to future adaptation efforts, including by identifying and promoting best practices	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda
	Facilitation of true learning beyond the documentation of experience and lessons learned	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Uganda
	Promotion of learning platforms to facilitate the sharing of experience and learning, especially at the regional level	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea
	Expansion of South–South exchanges to capitalize on experience with similar or common climate shocks	Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea, Sierra Leone
Guiding principles	Adequate engagement of multiple stakeholders at the national and subnational level, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, city governments and other subnational authorities, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, in managing adaptation planning and implementation, taking into account elements of successful adaptation	Angola, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda
	Adequate analysis of which communities, groups and ecosystems are the most vulnerable	Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
	Deeper and more consistent consideration of how the general concept of gender sensitivity can be applied in undertaking practical action that helps to reduce gender-driven vulnerabilities	Angola, Bhutan, Chad, Eritrea, Haiti, Gambia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Sudan, Guinea, Sudan, Uganda
	Ways to identify and effectively manage trade-offs between different adaptation actions and approaches, and between development and ecological protection	Afghanistan, Angola, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen

Note: This table is based on the table in annex I to document FCCC/SBI/2019/16 and shows which countries identified the needs listed in that table.

^a Representing countries' identified competencies, essential skills or services at the national, subnational or sectoral level required for formulating and implementing NAPs.

Annex III

Updated Least Developed Countries Expert Group work programme activities for 2020–2021

The following activities are based on the LEG work programme for 2020–2021, the March 2020 review thereof in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the outcomes of the 38th meeting of the LEG:

(a) Enhance provision of direct support to the LDCs to enable them to meet their goal of submitting their first NAP by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter:

- (i) Continue to support the LDCs in formulating their first NAP by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter through the Open NAP initiative and direct interaction with country teams and relevant organizations;
- (ii) Make available data and information for addressing gaps, or sources of such data and information, as well as tools and models, to support the LDCs in their risk and vulnerability assessment work in the context of NAPs;
- (iii) Support the LDCs in ensuring information contained in their NAPs is relevant to their purpose, such as the information needed for submitting project and programme proposals to the GCF, and fulfils reporting requirements;
- (iv) Continue to engage the LDCs in one-on-one dialogues to help them maintain progress, and address questions and challenges they may have;
- (v) Continue to provide regular updates to the LDCs on activities related to supporting their formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(b) Effectively help all the LDCs to initiate and submit a proposal to the GCF for implementing at least one of the adaptation priorities associated with their NAP:

- (i) Jointly with the GCF secretariat, organize virtual proposal writing workshops in 2020 and 2021 for the LDCs to prepare and submit proposals for implementing the adaptation priorities associated with their NAPs;
- (ii) As the first step, help the LDCs to identify GCF delivery partners to ensure no country is left behind in accessing support for adaptation;
- (iii) Further develop the idea to establish a writing facility for the LDCs that would support the development of proposals for submission to the GCF and to any other sources of adaptation financing for implementing NAPs, and, where relevant, proposals for accessing readiness support for NAPs and broader readiness activities;

(c) Successfully support the LDCs in establishing an effective and iterative process to formulate and implement NAPs, taking duly into consideration the two objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs and the guiding principles laid out in decision 5/CP.17:

- (i) Elaborate good practices for addressing the objective of integrating NAPs into development plans;
- (ii) Support the LDCs in addressing the guiding principles of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
- (iii) Update the PEG M&E tool for use to also assess the outcomes and impact of adaptation efforts in the context of NAPs, building on the best available science and tools;
- (iv) Use the PEG M&E tool for assessing LDCs' progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
- (v) Support the LDCs in applying other monitoring and evaluation systems as necessary;

(d) Continue to advance technical guidance on NAPs, including elaborating newer risk-based approaches to adaptation, through the work of all supporting partners under the NAP technical working group:

- (i) Finalize the integrative supplement to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, with appropriate mapping to available supplements, to improve the quality of assessments results to be included in the NAPs;
- (ii) Compile information on how the supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs are being used to inform further development and application of the integrative supplement and promote good practices;
- (iii) Incorporate into the integrative supplement examples and lessons learned from other countries, such as Canada and New Zealand, on risk-based approaches to adaptation planning;
- (iv) Test the integrative supplement as part of the Open NAP case studies;
- (v) Communicate information on NAPs through a publication on outcomes, experience and lessons learned in relation to NAPs;
- (vi) Finalize the technical paper on regional approaches to adaptation planning;
- (vii) Explore ways to create synergies between climate change adaptation and efforts to recover following the COVID-19 pandemic and apply them;

(e) Continue to track and monitor progress in formulating and implementing NAPs, including countries' experience and challenges in the process:

- (i) Continue to hold dialogues with the LDCs to capture their progress and challenges, and present results via the NAP country monitor or NAP tracking tool on NAP Central;
- (ii) Compile information contained in NAPs and outputs of the process to formulate and implement NAPs in an information system in order to support analysis of progress, learning and other uses;
- (iii) Publish in 2020 the fourth volume of the publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs;

(f) Continue to engage and collaborate with the GCF and the GEF:

- (i) Track support provided to the LDCs;
- (ii) Organize writing workshops for the LDCs to develop proposals for accessing funding for implementing NAPs;
- (iii) Share LDC experience and explore solutions to any challenges;

(g) Continue to support the LDCs in aligning their activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and continue to respond to their requests for support, including in relation to programmes that the LDC Group may be developing:

- (i) Continue to design training materials in relation to implementing the Paris Agreement, in collaboration with other constituted bodies and organizations;
- (ii) Offer training for the LDCs on implementing the Paris Agreement;

(h) Respond to relevant mandates from the SBI, the COP and the CMA related to supporting implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement:

- (i) Continue to provide channels for Parties to provide information on progress on NAPs¹ and summarize the results in country profiles on NAP Central;
- (ii) Continue to consider ways to assist the LDCs in implementing NAPs and include information in the LEG reports;

¹ As per decision 8/CP.24, para. 23.

- (iii) Guide the secretariat in preparing a synthesis report on specific adaptation themes for consideration at CMA 3, focusing on lessons learned and good practices in developing country Parties, in collaboration with the AC;²
- (iv) Support the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;³
- (v) Develop and regularly update an inventory of methodologies for the LDCs to assess adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation,⁴ with support from the NAP technical working group, as a contribution to a broader inventory of methodologies;
- (vi) Prepare a synthesis report for the technical assessment phase of the global stocktake;⁵
- (vii) Provide inputs to the second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it with respect to NAPs and specific areas related to the LDCs;
- (viii) Report on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into the work of the LEG;

(i) Continue to collaborate with other constituted bodies and organizations in fulfilling joint mandates and undertaking activities of common interest:

- (i) Collaborate with other constituted bodies and programmes (especially the AC, the CGE, the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the NWP, the PCCB, the SCF, the TEC and the WIM Executive Committee) on activities related to NAPs, the LDC work programme, gender and responses to specific mandates from the SBI, the COP and the CMA;
- (ii) Collaborate with UNDRR on exploring areas of coherence between adaptation and disaster risk reduction under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;
- (iii) Continue to engage and mobilize regional centres and networks in nominating LEG focal points;
- (iv) Continue to mobilize organizations and regional centres and networks to enhance their financial and technical support provided to the LDCs;
- (v) Continue to engage and mobilize organizations in respect of support programmes for NAPs and support for the LDCs (such as the NAP-GSP, the NAP Global Network and the Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans programme) through the NAP technical working group;
- (j) Conduct global and regional outreach events on NAPs:**
 - (i) Organize a global NAP Expo annually and collaborate with organizations on organizing regional NAP Expos;
 - (ii) Continue to develop NAP Central as a repository for NAPs and other NAP-related information and knowledge;
 - (iii) Compile and share frequently asked questions on the basis of matters arising from interaction with the LDCs;
 - (iv) Showcase case studies of methodologies and tools used to achieve particular adaptation outputs and outcomes.

² As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

³ As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 35.

⁴ As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 15.

⁵ As per decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.