



Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Fifty-ninth session

United Arab Emirates, 30 November to 6 December 2023

Agenda item 14

Matters relating to the least developed countries

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) welcomed the report on the 44th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG),¹ held in Maseru, Lesotho, from 14 to 17 August 2023.
2. The SBI also welcomed the successful conduct of the national adaptation plan (NAP) writing workshop for Asian least developed countries (LDCs), held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 11 to 14 September 2023, for developing existing and formulating new project ideas for submission for funding.²
3. The SBI further welcomed the successful conduct of the regional NAP Expo for Asia and the Pacific³ held in Songdo, Republic of Korea, from 28 to 30 August 2023, which provided valuable insights into the formulation and implementation of NAPs and facilitated the sharing of relevant best practices and experience within the region.
4. The SBI expressed appreciation to the Government of Lesotho for hosting LEG 44, to the Government of Nepal for hosting the NAP writing workshop referred to in paragraph 2 above and to the organizations that provided technical assistance to LDC representatives during the workshop. It also expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting the NAP Expo referred to in paragraph 3 above and to the organizations, bodies, and regional centres and networks involved in organizing the event.
5. The SBI further expressed appreciation to the entities undertaking activities to support the LDCs, including in accessing funding for adaptation action, such as the organization by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of workshops for African, Asian and Pacific LDCs, and requested the LEG to contribute to such activities, as appropriate.
6. The SBI expressed appreciation to the LEG and the secretariat for their invaluable work in supporting the LDCs as an important group of countries for the provision of support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.
7. The SBI noted that as at 4 December 2023:
 - (a) The LDCs had submitted 46 readiness proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for funding for the formulation of NAPs or other adaptation planning processes, of which 31 had been approved and for 29 of which funds had been disbursed;

¹ FCCC/SBI/2023/17.

² See <https://napexpo.org/workshops/asianap2023>.

³ See <https://napexpo.org/asia2023>.



(b) Of the 46 LDCs, 23 had submitted a NAP⁴ since the establishment of the process to formulate and implement NAPs in 2010, 15 were in the process of formulating a NAP and 7 had yet to start formulating a NAP;

(c) Of the 46 LDCs, 5 had accessed funding related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs through the Least Developed Countries Fund during the eighth replenishment cycle of the GEF (2022–2026);⁵

(d) Of the 46 LDCs, 11 had accredited direct access entities; 6 accredited direct access entities in the LDCs had not yet accessed funding from the GCF.

8. The SBI welcomed the NAPs submitted since December 2022, by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Haiti, Mozambique and Zambia.

9. The SBI invited developed country Parties to share their national adaptation plans and strategies on NAP Central with a view to promoting exchange of experience, lessons learned and best practices in relation to adaptation planning and implementation.

10. The SBI requested the LEG to identify the challenges, gaps and needs faced by the seven LDCs referred to in paragraph 7(b) above in initiating the formulation of their NAPs, provide recommendations on how to address those challenges, gaps and needs and include information thereon in its report to the SBI for consideration at its sixtieth session (June 2024).

11. The SBI noted that the LDCs continue to face significant challenges in accessing funding for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

12. The SBI requested the LEG to convene a meeting with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF and other relevant organizations, as part of NAP Expo 2024, to identify ways to assist the LDCs in expeditiously implementing adaptation action based on priorities identified in their NAPs, and to include recommendations in its reports to the SBI with a view to addressing the challenges, gaps and needs that the LDCs continue to face in accessing funding for implementing NAPs.

13. The SBI also requested the LEG, in line with its mandate and taking into account relevant evaluations on the provision of technical and financial support to the LDCs, to identify the challenges faced by the LDCs in initiating and/or completing the process of accrediting direct access entities as well as the challenges, gaps and needs faced by the LDCs referred to in paragraph 7(d) above, in securing approved projects by their direct access entities, and include the findings thereon in its report to the SBI for consideration at its sixty-first session (November 2024).

14. The SBI invited Parties and organizations with programmes aimed at supporting the LDCs in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs to provide information on their programmes to the LEG for inclusion in its annual progress report on NAPs, and to showcase their programmes at the NAP Expo, with a view to making information on such programmes readily available to the LDCs.

15. The SBI welcomed the support provided by the LEG to the LDCs for addressing identified data gaps and other gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including through the Open NAPs and NAP Data initiatives,⁶ and the continued collaboration of the LEG with the Adaptation Fund Board, GCF and GEF secretariats on enhancing access to funding by the LDCs for implementing NAPs under the NAP implementation pipeline development initiative⁷ and requested the LEG to scale up these collaborative efforts.

16. The SBI requested the LEG to continue collaborating with the Adaptation Committee and other UNFCCC constituted bodies that are undertaking adaptation activities as part of their work, as well as on work under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability

⁴ Available at <https://napcentral.org/submitted-naps>.

⁵ See document FCCC/SBI/2023/17, para. 43.

⁶ See document FCCC/SBI/2022/18.

⁷ Referred to in document FCCC/SBI/2023/7, annex IV.

and adaptation to climate change, in providing support to the LDCs for the process to formulate and implement NAPs and to include information thereon in its reports to the SBI.

17. The SBI requested the LEG to continue enhancing its provision of support to the LDCs for aligning NAPs and nationally determined contributions.

18. The SBI noted with appreciation the financial pledges, totalling USD 141.74 million, made by the Governments of Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Spain and Sweden to the Least Developed Countries Fund at the GEF pledging conference⁸ held on 4 December 2023, and called for additional contributions to the Fund.

19. The SBI invited Parties and relevant organizations to continue providing resources for supporting implementation of the LEG work programme.

⁸ See <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/news/joint-statement-donors-pledge-174-2-million-and-confirmation-support-least-developed>.