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Matters relating to the least developed countries

The 45th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Report by the secretariat*

Summary

At the 45th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), which took place in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 20 to 23 February 2024, the LEG discussed progress in implementing its activities for 2023–2024 and developed its work programme for 2024–2025. The meeting included discussions with the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group on the priorities and needs for support for the least developed countries and with representatives of the Green Climate Fund and relevant organizations on providing support to the least developed countries. This report includes information on the status of formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans in the least developed countries; ongoing activities of the LEG in supporting the least developed countries; technical guidance and support for national adaptation plans; the response of the LEG to mandates from the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation; the integration of a gender perspective into the work of the LEG; and the collaboration of the LEG with other UNFCCC constituted bodies.

* This document was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline because the review process took longer than expected.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
AF	Adaptation Fund
AR	Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GERICS	Climate Service Center Germany
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDC	least developed country
LDC work programme	least developed countries work programme
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NAP Global Network	National Adaptation Plan Global Network
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
PA-ALIGN tool	Paris Agreement Alignment tool
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
PEG M&E tool	tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps in relation to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. Mandate

1. COP 26 decided to extend the mandate of the LEG under its current terms of reference and that the next review of the mandate will take place at COP 36.¹ The LEG is mandated by the COP and the CMA to, inter alia:²
 - (a) Support implementation of the LDC work programme;
 - (b) Provide technical guidance, support and advice to the LDCs in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, and specific matters such as regional approaches to adaptation planning, and strengthening gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems in relation to adaptation;
 - (c) Provide technical guidance and advice to the LDCs, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat, on accessing funding from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs;
 - (d) Formulate recommendations on ways to facilitate the mobilization of support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs with a view to addressing the challenges experienced by developing country Parties in accessing funding and support from the GCF for formulating and implementing NAPs and submit the recommendations to the SCF for consideration;
 - (e) Update the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs,³ reflecting the provisions of decision 2/CMA.5 on the global goal on adaptation as well as the best available science, including the AR6;
 - (f) Undertake activities to facilitate implementation of the Paris Agreement, including preparing synthesis reports in the context of recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing countries and contributing to the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;
 - (g) Enhance the support provided to the LDCs for aligning NAPs and NDCs;
 - (h) Engage UNFCCC constituted bodies, the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, regional centres and networks, and a wide range of organizations in implementing the LEG work programme.
2. Furthermore, COP 22 requested all constituted bodies to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes.⁴
3. Finally, the LEG is mandated to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.⁵

II. The 45th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

4. At LEG 45, held in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 20 to 23 February 2024, the LEG discussed providing support to the LDCs for formulating and implementing NAPs; establishing an effective and iterative process to formulate and implement NAPs; developing

¹ Decision 15/CP.26, paras. 1–2; see also decision 8/CP.24.

² Decisions 5/CP.7, 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.10, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18, 3/CP.20, 1/CP.21, 19/CP.21, 16/CP.24, 7/CP.25, 15/CP.26, 9/CP.27, 10/CP.27, 11/CMA.1, 19/CMA.1, 11/CMA.4 and 2/CMA.5.

³ 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>.

⁴ Decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

⁵ Decision 6/CP.16, para. 3.

the technical guidance on NAPs and the work of the NAP technical working group; tracking and monitoring progress in formulating and implementing NAPs; engaging and collaborating with the AF, the GCF and the GEF regarding the access of the LDCs to funding; supporting the LDCs in effectively and efficiently implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement; supporting global and regional outreach events on NAPs; collaborating with other bodies and organizations on the provision of support to the LDCs; integrating a gender perspective into its work; and prioritizing activities for 2024–2025.

5. The LEG extended an invitation to the Chair of the LDC Group to participate in the meeting and lead a discussion on the priorities and needs for support for the LDCs. In addition, the LEG engaged with representatives of the AF, the GCF, the GEF and its agencies, and relevant organizations to discuss providing support to the LDCs.

6. The following members have been appointed as focal points by the LEG to cover both new and renewed appointments in its ongoing collaborative activities with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement:

(a) Dominique Auger (Canada), Adao Soares Barbosa (Timor-Leste) and Hana Hamadalla Mohamed (Sudan) in the NAP task force;

(b) Kenel Delusca (Haiti), Payai Manyok John (South Sudan), Hana Hamadalla Mohamed and Jamie Ovia (Tuvalu) in the joint working group of the AC, the LEG and the SCF on methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;

(c) Dominique Auger, Kenel Delusca, Mokoena France (Lesotho) and Richard Mfumu Lungu (Zambia) in work with the Consultative Group of Experts and the PCCB;

(d) Mokoena France, Payai Manyok John and Jamie Ovia in work with the FWG of the LCIPP;

(e) Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania), Mery Yaou (Togo) and Benon Yassin (Malawi) in work under the NWP;

(f) Laurie Ashley (United States of America), Fredrick Manyika and Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) in work with the SCF and providing inputs under the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance;

(g) Laurie Ashley, Buddi Sagar Poudel (Nepal) and Gersom van der Elst (Kingdom of the Netherlands) in work with the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network;

(h) Laurie Ashley, Adao Soares Barbosa, Idrissa Semde and Caoimhe Sweeney (Ireland) in the task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee;

(i) Caoimhe Sweeney, Gersom van der Elst and Benon Yassin in the expert group on non-economic losses of the WIM Executive Committee;

(j) Gabriel Kpaka (Sierra Leone), Richard Mfumu Lungu and Mery Yaou in work with the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures.

7. A list of the members of the LEG as at 23 February 2024 is provided in annex I.

B. Intersessional activities

8. The LEG took note of its activities since LEG 44, including:

(a) Continuing, through NAP country dialogues, to advance the formulation and implementation of NAPs;⁶

⁶ Dialogues were conducted with Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi and Solomon Islands.

(b) Updating the compilations of project ideas submitted under the NAP implementation pipeline development initiative and of adaptation priorities identified in NAPs;⁷

(c) Conducting consultations with relevant stakeholders to inform the development of the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs;

(d) Proactively engaging in meetings and events at COP 28, including participating in the LDCs preparatory meeting, holding side events on the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs and holding a joint event with the AC on lessons learned and potential ways forward in reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support;

(e) Holding teleconferences among LEG members on 5 November 2023 and 25 January 2024 to discuss, inter alia, priority activities and milestones for the last quarter of 2023 and first quarter of 2024, highlights from the 2023 NAP progress report,⁸ preparations for and outcomes from COP 28 and CMA 5, and the agenda for LEG 45.

C. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans⁹

1. Progress of the least developed countries

9. The LEG noted that, as at 13 March 2024, 22 LDCs had prepared NAPs and submitted them on NAP Central,¹⁰ 2 of which had developed and submitted sectoral and thematic strategies and other relevant outputs;¹¹ 16 were in the process of preparing their NAPs and were expected to submit them between 2024 and 2025;¹² and 5 had not started formulating their NAPs.¹³ Information on two LDCs was pending.¹⁴

10. The LEG also noted that 21 of the 22 LDCs that had submitted NAPs¹⁵ had also prepared and submitted proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for implementing priority actions identified in their NAPs. The proposals relate to addressing climate risks in the areas of agriculture, energy, health and water resources. Proposals from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Ethiopia, Kiribati, Liberia, Madagascar, Nepal, the Niger, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Timor-Leste and Togo have been approved for funding by the GCF.

2. Progress in relation to support provided

11. Table 1 presents the status of project proposals for formulating NAPs submitted by developing countries for accessing funding from the GCF (under its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme), which provides up to USD 3 million per country,¹⁶ and from the LDCF (managed by the GEF).

⁷ Both of the updated compilations are available at <https://napcentral.org/projectcatalogues>.

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2023/18.

⁹ This subchapter provides a snapshot of the progress of the LDCs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. For detailed coverage of the progress of all developing countries, see the annual progress reports, available at <https://unfccc.int/node/747>.

¹⁰ Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kiribati, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo and Zambia. The NAPs are available at <https://napcentral.org/submitted-naps>.

¹¹ Cambodia and Nepal. See <https://napcentral.org/sectoral-naps>.

¹² Comoros, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Tuvalu.

¹³ Angola, Djibouti, Eritrea, Solomon Islands and Yemen.

¹⁴ Afghanistan and Myanmar.

¹⁵ All the countries in footnote 10 above except the Central African Republic.

¹⁶ See GCF Board decision B.13/09, para. (e).

Table 1
Status of project proposals submitted by developing countries for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund for formulating national adaptation plans as at 21 March 2024

<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Number of submitted proposals</i>	<i>Number of proposals approved or in the approval process</i>	<i>Number of projects with funds disbursed</i>
GCF	Africa	54 (35)	39 (24)	31 (20)
	Asia and the Pacific	38 (9)	31 (7)	30 (6)
	Eastern Europe	11	10	10
	Latin America and the Caribbean	37 (1)	30 (1)	28 (1)
Total		140 (45)	110 (32)	103 (29)
LDCF	Africa	8	8	6
	Asia and the Pacific	2	1	1
	Latin America and the Caribbean	0	0	0
Total		10	9	7

Notes: (1) Figures in parentheses are for the LDCs; (2) a more detailed table with lists of the submitting countries is available at https://napcentral.org/accessing_funding_for_NAPs.

12. Regarding technical support, the LEG continues to offer both direct support and support through the NAP technical working group to the LDCs to accelerate their formulation and implementation of NAPs (see chap. IV below). Several organizations continue to contribute to the development of materials supplementary to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs (see chap. IV.B below).

D. Status of implementation of adaptation projects in national adaptation programmes of action and related strategies and plans supported by the Least Developed Countries Fund

13. The LEG took note of the information provided by the GEF secretariat on grant funding allocated by the LDCF in the amount of USD 245.1 million for 22 projects¹⁷ since commencement of the eighth replenishment of the GEF. The projects focus on adaptation actions in the areas of agricultural and food systems, coastal zones, climate information, disaster risk management, ecosystems, fisheries, livelihood security, nature-based solutions, resilient infrastructure and water.

III. Vision for supporting adaptation in the least developed countries

14. The LEG discussed its vision for supporting adaptation in the LDCs, which includes the provision of support by the LEG and other actors for implementing actions that achieve demonstrable results in building adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change; formulating robust and good-quality NAPs and implementing priority adaptation actions identified therein with funding from the GCF and other sources; and establishing the effective, iterative process to formulate and implement NAPs.

15. The LEG identified the following additional efforts that will be necessary to achieve this vision, noting that they all complement existing activities supporting adaptation in the LDCs:

¹⁷ The projects are in Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia (two projects), the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, the Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan (two projects) and Zambia (two projects).

(a) Enhanced support, through the GCF and other sources of funding, for all the LDCs to implement the policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs;

(b) Enhanced support for the LDCs that have not yet done so to have produced their NAP by 2025¹⁸ to ensure that no LDCs are left behind;

(c) Enhanced efforts to promote synergy and complementarity between NAPs and relevant provisions of the global goal on adaptation, adaptation communications, NDCs and efforts to address loss and damage;

(d) Enhanced efforts to ensure that all the LDCs have access to the financial, technology and capacity-building support necessary to implement the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

IV. Ongoing activities and next steps

A. Direct country support

1. Supporting the least developed countries in submitting their national adaptation plan

16. The LEG considered the request from SBI 59 to identify the challenges, gaps and needs faced by the LDCs that had not yet initiated the formulation of their NAPs, provide recommendations on how to address those challenges, gaps and needs, and include information thereon in its report for consideration at SBI 60.¹⁹

17. As at 4 December 2023, the LDCs that had not yet initiated the formulation of their NAP, or had initiated its formulation in 2023, were Angola, Djibouti, Eritrea, the Gambia, Mali, Solomon Islands and Yemen. Annex II presents activities undertaken by these countries between 2015 and 28 March 2024 to initiate the formulation of their NAP.

18. The LEG agreed to continue to offer support to the LDCs referred to in paragraph 17 above, as well as to the other 14 LDCs that are in the process of formulating their NAPs, under the Open NAP initiative and the NAP data initiative in order to assist them in gathering the information essential to formulating their NAPs and to ensure each produces its NAP.

19. The LEG also agreed on the following recommendations to the SBI:

(a) The SBI to recommend that the COP request the GCF to consider ways to expedite the provision of support to the countries referred to in paragraph 17 above to enable them to formulate their NAP by 2025;

(b) The SBI to recommend that the COP request the GCF to schedule the production of NAPs earlier in the GCF NAP readiness project life cycle;

(c) The SBI to invite countries to make use of the LDC roster of experts on NAPs to address technical capacity needs in formulating their NAPs;

(d) The SBI to invite relevant organizations in a position to do so to assist the countries referred to in paragraph 17 above in formulating their NAPs and to continue engaging in the Open NAP initiative with a view to supporting these countries in formulating their first NAP by 2025.

2. Supporting the least developed countries in initiating project proposals and submitting them for funding from the Green Climate Fund and other sources

20. The LEG discussed the following mandates from SBI 59:²⁰

(a) To convene a meeting with the AF, the GCF, the GEF and relevant organizations, as part of NAP Expo 2024, to identify ways to assist the LDCs in expeditiously implementing adaptation action on the basis of the priorities identified in their NAPs, and to

¹⁸ In accordance with decision 1/CMA.5, para. 59.

¹⁹ FCCC/SBI/2023/21, para. 81.

²⁰ FCCC/SBI/2023/21, paras. 83–84.

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. The LEG agreed to work with the AF, the GCF and the GEF to develop an approach for the meeting and to hold the meeting during NAP Expo 2024;

(b) 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 in having projects approved by their direct access entities, and include the findings thereon in its report to the SBI for consideration at SBI 61. The LEG agreed to (1) conduct, between March and June 2024, a survey of the LDCs (direct access entities, GCF national designated authorities and NAP teams), the GCF and other relevant actors to identify challenges, gaps and needs and (2) discuss the results of the survey at LEG 46 and prepare findings for consideration at SBI 61.

21. The LEG agreed to continue to share the project catalogues²¹ from the NAP implementation pipeline development initiative and the NAPs with organizations interested in supporting the LDCs; to follow up with countries and assist them in taking steps towards submitting their project ideas for funding through NAP country dialogues; and to share information on available funding for implementing adaptation projects based on its technical paper on the mapping of relevant sources of finance for adaptation for the LDCs.²²

3. Supporting the least developed countries in establishing an effective and iterative process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

22. The LEG discussed the request from COP 27,²³ reiterated at SBI 59,²⁴ to organize training for developing country Parties on addressing identified gaps and needs related to NAPs. The LEG took note of its ongoing initiatives and activities in addressing gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, some of which include or are implemented through training, including the Open NAP initiative, the NAP data initiative, the NAP implementation pipeline development initiative, NAP writing workshops, NAP country dialogues, review of draft NAPs, capture and application of best practices and lessons learned in the formulation of NAPs, and provision of technical guidance and support through the NAP technical working group. It agreed to build on these efforts, its experience and related knowledge products in responding to this mandate.

23. Following the survey referred to in paragraph 20(b) above, the LEG identified the following topics for the training referred to in paragraph 22 above, to be held in 2024:

(a) Addressing data and methodological needs in climate risk assessments to inform the formulation and implementation of NAPs, including introductions to the use of relevant models and to the integrative framework for NAPs and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on topics relating to the global goal on adaptation;

(b) Gaining an understanding of risk-based approaches to addressing climate risks and considering pathways towards targeted transformational adaptation;

(c) Applying climate change scenario data to climate risk assessments and pathways of implementation;

(d) Developing an investment plan for NAP implementation;

(e) Accessing funding from the AF, the GCF and the LDCF to implement policies, projects and programmes identified in NAPs;

(f) Developing and applying monitoring, evaluation and learning tools;

(g) Strengthening consideration of vulnerable groups and local communities, including in terms of gender and youth, in implementing NAPs.

²¹ Available at <https://napcentral.org/projectcatalogues>.

²² LEG. 2023. *Mapping of relevant sources of finance for climate change adaptation for the least developed countries*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/635395>.

²³ Decision 9/CP.27, para. 9.

²⁴ FCCC/SBI/2023/21, para. 64.

24. The LEG agreed to hold training on some of the topics referred to in paragraph 23 above at NAP Expo 2024. It noted that the effectiveness of the training to be conducted at the NAP Expo 2024 will be limited as a result of time available (4.5 hours in total), number of participants (one funded participant per country) and potentially the background of the participants. It requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of additional resources, to consider ways to engage more participants, for example by conducting the training in hybrid format, using a training of trainers format and continuing the training under ongoing activities of the LEG.

4. Roster of experts from the least developed countries

25. The LEG agreed to update the scope of the roster of experts on NAPs to cover the following areas:

- (a) The four elements of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, which are laying the groundwork and addressing gaps; preparatory elements; implementation strategies; and reporting, monitoring and review;
- (b) Experience related to actions for achieving the targets of the global goal on adaptation,²⁵ at all appropriate levels;
- (c) Accessing funding under the Financial Mechanism.

B. Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

1. National adaptation plan technical working group and its subgroups

26. The LEG took note of the continued support of the NAP technical working group in implementing the work of the LEG between September 2023 and January 2024, in particular the review of the draft NAPs of Lesotho and Zambia and provision of information on support provided to the LDCs in formulating and implementing their NAPs.

27. The LEG also took note of the progress of two of the four NAP technical working group subgroups:

- (a) The NAP implementation support subgroup met in person at COP 28 to discuss feedback on the draft technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs (see para. 28 below);
- (b) The NAP tracking subgroup continued its work on developing metrics for measuring the outcomes and impacts of adaptation actions. The results of the work will inform the further development of the PEG M&E tool.

2. Technical guidelines for the implementation of national adaptation plans

28. The LEG took note of progress in the development of the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs, including the feedback of the NAP implementation support subgroup, which was, inter alia:

- (a) The technical guidelines should ensure a holistic, integrated approach to NAP implementation, embracing priorities in the NAP and adaptation components of the NDC as well as being coordinated with any other relevant policy instruments;
- (b) Considering that implementation of adaptation action happens at all scales, from national to local, the technical guidelines should reflect the linkages between scales;
- (c) The technical guidelines should be developed considering the plans to provide enhanced support to direct access entities under the strategic plan for the GCF for 2024–2027.²⁶

²⁵ Decision 2/CMA.5, paras. 9–10.

²⁶ Available at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/strategic-plan-green-climate-fund-2024-2027>.

29. The LEG agreed that development of the technical guidelines should consider:
- (a) Multiple entry points to implementing NAPs, depending on country context and depth of information available in the NAP;
 - (b) Diverse sources of funding under and outside the Financial Mechanism;
 - (c) Case studies on lessons from NAP implementation to date, and the adaptation baselines or reference against which change will be measured;
 - (d) The purpose of the guidelines, which should be clearly indicated within them. The guidelines are not intended to require countries to produce a document in addition to their NAP, but rather are intended to facilitate implementation of the policies, projects and programmes contained in the NAP;
 - (e) Ease of understanding and use of the guidelines by the LDCs.
30. The LEG agreed to finalize the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs by June 2024 and to ensure a coordinated approach with the updating of the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs. Consultation drafts will continue to be shared with stakeholders for inputs, including a review by stakeholders in the second and third quarter of 2024 respectively.

C. Tracking and monitoring of progress in formulating and implementing national adaptation plans

31. The LEG took note of the work on expanding the scope of the PEG M&E tool to include more metrics for measuring the outcomes and impacts of adaptation actions. It noted that the targets of the global goal on adaptation present an opportunity for the LEG in terms of developing additional metrics. In addition, it considered (1) the characteristics of adaptation actions that should inform the assessment of their impact and outcomes and the development of corresponding metrics and (2) the characteristics of such metrics, including their need to be comprehensible by countries and applicable at the national level and their need to take into account the impacts of adaptation on vulnerable communities and groups.

32. A provisional set of metrics has been applied to inform the approach to the assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including in developing guiding questions for collecting information on progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

D. Collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on access to funding

1. Green Climate Fund

33. The LEG noted that accessing funding from the GCF continues to be the primary challenge faced by the LDCs in implementing NAPs.

34. The LEG noted that, as at 13 March 2024, 15 LDCs²⁷ had completed and submitted GCF country programmes, which contain information on a country's climate change priorities, including a pipeline of projects that the country is seeking to develop with the GCF.

35. The LEG also noted that, as at 21 March 2024, 16 of the 68 accredited direct access entities in developing countries were in the LDCs (see table 2). It further noted that half of these direct access entities had yet to access funding from the GCF.

²⁷ Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo and Zambia.

Table 2

Direct access entities in the least developed countries accredited by the Green Climate Fund as at 21 March 2024

<i>Country</i>	<i>Accredited entity</i>	<i>Project size accreditation^a</i>	<i>Number of approved projects</i>	<i>Financing (USD million)</i>
Bangladesh	Infrastructure Development Company Limited	Medium	1	256.48
Bangladesh	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation	Small	3	76.84
Benin	National Fund for Environment and Climate	Micro	10	9.39
Bhutan	Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation	Micro	0	–
Cambodia	National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development	Micro	0	–
Ethiopia	Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation	Small	1	45.00
Nepal	Alternative Energy Promotion Centre	Small	1	21.13
Nepal	National Trust for Nature Conservation	Micro	0	–
Nepal	Nepal Investment Mega Bank Limited	Medium	0	–
Rwanda	Ministry of Environment	Small	2	71.85
Senegal	Ecological Monitoring Centre	Micro	1	7.61
Senegal	Bank Agricole of Senegal	Small	0	–
Uganda	Ministry of Water and Environment	Small	0	–
United Republic of Tanzania	CRDB Bank PLC	Medium	1	100.00
Zambia	Development Bank of Zambia	Medium	0	–
Zambia	Zambia National Commercial Bank PLC	Small	0	–

^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 micro, small and medium-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).

2. Global Environment Facility

36. The LEG noted that, as at 21 March 2024, 18 LDCs²⁸ had 21 project concepts approved for accessing the resources available to them of up to USD 20 million per country under the LDCF in the eighth replenishment of the GEF (2022–2026).

37. The LEG agreed to continue raising awareness among those LDCs that are yet to access resources of available funding under the LDCF and to engage with the GEF and its agencies in assisting the LDCs in accessing such funding.

E. Global and regional outreach events on national adaptation plans

38. The LEG took note of the preparations for NAP Expo 2024, to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 22 to 25 April.²⁹ Under the theme of the Expo, “Driving transformational adaptation through national adaptation plans”, participants will explore ways to accelerate and scale up implementation of the policies, projects and programmes identified in NAPs to achieve the transformation necessary for a future in which adaptation to climate change is effective, and discuss goals and targets for accelerated and scaled-up implementation that are in line with the outcome of the first global stocktake.

39. As per its standard practice for organizing NAP Expos, the LEG agreed to launch preparations for the event with the support of the NAP technical working group, identify topics to be addressed at the event and mobilize support for participants from the LDCs and other developing countries.

²⁸ Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia (two projects), Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan (two projects) and Zambia (two projects).

²⁹ See <https://expo.napcentral.org/2024>.

40. The NAP Expo will also host the meeting of Party experts organized as part of the actions and steps necessary for the SBI to initiate the assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs (see para. 41 below); the meeting on identifying ways to assist the LDCs in expeditiously implementing adaptation action on the basis of the priorities identified in their NAPs (see para. 20(a) above); and the training for developing countries on addressing identified gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs (see para. 22 above).

F. Assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

41. The LEG discussed the request from COP 26 for the LEG, in collaboration with the AC, to organize a meeting of Party experts to consider progress towards achieving the objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, as well as experience, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs, and support provided and received, with a view to providing a summary of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.³⁰

42. The LEG discussed the approach to and guiding questions for the meeting.³¹ It established an advisory group to further advise on the approach for the meeting and assist in collecting and analysing the information to be considered at the meeting and the preparation of conclusions of the meeting. The advisory group is composed of members and representatives of the LEG, the AC, the FWG of the LCIPP, and the SCF, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, GERICS, the Global Water Partnership, the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, the NAP Global Network, UNDP, UNEP, the World Health Organization and WMO.

G. Knowledge management and outreach

43. The LEG took note of its updated communication strategy, the aim of which is to inform stakeholders about the priorities of the LDCs and their needs for support in addressing adaptation; the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs to move towards successful adaptation; and the experience, best practices and lessons learned from the efforts of the LDCs to address adaptation. The LEG requested the secretariat to facilitate implementation of the strategy, including measuring the frequency with which the different products and platforms of the LEG are accessed.

H. Consideration of gender

44. The LEG considered the mandate from COP 28 inviting Parties, United Nations entities, the constituted bodies and relevant organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities, to make submissions on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan with a view to the submissions informing the final review of the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan at SBI 60.³² It discussed its submission, which includes relevant mandates of the LEG and provisions on gender; outputs and publications of the LEG related to gender; and details on activities and milestones of the LEG that align with the priority areas of the gender action plan. It agreed to finalize its submission by the deadline of 31 March 2024.

³⁰ Decision 3/CP.26, para. 3(d).

³¹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/nap-assessment-mtg-2024>.

³² Decision 15/CP.28, para. 2.

I. Addressing mandates from the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

45. The LEG discussed progress and next steps in addressing the following mandates from the COP, the CMA and the SBI:

(a) Advising on the implementation of NAPs.³³ The LEG is developing technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs as part of addressing this mandate (see chap. IV.B.2 above);

(b) Preparing synthesis reports every two years on specific adaptation themes, focusing on lessons learned and good practices in developing country Parties.³⁴ The LEG decided that its 2024 synthesis report prepared in the context of recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties will focus on the efforts of the LDCs in accessing funding for the implementation of NAPs. It discussed the outline of the report and agreed to publish the report by December 2024;

(c) Continuing to provide channels for Parties to provide information on progress in formulating and implementing NAPs and summarizing the results in country profiles on NAP Central,³⁵ in LEG reports, and in annual progress reports and publications on NAPs. The LEG noted that there are various channels for Parties to provide such information, such as the online questionnaire on NAPs,³⁶ country surveys, and engagement with the secretariats of the GCF and the GEF, the AF Board and relevant organizations to exchange information on progress and support provided. It also noted that the information collected through all these channels will inform the meeting of Party experts referred to in chapter IV.F above;

(d) Contributing to the compilation of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support with the AC and in collaboration with the SCF.³⁷ The LEG took note of the reference paper on the methodologies,³⁸ the work of the joint AC–LEG–SCF working group on the methodologies and events in 2023 that presented preliminary findings and lessons learned from application of the methodologies as well as potential ways forward. It also took note of ongoing processes that may further inform or be informed by the compilation of the methodologies, including the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5, the update of the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, expansion of the scope of the PEG M&E tool (see para. 31 above) and the assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It agreed to coordinate with the AC and the SCF to consider the outcomes of these processes and to continue sharing lessons learned, as appropriate;

(e) Supporting the LDCs in addressing adaptation-related provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the submission and updating of adaptation communications.³⁹ The LEG agreed to continue to apply the PA-ALIGN tool to help countries to effectively and efficiently implement the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(f) Enhancing the support provided to the LDCs for aligning NAPs and NDCs.⁴⁰ The LEG discussed the draft policy brief on possible approaches and processes for aligning NAPs and NDCs, and emerging good practices and lessons learned from the LDCs. In further developing the policy brief, the LEG agreed to survey the LDCs on specific needs for support during the second quarter of 2024. The policy brief, which will consider the results of the survey, will be finalized at LEG 46;

³³ FCCC/SBI/2017/19, para. 73.

³⁴ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

³⁵ Decisions 5/CP.17, paras. 32–36; 4/CP.21, para. 12(b); and 8/CP.24, para. 23.

³⁶ <https://napcentral.org/nap-questionnaire>.

³⁷ Decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 34–35.

³⁸ AC, LEG and SCF. 2023. *Methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support*. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/633175>.

³⁹ Decisions 19/CP.21, para. 2(d); and 15/CP.26, para. 12.

⁴⁰ Decision 10/CP.27, para. 12.

(g) Supporting the LDCs in integrating gender considerations into the formulation and implementation of NAPs.⁴¹ The LEG agreed to continue engaging the multi-stakeholder forums subgroup in identifying and implementing relevant action;

(h) Updating the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, reflecting the provisions of decision 2/CMA.5 on the global goal on adaptation as well as the best available science, including the AR6.⁴² The LEG agreed on the steps to develop the guidelines with a view to finalizing the guidelines by the end of 2024.

J. Collaboration under the UNFCCC

46. The LEG took note of its ongoing collaborative activities and potential areas for further collaboration under the UNFCCC:

(a) Addressing the mandates contained in decision 11/CMA.1 in collaboration with the AC and the SCF, continuing to engage in the NAP task force, engaging the AC in the NAP Expos, supporting the implementation of the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience with technical guidance and training materials⁴³ and contributing to the development of recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress;⁴⁴

(b) Collaborating with the SCF on matters relating to the LDCs accessing funding under the Financial Mechanism for the process to formulate and implement NAPs;⁴⁵

(c) Collaborating with the WIM Executive Committee by participating in its task force on displacement and expert group on non-economic losses, noting that their products are relevant to the LDCs for adaptation planning and noting the potential to enhance collaboration on gender consideration with the WIM Executive Committee;

(d) Developing activities to increase the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and sharing progress in this regard with the FWG;

(e) Engaging with NWP partner organizations in addressing knowledge gaps related to formulating and implementing NAPs, contributing to the Open NAP initiative and continuing to promote opportunities for engagement with the LDCs under the thematic areas of the NWP in order to ensure that NWP knowledge products are aligned with ongoing technical support for and guidance on formulating and implementing NAPs;

(f) Contributing to the work of the PCCB and the Durban Forum on capacity-building by continuing to provide inputs on capacity-building support and needs for the LDCs and presenting the PA-ALIGN tool and other work of the LEG at relevant events.

47. The LEG agreed to continue engaging in these collaborative activities, including through active participation by the LEG members referred to in paragraph 6 above. It also agreed to invite the constituted bodies to provide inputs to the development of the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs.

K. Discussion with representatives of the least developed countries

48. The LEG and representatives of the LDCs discussed priorities and needs for support for the LDCs in 2024, considering the outcomes from SBI 59, COP 28 and CMA 5.

49. The discussions focused on identifying (1) specific challenges faced by and ways to assist the LDCs that have not yet initiated formulation of their NAPs in doing so as soon as possible, (2) challenges faced by all LDCs in expeditiously implementing the policies, projects and programmes identified in their NAPs and (3) ways to assist the LDCs that have

⁴¹ Decision 10/CP.27, para. 13.

⁴² Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 47.

⁴³ Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 44.

⁴⁴ Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 45.

⁴⁵ Decision 9/CP.27, para. 5.

not yet done so to have in place their NAPs and national adaptation policies and planning processes by 2025 and to have progressed in implementing them by 2030.⁴⁶

50. The LEG and the representatives of the LDCs agreed on the following areas of continued collaboration in order to address the issues referred to in paragraph 49 above:

- (a) Capturing the challenges, gaps and needs faced by the LDCs in formulating and implementing their NAPs;
- (b) Exploring joint outreach on support available to the LDCs;
- (c) Coordinating efforts in engaging with relevant actors that provide support to the LDCs, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;
- (d) Advising the LDCs to nominate the most relevant participants for various LEG activities, including NAP Expo 2024 and the training on gaps and needs related to NAPs.

L. Discussions with representatives of relevant entities and organizations

51. The LEG engaged the representatives of relevant entities and organizations participating in the meeting in discussion on scaling up the provision of support to the LDCs while considering the outcome of the first global stocktake, the global goal on adaptation and other relevant decisions of COP 28 and CMA 5. Representatives of the relevant entities and organizations participating in the meeting provided the following updates:

(a) The GCF reported on its strategic plan for 2024–2027, which includes support of USD 3 million per country for formulating NAPs, USD 3 million NAP readiness funding per country for countries that have exhausted their first allocation to support the transition from NAP formulation to implementation, up to USD 4 million readiness funding per country over the four-year period and USD 1 million per direct access entity. Greater effort will be directed towards building capacity for coordination among national stakeholders on climate finance; setting up enabling environments for integrated climate investment, including by designing and implementing strategic frameworks; and reporting, monitoring and evaluation of project activities. A meeting participant commented that the LDCs continue to experience challenges in accessing GCF funding despite the extensive number of modalities offered;

(b) The GEF provided information on progress of the LDCs in accessing their LDCF resources in the eighth replenishment of the GEF, indicating that 19 of the 45 LDCs had approved project concepts. The GEF also highlighted the continuing efforts under its dedicated programmes on communications and visibility, outreach and capacity support for planning and programming, and organizational learning and coordination. A meeting participant raised a question on the visibility of the LDCF in communications by the GEF regarding its projects. The GEF indicated that it manages a family of funds, and projects financed by those funds, including the LDCF and the Special Climate Change Fund; communicates overall messages of the GEF and intends to improve the visibility of its funds through its climate adaptation strategy;

(c) The AF reported on opportunities under the AF that the LDCs have been using in implementing adaptation actions. It highlighted that 40 LDCs have an adaptation project that is completed, is under implementation, has received grant funding or has been approved. The activities implemented by the countries contribute directly to the objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, to reducing vulnerability or to integrating adaptation into development planning, or contribute more broadly to developing capacity;

(d) WMO continues to proactively provide inputs to countries' draft NAPs via the NAP technical working group; conduct regional training workshops to assist countries in strengthening climate science information for their NAPs; and help address the capacity constraints of countries by creating essential knowledge products and making them available on a variety of platforms;

(e) UNDRR, with reference to global target E of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (“Substantially increase the number of countries with

⁴⁶ In accordance with the timeline set out in decision 1/CMA.5, para. 59.

national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020”), noted that, as at 9 January 2024, 129 countries had reported that they have national disaster risk reduction strategies in place. This presents an opportunity for continued efforts to promote integrated approaches to and coherence between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. UNDRR continues to support countries through policy analysis, guidance and regional workshops;

(f) GERICS continues to work with GEO Blue Planet on developing coastal adaptation materials supplementary to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and to provide regional climate change information across Africa through climate modelling, decision support systems and research. A meeting participant raised a question on whether GERICS can update its country climate fact sheets⁴⁷ and extend them to all the LDCs, to which the representative of GERICS indicated this is possible on request for countries with which GERICS has an established relationship;

(g) UNDP reported on progress in its provision of support to 12 LDCs in accessing GCF NAP readiness funding, of which 6 have submitted their NAPs. UNDP has supported a portfolio of over 111 adaptation projects in the 45 LDCs since 2002. In 2023, UNDP assisted three LDCs in getting adaptation projects approved under the LDCF and the GCF. A meeting participant raised a question on available options for UNDP to assist Djibouti in having its NAP in place by 2025, given UNDP has ongoing projects in the country;

(h) UNEP reported on progress in its provision of support to nine LDCs in formulating their NAPs, of which one has submitted its NAP, as well as to four other LDCs in preparing and/or submitting project proposals to access funding from the GCF for formulating their NAPs. UNEP noted that it has supported the implementation of adaptation projects in 20 LDCs since 2002. A meeting participant raised a question on how UNEP could expedite the provision of support to the four above-mentioned LDCs that have not yet initiated the formulation of their NAPs;

(i) The United Nations Capital Development Fund reported that it is assisting 30 LDCs in integrating the process to formulate and implement NAPs into planning and budgeting systems at the local government level through the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility. For example, the Fund is working on coordinating the Facility’s investment menu with Uganda’s NDC;

(j) The NAP Global Network reported that 24 LDCs have received direct technical support from the Network related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Ongoing support under the Network includes a country support hub in six LDCs, in-country programmes in four LDCs and scoping exercises for support in three LDCs. Thematic areas of support include awareness-raising; communication plans; monitoring, evaluation and learning; human mobility; gender; climate risk and vulnerability assessment; and data management.

M. Integration of the outcome of the first global stocktake and the global goal on adaptation into the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

52. The LEG noted that the CMA 5 decisions concerning the outcome of the first global stocktake and the global goal on adaptation contain elements of relevance to the work of the LEG. These include:

(a) The targets for 2030 and targets under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, as well as the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress towards achieving those targets;⁴⁸

(b) The invitation to the AC to support, in collaboration with the LEG, the implementation of the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience;⁴⁹

⁴⁷ See https://www.gerics.de/products_and_publications/fact_sheets/climate_fact_sheets/index.php.en.

⁴⁸ Decision 2/CMA.5, paras. 9, 10 and 39.

⁴⁹ Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 44.

(c) The request for the LEG to update the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, reflecting the provisions of decision 2/CMA.5 on the global goal on adaptation as well as the best available science, including the AR6;⁵⁰

(d) The call for urgent, incremental, transformational and country-driven adaptation action based on different national circumstances;⁵¹

(e) The call to Parties that have not yet done so to have in place their NAPs, policies and planning processes by 2025 and to have progressed in implementing them by 2030.⁵²

53. The LEG discussed relevant actions and integrated them into its work programme, taking into account the need to prioritize its activities.

V. Work programme for 2024–2025

54. The LEG developed its work programme for 2024–2025 (see annex III). The work programme contains the following priority activities for 2024:

(a) Finalizing the development of the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs;

(b) Expanding the mapping of available funding for adaptation for the LDCs to include bilateral sources and sources other than those under the Financial Mechanism;

(c) Examining the concept of transformational adaptation, as presented in the global stocktake and global goal on adaptation decisions, to inform the work of the LEG in updating the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and providing technical guidance, support and advice to the LDCs;

(d) Updating the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs to take into account the global goal on adaptation as well as the best available science, including the AR6, and to make the guidelines more user-friendly;

(e) Enhancing support, including by catalysing the support of relevant organizations, to the LDCs for implementing NAPs as well as, for the LDCs that have not yet done so, for formulating their first NAP by 2025;

(f) Conducting training to support the LDCs in formulating and implementing NAPs effectively and in a timely manner by addressing solutions to priority capacity gaps and capacity-building needs;

(g) Organizing and holding NAP Expo 2024;

(h) Convening the mandated meeting of Party experts to assess progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(i) Conducting surveys of the LDCs and stakeholders on challenges faced by direct access entities in accessing funding for implementing NAPs, priority training needs, experience with and feedback on the use of the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs (including various supplements), etc.;

(j) Addressing existing and new mandates from the SBI, the COP and the CMA, including those involving collaboration with other bodies and organizations;

(k) Continuing with work and activities from the previous work programme, including implementing the NAP implementation pipeline development initiative, the NAP data initiative and the Open NAP initiative; expanding the scope of the PEG M&E tool; convening country dialogues; producing technical papers; and organizing and holding regular events (e.g. side events, regional NAP Expos).

⁵⁰ Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 47.

⁵¹ Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 51.

⁵² Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 59.

Annex I**Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group
as at 23 February 2024**

[English only]

<i>Member</i>	<i>Party</i>
Laurie Ashley	United States of America
Dominique Auger	Canada
Adao Soares Barbosa	Timor-Leste
Kenel Delusca	Haiti
Mokoena France	Lesotho
Payai Manyok John	South Sudan
Gabriel Kpaka	Sierra Leone
Richard Mfumungu Lungu	Zambia
Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
Hana Hamadalla Mohamed	Sudan
Jamie Ovia	Tuvalu
Buddi Sagar Poudel	Nepal
Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
Caoimhe Sweeney	Ireland
Gersom van der Elst	Kingdom of the Netherlands
Mery Yaou	Togo
Benon Yassin	Malawi

Annex II

Activities undertaken by Angola, Djibouti, Eritrea, the Gambia, Mali, Solomon Islands and Yemen between 2015 and 28 March 2024 to initiate the formulation of their national adaptation plan

[English only]

<i>Country</i>	<i>Activities undertaken to initiate NAP formulation</i>
Angola	<p>Carried out a vulnerability assessment in 2015, with support under the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme, but was unable to carry out activities in response to the assessment owing to a lack of funding</p> <p>Initiated preparation of a NAP readiness proposal in 2015, with the support of UNEP as the delivery partner, which was submitted to the GCF in 2019 but withdrawn at the request of the national designated authority in 2020</p> <p>Reinitiated development of the NAP readiness proposal in 2022, with the support of UNEP, which is transferring the proposal to the new template required by the GCF, with the expectation that the proposal will be submitted to the GCF by June 2024</p>
Djibouti	<p>Held an inception workshop and drafted a NAP readiness proposal for submission to the GCF in 2015, with support under the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme</p> <p>Submitted the NAP readiness proposal to the GCF in 2018, with the support of UNDP as the delivery partner, following which numerous review and feedback cycles took place between the country, UNDP and the GCF, with the most recent resubmission, revised in response to feedback received, made in April 2023</p> <p>UNDP is currently waiting for further guidance from the GCF secretariat to resubmit the project proposal using new guidance and templates currently being developed by the GCF</p>
Eritrea	<p>Developed a NAP road map, took stock of available information and assessed capacity gaps and needs in relation to formulating the NAP in 2015</p> <p>Initiated preparation of a NAP readiness proposal, with the support of UNEP as an accredited entity, which was submitted to the GCF in 2018, following which four resubmissions were made to address feedback received, including questions relating to implementation arrangements, and changes in GCF guidance and templates, with the most recent resubmission made in October 2023</p> <p>The country is waiting for approval of the proposal or feedback from the GCF secretariat;</p> <p>Given the long time it has taken to receive approval on the proposal, the country has held several meetings with the GCF secretariat, UNEP, LEG and the UNFCCC secretariat to communicate the challenges it is facing in getting its proposal approved. A successful resolution has yet to be found.</p>
Gambia	<p>Initiated preparation of a NAP readiness proposal in 2019, with the support of UNEP as the delivery partner, which was submitted to the GCF in 2021 and approved in September 2023</p> <p>Initiated recruitment of a project team for NAP formulation in 2023</p>
Mali	<p>Developed a NAP road map and prepared a national adaptation capacity assessment report, with support from the German Agency for International Cooperation, in 2015</p> <p>Submitted a NAP readiness proposal to the GCF in 2017, with Project Fiduciary and Administrative Agency as the delivery partner, which was returned to the country with feedback for its resubmission</p>

<i>Country</i>	<i>Activities undertaken to initiate NAP formulation</i>
	Recruited national and international consultants in April 2023 to start to formulate the NAP and finalize its project proposal, with support under the Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator
Solomon Islands	<p>Prepared the first draft of a NAP readiness proposal in 2018, with the support of the Pacific Community,</p> <p>Delays were encountered in submitting the project proposal, which were further exacerbated by changes in GCF guidance and templates among other things.</p> <p>The proposal was submitted to the GCF secretariat in 2021, following which feedback was received, with a revised proposal planned to be resubmitted to the GCF in the first quarter of 2024</p>
Yemen	<p>Initiated development of a NAP readiness proposal in 2018, with the support of UNEP as the delivery partner, with political instability preventing its submission to the GCF</p> <p>Reinitiated development of the NAP readiness proposal in 2021, this time with UNDP as the delivery partner, though new GCF guidance and templates, are delaying its submission to the GCF</p>

Annex III

Least Developed Countries Expert Group work programme for 2024–2025

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Expected outputs and outcomes</i>
Supporting the LDCs in implementing priority adaptation actions included in NAPs	Update and expand the mapping of available funding for adaptation to cover sources other than those under the Financial Mechanism, and disseminate the findings of the mapping widely, including through technical support and training activities	NAP Central updated with funding sources LDCs supported in understanding available sources of funding
	Facilitate the development of project concepts and proposals for accessing funding from the AF, the GCF, the LDCF and other sources by addressing the obstacles faced, including by conducting regional training workshops, providing direct support to the LDCs, holding NAP Expos and implementing other relevant initiatives, taking into account challenges in participation of the Pacific LDCs in the regional training workshops	NAP project catalogue updated regularly LDC projects for implementing priority adaptation actions included in NAPs approved for funding by the GCF and other sources Two writing workshops held per year (one for Africa and Haiti, one for Asia and the Pacific)
	Convene a meeting with the AF, the GCF, the GEF and relevant organizations at NAP Expo 2024 to identify ways to assist the LDCs in addressing the challenges, gaps and needs that the LDCs continue to face in accessing funding for implementing NAPs and provide recommendations to SBI 60	Recommendations on how to address challenges, gaps and needs to enable progress in implementing adaptation actions provided to SBI 60
Enhancing the provision of direct support to the LDCs for formulating and updating NAPs	Identify the challenges faced by the LDCs in initiating and/or completing the process of accrediting direct access entities and gaining approval of projects by their direct access entities by conducting surveys of the LDCs in collaboration with the GCF, and include the findings thereon in the report on LEG 46 to SBI 61	Report on outcomes of the surveys prepared for SBI 61
	Offer direct support to the LDCs in formulating and submitting their first NAP by 2025 or in updating and submitting an existing NAP, including by reviewing draft NAPs	Draft NAPs reviewed All first NAPs submitted on NAP Central
	Identify the challenges, gaps and needs faced by the LDCs that are yet to formulate their first NAP, including by conducting surveys with the LDCs, the GCF and relevant organizations, and provide recommendations to SBI 60 on how to address them	Recommendations on how to address challenges and needs of the LDCs in formulating NAPs provided to SBI 60
Supporting the LDCs in establishing an effective and	Support the LDCs in addressing data gaps in the context of NAP formulation through further developing the NAP data initiative and identifying links to relevant data products, such as those of GEO, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and WMO, and communicating those links on NAP Central	LDCs supported in addressing data gaps by working with the data, information, tools and models available via NAP Central
	Catalyse partner organizations to support the LDCs in establishing and maintaining an effective and iterative national process that supports the ongoing formulation, implementation, review and update of NAPs	All LDCs have in place an effective and iterative process to formulate and implement NAPs

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Expected outputs and outcomes</i>
iterative process to formulate and implement NAPs	<p>Provide support to the LDCs, including through training, for formulating and implementing NAPs, with a focus on addressing priority capacity gaps and capacity-building needs related to collecting data, accessing funding, implementing NAPs and establishing monitoring and evaluation systems</p> <p>Provide support and advice to the LDCs on addressing the guiding principles of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including by sharing best practices and lessons learned</p>	<p>Training conducted at NAP Expo 2024 and subsequent events</p> <p>Direct support provided to the LDCs, on request</p> <p>Best practices and lessons learned shared through case studies and outreach materials on NAP Central and at events such as the NAP Expo</p> <p>Continued production of the publication on best practices and lessons learned</p>
Continuing to update and develop NAP technical guidelines and support organizations in preparing supplementary materials	<p>Finalize the development of the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs, doing so in a timely manner considering the urgency to assist the LDCs in expeditiously transitioning from NAP formulation to implementation</p> <p>Update the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, reflecting the provisions of decision 2/CMA.5 on the global goal on adaptation as well as the best available science, including the AR6, while ensuring coherence with the technical guidelines for the implementation of NAPs and taking into account the experience of the LDCs with the original technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs and supplementary materials</p> <p>Identify ways to assist the LDCs in promoting transformational adaptation in their NAPs, including through technical discussions at NAP Expos and other events</p> <p>Continue to engage stakeholders, such as organizations, regional centres and networks, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector and youth, in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including in addressing emerging areas from the targets of the global goal on adaptation</p>	<p>Guidelines finalized by June 2024 and disseminated widely to the LDCs</p> <p>Guidelines applied in supporting countries in implementing adaptation actions identified in NAPs</p> <p>Feedback provided on draft supplementary materials being produced by organizations</p> <p>Guidelines finalized by December 2024 and disseminated widely to the LDCs</p> <p>LDCs supported in understanding and promoting transformational adaptation</p> <p>Improved NAPs produced</p>
Continuing to track and monitor progress in the process of formulating and implementing NAPs as well as the experience and challenges of the LDCs with that process	Support the assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs by the COP and the CMA by producing annual progress reports and convening in 2024, in collaboration with the AC, a meeting of Party experts to assess progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and preparing a report on that meeting for consideration at SBI 60	<p>Annual progress report on NAPs published</p> <p>Assessment meeting of Party experts held during NAP Expo 2024</p> <p>Report on the meeting prepared for SBI 60</p> <p>Information on best practices and lessons learned in relation to addressing adaptation in the LDCs included in LEG meeting reports</p>

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Expected outputs and outcomes</i>
	Expand the scope of the PEG M&E tool to include metrics on the outcomes and impacts of adaptation efforts in the context of NAPs	Updated technical note on the expanded PEG M&E tool produced and used in training and NAP assessment efforts
Continuing to collaborate with the GCF, the GEF (via the LDCF) and the AF on providing support to the LDCs in accessing funding for formulating and implementing NAPs	Continue to document the experience, including challenges and obstacles, of the LDCs and direct access entities in accessing funding from the GCF for adaptation, and include in relevant LEG meeting reports information on ongoing efforts of the LEG to address capacity gaps and capacity-building needs related to accessing funding for formulating and implementing NAPs	Relevant information included in LEG meeting reports
	Continue to collaborate with the GCF, the GEF (via the LDCF) and the AF on promoting the integration of NAP priorities into relevant country programming instruments and on expanding the pipeline of projects from the LDCs related to implementing NAPs	Information on actions to support the LDCs in accessing funding and progress in this regard included in LEG meeting reports
Continuing to support the LDCs in effectively and efficiently implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement as well as other relevant instruments of the United Nations	Continue to maintain the roster of national and regional experts from the LDCs who can support the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and promote use of the roster by organizations supporting the LDCs in the formulation and implementation of NAPs as a way of promoting the expertise of the LDCs	Roster of national and regional experts from the LDCs further developed and maintained online Roster of LDC experts used by organizations when providing technical assistance
	Continue to develop training materials on the PA-ALIGN tool for use in supporting the LDCs in implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, in collaboration with other constituted bodies and relevant organizations	PA-ALIGN tool updated; outreach and training activities conducted
	Hold regular dialogues with the LDCs during LEG meetings and events to update them on available support and discuss how to effectively align activities under programmes that they may be developing with the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022–2031	Support that aligns with the Doha Programme of Action provided to the LDCs LDCs well informed about available support
Responding to mandates from the SBI, the COP and the CMA related to supporting LDCs in implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement	Continue to provide channels for Parties to provide information on support being provided for formulating and implementing NAPs, and summarize the results in the NAP Progress Tracker on NAP Central	Relevant information on NAPs shared through the NAP Progress Tracker on NAP Central
	Continue to update information on gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in collaboration with the AC, and consider how the LEG can address them as part of its mandate	Updated compilation of gaps and needs; progress in addressing the gaps and needs included in LEG reports Direct support provided to the LDCs
	Continue to guide the secretariat in preparing a synthesis report on specific adaptation themes, focusing on lessons learned and good practices, in the context of recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing countries	Synthesis report produced in December 2024
	Continue to contribute to the development of methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support, including through the joint AC–LEG–SCF working group, of such methodologies	Progress in the work included in LEG (and AC) reports

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Expected outputs and outcomes</i>
	Assist the LDCs in addressing the adaptation-related provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the submission and updating of adaptation communications as well as the submission of NAPs, policies and planning processes by 2025 and progression in implementing them by 2030	Technical assistance provided to the LDCs
	Assist the LDCs in aligning NAPs with other relevant instruments under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (including NDCs, adaptation communications, national communications and biennial transparency reports), targets of the global goal on adaptation and efforts to address loss and damage	Technical assistance provided to the LDCs Technical report on aligning NAPs and relevant instruments including NDCs produced in 2024
	Advise the LDCs on how to best meet the requirements of the iterative adaptation cycle and thematic targets of the global goal on adaptation	Technical advice provided to the LDCs
	Support implementation of the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience with technical guidance and training materials, and contribute to implementation of the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme	Coverage of the Framework and work programme included in NAP training materials and events Experience with and results from assessing NAPs using the PEG M&E tool applied to the targets under the global goal on adaptation
	Continue to report on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into the work of the LEG and ensure consideration of the UNFCCC gender action plan in developing the activities of the LEG	Relevant information included in LEG meeting reports
Continuing to collaborate with other constituted bodies and with organizations outside the Convention in fulfilling joint mandates and undertaking activities of common interest	Collaborate with other constituted bodies and UNFCCC programmes (especially the AC, the Consultative Group of Experts, the FWG of the LCIPP, the NWP, the PCCB, the SCF and the WIM Executive Committee) on activities related to NAPs, the LDC work programme, gender and response to mandates from the SBI, the COP and the CMA	Coherence and coordination achieved in the provision of support to countries on NAPs
Conducting global and regional outreach events on NAPs	Organize a global NAP Expo annually and collaborate with organizations on organizing regional NAP Expos, peer learning events and other outreach activities, as necessary	Global and regional NAP Expos held in 2024 and 2025
	Continue to develop NAP Central as a repository for NAPs and NAP-related information and knowledge, including information on progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and experience, best practices and lessons learned from that process, as well as adaptation solutions and technical guidelines	Updated information uploaded to NAP Central
	Analyse AF, GCF and LDCF project documents and other sources of information to compile case studies showcasing approaches, methodologies and tools used in achieving particular adaptation outputs and outcomes, and share the compilation through NAP Central and at relevant NAP-related events	Learning from practice facilitated in the LDCs Good practices replicated in the LDCs Case studies shared at LEG events and on NAP Central

<i>Work area</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Expected outputs and outcomes</i>
	Continue to hold a side event at each session of the SBI to communicate the work of the LEG and facilitate interaction with Parties, in particular the LDCs	Parties and other stakeholders kept up to date on the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs