

SUBMISSION ON THE MANDATE OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS (CGE)

BY THE GAMBIA

ON BEHALF ON THE GROUP OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Parties are invited to *submit to the secretariat, by 5 March 2012, their views on the term and mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts and the need for continuation of the group.*

Background on the CGE

Article 12, paragraph 7 of the Convention relates to the arrangement of provision of technical and financial support to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) in preparing their national communications. In accordance with the provisions of this Article, and through its Decision 8/CP.5, the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifth session, established the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention with the objective of improving the process of preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. The CGE is composed of experts drawn from the roster of experts with expertise in greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability assessment and adaptation, abatement issues and preparation of national communications. It has a membership of five experts from Africa, five experts from Asia, five experts from Latin America and the Caribbean and six experts from Annex I Parties.

The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 3/CP.8, decided to continue the mandate of CGE with the objective of improving the process of preparation of the second and subsequent national communications by providing technical advice and support to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) and, where relevant, of initial national communications from Parties which have not yet submitted them. In doing so the CGE was mandated to undertake several activities for five years which they have successfully completed.

At its fifteenth session, the COP, by its decision 5/CP.15, reconstituted the CGE for three years from 2010 to 2012, with the mandate to provide technical assistance through workshops, hands on training and training of trainers on greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability and adaptation (V and A) assessments and mitigation assessments in the context of the preparation of national communications; and to prepare technical reports and submit to the SBI. The membership

increased to 24 from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Annex I Parties and one member each from three international organizations.

The Cancun Agreements and the Durban Platform

In Cancun (COP 16) Parties agreed on many issues related to adaptation. Decision 1/ CP.16 established a process to enable the LDC Group of Parties to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), building upon their experience in preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA). NAPs will serve as a means of identifying medium and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs.

The COP decision at its 17th Session recognized the CGE's role to include the possible facilitation of technical advice and support for the preparation and submission of the first biennial update report for non-Annex I Parties, the updates of GHG inventories, the information on mitigation actions, and the needs and support received. The CGE is also mentioned as being one of the groups engaging with the Adaptation Committee, attending meetings of the Adaptation Committee as appropriate. As a capacity building body, the CGE is listed as an important body to continue doing so in the COP17 LCA decision on capacity building. Therefore, the continued relevance of the CGE remains clear in the COP17 decisions.

As the CGE reviews its mandate, gender considerations should be one of the issues it decides to include as it contributes to work under enhanced action on mitigation, enhanced action on adaptation and capacity building under the LCA discussions and related COP decisions all of which address socio-economic issues, including gender. Under enhanced action on mitigation the CGE can contribute to information that will input into the new registry. In para 46(h) of the COP17 decision related to LCA this registry can include *other co-benefits of sustainable development*. One of the co-benefits of sustainable development is, indeed, gender equality. The CGE can be one of the bodies to help identify these co-benefits and assist Parties in collecting information on gender equality issues to input into the registry. Similarly, the Adaptation Committee in para 93(b) of the COP17 LCA decision is tasked with *strengthening, consolidating and enhancing the sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices*. The CGE can work with the Adaptation Committee to assist Parties in this information collection, ensuring that gender-related and sex-disaggregated data, proven integral to adaptation measures, are included as well. Finally, the preamble of the COP17 LCA decision on capacity building not only acknowledges that it is cross-cutting and integral in mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer and access to financial resources but reaffirms that capacity building activities take into account gender aspects. This decision also identifies the CGE as a relevant capacity building body under the Convention, which implies that the activities of the CGE should take into account gender aspects.

Submission of the Group of Least Developed Countries:

The UNFCCC process recognizes that the preparation of national communications is a continuous process that involves and provides a forum for the sharing of national, sub-regional and regional experiences to improve the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties. Great satisfaction has been registered on the excellent role that the CGE has played and continue to play on improving the process of the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

As the LDC Parties prepare for the preparation and implementation of NAPs in the very near future, and expect the LDC Expert Group (LEG) to develop guidelines to facilitate the NAP process, the CGE needs to work with the LEG in order to facilitate the adoption and implementation of the NAP Guidelines developed by the LEG to non-LDC developing countries.

The LDC Group, therefore, submits that the CGE mandate should be extended as it has important future roles to play in the:

1. Improvement of the quality of Non-Annex I National Communications;
2. Facilitation of the adoption and implementation of the LEG Guidelines on NAPs in non-LDC developing countries; and
3. Promotion of gender considerations in the work under enhanced action on mitigation, enhanced action on adaptation and capacity building under the LCA decisions all of which address socio-economic issues, including gender.