

# Submission by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries on agenda item 4

Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, *inter alia*, as a component of Nationally Determined Contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement

---

The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group welcomes the opportunity to submit its view on agenda item 4 related to further views in relation to the adaptation communication, including, *inter alia*, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement.

## **Background**

The impacts of climate change are being felt in all corners of the world. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in its State of the Climate report has confirmed that 2016 was the warmest year on record, and the global average temperature is now 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. Three years ago, the IPCC concluded that impacts from recent climate-related extremes, such as heat waves, droughts and cyclones had revealed substantial human vulnerability to climate change, and these impacts have continued.

The Global Climate Risk Index (2017) recently confirmed that LDCs have been more affected by weather-related loss events over the past two decades than industrialized countries. The same analysis showed that extreme weather events between 1996 and 2015 have killed over half a million people and led to losses of over US\$3 trillion. Last year global sea levels reached record highs, and severe droughts and floods displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and left millions without enough food to eat (WMO 2017). It is therefore clear that, even if we keep warming to 1.5°C, the impacts of climate change will be substantial and will grow significantly over the coming decades. These impacts risk undermining efforts to eradicate poverty, therefore effective and timely adaptation action will be essential to reduce damages, limit loss, and stay on track to achieve the sustainable development goals. All these elements stress the need and urgency to take adaptive actions.

In Article 7 of the Paris Agreement Parties established the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to

climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal. To meet the goal set under the Paris Agreement, adaptation communications are important. However, the Agreement does not give specific guidance on the form or content of adaptation communications. Thus, this submission reflects the views of the LDC Group on these issues.

### **Purpose**

Adaptation communications will serve as a tool to meet the global goal on adaptation. Through adaptation communications, there will be a better understanding of the adaptation needs and priorities of developing country Parties with respect to both action and support. The communication will provide an input into the review of adequacy and effectiveness of action and support as well as the review of progress towards the global goal on adaptation. It will also serve as a means to share lessons among countries and enhance the implementation of adaptation action.

### **Elements**

The LDC Group wishes to seize this opportunity to provide a non-exhaustive list of possible elements for adaptation communications, recognising that the preparation and submission of adaptation communications and the reporting on adaptation action and support should not create any undue burden on Parties. Adaptation communications should include the following elements:

- **Needs and associated costs, vulnerabilities, and recognize efforts:** Parties should communicate their circumstances including risk profiles, vulnerabilities, and actions regarding implementing adaptation measures.
- **Objectives and plans:** Parties should communicate their national adaptation priorities and plans (including adaptation costs) in line with their development priorities and objectives.
- **Cooperation and support:** Developed country Parties should indicate the support to be provided for developing country Parties to enhance adaptation action while developing country Parties should communicate their needs with respect to capacity-building, technology development and transfer and finance along with costs for adaptation. An indicative level of support provided will also be a useful element in the adaptation communication.

- **Best practices and knowledge sharing:** Parties should include good adaptation practices in their communications. These will contribute to the recognition of adaptation efforts of developing country Parties and promotion of shared learning.

### **Linkages**

Under Article 13, paragraph 5 of the Paris Agreement Parties established an enhanced transparency framework for action, which includes adaptation. In this regard, the LDC Group believes that adaptation communications can serve as a tool to promote the effective operationalization of the transparency framework through the elaboration of adaptation priorities, efforts and contributions.

Furthermore, under Article 14, paragraph 1 of the Paris Agreement, Parties will take stock of implementation to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals through the Global Stocktake Process. Information from adaptation communications will serve as an important input to this process in assessing where parties are in the context of setting adaptation and mitigation goals.

### **Vehicles & Flexibility**

The LDC Group recognizes the flexibility given to Parties under the Paris Agreement in communicating their adaptation efforts, as expressed in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11. Taking into account the technical and financial challenges and constraints that many LDCs face in communicating adaptation priorities, needs and efforts, the consideration of options with respect to vehicles for adaptation communications needs to adequately reflect the need to avoid creating undue burdens on LDCs and build on existing mechanisms and processes. As such, the LDC Group sees the National Adaptation Plans (NAP) as central in undertaking adaptation activities in LDCs and as the primary vehicle through which LDCs will communicate their adaptation efforts. .

In addition, the LDC Group highlights the need to learn from previous communication processes for adaptation, including the experiences from communicating National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), the work of the LDC Expert Group (LEG) and the Adaptation Committee.