

# **SUBMISSION BY ANGOLA ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

## **Views on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 9(b))**

### **I. Introduction**

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) recall the decision by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to review, at its twenty-first session, the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and to adopt a decision thereon (Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 8). The group further recalls the decision by the COP on the actions and steps necessary for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to initiate the review in June 2015, including the invitation to Parties to submit views on the work of the LEG, for compilation by the secretariat into a miscellaneous document for consideration by SBI 42.

The LDCs therefore take this opportunity to provide views on the mandate of the LEG from 2016 onwards. This submission builds on previous communication by the Group on the work of the LEG, including the submission made in 2010.

### **II. Background**

LDCs welcome with great appreciation the substantial support provided by the LEG to the LDCs on the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), the LDC work programme and the national adaptation plan (NAP) process. These are the most critical measures established under the Convention that would help LDCs to fight the adverse effects of climate by reducing vulnerability of the poorest communities/societies and systems.

Through the support provided by the LEG, LDCs have achieved huge milestones, the primary of which are:

- All LDCs have prepared NAPAs that contain urgent and immediate priorities to reduce vulnerability to climate change. Through their work on NAPAs, LDCs have become the pioneers of raising the awareness of climate change to high political levels, as a way to ensure appropriate support and actions.
- LDCs are continuously gaining experiences and lessons through the implementation of NAPAs.
- This incremental gain has been instrumental and translated into a valuable stepping-stone into the anticipated success of the NAPs process.
- Many LDCs have started to formulate their NAPs to ensure robust arrangements and plans are put in place timely, for accessing resources from the Green Climate Fund for programmes and measures that would substantially reduce vulnerability to climate change in the LDCs.

The LDCs particularly found useful the support that the LEG provided through the regional training workshops on NAPAs and NAPs, the NAP EXPO, the publications on Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Preparing and Implementing NAPAs, etc. This type of support provided by the LEG has been useful in increasing the understanding and capacity in LDCs in preparing and implementing the NAPAs as part of the LDC Work Program and also for initiating NAPs for some of the LDCs.

### **III. Elements of the new mandate of the LEG**

The LDCs have benefited a great deal from the support and guidance of the LEG over the years. The LEG is a fundamental component of the architecture of the Convention and how LDCs are supported. The continuation of the LEG is equally important to the success of the Convention, and it is our strong desire to ensure a smooth continuation of its work. At the present juncture, all the elements of the LDC Work Program has not been completed and many LDCs are still in the phase of implementing their NAPAs. The LDCs are also now about to embark on the NAP process which will be much more complex and long term process. Based on the progress and lessons from the support received through the LEG and the remaining support required by LDCs the new mandate of the LEG should cover, *inter alia*, the following areas:

- a) Identify capacity gaps and needs for the LDCs in undertaking/implementing the NAPs, NAPAs and the LDC work programme, and address them accordingly.
- b) Technical guidance and support to the LDCs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs as mandated through decision 5/CP.17 and other subsequent decisions.
- c) Enhanced capacity-building of LDC Parties to fully implement NAPAs through the provision of guidance, training workshops, and other technical support designed to improve, among other things, Parties' access to the Least Developed Countries Fund and other sources of funding, including through Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund.
- d) Technical support and guidance to the LDCs for the implementation of NAPAs, including mobilization of partnerships with relevant entities to ensure the full implementation of the all the priorities identified in the countries' NAPAs.
- e) Development of standard methodologies on various aspects related to reducing vulnerability to climate change in LDCs.
- f) Technical support to the LDCs to effectively participate in the compilation and communication of INDCs.
- g) Support monitoring and evaluation of the processes established to support LDCs through the collection of data and experiences from the LDCs.
- h) Building the capacity of national institutions and focal points to enable the effective implementation and monitoring of national adaptation plans and programmes in the LDCs.
- i) Support LDCs in access to adaptation technologies.
- j) Capture and communicate experiences, best practices and lessons learned regarding the work of the LDCs in implementing NAPs, NAPAs and the LDC work programme.
- k) Promotion of South-South partnerships in supporting the LDCs.

- l) Instigating linkages and partnerships with relevant organizations, regional centres and networks that provide specific support to the LDCs.
- m) Advise on revision of the LDC work programme and the scope of capacity-building for LDCs and other vulnerable countries.
- n) Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, and information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the NAPs, NAPAs and the LDC work programme.

The mandate should be flexible enough to allow inclusion of new areas of support that may come from the new global climate change agreement to be adopted at the COP 21.

The areas above are not exhaustive and LDCs would be glad to receive additional inputs from other stakeholders who may have experience in adaptation.

#### **IV. Modalities**

The LDCs can be supported by the LEG through the following modalities:

- Technical guidelines including standard methodologies / frameworks for projects to reduce vulnerability in the LDCs.
- Case studies and surveys.
- Engaging relevant expertise, such as on sectors (agriculture, water, health, etc.), monitoring and evaluation, development, gender, etc...
- Regional training workshops.
- Technical/expert meetings.
- Setting up of advisory groups.
- Regional groups to work with regional centres in supporting the LDCs.
- Compilation, synthesis and dissemination of relevant information, data, methods and tools.
- Linkage with other bodies under the Convention.
- Engagement to a wide range of organizations.

#### **V. Length of mandate of the LEG**

In line with existing financial architecture, intensified implementation of the NAPs will commence in 2020 when the GCF achieves the vision of USD 100 billion per year. It will therefore be critically important that at this time LDCs continue to receive uninterrupted support through the implementation of projects, programmes and policies coming out of the NAPs.

LDCs therefore see the need for a forward looking extension of the mandate of the LEG that would allow enough time to gain lessons from the implementation of adaptation with funding from the Green Climate Fund. Such extension could therefore look at the term of the LEG that would extend well beyond 2020.

## **VI. Membership**

The LEG is composed of 10 members from LDC Parties and 3 members from Annex II Parties. However, over the years the Convention took important agreements to enhance the support to LDCs on addressing adaptation – including on the NAP process, for example. Furthermore, following decision 8/CP.13 and others, the LEG has consistently been engaging the Global Environment Facility and its agencies, as well as a wide range of organizations.

LDCs therefore believe it is worth exploring how the evolution of the adaptation architecture can effectively be implemented through a review of the composition of the group, and also how the engagement of various organizations could further be strengthened.

## **VII. Conclusion**

The LDC Group believes that its views will guide the decision on work of the LEG from 2016 onwards, and is willing to continue to contribute in constructive dialogue towards the implementation of Article 4.9 of the Convention.

The Group also welcomes the timely organization of the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG, and invites all stakeholders that will attend the meeting to assist the LDCs in coming up with the elements of a future mandate of the LEG.