

Submission by Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on behalf of Least Developed Countries Group on technical examination process on adaptation

The Least Developed Countries Group (LDC Group) welcomes the invitation to Parties and observer organizations to submit views as per decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 126 & 133 on information on concrete opportunities **for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions.**

1. Background

Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is vital to reduce the impacts of climate change that are happening now and to increase resilience to future impacts. In the last several years, number of decisions have been adopted at the UNFCCC to advance and implement the objective set by the Convention. The Convention provides clear provision to prepare for and facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from the adverse effects of climate change (Article 4.8) and to take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology (Article 4.9). Any delay in global climate actions will lead to greater adverse effects, increasing needs for adaptation in LDCs and other vulnerable developing countries. Application of the principles of the Convention also calls for the provision of appropriate means to deal with these serious issues.

Scientific studies have shown that the challenge of adaptation can be substantive, especially for the most vulnerable countries. Adaptation potential is limited for many of the observed impacts of climate change, and implementation of adaptation options, if available, comes at very high cost in relation to countries' national budgets. The UNEP estimates that about US\$300 billion would be necessary to adapt developing countries to climate change by the 2030s. Strengthening of the existing adaptation system to ensure the support provided at the international level is adequate to ensure tangible results at various levels, including the level where actions are implemented.

The recent, Paris Agreement has broadened the scope of adaptation workstream by establishing 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 referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement. This has been further strengthened by the COP decision to initiate the process of technical examination process on adaptation (TEP-A) for the period of 2016 to 2020.

Up to now, there has not been a universal assessment to evaluate the effectiveness and adequacy of measures in strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions. Some work was done in relation to some for identifying best practises. For example, in the case of NAPAs, the LEG captured and shared best

practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs through the NAPAs. References from these and other projects, programmes and policies will therefore need to be accompanied by a universal review process to evaluate effectiveness and adequacy, which will help in arriving at possible best practices.

2. Possible areas for exploring the concrete opportunities through TEP-A

Following the background information, the LDC Group expresses its views specific to the technical examination process on adaptation through this submission.

2.1. Scope

The COP21 decision (para 126, 1.CP/21) provides clear guidance on the scope of the technical examination on adaptation that relates to strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions. It is very important to give equal priority to all the notions described by the particular decision.

It is also our understanding that this scope contributes to provide a response to the vital need for implementation of adaptation actions on the ground by Parties at various levels and not be restricted to activities related to adaptation planning and management of adaptation processes. The latter has been explored widely in many processes under the Convention while the first cluster that is more important remains unexplored to date.

To compliment the guidance that the COP has provided, the LDC Group believe that the following proposed priority areas are important to explore the concrete opportunities:

- How science can be mobilized to directly support adaptation planning and actions
- How to build effective capacity and readiness to access and implement concrete adaptation at scale
- What are essential concrete adaptation actions to ensure we meet the global adaptation goal?
- Are delivery mechanisms for adaptation finance and support for adaptation under the Convention still relevant?
- Other governance structures, policies, regulations and legislation

2.2. Processes and modality

As refereed on paragraph 129 of 1/CP.21, the technical examination process on adaptation can have similar processes and modalities from the technical examination process on mitigation. The lessons learnt from the technical examination process held in 2014 & 2015 to identify mitigation opportunities for raising pre-2020 ambition, would be very helpful to move the TEP-A forward.

Different paragraphs of the COP decision provide guidance to the working modality of the technical examination process on adaptation, as follows:

Purpose	to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions;	Para 126
Who	organized jointly by the SBI and SBSTA, and conducted by the Adaptation Committee;	Para 127
Scope	Facilitating; identifying actions; promoting cooperation; and Identifying opportunities & support	Para 128
Tools	Technical Expert meetings and technical papers	Para 130
Review	Assessment of the process in 2017, so as to improve its effectiveness	Para 132

In addition to the guidance provided by the COP decision, the LDC group calls for:

- The definition of the role of the LDC Expert group and its long experience in taking forward adaptation initiatives reinforced, emphasised and adequately in the TEP-A. The LDC Expert Group must also be actively involved as a primary advisory body for providing technical guidance and support to the LDCs, in order to ensure appropriate representation of the issues faced by the LDCs in addressing adaptation.
- The TEP-A should base its work in phases addressing all the four aspects spelt out in paragraph 126 of 1/CP.21. For each phase, a technical paper tacking stock of existing knowledge, experience and especially gaps highlighted by the scientific and practitioners' communities could contribute to define the future agenda of adaptation implementation at the UNFCCC.
- Similarly to the TEP-M and other review processes (eg: the 2013–2015 Review), the TEP-A should be opened to relevant scientists, practitioners as well as country parties to share knowledge and experiences on adaptation.
- The extensive use of existing adaptation related products, such as NAP central, NAP Expo and other relevant tools in mobilizing efforts, disseminating information and other different ways for the technical examination process on adaptation.
- Build on previous programmes/projects implemented under the UNFCCC such as National communications, NAPA, TNAs, NAPs, INDC as they clearly identified clear priorities for adaptation actions.
- Representation of LDCs and other developing countries in the expert meetings in order to ensure that actual situation on ground will be reflected

2.3. Thematic areas and topics

The technical examination should be inclusive to cover different themes on adaptation. Some of them critically important are: agriculture, food security, water, health, fisheries, forestry, costal and mountainous regions and give emphasis to the unique nature of geographical regions..

Addressing various thematic areas, the technical examination process on adaptation for the period 2016-2020 should also consider following topics:

- Gaps, lessons learnt and status of implementation of National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)
- Review of available methods and tools for assessing vulnerability
- Gaps in adaptation technology and resulting needs, including assessment of adaptation related technology requirements highlighted in technology needs assessment (TNA)
- Gaps in institutional mechanisms at national, regional and international level in addressing adaptation needs and priorities
- Options to generate new and additional resources for adaptation action, e.g. to be channelled to the existing funds within UNFCCC.
- Identification of adaptation needs and priorities and assessing the adequacy of support. For this purpose synthesis of information provided by countries in national communication, NAPA, TNA, NAPs and biennial update report, and reports by different agencies could be assessed/analysed.
- Approaches and gaps to integrate climate change impacts, adaptation in development planning
- How to ensure efficient adaptation actions, how to prioritise adaptation measures within a strategic development framework
- How to get adaptation and climate change impacts become focus of other ministries, especially economic, finance, development and planning ministries.

The existing processes to support adaptation under the Convention include the full implementation of NAPAs and also the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. The gaps and needs in implementing the NAPAs and for the NAP process should be the focus of examinations. The assessments of the NAPA and NAP process including lessons learnt and best practices assessed so far by LEG and other assessments can serve as a useful basis for the examination.

2.4. Output and follow-up

The output of the technical examination process in a form of technical report should be forwarded to the Conference of parties through the Subsidiary Bodies.

The technical reports should:

- Identify gaps in adaptation planning, implementation and support needs
- Identify gaps in the availability of finance, technology, capacity building, and investigate possible solutions through scientific literature or countries experiences
- Identify the role of different constituted bodies within the Convention
- Identify the role of regional and international centres, including collaborations with other agencies
- Provide recommendations for each four aspects mentioned in paragraph 126.

- Provide information for consideration by high level events and global stocktake for enhanced action and means of implementation.

Then the COP should transmit the report and its recommendation to different constituted bodies for its implementation. In the long run, there should also be a process to assess the status of implementation of these recommendations.

3. Conclusion

The LDC Group believes that these views will effectively guide the implementation of the technical examination process on adaptation and is willing to continue to contribute in constructive dialogue and throughout the process of technical examination process.

Climate change adaptation experience in the LDCs

A number of projects, programmes and policies have been implemented in the LDCs, looking at the different aspects of climate change adaptation. Examples include:

- The national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) whose focus is on urgent and immediate adaptation needs. A number of LDCs have now completed implementation of their first NAPA projects, and all LDCs are also actively engaged in implementing at least one or several NAPA projects, with funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund. A wealth of lessons can be drawn from this work, which can effectively inform the identification of concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions.
- The process to formulate and implement NAPs: established by COP 16 as a process to enable LDC Parties to formulate and implement NAPs, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing NAPAs, as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. A number of LDCs have made advancements on NAPs, with one LDC having submitted a NAP already. The growing experience on the LDCs on the NAPs should be fully taken into account while identifying the concrete opportunities
- Other projects and programmes includes initiatives supported by bilateral and multilateral agencies, and by regional centres and networks