

Submission by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group on the Adaptation Committee mandates stemming from decision 1/CP.21

23 January 2017

The Least Developed Countries Group (LDC Group) welcomes the invitation to Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the Adaptation Committee's (AC) mandates stemming from decision 1/CP.21 on matters relating to the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention; and methodologies for assessing adaptation needs.

The Convention includes clear provisions relating to preparing for and facilitating 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 taking 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). In the last several years, a number of decisions have been adopted under the UNFCCC to advance the ultimate objective, and implement other relevant provisions, set by the Convention related to adaptation. In doing so, several institutions related to adaptation have been established with specific purposes and mandates.

In today's context, with many years of experience from the existing institutional arrangements under the Convention and also considering the broadened scope of adaptation work stream by the Paris Agreement, it is pertinent to review the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention.

It is important to reiterate that adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is vital and of utmost priority for the least developed countries. Any delay in global climate actions will lead to greater adverse effects, increasing the needs for adaptation in LDCs and other vulnerable developing countries. As per the invitation for the call for submissions, the LDC Group wishes to provide inputs as follows:

I. Matters relating to the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention

- **What are the major needs of Parties to which adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention need to respond?**

The LDC Group recognizes that the existing adaptation-related institutional arrangements are making various efforts to facilitate that adaptation needs are addressed. These institutional arrangements have an important role in helping to steer adaptation actions in developing countries, including LDCs. The LDC Group is of the

view that the adaptation-related institutional arrangements should fulfill the following key needs of the poor and vulnerable countries:

- **Facilitating greater knowledge sharing:** There already exists a wide range of experiences and lessons learnt within countries on various thematic areas that can be replicated in other places. The institutional arrangements under the Convention have been contributing to bringing together and sharing such experiences and lesson learnt through various fora such as: country documents (national communications, NAPAs, & NAPs), activities under the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), reports and events by the LDC Expert Group and Adaptation Committee. The opportunity should now be taken to build on these contributions by identifying additional ways for the adaptation-related institutional arrangements to coordinate and grow their facilitation of knowledge sharing.
- **Strengthening technical capacities:** Providing technical support and guidance to developing countries to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change is one of the core mandates for the adaptation-related institutional arrangement under the Convention. The work done by the Adaptation Committee in general, LDC Expert Group for LDCs and the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) for National Communications has been constructive in helping to strengthen technical and institutional capacities in developing countries. These institutions should continue to provide such support in innovative ways that respond to the evolving needs and expectations of Parties. Likewise, there is also a need for further cooperation between institutions within and outside the Convention to help build capacities in developing countries to help ensure that they are up to date with the latest tools, methodologies and technologies.
- **Addressing means of implementation:** Financial support is vital in order for developing countries to plan for and implement adaptation measures. The process set up by the Paris decision (paras. 41 and 45 of 1/CP.21) for the AC and the LEG to collaborate with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and other relevant institutions provides an appropriate avenue to help assess adaptation funding needs and effectiveness in developing countries.

The LDC group believes that the work of these institutions can be further enhanced by having in place tools and methodologies that enable countries to assess risk and vulnerabilities that will consequently facilitate understanding of adaptation needs.

- **Are there gaps and/or overlaps in the work of existing adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention that may need to be addressed to adequately respond to the needs of Parties? If so, how could these gaps**

and/or overlaps be addressed?

There appear to have been overlaps in the consideration of various adaptation related themes by different adaptation related-institutional arrangements. However, these overlaps can often be justified when the context is considered, as in most of the cases they are complementary activities that support one another. One of the best examples is the NWP's dealing with technical work on water resources, health, human settlement to inform adaptation planning and action at the regional, national and subnational levels, with a focus on providing support to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs).

As is explicitly recognized under the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21, the adaptation-related institutional arrangements are different, and require separate consideration, to the Loss and Damage related institutional arrangements. Therefore, they should not be placed or considered together as one set of institutional-arrangements.

To assess the overlap of the existing adaptation related institutional arrangements, the LDC group recommends that the Adaptation Committee produce a report, building on its previous reports, comparing the mandates amongst these institutions to see if there is overlap in tasks and activities.

The LDC group, as a main beneficiary from the establishment of adaptation related institutional arrangements, sees the following gaps, *inter alia*, that need to be addressed by the institutional arrangements as key priorities:

- Support in the identification of adaptation areas, in adaptation planning processes and producing/developing/updating national adaptation strategies.
- Support to assist countries set up monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track the progress of adaptation actions.
- Identification of best available technologies supporting adaptation interventions and designing ways of disseminating these technologies to areas most needed at a low to no cost.

- **Which institutional arrangements could be strengthened or given greater priority to enhance the coherence of their work?**

The LDC group welcomes the progress made by the joint Adaptation Committee and LDC Expert Group through their joint working group to address the mandate arising from decision 1/CP.21 in developing modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts and collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance. Likewise, similar modalities could be adopted, or the working group could be expanded to coordinate further with Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help facilitate implementation of adaptation activities and address project financing related matters.

The LDC Group is also of the view that the future work areas of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) should be in line with the work areas on adaptation as defined by the Adaptation Committee. This will help to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention.

The AC highlighted in its recent report submitted to the COP22 a serious lack of resources available for its work. The need for additional financial resources for the Committee is necessary to guarantee the continuity of the scheduled work and other additional activities according to Decision 1/CP.21.

- **What modalities for cooperation and collaboration exist between the adaptation-related institutional arrangements? Which of them should be strengthened, and what new ones should be developed?**

The LDC Group believes that the Adaptation Committee should continue to be the main institution for ensuring the effective implementation of the adaptation framework under the Convention and it should undertake the task of providing recommendations on action-oriented activities to other workstreams on adaptation, eg: activities to be addressed by NWP. The LDC Expert group should continue to provide adaptation related support to LDCs and such experience and lesson learnt can be further adopted for broader use by other developing countries by the joint working group of AC and LEG.

Among the three major decisions related to adaptation under the convention: LDC Work Programme (2001, COP7), Nairobi Work Programme (2006, COP12) and Cancun Adaptation Framework (2010, COP16), the NWP stands alone as an agenda item under SBSTA, whereas the LDC Work Programme and the CAF are overseen by the LDC Expert Group and the Adaptation Committee, respectively. The LDC Group believes that the work of NWP should also be linked with the long-standing and recently developed institutions including the financial mechanism of the Convention. Based on the experience and lessons learned, the NWP should regularly produce a list of concrete implementable activities and forward it to SBI for its effective implementation through the Adaptation Committee and LDC Expert Group.

The Least Developed Countries Group wishes to stress that effective adaptation actions depend on funding. It is crucial that institutional arrangements are in place to help facilitate implementation of adaptation action and access to adaptation finance.

II. Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

In terms of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, it is of great importance that methodologies are based on the best available science. Availability and accessibility of

observational data and projections is a key consideration for methodologies to assess adaptation needs. Increasing the availability and accessibility of such data is thus a crucial step in assisting developing country Parties in the assessment of their adaptation needs.

It is further crucial to recognize that adaptation needs differ across regions, requiring deep knowledge and understanding of potentially affected systems. However, the capacity gap in the least developed countries often hinders the development and application of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs that reflect national or local realities. Systematically addressing this capacity gap will be an indispensable step in assisting country Parties in assessing adaptation needs. Liaising with the Paris Committee on Capacity Building in order to develop a clear roadmap for scientific and technical capacity building for the assessment of adaptation needs should be considered.