



Submission by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group on arrangements for intergovernmental meetings pursuant to FCCC/SBI/2017/L.10, paragraph 20

The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group is pleased to submit its views pursuant to FCCC/SBI/2017/L.10, paragraph 20 on enhancing the engagement of non-Party stakeholders. Non-Party stakeholders, which include civil society, financial institutions, subnational authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, make important contributions to the UNFCCC process. As the SBI emphasized, supporting the engagement of non-Party stakeholders follows the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness, and adheres to established procedures on decision-making. Their inputs can help Parties advance their work and facilitate the timely conclusion of the Paris Agreement work programme in 2018.

The LDC Group would like to reflect on the SBI identified opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders. We recognize the progress made at the in-session workshop held on 9 May 2017 and the views on opportunities submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders prior to 28 February 2017. The LDC Group believes the following actions will further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders so that Parties might strengthen the implementation of the provisions of decision 1/CP.21.

Actions by presiding officers of the subsidiary and constituted bodies

The LDC Group supports the invitation to presiding officers of the subsidiary bodies and constituted bodies to increase opportunities for admitted observer organizations to make interventions and provide regular briefings on the advancement of work. The Group also supports the invitation to make greater use of inputs by non-Party stakeholders in workshops and technical meetings, as well as through submissions. The noted desire of Parties to maximize the time available to the three subsidiary bodies to advance their work is shared by the LDC Group, hence we understand that the non-Party stakeholder attendance at some of the meetings will be subject to the availability of time and space.

Actions by future Presidencies

The LDC Group supports encouraging future Presidencies to explore, under the existing agenda items and within the existing processes and draft rules of procedure, ways of exchanging information on best practices, gaps and challenges to public participation and public access to information with regard to nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans. Such information sharing will aid Parties and non-Party stakeholders in their work to ratchet up ambition on both mitigation and adaptation actions. The LDC Group encourages future Presidencies to consider those Parties and non-Party stakeholders in vulnerable developing countries who have limited access to electricity and the internet. Efforts to accommodate them in the sharing of information are necessary if the UNFCCC is to follow the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness.

Actions by the Secretariat

The LDC Group welcomes the continued interest by non-Party stakeholders in the UNFCCC sessions and recent developments in the practices for their engagement. Non-Party stakeholder participation offers diverse perspectives that benefit Parties as they seek to address the complexities of addressing climate change. The LDC Group supports the invitation to the secretariat to explore ways to enhance existing practices for the facilitation of non-Party stakeholder participation with a view to promoting the openness,

transparency and inclusiveness of the UNFCCC process. Similarly, the LDC Group supports the invitation to the secretariat to further enhance Parties' access to submissions from non-Party stakeholders.

The LDC Group supports the invitation to the secretariat to further encourage participation through enhanced virtual tools in order to support engagement of, and opportunities for, all non-Party stakeholders in the UNFCCC process. The Group however would like to stress the necessity of providing translation services at plenary meetings and for other virtual tools to allow for the full participation of francophone and other non-English speaking Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Again, the LDC Group encourages the secretariat consider those Parties and non-Party stakeholders in vulnerable developing countries who have limited access to electricity and the internet. Efforts to accommodate their access to virtual tools are necessary to if the UNFCCC is to follow the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness.

Actions by Parties

All of the actions and SBI identified opportunities listed above are subject to the availability of financial resources. If presiding officers, future Presidencies and the secretariat are to perform these tasks they will require additional financial support. The LDC Group calls for those Parties able to make timely, regular and sufficient financial contributions to the secretariat to do so without delay. Without adequate resources, enhancing the engagement of non-Party stakeholders will not be possible as the secretariat will not be able to implement the opportunities identified and supported by Parties.

The LDC Group looks forward to the enhanced effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders. Their engagement can help Parties facilitate the timely conclusion of the Paris Agreement work programme in 2018 and fully implement the provisions of decision 1/CP.21.