



Submission by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group on “Suggestions for consideration by the LEG in its response to the invitation from the Conference of the Parties to consider the need to update the LDC work programme”

The Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group welcomes the invitation by the SBI for suggestions for consideration by the LEG in its response to the invitation from the Conference of the Parties to consider the need to update the LDC work programme and to make recommendations for consideration by SBI 48.

The unique context of LDCs

LDCs are low income countries facing severe structural impediments to sustainable development, are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and suffer from severe financial, institutional and human capacity constraints. The categorization of a country as a LDC is determined by review of defined thresholds of income, human assets and economic vulnerability. The inclusion of a country in the category of LDCs is dynamic and inclusion or graduation from the category is determined through a review, every three years, by the Committee for Development Policy as mandated by the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. There are presently 47 countries included in the list of LDCs.

The special needs and circumstances of the LDCs as recognized in Article 4.9 of the Convention and in the Preamble of the Paris Agreement. Various provisions for support and flexibility have also been provided for under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The LDC Work Programme under the UNFCCC, which was launched at

COP 7, has been of great value to addressing climate change impacts and support needs in LDCs.

The LDC work programme under the UNFCCC

The LDC work programme launched under decision 5/CP.7 covers:

- Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing, national climate change secretariats and/or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in the LDC Parties;
- Providing training, on an ongoing basis, in negotiating skills and language, where needed, to develop the capacity of negotiators from the LDCs to participate effectively in the climate change process;
- Supporting the preparation of NAPAs;
- Promotion of public awareness programmes to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues;
- Development and transfer of technologies, particularly adaptation technology (in accordance with decision 4/CP.7);
- Strengthening of the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support implementation of NAPAs.

The LDCs have been addressing some of their most urgent and immediate needs to adapt to climate change through national adaptation plans of action (NAPAs) and support from the LDC Fund. The success stories of the NAPAs and the best practices and lessons learned have been well recorded. Further, about half of the LDCs have also completed their Technology Needs Assessments and several have developed technology action plans.

In recent years, the adoption of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) has been the natural evolution towards addressing adaptation in the medium- to long-term by LDCs and other developing countries. The inclusion of NAPs in the Paris Agreement as a vehicle for the adaptation communication through which to communicate priorities and needs for adaptation has also further increased the importance of NAPs for long-term adaptation action. With

the full functioning of the Green Climate Fund, support for the formulation of NAPs has also been started with the initial allocation of funds for NAP readiness.

The work of the LEG has also been very beneficial to the LDCs starting from the technical support for the NAPA and also the NAP process. The LEG has also been recently tasked with addressing some of the technical questions on adaptation and related processes under the Paris Agreement. The work of the LEG must therefore also evolve to support the new needs and obligations of LDCs under the Paris Agreement.

Suggestions to update the LDC work programme

The LDC work program can be updated as follows, to reflect significant changes in recent years, including the entry into force of the Paris Agreement as well as the new and emerging needs and gaps arising from the Paris Agreement:

1. The original LDC work programme and subsequent additions should continue as they are useful and still relevant. In particular, the immediate and urgent need for adaptation will continue to rise due to a rapidly changing climate, and LDCs should continue to be supported in addressing their urgent and immediate needs for adaptation as they arise.
2. Certain elements of the original LDC work programme were never fully supported and must be implemented on a priority basis. These include strengthening or establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points. Effective national action requires coordination and leadership and institutional capacity is critical, especially with the coming into force of the Paris Agreement which includes new obligations on all countries, including LDCs. The provision of such support to climate change secretariats and/or focal points can be modeled based on existing support for institutions within the UNFCCC process such as support to NDAs from the GCF, or National GEF Focal Points from the GEF. Other multilateral environmental agreements also provide support for the implementation of actions such as support provided to National Ozone Offices under the Montreal Protocol.
3. The emergence of the NAP as a major process for long-term national adaptation planning and implementation should feature as a key element of an updated work programme. In keeping with the initial intent of supporting LDCs under

the NAP process as launched in Cancun, the work programme should include a goal of ensuring that every LDC has completed a NAP by 2020. This will enable LDCs to also fully articulate and communicate their adaptation needs under the Paris Agreement as well as address various element of the original work programme.

4. Article 4.9 of the Convention also covers “technology” needs of LDCs. As only half of the 47 LDCs have completed their TNAs, the work programme should aim to ensure that all LDCs have completed their TNAs by 2020. Following that all LDCs should be supported to also move into the implementation of technology action plans and other identified technology needs.

5. The LEG should ensure close collaboration with the CTCN in providing support for NAPs and technology development and transfer.

6. With the emergence of the GCF as the major source of funding for implementation of action under the Convention and Paris Agreement, LDCs should also be in a position to effectively access GCF funding through streamlined and simplified processes that take into account their special needs and circumstances and limited capacities. The work programme should aim to ensure all LDCs have effective national institutions such as well functioning NDAs, and accredited National Implementing Entities.

7. With the continual review of categorization of LDCs and the graduation of countries from the LDC list, the process to prepare for graduation and also the smooth transition (post-graduation) adopted by the UNGA must also be applied under the LDC work programme. This should include a review of benefits such as financial and technical support for programs and also participation in the process, flexibilities in reporting among others to ensure a smooth transition based on existing guidelines adopted by UNGA. In this regard, the Convention process should also make clear the smooth transition process for LDCs with decisions adopted by the COP and the CMA as appropriate.