

Thimphu LDC Ministerial Communiqué on Climate Change 2019

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Least Developed Country (LDC) Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), having met in Thimphu, Bhutan on 24 October 2019, in preparation for the 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2019 (COP25):

Note, with concern, that the findings of the recent IPCC Special Reports on 1.5°C, Land and Climate Change, and the Ocean and Cryosphere, highlight the damaging impact climate change is having on agriculture and important biospheres critical to LDCs' livelihoods and food security, thus confirming the urgent need for rapid reductions in global emissions to avoid increased loss and damage and for scaled up support so LDCs can adapt and build resilience;

Further note that the Special Report on 1.5°C found that limiting warming to 1.5°C remains feasible and will have considerable sustainable development benefits for LDCs and all countries compared to warming of 2°C; however, the current average global temperature levels are already causing significant negative impacts in LDCs;

Welcome the call made by the UN Secretary-General to global leaders to come forward with ambitious, concrete and realistic plans to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45 per cent by 2030, and to net zero emissions by 2050;

Further welcome the convening of the Climate Action Summit by the UN Secretary-General in September 2019 (UNCAS), which has generated much needed political momentum and awareness; but **note** that much more is required to ensure that the legacy of the Summit translates into more ambitious NDCs and climate action;

Stand in solidarity with the younger generations who are emerging as bold agents of change to protect our future;

Emphasize that greater GHG emissions reductions, accompanied by stronger policies and actions over the next decade are urgent pre-requisites for achieving global net zero emissions by 2050 and for getting onto a 1.5°C pathway;

Further emphasize the need for rapid deployment of climate solutions and tools that are available right now; particularly the rapid phase-out of coal and elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, recognizing the importance of a just transition;

Recall the leadership being shown by LDCs through their expressed willingness to prepare enhanced NDCs by 2020 and to develop long-term low GHG emissions development strategies;

Call on the international community to enhance climate ambition and action consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C, including through the delivery of new and updated NDCs and long-term low GHG emissions development strategies consistent with a 1.5°C pathway by 2020;

Call for the COP25 President to send a loud and clear signal through a COP decision in Santiago that solidifies 2020 as the year of increased ambition and includes a strong call for new and updated NDCs that represent the highest possible ambition to be communicated by early 2020;

Urge all Parties to complete the remaining elements of the Paris Agreement implementation guidelines at COP25 in Santiago, including finalizing robust rules under Article 6 for carbon markets, which must maintain environmental integrity, move beyond pure offsetting and deliver overall mitigation in global emissions, avoid double counting, not allow the carryover of pre-2020 Kyoto units to the Paris Agreement or other accounting loopholes, and deliver a share of proceeds from the market mechanisms for the Adaptation Fund;

Further urge the adoption of rules at COP25 to ensure NDCs follow one common time frame, which is essential to avoid locking in low ambition and enhance the comparability of NDC targets and the predictability of the NDC cycle;

Emphasize the importance of the Review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) that will take place at COP25 for delivering a strengthened, efficient, action-oriented WIM to better address loss and damage, and **call** for increased action and support to address current and anticipated loss and damage in line with the priorities and needs identified by developing countries;

Stress that the WIM must continue to serve the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

Note, with serious concern, that some developed countries are not materializing their pledges in line with the agreed goal to mobilize 100 billion USD annually by 2020, including under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and call upon them to fulfil their commitments;

Welcome the pledges so far made for the GCF First Replenishment, particularly those countries that doubled their contributions as compared to their commitments during the initial resource mobilization (IRM) period;

Urge the developed countries that have not yet announced their pledges to do so urgently for a successful first formal replenishment of the GCF; all developed countries must at least double their pledges from the IRM period;

Welcome the commitments made during UNCAS of 160 million USD to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and **urge** other developed countries to contribute to fund planned activities of LDCs;

Urge all developed countries and international partners to provide finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support to LDCs in implementing their NDCs, long-term low GHG emissions development strategies, gender action plans, and national climate change policies, measures and strategies;

Note, with grave concern, the difficulty that LDCs face in accessing finance to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans;

Welcome the critical role played by the LDC Expert Group (LEG) in supporting LDCs on adaptation and the implementation of the LDC work programme, and **urge** continuation and strengthening of the LEG to support LDCs in light of the review of the work of the LEG in 2020;

Urge all international partners to provide support to LDCs in the spirit of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and to provide continuing support to LDCs that are transitioning from LDC status;



Stress the need for facilitating access to climate finance by the GCF and the Global Environment Facility through expedited approval and disbursement processes for LDCs;

Commit to advance the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI), the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR), and the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), which are LDC-owned and LDC-led initiatives working to simultaneously address climate change and drive sustainable development at the national level, and to support the delivery of the LDC 2050 Vision – as presented at UNCAS in September 2019;

Recommend the LDC Group further institutionalizes its internal coordination through establishing a permanent secretariat to enhance engagement in UNFCCC processes, and **commend** the preparation of a multi-annual strategy and action plan;

Recall the preamble of Paris Agreement which notes Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity;

Express appreciation and gratitude to the Kingdom of Bhutan for their great leadership, hospitality and facilitation of this important LDC Ministerial meeting.

Issued this on 24 October 2019 in Thimphu, Kingdom of Bhutan