

Submission by the Republic of Senegal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group on *options for conducting reviews of the voluntary information reported pursuant to decision 18/cma.1*

The LDC Group welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the options for conducting reviews on a voluntary basis of the information reported pursuant to decision 18/CMA.1, Annex, Chapter IV, and respective training courses needed to facilitate these voluntary reviews in accordance with the invitation in paragraph 39 of Decision -/CMA.3 *Guidance operationalizing the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the enhanced transparency framework referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement*.

The LDC Group believes that voluntary information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 and information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support needed and received under Articles 9-11 of the Paris Agreement reported in the BTR should be voluntarily reviewed as part of the technical expert review process.

Experience from Non-Annex I Parties shows that countries have benefitted greatly from participating in the international consultation and analysis (ICA) process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)¹. Countries have expressed that the findings present in the summary reports and the exchange of views with the review team during the technical analysis have provided valuable insights to improve not only the reports but also the implementation of domestic policies. Moreover, the review process has helped them to prioritise certain areas of work at national level and improve tracking and reporting systems to respond to the new reporting needs.

The LDC Group believes that the same benefits will be achieved with the technical expert review and the facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress established by the Paris Agreement in the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). In addition to the current benefits, the ETF's modalities, procedures and guidelines give the LDCs and SIDs the option to be reviewed as a group providing national experts with the unique opportunity to learn from other countries' experiences.

Despite LDCs financial, technical, and capacity-related challenges, 13 of them have submitted their first Biennial Update Report (BUR), 2 their second and several are in the process of preparing them. Moreover, 3 LDCs have recently requested funding to the Global Environment Facility to prepare their first Biennial Transparency Reports. This clearly shows that LDCs have the commitment and willingness to fully engage in the reporting process and benefit from it.

¹ The ICA process was established at COP 16 to analyse the biennial update reports (BURs) from non-Annex I Parties and it includes two main steps: a technical analysis of BURs and a facilitative sharing of views among Parties.

From the LDC Group perspective, the possibility to review information reported in chapter IV provides the opportunity to improve reporting capacity on adaptation and loss and damage key priorities for LDCs which lack significant reporting experience thus far. The LDC Group also finds considerable benefit in extending the possibility for voluntary review to information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support needed and received in chapter VI.

Incorporating these topics in the review process, together with outcomes of the technical expert review process, will contribute to understand countries progress towards the Paris Agreement goals and more generally, improve reporting over time. On the issue of loss and damage for example, section G of Chapter IV does not provide specific guidance on information that countries might want to report and the types of evidence to underpin the information provided. A technical review of this section in the BTR will provide considerably value to increase the depth and accuracy of reported information. It will also enable the identification of gaps in national data collection systems to further improve reporting quality over time.

The LDC Group is aware that reviewing voluntary components from BTR implies developing and delivering dedicated training courses. While this may have some budgetary implications, it is also likely that this will increase the number of reviewers leading to remarkable benefits.

Information presented by the UNFCCC Secretariat² shows that there is a higher rate of experts from Non-annex I Parties that have successfully completed the trainings for reviewing BURs than for reviewing Annex I countries' national GHG inventory reports.

We believe that one main reason for this is the connexion with their countries' realities and priorities. It is easier for experts to get involved, dedicate time, and contribute when they are familiarised with the issues covered drawing on own country experience.

In this regard, including adaptation, loss and damage and support needed and received aspects in the training programme will likely attract more experts to the process from vulnerable countries such as LDCs with the benefit of increasing the pool and diversity of experts. This is particularly relevant as according to decision 18CMA.1 the Secretariat shall strive to include technical experts from LDCs as part of the teams when reviewing BTRs from those countries.

However, in developing the training courses the UNFCCC Secretariat will not need to start from scratch and can build on the experience gained in developing similar courses under the Convention. For example, the training to review adaptation actions in national Communications of Annex I Parties and the training to analyse the support needed and received by Non-Annex I Parties reported in the BURs.

² Overview of the existing training programmes for technical expert reviews. Technical paper by the secretariat Link <https://unfccc.int/documents/202126>

The LDC group reiterates that providing effective feedback to Parties contribute to the improvement of their capacities and national institutional arrangements and, as such, it is important to have a decision at COP27 that:

- includes voluntary information of chapter IV which includes loss and damage and support needed and received – presented in Chapter VI- under the scope of the technical expert review
- expresses that the review of such information is voluntary
- provides the mandate to the secretariat to develop courses and their respective examinations and include them in the training programme.
- requests developed countries to provide adequate and sufficient financial support to develop the courses and train experts
- adds in the outlines of the technical expert review report sections to include information contained in Chapter IV as well as in Chapter VI.
- clarifies that adaptation information that is cross referenced to other documents such as national communications and adaptation communications shall be considered integral parts of the BTR and consequently reviewed.
