Submission by the Republic of Senegal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group (LDCs) on the Review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee (AC).

The Republic of Senegal is pleased to make this submission on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group in response to the call for submissions made through Decisions 5/CP.22 for parties views on the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee and on the review process with a view to informing that process.

The LDC group would like to reiterate some of its views, as reflected in the submission made by the Group on 21/09/2021. The LDC Group considers the work of the Adaptation Committee as being useful and has been well undertaken. The Adaptation Committee plays a crucial role in moving parties’ adaptation plans towards implementation: encouraging networking, sharing information and good practice at multiple levels, providing technical support and recommendations.

As noted in our past submission, there are some areas that the Adaptation Committee may consider to improve its operations, some of these are discussed below:

Mandates post COP21 have increased both the number and the complexity of the issues that the AC must deliver on. While COVID brought challenges to the climate negotiation process, delivery on mandates has always been slow. Thus it’s important for the AC to look into an expedited delivery of its mandate:

The LDC group believes that among other things, the evaluation of the Adaptation Committee's work might increase its capacity to assist developing nations, especially the most vulnerable. The AC was operationalized by Decision 2/CP.17, and the Committee now has a number of modalities at its disposal to guarantee efficient operations. In accordance with the preceding Decision's Paragraph 94, for instance, the Adaptation Committee is required to adopt the following modes when performing its mandates including Workshops and meetings, expert groups, Compilation, review, synthesis, analysis reports of information, knowledge, experience and good practice, channels for sharing information, knowledge and expertise and coordination and linkages with all relevant bodies, programmes, institutions and networks, within and outside the Convention.

It is evident that the AC has not used all of the resources at its disposal, even if it has been using some of these modalities. For instance, the AC should use the best experts available more
frequently, including outside the UNFCCC process, by involving them in expert groups that could inform the AC on its technical work. By creating specialized expert groups with additional outside specialists to give information and carry out tasks in particular theme areas, the AC might further increase its efficacy. We believe this is an avenue that could be further explored by the Adaptation Committee.

Additionally, the Adaptation Committee is mandated in paragraph 100 of the Decision to “engage with and draw upon the expertise of relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside the Convention, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and, through them, subnational levels, where appropriate.”

Paragraph 105 further supports this, which encourages the Adaptation Committee to solicit input from intergovernmental, international, regional, national, and subnational organizations, centers and networks, the private sector, and civil society when carrying out its work and to invite advisers culled from them to participate in its meetings as expert advisers on particular issues as they arise. The LDC group believes that by utilizing more of these resources, the AC would be more effective.

Finally, the Adaptation Committee needs to become more visible outside the UNFCCC process to ensure its recognition as a leading global voice on adaptation. While the LDC Group would welcome efforts by the AC to enhance its outreach in communication efforts, especially as it carries out its mandates under the Paris Agreement, our Group believes no additional mandate needs to be added to the Adaptation committee so it can effectively deliver on the existing workplan and mandate.