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Matters relating to the least developed countries

The 31st meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Report by the secretariat

Summary

The 31st meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was held in Bonn, Germany, from 7 to 10 March 2017. At the meeting, the LEG developed its two-year rolling work programme for 2017–2018. The meeting also included discussions with: the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on how best to support developing countries in accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans; the Global Environment Facility and its agencies on their continued provision of support for the implementation of the least developed countries work programme, which includes the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action; and other relevant organizations on collaboration in supporting the least developed countries.

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I. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its twenty-first session, extended the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under its current terms of reference¹ to cover the period 2016–2020 and mandated the LEG to undertake a number of additional activities,² including to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.³ Accordingly, the LEG is mandated to develop a two-year rolling work programme for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its first sessional meeting of each year and to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.⁴

2. Furthermore, SBI 45 requested the LEG, in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) secretariat and relevant partner organizations, to continue considering ways to further enhance the provision of support to the least developed countries (LDCs) for accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) and to include information thereon in its report for consideration at SBI 46.⁵

II. Summary of the 31st meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

3. The 31st meeting of the LEG was held in Bonn, Germany, from 7 to 10 March 2017. On 8 March 2017, the LEG held a joint meeting with the Adaptation Committee (AC), involving Parties and non-Party stakeholders, to address the mandates given to them by the COP in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45.

4. The LEG extended invitations to the secretariats of the GCF and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as to GEF agencies and other relevant organizations, to participate in the meeting to discuss the provision of support to the LDCs. The following took part in the meeting: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the GCF secretariat, the GEF secretariat, the Africa Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment (UN Environment), the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Meteorological Organization, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the International Institute for Sustainable Development serving as the secretariat of the NAP Global Network, Southern Voices and CARE International.

5. The LEG elected the following officers:

- (a) Mr. Abias Huongo (Angola) as Chair;
- (b) Ms. Sonam Khandu (Bhutan) as Vice-Chair;
- (c) Mr. Benon Yassin (Malawi) as anglophone Rapporteur;

¹ Decisions 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 12/CP.18 and 3/CP.20.

² Decision 19/CP.21, paragraphs 1–3.

³ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45.

⁴ Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 3.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2016/20, paragraph 60.

- (d) Ms. Mery Yaou (Togo) as francophone Rapporteur;
 - (e) Mr. Aderito Santana (Sao Tome and Principe) as lusophone Rapporteur.
6. The LEG nominated the following members to represent the group in collaboration activities with other bodies under the Convention:
- (a) Ms. Beth Lavender (Canada) and Mr. Santana to engage in the AC NAP task force;
 - (b) Mr. Fredrick Manyika (United Republic of Tanzania) to engage in the work of the AC on the technical examination process on adaptation;
 - (c) Mr. Adrian Fitzgerald (Ireland), Ms. Khandu, Ms. Lavender and Mr. Santana to represent the LEG in the joint working group of the AC and the LEG to address mandates from decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45;
 - (d) Mr. Idrissa Semde (Burkina Faso) to serve on the task force on displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
 - (e) Mr. Ewin Künzi (Austria) and Mr. Naresh Sharma (Nepal) to engage in collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC);
 - (f) Ms. Yaou to engage in the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.

B. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

1. Progress made by developing countries in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

7. The LEG considered its ongoing work on monitoring the progress made by developing countries in the formulation and implementation of NAPs. It highlighted the important role in the assessment of progress on NAPs of the information gathered through the online questionnaire on NAPs,⁶ and agreed to draw the attention of Parties to the questionnaire during the regional NAP training workshops.

8. Kenya, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine and Sudan submitted their NAPs during this reporting period and they are now available on NAP Central.⁷

9. Of the total of seven countries that have submitted their NAPs by the time of the preparation of this report, as yet none have applied for the implementation of their proposed projects or programmes.

2. Progress made in relation to support provided

10. The LEG took note of the information provided by various organizations on support provided for the process to formulate and implement NAPs between September 2016 and March 2017.⁸

⁶ <http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/assessingprogress.aspx>.

⁷ <http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>.

⁸ This chapter covers information made available to the LEG by the time of its 31st meeting by the respective bodies and organizations.

11. The GEF reported that, as at 9 March 2017, five project proposals⁹ amounting to USD 16.5 million related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs had been processed for approval for funding from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). Three more project proposals had been technically cleared and were awaiting new funding contributions to the LDCF.¹⁰ The GEF also reported that a total of USD 7 million had been allocated to the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) for the LDCs from the LDCF, while a total of USD 4.5 million had been allocated to the NAP-GSP for non-LDC developing countries from the Special Climate Change Fund.

12. The GCF further reported that, as at 9 March 2017, it had approved two project proposals¹¹ under the support modality for NAPs under its readiness and preparatory support programme providing up to USD 3 million per country,¹² while four more proposals were undergoing review.

13. With regard to technical guidance and support for NAPs, the LEG conducted its first regional training workshop in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 27 February to 3 March 2017. The workshop received very positive feedback from participants and provided useful and practical suggestions on how the LEG can continue to support countries in the process to formulate and implement NAPs (see chapter IV.A.3 below for additional details and plans for the workshops for other regions).

14. UNDP provided an update on its ongoing provision of support to countries through its various programmes, including: Climate Public Expenditures and Institutional Reviews; the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership; and United States Agency for International Development ADAPT capacity development for economics of adaptation.

15. UN Environment reported that, as at 9 March 2017, it had supported 12 countries¹³ in readiness and preparatory activities towards advancing the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Three of them were being supported for accessing readiness funding from the GCF, four for accessing bilateral funding from Germany, and the other five were being supported for various NAP-related activities.

16. Since September 2016, the NAP-GSP for the LDCs, jointly administered by UNDP and UN Environment, has provided technical support to three countries for them to complete preparatory work for the development of proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for NAP activities,¹⁴ and more general technical support to 12 more countries.¹⁵

17. The NAP-GSP for non-LDCs, also jointly administered by UNDP and UN Environment, has provided support to 16 countries¹⁶ to advance the process to formulate and implement NAPs through preparatory and enabling activities. The activities include: stocktaking and review of related adaptation plans and strategies; facilitation of national consultations; integration of climate change into development plans and budgets; formulating NAP road maps and workplans; and training on cost-benefit analysis.

⁹ Of Bangladesh, Chad, Niger, Rwanda and Senegal.

¹⁰ Of Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi and Timor-Leste.

¹¹ Of Liberia and Nepal.

¹² Green Climate Fund Board decision B.13/09, paragraph (e). Available at <http://www.greenclimate.fund/boardroom/on-record/documents>.

¹³ Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo and Vanuatu.

¹⁴ Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger and United Republic of Tanzania.

¹⁵ Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burundi, Chad, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

¹⁶ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Peru, Morocco, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

18. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and UNDP continued to assist 11 countries¹⁷ under the Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme, funded by the Government of Germany, in undertaking activities towards integrating agriculture-related climate change risks and opportunities into NAPs as a way to safeguard livelihoods, raise agricultural production and boost food security.

19. The World Meteorological Organization continued to support countries in identifying climate information and service needs for the process to formulate and implement NAPs through projects on the Global Framework for Climate Services, national programmes and training activities.

20. The NAP Global Network identified priority themes in guiding its work towards supporting countries in advancing the process to formulate and implement NAPs, which were on the agenda as the themes for targeted topics forums organized by the network.¹⁸ They included: sector integration, vertical integration, finance, monitoring and evaluation systems, gender, and conflict-sensitive areas.

21. The African Development Bank's support for climate change adaptation initiatives was focused on the LDCs. It prioritized its capacity-building agenda to support countries' strategic priorities, including the formulation of NAPs. The initiative was being undertaken in collaboration, where appropriate, with the GCF Readiness Programme, complementing the work with funding from the Climate Investment Funds to develop national climate investment plans.

22. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit highlighted its continued support to countries on various activities related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It also highlighted the ongoing partnerships with others (such as including the NAP-GSP and the NAP Global Network) in delivering technical support to countries.

C. Status of implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

23. According to information received from the GEF,¹⁹ as at 9 March 2017 a total of 248 national adaptation programme of action (NAPA) implementation projects had been approved by the GEF Council for funding from the LDCF since its establishment in 2001. In addition, 20 NAPA implementation project proposals submitted by the LDCs, accounting for a total of USD 126.3 million, had been technically cleared by the GEF secretariat and were awaiting the availability of resources from the LDCF.

24. Apart from Equatorial Guinea and South Sudan, all the LDCs that had completed the preparation of their NAPAs had at least one NAPA implementation project approved for funding under the LDCF since the inception of NAPAs in 2001.

25. As at 9 March 2017, the total cumulative donor pledges to the LDCF amounted to USD 1.22 billion and the total paid contributions amounted to USD 1.15 billion.²⁰ The funding ceiling for each LDC is currently at USD 40 million, in accordance with the principle of equitable access.

¹⁷ Colombia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zambia.

¹⁸ A targeted topics forum on monitoring and evaluation was held in February 2017 in Malawi. More information is available at <http://napglobalnetwork.org/2017/02/targeted-topics-forum-monitoring-evaluation-nap-process>.

¹⁹ In GEF document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.20/03 and updates provided to the secretariat.

²⁰ <https://www.thegef.org/topics/least-developed-countries-fund-ldcf>.

D. Support provided to the least developed countries for accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund

26. The LEG continued its consideration of ways to further enhance the provision of support to the LDCs for accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in response to the request of SBI 45.²¹

27. The LEG took note of its ongoing work on this matter, including: the engagement of the GCF secretariat during the regional NAP training workshop in Malawi to provide information to countries on ways to access GCF funding for NAPs; the engagement of the GCF secretariat at the 31st meeting of the LEG to discuss the main issues concerning accessing funding from the GCF; the ongoing collection of information from countries on their efforts and challenges in accessing funding from the GCF through the online questionnaire on NAP Central; the integration of GCF access issues into the Open NAPs; and the development of a navigation guide to assist the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF. At that meeting in particular, the LEG engaged with the GCF secretariat on the template for accessing readiness support for the formulation of NAPs, increased outreach to the LDCs on the GCF and ways to improve awareness-raising through the navigation guide. The LEG emphasized its readiness to provide input to the GCF on technical and practical aspects of the formulation and implementation of NAPs, while the GCF is working on funding arrangements.

28. The LEG also took note of the high-level event on progress in advancing NAPs that was organized by the COP 22 President (Morocco) to highlight the central role of the GCF and other entities in advancing adaptation through NAPs.²² It further took note of the ongoing work of the AC on the provision of information on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs.²³

29. Looking ahead, the LEG noted that there is limited evidence of the efforts of the LDCs to take advantage of the direct access modality of the GCF. It agreed to capture the challenges facing the LDCs in establishing arrangements for direct access as part of its ongoing LDC surveys at the sessions of the subsidiary bodies, the regional NAP training workshops and other events, and to continue consideration of this matter at its next meeting. The LEG also noted that information on the LDCs' efforts in accessing funding from the GCF is not easily accessible on the GCF website. It recommended that the COP encourage the GCF to further enhance the accessibility of such information.

30. The LEG further took note of the feedback from agencies on ongoing challenges in making actual progress in accessing funding from the GCF. It also noted other emerging challenges that included: the need for LEG guidance on incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals and other regional and national development frameworks, as well as relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, into the formulation and implementation of NAPs; how to build adequate and lasting technical capacity beyond institutional strengthening to include support for long-term research and education; how to build on existing assessments at the national level in putting together adaptation aspects of a strategic framework for engagement with the GCF. Learning about proposal development, some LDCs have asked for the LEG to prepare sample sets of activities, reflecting different

²¹ FCCC/SBI/2016/20, paragraph 60.

²² <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/cop22marrakechinformationhub/cop-22cmp-12cma-1-information-hub-mandated-and-other-events>.

²³ Updates on the work are available on the webpage of the 11th meeting of the AC at <http://unfccc.int/10060>.

national circumstances and stages involved, for inclusion in proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs.

31. The LEG decided to continue capturing and sharing experience and challenges faced by the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs, and to explore how best to address such challenges, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat and other relevant partners.

III. Progress in the implementation of the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2016–2017

32. The LEG reviewed the progress made in the implementation of its work programme for 2016–2017. It took note of the following major activities that were successfully achieved or initiated:

(a) Continued successful engagement with the GCF secretariat in supporting the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF for the formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(b) Successful launch of the regional training workshops on NAPs in February 2017;

(c) Advancement of technical materials on NAPs through the NAP technical working group, in particular the development of the Integrative Framework for National Adaptation Plans and Sustainable Development Goals (NAP-SDG iFrame);

(d) Provision of support to the LDCs for the formulation of NAPs through Open NAP case studies;

(e) Successful testing of the tool for monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps in addressing adaptation in the LDCs (PEG M&E tool), as part of Open NAP case studies;

(f) Continuing work in developing technical materials on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems and on regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation;

(g) Successful engagement with the AC in addressing mandates arising from decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45;

(h) Analysis of gaps and needs for adaptation for the LDCs that would arise from the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(i) Invitations to regional centres to nominate focal points for the LEG;

(j) Continuing engagement with other bodies and programmes under the Convention and relevant organizations, regional centres and networks, including the NAP-GSPs.

33. The LEG noted that some of its planned activities could not be executed as planned owing to prioritization of work and availability of resources. These are the regional training workshops on NAPs, which were initiated in 2017 rather than as planned in 2016, and the NAP Expo planned to take place in April 2017, which has been postponed to April 2018.

34. The LEG discussed progress made towards its vision of supporting adaptation in the LDCs, and in particular the formulation of NAPs preferably by 2018 and at the latest by 2020.²⁴ It noted the slow progress of the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF for the

²⁴ FCCC/SBI/2016/7, paragraph 16(c).

formulation of NAPs. It decided to enhance its provision of support through the enhancement of activities that help the LDCs to advance the formulation and implementation of NAPs (e.g. through the Open NAPs, regional workshops, South–South collaboration, more special sessions conducted by the GCF targeting the LDCs for accessing funding for NAPs, etc.).

IV. Development of the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2017–2018

A. Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and the work of the national adaptation plan technical working group

1. Integrative Framework for National Adaptation Plans and Sustainable Development Goals

35. The LEG discussed the development of the NAP-SDG iFrame, which emerged from the supplementary materials to the NAP technical guidelines to help integrate approaches, and the explicit consideration of how to contribute to addressing the Sustainable Development Goals through NAPs. The LEG decided to prepare a technical paper describing the iFrame with the support of the NAP technical working group and to encourage all those providing training on NAPs to apply it in their work.

2. Open NAPs

36. The LEG, with the support of the NAP technical working group, continues to develop NAP case studies at the national level, which are aimed at promoting learning, the application of the development-centred approach to the formulation of NAPs and the consideration of how to integrate sectoral issues into a national plan, the new adaptation elements under the Paris Agreement, adaptation themes under the GCF and synergy with national efforts under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and other relevant processes. The Open NAPs are currently used as an integral part of the NAP training workshops, applying the iFrame to consider an effective way of having multiple entry points, building on existing efforts. Best practices emerging from the Open NAP case studies include: their ability to help countries to gain a better understanding of how to manage multiple entry points; their ability to assist countries in improving stocktaking to inform their GCF proposals and road mapping; clarifying the role of national mandates and how to align the production of NAPs with broader national development planning cycles; the mapping of different actors and stakeholders; improving understanding of how to manage scaling or aggregation over space and up levels, the need for trade-off analysis, costing, the hierarchy from adaptation strategy to actions and activities, how to link NAPs to nationally determined contributions, the content of a NAP; the application of the PEG M&E tool; and providing ideas on how to extend NAPs to cover the sustainable development benefits of adaptation.

37. The LEG discussed opportunities for broadening the case studies to other LDCs upon their request, as a way to provide tailored support to those LDCs with limited technical capacity. The LEG agreed to make the Open NAPs accessible online to continue the workshop exercises and to explore more questions, and to consider broader questions such as how to use the NAPs to coordinate all adaptation planning work and links to other issues beyond the Sustainable Development Goals (e.g. the Sendai Framework and regional and national development strategies).

3. Training on national adaptation plans

38. The LEG discussed experience with the first regional training workshop on NAPs under the LEG work programme for 2016–2017, held in Malawi.²⁵ The workshop targeted anglophone African countries, brought together 64 participants and was organized through the NAP technical working group. The overall approach is to work through the steps of the NAP-SDG iFrame, produce a prototype NAP and consider monitoring and evaluation and reporting as well as how to package proposed activities in a proposal to the GCF on the basis of a synthesis of ongoing activities. The LEG agreed to document the training package and to translate it into relevant languages. The workshops are conducted with the support of the NAP technical working group.

39. The LEG took note of the emerging challenges expressed by the participants, which fall under four broad categories: having best available data and tools for assessments; uncertainty and lack of awareness surrounding accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs; building the requisite long-term capacity for adaptation planning and implementation; and how to ensure that adaptation activities produce measurable adaptation and development benefits.

40. The LEG also took note of the interest of countries in continuing to liaise with the group as they advance their NAPs. Among their recommendations to make this happen were: the LEG to provide a modular learning platform targeting different stages of the process to formulate and implement NAPs for use at the country level, recognizing that countries are at varying stages in undertaking the process; and the LEG to set up an online platform for the participants that attended the workshop, for sharing experience and facilitating peer-to-peer learning.

4. Supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans through NAP Central

41. The LEG discussed enhancements to NAP Central,²⁶ including improving usability via the following interactive functions:

- (a) An online dashboard/tool to showcase progress on NAPs by country;
- (b) A NAP progress tracking tool that aggregates information on progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs for each developing country by key element and principle of the process;
- (c) NAP regional collaboration nodes to facilitate regional exchange;
- (d) Working spaces for the Open NAPs;
- (e) Data and tools and support materials to support the systems approach of the NAP-SDG iFrame;
- (f) An interactive platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned.

5. Workplan of the national adaptation plan technical working group

42. The LEG noted the progress made by the NAP technical working group in supporting the work of the LEG on: developing the NAP-SDG iFrame for assessments; training on NAPs; gaps and needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted at COP 21; application of the PEG M&E tool; and the Open NAPs.

²⁵ <http://napexpo.org/workshops/malawi>.

²⁶ <http://unfccc.int/nap>.

43. The LEG agreed to continue to strengthen the work of the NAP technical working group through continued engagement in the development of technical methodologies for NAPs and strategic collaboration with relevant organizations, regional centres and networks.

44. The NAP technical working group will continue to support the advancement and application of technical tools for NAPs, including the PEG M&E tool, national integrated assessment tools to facilitate analysis of trade-offs and development benefits of adaptation interventions, and other issues, including suggestions for the revision of supplementary materials to the NAP technical guidelines. In addition, the LEG will prepare a technical paper on monitoring and assessing all the guiding principles of NAPs,²⁷ taking into account new elements arising from Article 7, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, with the support of the NAP technical working group.

B. Matters relating to access to the Green Climate Fund

45. The LEG expressed its appreciation to the GCF secretariat for its continued collaboration in supporting the LDCs in accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs, noting in particular the participation of the GCF secretariat in the events organized by the LEG during SBI 45, the first regional training workshop on NAPs and in the 31st meeting of the LEG.

46. The GCF secretariat introduced the following issues in relation to countries' efforts in accessing funding for NAPs:

(a) Some countries tend to apply varied sources of data and information from different studies, projects and activities, without adequately synthesizing them to inform the activities of a coherent country programme/strategy for the NAPs;

(b) In some cases, only information on risk and vulnerability assessments exists, without further analysis of possible adaptation options that could then inform the development of country programmes;

(c) Some countries encounter difficulties in embracing the multiple entry point nature of the formulation and implementation of NAPs, whereby some proposals tend to follow all steps indicated in the NAP technical guidelines without being tailored to the national context and building on existing adaptation efforts.

47. In response to the above-mentioned issues, the LEG noted that countries are mostly supported by various organizations in writing proposals for accessing funding from the GCF. It also noted that the process to formulate and implement NAPs would help countries to build capacity for effective adaptation planning and implementation, and that gaps in information could imply the need to also focus on activities that would address those gaps when designing country programmes. The LEG agreed to disseminate information on good practice in the formulation and implementation of NAPs as a way to help various delivery partners in supporting countries. The LEG emphasized the need to ensure that the information required for the development of funding proposals to the GCF takes into account the limited capacity of the LDCs.

48. The LEG agreed to support the GCF secretariat by gathering more information from the LDCs as a way to explore how best to address the issues referred to in paragraph 46 above.

²⁷ Decision 5/CP.17, paragraphs 2–4.

49. The LEG drafted a navigation guide for the LDCs for accessing funding from the GCF and shared it with the GCF secretariat for inputs and comments. The guide will be made available on NAP Central once completed.

C. NAP Expo

50. The LEG decided to postpone the NAP Expo, which was planned to take place from 11 to 13 April 2017 in Bonn, to take place in April 2018 instead. This was due to the high costs of organizing the event, which exceeded available funds. The LEG agreed to use the NAP Expo advisory group to explore how best to address the funding challenges encountered and to ensure the successful organization of the event in the future. It decided to explore the idea of convening the event once every two years. It also decided to assess the effectiveness of the regional expos in order to consider whether they can be conducted in alternate years to the NAP Expo.

51. The LEG discussed the arrangements for a regional NAP Expo that is planned to take place on 28 June 2017 in Kampala in conjunction with the 11th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation. The expo will target the conference participants. Topics being considered include approaches to strengthening considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and the engagement of non-state actors in the process.

52. Furthermore, the LEG will explore holding regional expos in conjunction with the remaining regional training workshops on NAPs and other regional events as a way to further catalyse action on and support for NAPs.

D. Strengthening considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in adaptation planning and implementation

53. The LEG reviewed the progress of the work on this matter and decided to continue to engage the partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) in order to advance the technical paper thereon. It also decided to utilize the regional NAP Expo referred to in paragraph 51 above, the ongoing regional training workshops on NAPs and other relevant events to solicit input and gather more information and case studies to inform the paper. It agreed to review progress in the development of the paper at its 32nd meeting, with a view to finalizing the paper by November 2017.

E. Regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation

54. The LEG continued consideration of its mandate from the COP to provide technical guidance and advice to the LDCs with regard to regional approaches to adaptation planning,²⁸ whereby it decided to develop supplementary guidelines on such regional approaches following a number of steps.²⁹ As an interim step towards the development of supplementary guidelines, and building on work undertaken at its 30th meeting,³⁰ the LEG considered information from GCF and GEF programming documents on how regional approaches are supported. It will expand the analysis to include other programmes that are

²⁸ Decision 19/CP.21, paragraph 2(b).

²⁹ See document FCCC/SBI/2016/7, annex I.

³⁰ FCCC/SBI/2016/18, paragraphs 64–66.

being implemented under regional economic commissions, regional bilateral programmes and other initiatives³¹ and will incorporate relevant information from its previous work on regional synergy in adaptation planning and implementation.³² It will also solicit relevant input from regional centres and networks, as well as other relevant organizations, to inform the work. It further decided to review progress in this work at its 32nd meeting.

F. Gaps and needs related to adaptation arising from the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session

55. On the basis of the work that was carried out its 30th meeting, the LEG continued its mandated work on gaps and needs related to adaptation for the LDCs that would arise from the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other outcomes of COP 21.³³

56. The LEG decided to complete its steps in addressing this mandate with the support of the NAP technical working group, which are: mapping what is new and different in terms of adaptation planning and policy in the Paris Agreement that may inform possible updates to the guidance that the LEG provides on NAPs; incorporating new elements into its work programme, as appropriate; and identifying areas that remain to be supported and identifying new areas for the LDCs, to be conveyed at SBI 47 (November 2017).

G. Supporting the assessment by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of progress made in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

57. COP 21 requested SBI 48 (April–May 2018) to assess progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs with a view to making recommendations thereon to the COP, as appropriate. It decided on the following set of steps: submissions from Parties and relevant organizations by 4 October 2017; Parties to provide information through the online questionnaire on NAP Central; the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report; and the LEG in collaboration with the AC to organize a meeting to consider the synthesis report, to make a summary of progress made in the NAP process and to prepare a report on the meeting.³⁴

58. The LEG recalled the idea³⁵ of considering indicators for the assessment, both for the process (such as those developed under the PEG M&E tool) as well as for the outcomes of achieving the objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

59. The LEG noted that information on progress made in the NAP process is provided through the annual progress report on NAPs.³⁶ The LEG agreed that the information to support the assessment should be as systematic and comprehensive as possible and should include quantitative data where possible.

³¹ An example is the European Union Global Climate Change Alliance.

³² See document FCCC/TP/2005/4 and http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Documents%20NAP/50301_06_UNFCCC%20Regional%20Synergy_web.pdf.

³³ FCCC/SBI/2016/18, paragraphs 20 and 21.

³⁴ Decision 4/CP.21, paragraphs 11–13.

³⁵ FCCC/SBI/2015/7, paragraphs 33–35.

³⁶ See documents FCCC/SBI/2015/INF.11 and FCCC/SBI/2016/INF.11 for the progress reports for the last two years.

60. As part of the immediate next steps, the LEG agreed to develop a concept note on its support to the assessment by the SBI of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, drawing on the elements identified at its 30th meeting³⁷ and the discussions at its 31st meeting.

61. The LEG noted the importance of the NAP tracking tool on NAP Central in supporting this work (see chapter IV.A.4 above).

H. Addressing the mandates contained in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45

62. The LEG took note of the progress made since its last meeting in addressing the mandates given to it and the AC by the COP in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45, which included: holding a joint meeting between the LEG and the AC and a side event at COP 22;³⁸ calling for additional submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders;³⁹ and preparing an updated working paper on draft modalities and methodologies.⁴⁰

63. As part of its 31st meeting, on 8 March 2017 the LEG held a joint meeting with the AC, in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance and involving Parties and non-Party stakeholders, to further progress in addressing the mandates. Information on the outcomes of the meeting is available on the groups' joint website⁴¹ for their mandates. As a next step, the LEG and the AC tasked their joint working group to continue to work on the mandates and to prepare an updated paper on the modalities and methodologies. The paper will serve as the basis for a special event to be organized by the AC and the LEG and held at the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to present the latest findings in response to the mandates and to collect feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, with a view to selecting options to be included in relevant recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session.

I. Engaging regional centres and networks

64. With regard to the invitation of the LEG to regional centres and networks to nominate focal points for the LEG,⁴² the LEG noted that some had communicated their focal points to it and requested the secretariat to continue to follow up with those that have yet to do so. It decided to start to actively engage the regional centres and networks in implementing relevant activities, including with regard to regional training workshop on NAPs, regional NAP expos and regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation.

³⁷ FCCC/SBI/2016/18, paragraphs 22–25.

³⁸ The presentation made at the side event is available at http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/ac-leg_side_event_ppt_10nov.pdf.

³⁹ <http://unfccc.int/9761>.

⁴⁰ http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/ac-leg2_mandates.pdf.

⁴¹ <http://unfccc.int/9785>.

⁴² Decision 19/CP.21, paragraph 9.

V. Collaboration with other bodies and programmes under the Convention

65. The LEG took note of the following collaborative activities with relevant bodies under the Convention:

(a) Continued successful collaboration with the AC through the work of the AC NAP task force and the technical examination process on adaptation, and on addressing joint mandates given to them by the COP in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45;

(b) Ongoing collaboration with the TEC, including contributing to the work of the TEC on addressing its mandate from the COP, in collaboration with the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the AC and the LEG, to consider how it can help Parties to align their technology needs assessments with the process to formulate and implement NAPs;⁴³

(c) Contribution to the work of the task force on displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;

(d) Engagement with the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.

66. The LEG also took note of an invitation from the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice requesting the LEG to consider providing recommendations for activities to be undertaken under the NWP in support of the work of the LEG. The LEG reaffirmed the continued engagement of NWP partner organizations in various activities of its work programme, including strengthening considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems, NAP Expos, NAP case studies and training on NAPs.

VI. Discussions with relevant organizations

A. Support provided to the least developed countries for adaptation

67. Detailed information on specific support provided for NAPs and NAPAs is captured in chapter II.B and C above. On that, the LEG noted that some of the initiatives that were presented as providing support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs may not necessarily fit within the NAP context. The LEG agreed on the need to develop an outreach product of a good process for formulating and implementing NAPs in order to clearly inform various stakeholders on identifying, aligning and/or designing support for the process.

68. The LEG invited the organizations present at its 31st meeting to continue to raise awareness, within their networks, on providing information on support provided to the LDCs for adaptation and on potential engagement in the work of the LEG.

B. Collaboration on specific activities

69. Organizations emphasized the need to explore ways to maintain the momentum in the formulation of NAPs, given that many partners were looking forward to showcasing available support and to soliciting emerging experience and needs of countries for support.

⁴³ Decision 3/CP.21, paragraph 5.

They suggested the possible organization of a high-level meeting at COP 23 (November 2017) aimed at maintaining the significance of NAPs.

70. The LEG presented an update on progress made by the NAP technical working group, particularly in relation to the development of the NAP-SDG iFrame and supporting the regional training workshops on NAPs.

71. The LEG reminded organizations of the NAP Calendar on NAP Central, aimed at providing up-to-date information to countries and relevant stakeholders on various events on NAPs, and invited organizations to continue to provide information to the LEG on relevant events. It was agreed to continue to use the NAP Calendar in order to better coordinate training and other NAP-related activities undertaken by all stakeholders.

C. Synergy among the Rio Conventions

72. Taking advantage of the attendance of the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at the meeting, ongoing activities under the three Rio Conventions that would promote synergy in tackling adaptation, biodiversity and land degradation related actions were considered. The following areas were identified as immediate potential areas of mutual benefit across the three themes in the context of the formulation and implementation of NAPs: assessment of future climate risks; capturing and applying traditional and indigenous knowledge in addressing climate risks; supporting countries in developing strategic financing frameworks; addressing linkages to the SDGs; and joint peer-to-peer exchange at the regional level.

VII. Rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2017–2018

73. The LEG developed its two-year rolling work programme for 2017–2018, taking into account its vision of supporting the LDCs in producing quality NAPs by 2018, or by 2020 at the latest.

74. The work programme contains the following clusters of activities that would help the LDCs in addressing adaptation and contribute towards sustainable development:

- (a) Direct support to countries in developing and implementing adaptation action by, inter alia:
 - (i) Providing technical guidance and support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs;
 - (ii) Conducting Open NAP case studies in open collaboration with countries, interested partner organizations and experts, to promote learning and facilitate the application of technical approaches to support the work on NAPs at the national level;
 - (iii) Reviewing and providing feedback to countries on their national plans (NAPs and NAPAs) and other relevant outputs and outcomes;
 - (iv) Facilitating the use of NAP Central to help countries advance their work;
 - (v) Interaction with national country teams during events held in their countries, involving senior policymakers and technical experts, to discuss and provide advice, as appropriate, on progress made, experience, challenges, gaps and needs;

- (vi) Facilitating the application of guidelines and tools for supporting countries at the national level;
- (b) Collaboration, including the provision of inputs to organizations and processes that provide support to the LDCs, including:
 - (i) Working with the GCF secretariat in supporting countries to access funding from the GCF for the formulation of NAPs and the implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified by them;
 - (ii) Working with the GEF to support the countries in accessing funding from the LDCF for the implementation of the LDC work programme and activities to facilitate the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
 - (iii) Working with the NAP support programmes and networks and other relevant programmes in designing and providing support to the countries on the formulation and implementation of NAPs;
 - (iv) Engagement of a wide range of organizations, regional centres and networks in providing and/or facilitating access to technical and financial support to the countries;
- (c) Provision of support to the intergovernmental process on adaptation and other issues related to the LDCs by:
 - (i) Supporting the assessment of progress in the implementation of the LDC work programme and future revisions and updates;
 - (ii) Supporting the assessment by the SBI of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
 - (iii) Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement by addressing mandates to the AC and the LEG from decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45;
 - (d) Supporting NAPs and other adaptation processes more broadly by:
 - (i) Convening NAP Expos to advance the process to formulate and implement NAPs by promoting the exchange of experience and fostering partnerships between a wide range of actors and stakeholders;
 - (ii) Knowledge management in support of adaptation planning and implementation through NAP Central;
 - (iii) Use of the Open NAPs to promote learning and offer opportunities for proof-of-concept on various technical methods to support effective adaptation planning and implementation;
 - (iv) Development and wide dissemination of technical papers, guidelines and information papers on various topics, including on experiences, best practices and lessons learned, gender, vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems, regional approaches and monitoring and assessment.

75. The work programme is presented in annex I and is arranged according to the 10 work areas of the LEG developed in the work programme for 2016–2017.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ FCCC/SBI/2016/7, annex I.

Rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2017–2018

<i>Work area/expected outcome</i>	<i>Main activities</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
Advancing NAPs through technical guidance and support	Guidelines and technical materials	
	Prepare a description of the NAP-SDG iFrame and supporting tools with the support of the NAP technical working group	Technical paper/supplementary materials to the NAP technical guidelines
	Prepare an outreach product on good practices in the design of the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Outreach product in 2017
	Prepare a technical paper on monitoring and assessing the achievement of both objectives and all the guiding principles of the process to formulate and implement NAPs, taking into account new elements arising from the Paris Agreement, with the support of the NAP technical working group	Technical paper/supplement to the NAP technical guidelines in 2018
	Organize meetings of the NAP technical working group with relevant technical experts and partners on the NAP-SDG iFrame, Open NAPs, integrated assessment methods and other topics, as and when needs arise, to explore specific NAP-related topics	Information to be included in LEG reports in 2017–2018
	NAP Expo	
	Convene NAP Expo and regional NAP Expos	NAP Expo in April 2018 and regional NAP Expos in 2017–2018
	Training on NAPs	
	Develop training materials, including supporting materials for the NAP-SDG iFrame, for the workshops and translate them into relevant languages, including an online version for national use	Training materials on NAPs in multiple languages

<i>Work area/expected outcome</i>	<i>Main activities</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
	Conduct regional training workshops on NAPs	Regional training workshops in 2017
	Open NAP case studies	
	Expand the Open NAP case studies and apply them during the NAP workshops as well as upon the request of the LDCs	Case study reports on NAP Central
	Extend the Open NAP case studies to the regional level to demonstrate regional approaches to adaptation planning and to promote learning and effectiveness of guidance on NAPs across scales	Case study reports on NAP Central
	NAP Central	
	Further develop and enhance NAP Central by implementing a NAP progress tracking tool and applying the PEG M&E tool to assess progress at the national and global aggregate level, interactive pages to support the regional workshops and events, knowledge support for the NAP-SDG iFrame and other relevant enhancements in support of NAPs	Additional functions on NAP Central operational
Enhancing LDCs' access to GCF funding for NAPs (by engaging with the GCF secretariat)	Continue to engage the GCF secretariat in LEG meetings, NAP Expos, regional training workshops and related events to address issues relating to the LDCs accessing GCF funding for NAPs	Summary of issues relating to the LDCs accessing the GCF included in LEG reports
	Share information with the GCF secretariat on expediting the provision of support to the LDCs and other developing countries for formulating and implementing NAPs	Regular exchange of information with the GCF secretariat and the GCF Board
	Develop training and outreach materials, with input from the GCF secretariat and GCF implementing partners, on accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs for use in the NAP training workshops	Training and outreach materials
	Share information with the GCF on the experience of the LDCs and the challenges faced by them in accessing	Ongoing information-sharing with the GCF

<i>Work area/expected outcome</i>	<i>Main activities</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
	funding from the GCF for NAPs	
	Prepare sample sets of activities, reflecting different national circumstances and stages involved, for inclusion in proposals for accessing funding from the GCF for NAPs	Information notes on NAP Central
Providing technical guidance and support for NAPAs and the least developed countries work programme	Provide ongoing support to the LDCs and the SBI on NAPAs	Technical support to the LDCs
	Continue to track and report on progress in the implementation of NAPAs under the LDCF	Information in LEG reports
	Address the mandate on the revision and update of the least developed countries work programme and provide recommendations to the SBI	Technical papers in 2018 and recommendations to SBI 48
Strengthening considerations regarding gender and vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems	Finalize the information paper on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems	Information paper on vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems
	Continue to consider how gender responsiveness is considered in NAPs	Updated training and related technical materials to reflect considerations regarding gender and vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems
Providing technical guidance and advice on regional approaches to adaptation planning	Develop supplementary guidelines on regional approaches to adaptation planning and their implementation	Supplementary guidelines by end of 2017
Supporting the monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness, gaps and adequacy in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Test and facilitate the application of the PEG M&E tool at the national level and in aggregate under the SBI, and update the tool accordingly	Information notes on the results
Successfully supporting the assessment by the SBI of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs referred to in	Continue to produce an annual update for the SBI on progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Information papers to SBI 47 and 49

<i>Work area/expected outcome</i>	<i>Main activities</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
decision 4/CP.21, paragraph 12	Aggregate information on progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs for each developing country by key element and principle of the process	Online progress tracking tool on NAP Central (see the activity on NAP Central under the work area “Advancing NAPs through technical guidance and support” above)
	Organize meeting of Party experts, in collaboration with the AC, and prepare a report on the meeting for consideration at SBI 48 (April–May 2018)	Meeting by February 2018 and report on the meeting for SBI 48
	Prepare a technical paper on methods for processing and using information to assess progress, effectiveness and gaps with the support of the NAP technical working group	Technical paper (see the activity on guidelines and technical materials under the work area “Advancing NAPs through technical guidance and support” above)
Successfully supporting the Paris Agreement	Address the mandates contained in decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45, jointly with the AC and in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance and prepare a report for consideration at CMA 1	Interim reports on progress, event at the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to gather feedback, and a final report to CMA 1
	Prepare a technical paper on gaps and needs for the LDCs related to adaptation that would arise from the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including how those gaps and needs can be addressed by the LEG and/or others	Technical paper by SBI 47
Collaborating with relevant bodies under the Convention	Continue to collaborate with the AC on various activities, including through the NAP technical working group, NAP Expo advisory group, NAP Central support group, AC task force on NAPs and technical examination process on adaptation	LEG member to serve on AC task force, and information in LEG reports
	Participate in the work of the task force on displacement of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with	LEG member to serve on the task force, and information in LEG reports

<i>Work area/expected outcome</i>	<i>Main activities</i>	<i>Outputs</i>
	Climate Change Impacts	
	Engage NWP partner organizations in implementing relevant activities	Information in LEG reports
	Contribute to the work of the TEC on how to help countries align their work on TNAs and NAPs	Information in LEG reports
Engaging regional centres and networks, and relevant organizations	Engage and mobilize regional centres and networks to nominate focal points to the LEG	Nominated focal points of regional centres and networks
	Mobilize relevant organizations and regional centres and networks to enhance support provided to the LDCs for adaptation, including in relation to readiness for accessing funding from the GCF for successful formulation and implementation of NAPs	Expanded readiness support, and information in LEG reports

Abbreviations: AC = Adaptation Committee, CMA = Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, GCF = Green Climate Fund, LDCs = least developed countries, LDCF = Least Developed Countries Fund, LEG = Least Developed Countries Expert Group, NAP = national adaptation plan, NAPA = national adaptation programme of action, NAP-SDG iFrame = Integrative Framework for National Adaptation Plans and Sustainable Development Goals, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, PEG M&E tool = tool for monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps in addressing adaptation in the least developed countries, SBI = Subsidiary Body for Implementation, SBI = Subsidiary Body for Implementation, TEC = Technology Executive Committee, TNAs = technology needs assessments.

Annex II

Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 7 March 2017

Mr. Abias Huongo	Angola
Mr. Erwin Künzi	Austria
Ms. Sonam Khandu	Bhutan
Mr. Idrissa Semde	Burkina Faso
Ms. Beth Lavender	Canada
Mr. Adrian Fitzgerald	Ireland
Mr. Benon Yassin	Malawi
Mr. Naresh Sharma	Nepal
Mr. Aderito Santana	Sao Tome and Principe
Mr. Adao Barbosa	Timor-Leste
Mr. Mery Yaou	Togo
Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania
Mr. Brian Phillips	Vanuatu
