



**UNITED  
NATIONS**



**Framework Convention  
on Climate Change**

Distr.  
GENERAL

FCCC/SBI/2006/23  
6 October 2006

Original: ENGLISH

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**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

**Twenty-fifth session**

**Nairobi, 6–14 November 2006**

**Item 8 (b) of the provisional agenda**

**Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention**

**Matters relating to the least developed countries**

**Report on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group**

**Note by the secretariat\***

*Summary*

This document reports on the tenth meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), held in Kampala, Uganda, from 4 to 6 September 2006. It provides a response to decision 4/CP.11, which requests the LEG to develop a work programme that includes the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action. It also provides a response to the request made by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its twenty-fourth session, to be kept informed by the LEG of its efforts to implement the work programme over the biennium 2006–2007.

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\* This document was submitted after the due date as a result of the timing of the meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.

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## I. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 29/CP.7, established the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to advise on the preparation and implementation strategy for national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), and adopted the terms of reference of the LEG. According to these terms of reference, the LEG is to convene its meeting twice each year, and report on its work to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).
2. By its decision 4/CP.11, the COP decided to extend the mandate of the LEG under its original terms of reference and to review the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the group, and to adopt a decision thereon, at its thirteenth session (December 2007).
3. As requested by decision 4/CP.11, the LEG developed, at its ninth meeting, a work programme for 2006–2007,<sup>1</sup> which was considered by the SBI at its twenty-fourth session. The SBI expressed its appreciation to the LEG for its good work and welcomed the work programme it had developed. The LEG was requested to keep the SBI informed of its efforts to implement the work programme over the biennium 2006–2007, in accordance with its mandate, by including in its subsequent reports information on expected outcomes.

## II. Summary of the tenth meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

4. The tenth meeting of the LEG was hosted by the Government of Uganda and held in Kampala, Uganda, from 4 to 6 September 2006. The Governments of Belgium, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and Norway provided financial support for the meeting.
5. As requested by decision 4/CP.11 and by the SBI, at its twenty-fourth session (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, paragraphs 74–77), the LEG continued its efforts to implement its work programme in accordance with its mandate. Its tenth meeting focused on reviewing the NAPA preparation and implementation process; considering efforts that support Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the preparation of NAPAs; elaborating further activities in support of the implementation of its work programme; and interacting with the NAPA team of Uganda.

### A. Review of national adaptation programmes of action preparation

#### 1. Status of NAPA preparation

6. The LEG was advised that, as at 31 August 2006, 44 NAPA proposals have been approved for funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Of this number, six have been completed and submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. Niger submitted its NAPA in July.
7. Among LDC Parties that are in the process of preparing their NAPAs, seven have submitted their draft NAPAs to the LEG for comments, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the annex to decision 29/CP.7. The status of preparation of several NAPAs could not easily be determined from the information available to the LEG. It was noted that several of the LDC Parties, especially those which only recently emerged from conflict, are overcoming barriers to start their NAPA preparation.
8. The LEG concluded that there was a need to update its database of information on the status of NAPA preparation as well as its list of experts to assist NAPA teams, available on the UNFCCC website at: <[http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_and\\_support/ldc/items/3541.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/ldc/items/3541.php)>.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex I of document FCCC/SBI/2006/9.

9. The LEG agreed to develop a survey to collect, at COP 12, information on the status of NAPA preparation from LDC Parties and from the implementing agencies of the GEF. It also agreed to communicate information more widely to NAPA teams of its availability, upon request, to assist in providing technical feedback on draft NAPAs.

#### 2. LEG comments on draft NAPAs

10. In accordance with decision 29/CP.7, annex, paragraph 9 (a), the LEG was requested to provide comments on the draft NAPAs of Haiti, Madagascar, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

11. The compiled comments made by LEG members, input from implementing agencies and other invited comments on the draft NAPAs were discussed. The LEG noted that the NAPAs submitted for comments were of a high quality and followed the NAPA guidelines, often exceeding the reporting requirements by, for example, providing detailed biogeographical data on the country. It was also noted that project profiles were presented in varying levels of detail, and several NAPAs presented an implementation strategy for the prioritized projects proposed for implementation.

12. The LEG discussed the compiled comments and agreed to release them to the NAPA teams and to advise the respective implementing agencies of its comments. Initiatives by the LEG to facilitate and further improve the timeliness of responding to draft NAPAs were also discussed and agreed. These initiatives include developing a template to assist the LEG in providing standardized responses and monitoring the submission and response process in order to improve the LEG's responsiveness.

#### **B. Consideration of efforts to facilitate preparation of the national adaptation programmes of action**

13. The LEG was advised of the discussions at SBI 24 between the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and representatives of the implementing agencies of the GEF, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with technical support from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), to assist Parties in the NAPA process, to address the capacity-building needs for NAPAs and to further facilitate support provided for the development of project proposals for funding. The discussion on capacity-building was targeted at two groups, namely, Parties that are well advanced in the process and Parties that have started the NAPA process.

##### 1. Parties that are well advanced in the NAPA process

14. The LEG was advised that UNITAR, taking advantage of the planned tenth meeting of the LEG, with technical support from UNEP and UNDP, scheduled two training workshops for anglophone African LDCs that are well advanced in the NAPA process, but have not yet finalized the NAPA reports for endorsement by their national authorities.

15. The secretariat reported on the two training workshops which were held in Kampala, Uganda, from 23–26 August 2006 and in Nairobi, Kenya, from 30 August to 2 September 2006, prior to the tenth LEG meeting. The main objective of these meetings was to provide hands-on training to assist LDCs from Eastern and Southern Africa to finalize their NAPA documents, mainly by strengthening the collection and use of climate change and socio-economic data in these documents, especially for the project profiles. Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia were represented at the workshops.

16. The LEG received a communication from the participants that attended the Workshop to Support NAPAs in Anglophone African Countries in Nairobi requesting it to provide more guidance and support.

The workshop participants had made extensive use of the NAPA annotated guidelines, which led them to conclude that further assistance was needed in developing project profiles, especially in order to present the information in greater detail.

17. Additional NAPA training workshops for Parties that are well advanced in the process are planned to take place by the end of 2006 or in early 2007, subject to the availability of resources.

#### 2. Parties that have started the NAPA process

18. The LEG was also advised of the efforts of UNITAR in discussions with the Chair of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to conduct a NAPA preparation workshop for LDCs in the Asia region with the support of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID). This training workshop is planned for late 2006 or early 2007 and is designed to assist LDCs in the Asia region that have started the NAPA preparation and are in need of technical advice and guidance in order to progress further.

19. The LEG also discussed and agreed that for the Asia region the use of national experts from countries that are well advanced, or that had completed their NAPAs, could provide practical experience on the NAPA process and improve the sharing of information between countries in the region.

20. The LEG concluded that the participation of its members in this effort is to be encouraged with the objective, among others, of receiving feedback from the NAPA teams on technical constraints in the NAPA process.

### **C. Consideration of the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and its expected outcomes**

21. The work programme of the LEG as contained in annex 1 to document FCCC/SBI/2006/9, as well as the SBI 24 conclusions contained in document FCCC/SBI/2006/11, was further considered by the LEG at its tenth meeting.

#### 1. Further elaboration of the LEG work programme, 2006–2007

22. Activities and related actions in the work programme were further elaborated and the members who would implement the activities identified. In organizing the work, the members established five task teams, based on paragraphs 9 (a) to (e) of the annex to decision 29/CP.7, led by a LEG member to coordinate efforts to implement the mandate.

23. In organizing itself to complete its work programme, the LEG will focus on the NAPAs submitted to the secretariat. To achieve its expected outcomes, the group has identified the following actions to guide its work between its tenth and eleventh meetings:

- (a) Develop a template for use in the narrative section of completed NAPAs in order to synthesize information on the use of the NAPA guidelines contained in the annex to decision 28/CP.7;
- (b) Compile information from the template above, on prioritized projects contained in the project profiles in completed NAPAs;
- (c) Develop a questionnaire to obtain updated information from NAPA teams and the implementing agencies on technical constraints being encountered in the preparation of NAPAs;

- (d) Extract from the questionnaire information on financial and technical needs and support that can assist NAPA implementation;
- (e) Extract information on efforts aimed at mainstreaming NAPAs into development planning;
- (f) Identify best practices from adaptation that could support implementation.

24. To complement the above activities, the LEG plans to invite LDC Parties to a stocktaking meeting for NAPA preparation and implementation. The main objectives would be to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the status of the NAPA preparation; to facilitate the sharing of experiences in NAPA preparation and implementation; to identify best practices in NAPA preparation; and to guide project implementation and to consider how best to mainstream NAPA activities into national development planning.

2. Implementation of the LEG work programme, 2006–2007: Expected outcomes

25. In responding to the request from the SBI, at its twenty-fourth session,<sup>2</sup> the LEG further detailed its workplan by identifying the following expected outcomes from its activities:

- (a) Status of NAPA preparation: actions and activities identified will enable the LEG to monitor the NAPA preparation process and provide the appropriate responses to Parties in need of assistance;
- (b) Comments on draft NAPAs: in addition to continuing its practice of consulting and interacting with NAPA teams of LDC Parties that are the hosts of its mandated meetings, the LEG has provided technical feedback to Haiti, Kiribati, Madagascar, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The LEG anticipates that by communicating directly with national NAPA teams its actions will provide the input that would assist the teams in finalizing the draft NAPAs for submission to the respective authorities and ultimately to the UNFCCC secretariat;
- (c) NAPA preparation and implementation: by maintaining oversight of the activities of the GEF's implementing agencies providing capacity-building with assistance from UNITAR, the LEG expects to provide input to these activities being undertaken, coordinating its efforts to support the activities and to provide through its membership a vital link between the agencies and the LEG activities in order to monitor both the financial and technical support being provided to LDCs in the NAPA process. It also expects, based on the interaction between and among the various actors, to identify and respond to any gaps in support and identify technical needs that may emerge from LDCs between them and the various actors.

26. The LEG also agreed to continue interacting with LDC Parties, implementing agencies and other relevant actors in the NAPA process in order to better advise on the issues of implementation, to identify best practices that have been reported by LDCs as a result of national efforts to prepare NAPAs, to share experiences in mainstreaming of NAPAs into national development planning and to formulate a response to possible means of incorporating NAPA results into national communications of LDCs.

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<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBI/2006/11.

**D. Interaction of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group with Uganda's national adaptation programme of action team**

27. In conjunction with its tenth meeting, and in keeping with the past practice of interacting with NAPA teams of the host country, the LEG conducted an interactive session with representatives of the Uganda NAPA team.
28. The Uganda NAPA team noted that it was in the final stages of NAPA preparation and that the final draft had been sent to the LEG for comments. The team briefed the LEG on its main findings.
29. The Uganda NAPA team presented an overview of the NAPA process, its institutional arrangements and stakeholder consultations. The presentation focused on the challenges that emerged from the national exercise. They indicated that some of these challenges were: how to capture the wealth of undocumented information available at the local and regional levels; how to deal with the raised expectations of stakeholders, as a result of the consultations and the fear that the expectations might not be realized; how to solve the problem of demarcating ecosystems across Uganda; how to resolve the difficulty in determining what should be the focus of attention in each area; and how to address the extreme difficulty in shortlisting prioritized activities for implementation across the needs identified by the NAPA study.
30. The LEG was also advised that, on the basis of the recent workshop held in Kenya, the Uganda NAPA team concluded that there is a need for them to re-examine the NAPA project profiles contained in the draft submitted to the LEG in an attempt to improve the presentation of information.

Annex

**Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group  
as at 31 August 2006**

Mr. Erwin Kuenzi	Austria
Mr. Mahmood H. Khan	Bangladesh
Ms. Renata Vandeputte <sup>1</sup>	Belgium
Mr. Karma L. Rapten	Bhutan
Ms. Elizabeth Harvey	Canada
Mr. Bubu Pateh Jallow	Gambia
Mr. Samuel Raboqha	Lesotho
Mr. Ahmed Jameel	Maldives
Mr. Almeida Alberto Siteo	Mozambique
Ms. Madeleine Rose Diouf-Sarr <sup>1</sup>	Senegal
Mr. Chanel Iroi	Solomon Islands
Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri	Uganda

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<sup>1</sup> Also a member of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.