



UNITED
NATIONS



Framework Convention
on Climate Change

Distr.
GENERAL

FCCC/SBI/2003/INF.6
13 May 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Eighteenth session

Bonn, 4–13 June 2003

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4, PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9, OF THE CONVENTION

MATTERS RELATING TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Views from the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on strategies for implementing national adaptation programmes of action and ways and means to address the various elements of the least developed countries work programme

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 8/CP.8, decided to adopt additional guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund established under decisions 5/CP.7 and 7/CP.7 (FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1). By the same decision, the COP invited Parties, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Global Environment Facility and its implementing and executing agencies to submit, by 15 April 2003, views on strategies for implementing national adaptation programmes of action and ways and means to address the various elements of the least developed countries work programme, in order to meet the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of least developed countries, for consideration by Parties at the eighteenth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.
2. The secretariat has received a submission from the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and this is reproduced below in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

Annex

**Views by the LDC Expert Group
on strategies for implementing national adaptation programmes of action
and ways and means to address the various elements
of the Least Developed Countries Work Programme**

A. The implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) in the context of overall adaptation funding

1. By its decision 8/CP.8, the COP invited the LDC Expert Group to submit to the secretariat views on strategies for implementing NAPAs, and ways and means to address the various elements of the LDC work programme.
2. As noted in decision 5/CP.7, the following are the elements of the LDC Work Programme:
 - i. Strengthening/establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points;
 - ii. Training in negotiating skills and language for LDC negotiators;
 - iii. Preparation and implementation of NAPAs;
 - iv. Promotion of public awareness programmes;
 - v. Development and transfer of technology, particularly adaptation technology;
 - vi. Strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to support implementation of NAPAs;
 - vii. Establishment of the LEG.
3. The LDC Fund was set up to fund the LDC work programme. This does not necessarily imply that all elements of the work programme need be funded from the LDC Fund. In decision 5/CP.7 Annex II Parties are invited to contribute financially to the LDC work programme. Furthermore, in decision 8/CP.8, Annex II Parties are encouraged to support, through bilateral and other sources of funding, LDCs on training needs in negotiating skills and language. Decision 27/CP.7 specifies that the LDC Fund is to be complementary to other relevant funds, including the Special Climate Change Fund and the Adaptation Fund.
4. Given its mandate and terms of reference, in addressing NAPA implementation the LEG will focus on the technical aspects of such advice.
5. NAPAs are an expression of urgent and immediate needs (broadly to include activities, such as projects, integration into other activities, capacity building and policy reform). Parties are in the process of preparing their NAPAs and it is expected that most will be completed within 18-24 months of January 2003.

6. It is expected that over 40 NAPAs, each with a number of prioritized activities, will be seeking implementation within the next two years. It is expected that there will be at least two broad sets of activities identified in NAPAs:

(a) Activities that create an enabling environment to facilitate the integration of urgent and immediate adaptation activities into national planning processes;

(b) Concrete adaptation projects.

7. Given this likelihood, the LEG decided to provide criteria for guiding implementation decisions. This work will be presented, as an information document, before COP 9. It is intended to facilitate discussions by Parties and preparation prior to COP 9.

8. In its initial phase, the LEG provided guidance and advice on the interpretation of the NAPA guidelines in support of the efforts of individual LDCs in preparing their NAPAs. As attention starts to turn to the implementation of NAPAs, the LEG has determined that additional advice on broad criteria to inform collective implementation efforts would be helpful.

B. The LDC Work Programme

9. The LDC work programme has gone through an iterative process from the first meeting of the LDC Group in Geneva in October 2000 till COP 7. The LEG has reviewed this work programme as outlined in decision 5/CP.7.

10. At the third meeting of the LEG, held in March 2003, the group noted, as per the mandate outlined in decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 11 (b), and based on feedback from LDC Parties to members of the group, that the immediate priority is to enable LDC Parties to participate effectively in the climate change process. As a first step there is need to ensure the provision of:

- (a) Simultaneous interpretation (English/French) for the LDC group's meetings, and office facilities, during the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the Conference of the Parties; and
- (b) Technical, methodological and/or policy support to LDC Parties.

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