

21 May 2003

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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 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

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

In addition to the submissions included in document FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.4, one further submission has been received. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

FCCC/SBI/2003/MISC.4/Add.1

GE.03-61761

PAPER SUBMITTED BY GREECE ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND
ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY GREECE ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

ATHENS, 15 APRIL 2003

Guidance to an operating entity for the Least Developed Countries Fund. 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

Greece, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on strategies for implementing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and ways and means to address the various elements of the least developed countries (LDCs) work programme, in accordance with the decision 8/CP. 8.

The European Union recalls with satisfaction the effective establishment of the Least Developed Countries Fund and important contributions made and/or pledges by different donor countries, which add up to approximately 13 million € until now.

According to the decision 7/CP.7 establishing the Least Developed Countries Fund, the purpose of the fund is to support an LDC work programme, as described in decision 5/CP.7. This work programme includes, inter alia, the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. In accordance with the decision 27/CP.7, the Least Developed Countries Fund supports, as the first step in supporting the LDCs work programme, the preparation of NAPAs. The European Union notes with satisfaction that the funding requests from at least eight countries for the preparation of their NAPAs have already been accepted and that several other requests are in the process of being finalized.

We also note with satisfaction the work of the LDCs expert group, the continuation and terms of reference of which shall be reviewed at CoP9. We welcome the fact that, following the CoP8 request to organize four regional workshops in 2003 to advise least developed countries in order to advance the process for preparing NAPAs in these regions, one of them has already taken place and the three others are under planning.

The European Union believes that the mainstreaming of adaptation into sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies is essential. In addition, synergies with other UN relevant environment conventions and the GEF activities should be effectively used, particularly the national action programmes prepared under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) harness similar elements to NAPAs. For us, a fundamental aspect during the phase of preparation of Napas is to give adequate attention to the issue of feasibility of proposed actions keeping in mind that preparation of NAPAs aims to contribute to implementation and concrete realization of the actions proposed in NAPAs, in order to meet the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of LDCs.

The European Union notes with satisfaction that 99 Non-Annex I Parties, amongst which 27 LDCs, have already prepared their first national communication. For developing countries, including LDCs that do not wish to request the assistance for NAPAs because they have already completed the necessary analytical work on adaptation priorities, resources may be made available, in accordance with decision 6/CP.7, to present pilot or demonstration projects to GEF to show how adaptation planning and assessment can be practically implemented.

The exchange of views and experiences is still needed in order to prepare the future implementation of NAPAs. The analysis of the results of the Napas and the advise from the LDCs expert group are useful contributions to this debate. We also consider that inputs from the developing countries, in particular the LDCs themselves, the donor community and the GEF experience should be taken into account, in accordance with decision 8/CP.8

Through the mainstreaming of adaptation into general sustainable development policy and poverty reduction strategies, the EU believes that the funds established under the Convention and the Protocol will complement other development assistance channels. Thereby the LDC Fund will contribute to the preparation and implementation of adaptation strategies on the basis of NAPAs. These adaptation strategies should also be closely linked to the overall national development frameworks as laid out in National Sustainable Development Strategies and/or Poverty reduction Strategy Papers.

The European Union emphasizes the role of bilateral and multilateral assistance which already funds activities included in the LDCs work programme. We recognize the needs of the LDCs with regard to training in negotiation skills and language and encourage the bilateral and other sources of funding to address these needs, in accordance of the decision 8/CP.8.

The European Union recalls that a future decision for additional activities to be supported by the Least Developed Countries Fund should build on and follow from the results of NAPAs which, as defined in the annex of decision 28/CP.7, will be useful planning instruments to promote sustainable development.

In the future the various elements of the LDCs work programme should be addressed by focusing on synergies and links they have with the ongoing capacity building initiatives, such as the GEF Capacity Development Initiative and the results of capacity needs assessments, the implementation of the Framework for Capacity Building under the Convention as well as sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies and other UN relevant environment conventions.

- - - - -