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## **Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Matters relating to the least developed countries**

# **Progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group**

**Synthesis report by the secretariat**


## *Summary*

This report has been prepared as input to the discussions on the review of progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. It takes into account views submitted by Parties, the outcomes of the stocktaking meeting on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, information from reports of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and other relevant information.

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
Annex II Party	Party included in Annex II to the Convention
COP	Conference of the Parties
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
LDC	least developed country
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NAPA	national adaptation programme of action
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## I. Introduction

### A. Mandate

1. The COP decided to review, at COP 26, the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG with a view to adopting a decision thereon.<sup>1</sup>

2. It decided on the following actions and steps necessary for SBI 52 to initiate the review:<sup>2</sup>

(a) Requesting the LEG to convene before June 2020, with the assistance of the secretariat, a meeting with representatives of Parties and relevant organizations to take stock of its work (hereinafter referred to as the LEG stocktaking meeting);

(b) Inviting Parties to submit their views on the work of the LEG via the submission portal<sup>3</sup> by 1 February 2020 for consideration at SBI 52;

(c) Requesting the secretariat to prepare a report on the LEG stocktaking meeting for consideration at SBI 52 as input to the review;

(d) Requesting the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG on the basis of submissions from Parties, reports of the LEG, the report on the LEG stocktaking meeting and other relevant information for consideration at SBI 52 as input to the review.

### B. Scope of the report

3. This report draws on the following sources of information:

(a) The submissions from Parties referred to in paragraph 2(b) above. As at 13 March 2020, three submissions had been received: from Bhutan on behalf of the LDCs; from Croatia and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States; and from the United States of America;<sup>4</sup>

(b) The reports on the meetings of the LEG in 2016–2020;<sup>5</sup>

(c) The report on the LEG stocktaking meeting, held from 10 to 12 February 2020 in Antananarivo;<sup>6</sup>

(d) Information provided by organizations prior to the LEG stocktaking meeting on activities related to providing support to the LDCs.

4. It provides information on achievements of the LEG; experience, good practices and lessons learned; and opportunities and challenges regarding its the work. In addition, it includes possible elements of a future mandate of the LEG, details the modalities of the LEG for delivering support to the LDCs, and includes proposals for improving the accessibility and transparency of the meetings and information of the LEG.

### C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this report when making recommendations to the COP on the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG.

<sup>1</sup> Decision 19/CP.21, para. 13.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 19/CP.21, para. 14.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> The submissions are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>5</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/documents-on-the-ldc-expert-group>.

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/7.

## II. Background

### A. Least Developed Countries Expert Group

6. The LEG was established in 2001 as part of the support provided to the LDCs under the UNFCCC.<sup>7</sup> Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention acknowledges the specific needs and special situations of the LDCs.

7. The LEG is mandated to provide technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs and for the implementation of the LDC work programme, including NAPAs.<sup>8</sup> The LEG is also mandated to provide technical guidance and advice on accessing GCF funding for the process to formulate and implement NAPs in collaboration with the GCF secretariat; on strengthening considerations regarding gender, vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; and on regional approaches to adaptation planning and implementation. Furthermore, the LEG is mandated to collaborate with other constituted bodies and to engage organizations, regional centres and networks in implementing its work programme. The current mandates of the LEG are to:

- (a) Provide technical guidance and support on the process to formulate and implement NAPs;<sup>9</sup>
- (b) Assist with the implementation of NAPs;<sup>10</sup>
- (c) Provide technical guidance and advice on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat;<sup>11</sup>
- (d) Support the implementation of the Paris Agreement;<sup>12</sup>
- (e) Support the SBI and the Parties in assessing progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and in identifying gaps and needs related to NAPs;<sup>13</sup>
- (f) Provide technical guidance and advice on the integration of climate change adaptation into national planning and the development of programmes that address both objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;<sup>14</sup>
- (g) Provide technical guidance and support on the implementation of the LDC work programme;<sup>15</sup>
- (h) Provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation, revision or update, and implementation strategy of NAPAs;<sup>16</sup>
- (i) Provide technical guidance and advice on regional approaches to adaptation planning;<sup>17</sup>
- (j) Provide technical guidance and advice on considerations regarding gender and vulnerable communities within LDC Parties;<sup>18</sup>
- (k) Support the work of other bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement as requested by the COP as well upon invitation from those bodies.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Decision 29/CP.7.

<sup>8</sup> The current mandate of the LEG is contained in decision 19/CP.21.

<sup>9</sup> Decision 5/CP.17, paras. 13–17; FCCC/SBI/2013/20, para. 107; decision 3/CP.20 and decision 19/CP.21.

<sup>10</sup> FCCC/SBI/2017/19, para. 73.

<sup>11</sup> Decision 3/CP.20; decision 19/CP.21, para. 2(c); decision 6/CP.22; FCCC/SBI/2016/20, para. 60; and FCCC/SBI/2017/7, para. 50.

<sup>12</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, paras. 41 and 45; decision 19/CP.21, para. 2(d); decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 15 and 35; and decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

<sup>13</sup> Decision 4/CP.21, paras. 12(d–e), and decision 8/CP.24, para. 17.

<sup>14</sup> Decision 19/CP.21, para. 2(a).

<sup>15</sup> Decision 16/CP.24, para. 5.

<sup>16</sup> Decision 29/CP.7; decision 8/CP.13; decision 5/CP.14, para. 1(b), and decision 6/CP.16.

<sup>17</sup> Decision 19/CP.21, para. 2(b).

<sup>18</sup> Decision 6/CP.16, para. 2(c).

<sup>19</sup> Decision 5/CP.17; decision 3/CP.21, para. 5; and decision 19/CP.21.

8. The LEG has 13 members: five experts from African LDC Parties, two from Asian LDC Parties, two from small island developing States that are LDC Parties, three from Annex II Parties, and one additional expert from the LDCs.

9. The LEG meets twice a year to develop, and review progress in implementing, its two-year rolling work programme. It holds regular teleconferences to facilitate discussions among its members on advancing its work. The terms of reference of the LEG are provided in annex I.

10. The LEG implements its work programme through a variety of modalities, which include providing technical guidance to the LDCs; technical guidelines and technical papers; training activities, workshops and expert meetings; NAP Expos; NAP Central; Open NAPs; capturing and sharing experience, best practices and lessons learned; monitoring progress, effectiveness and gaps in the process to formulate and implement NAPs; collaborating with other bodies; and mobilizing and engaging organizations, regional centres and networks. Details on the modalities employed by the LEG in delivering on its mandates are provided in annex II.

## B. Least developed countries work programme

11. The LDC work programme,<sup>20</sup> which was established in 2001, is aimed at implementing Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention, whereby Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the LDCs in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology. The elements of the LDC work programme, which was updated in 2018,<sup>21</sup> are presented in the table below.

### Elements of the least developed countries work programme

<i>Original LDC work programme elements<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Updated LDC work programme elements<sup>b</sup></i>
Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national climate change secretariats and/or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol in the LDC Parties	Continue strengthening existing, and where needed establishing, national climate change secretariats and/or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in the LDC Parties
Providing training, on an ongoing basis, in negotiating skills and language, where needed, to develop the capacity of negotiators from the LDCs to participate effectively in the climate change process	Continue providing training, as needed, in negotiating skills and language to develop the capacity of negotiators from the LDCs to participate effectively in the climate change process
Supporting the preparation of NAPAs	Supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs and related relevant adaptation strategies, including NAPAs Supporting the preparation and implementation of successive nationally determined contributions
Promotion of public awareness programmes to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues	Continue promoting public awareness programmes to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues
Development and transfer of technology, particularly adaptation technology (in accordance with decision 4/CP.7)	Continue strengthening cooperative action on adaptation technology development and transfer
Strengthening of the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support implementation of NAPAs	Continue strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, model, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of adaptation actions Continue supporting capacity-building initiatives to enable effective engagement in reporting and review activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as needed

<sup>a</sup> As contained in decision 5/CP.7, paras. 11–17.

<sup>b</sup> As contained in decision 16/CP.24, para. 3.

<sup>20</sup> Decision 5/CP.7, paras. 11–17.

<sup>21</sup> Decision 16/CP.24, para. 3.

### III. Activities and achievements of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2016–2020

12. In their submissions, Parties commended the LEG for delivering on its mandate to support the LDCs. They consider the LEG to be instrumental in supporting the LDCs in adapting to climate change. Some Parties specifically mentioned the valuable work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs in preparing and implementing NAPAs and in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

13. Parties highlighted some activities of the LEG that they considered to be particularly successful and effective in terms of delivering support to the LDCs:

- (a) Formulating the vision to guide the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
- (b) Providing technical guidance and support through technical guidelines, papers and publications, such as through the integrative framework for NAPs and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (c) Conducting regional training workshops on NAPs;
- (d) Organizing NAP Expos at the regional and global level;
- (e) Coordinating the NAP technical working group;
- (f) Establishing online platforms, including NAP Central, that enable countries to share experience, best practices and lessons learned, including outputs and documents;
- (g) Providing technical guidance and direct support to the LDCs through the Open NAPs;
- (h) Providing technical guidance and advice on the consideration of gender, vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and on regional approaches in adaptation planning and implementation;
- (i) Providing technical guidance and support for the LDC work programme and NAPAs;
- (j) Engaging and exchanging information with the GCF and GEF secretariats and other relevant entities on accessing funding;
- (k) Undertaking ongoing analysis of gaps and needs in relation to the LDCs;
- (l) Providing technical guidance on monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness, gaps and adequacy in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

14. Some Parties emphasized the advantages of the convening power of the LEG, which it uses to facilitate useful discussions among relevant United Nations agencies and organizations and the secretariats of the GCF and the GEF on issues related to providing technical and financial support to the LDCs for formulating and implementing their NAPs.

15. A detailed summary of the activities and key achievements of the LEG in 2016–2020, as at 16 March 2020, is contained in the report on the LEG stocktaking meeting.<sup>22</sup>

### IV. Activities of various actors within the Least Developed Countries Expert Group network

16. Parties consider the LEG to have a unique position as the oldest constituted body under the Convention that has established a good network with relevant actors. This relationship facilitates coordination of efforts to support the LDCs.

<sup>22</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/7, table 1.

## **A. National adaptation plan technical working group**

17. The NAP technical working group, coordinated by the LEG, has been effective in mobilizing organizations to work on the technical aspects of NAPs. The group has helped the LEG to plan and organize NAP Expos, implement the Open NAP initiative, develop a training strategy and hold training sessions for the LDCs on NAPs, develop supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs;<sup>23</sup> and support the ongoing development of NAP Central.

18. The NAP technical working group meets at the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies and at major LEG events with a view to advancing its support work. The group comprises expert representatives of more than 30 actors, including United Nations agencies and organizations, support programmes, bilateral agencies, regional centres and networks that provide technical support for NAPs.

19. In general, Parties consider the NAP technical working group to be effective at mobilizing, coordinating and aligning technical support provided to the LDCs by different actors for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

## **B. Supplements to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans**

20. The LEG and relevant organizations continue to develop supplementary materials to the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs. The materials provide in-depth coverage of specific steps in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

21. As at 13 March 2020, 26 supplements had been developed and were available on NAP Central.<sup>24</sup>

22. Through its direct work with the LDCs, the LEG identified a need to assist the LDCs in navigating the supplements. Organizations were encouraged to provide technical assistance to the LDCs to help them to use the supplements in formulating and implementing their NAPs. Consequently, several organizations have initiated activities to support countries in applying their respective supplements.

23. The NAP technical working group provides an avenue for coordinating such activities. The group envisions the development of an integrative supplement to link all existing and new supplements in order to support the LDCs in navigating them.

## **C. Inputs to the assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans**

24. Several organizations regularly inform the LEG of their activities and on LDCs' progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Their inputs are included in the reports<sup>25</sup> on the meetings of the LEG to the SBI and used in preparing the annual report on progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.<sup>26</sup>

25. In 2018 this exercise contributed information for the assessment of progress on NAPs, which led to the adoption of decision 8/CP.24.

<sup>23</sup> LEG. 2012. *National Adaptation Plans: Technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Guidelines/Pages/Technical-guidelines.aspx>.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Guidelines/Pages/Supplements.aspx>.

<sup>25</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/least-developed-countries-expert-group-leg/workshops-meetings-leg/napa>.

<sup>26</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/documents-national-adaptation-plans>.

26. The exercise is also useful for monitoring the nature of the provision of support by organizations to countries, which is important for identifying entry points for joint support, avoiding duplication of efforts and making use of technical materials and products.

## **D. Support programmes**

27. United Nations and other organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies, regional centres and networks have also responded to the request from the COP to support the LDCs on NAPs.<sup>27</sup> Joint programmes and networks have been established, and some organizations are conducting their own activities aimed at supporting the LDCs' work on NAPs. The LEG coordinates the NAP technical working group (see chap. IV.A above), which in turn coordinates efforts by relevant actors to support the LDCs and enhances coherence and synergy across their approaches.

28. The following initiatives provide support to the LDCs and contribute to the work of the LEG:

- (a) National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme;<sup>28</sup>
- (b) Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans;<sup>29</sup>
- (c) NAP Global Network;<sup>30</sup>
- (d) LDC Negotiators Global Support Programme.<sup>31</sup>

## **V. Good practices and lessons learned from the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group**

29. In their submissions and at the LEG stocktaking meeting,<sup>32</sup> Parties noted many good practices from the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs in terms of adaptation:

- (a) The technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs have helped to establish a framework and benchmark for the work on NAPs by the LDCs and other Parties and relevant actors;
- (b) The Open NAP initiative has been useful in providing direct country support and has helped to advance work on NAPs in the LDCs;
- (c) The NAP Expos are instrumental in facilitating face-to-face interaction and sharing of key challenges and best practices among the LDCs, providers of support and other relevant actors;
- (d) The regional training workshops on NAPs have been effective in helping countries to better understand the process to formulate and implement NAPs, with a focus on addressing key regional needs and contexts, and have provided a platform for South–South learning;
- (e) The hosting of LEG events by the LDCs provides numerous benefits to the host countries, such as enabling direct interaction between the LEG and the country teams for the provision of technical advice, facilitating high-level political awareness of and engagement in climate change adaptation, and promoting enhanced coordination among different actors;
- (f) Engagement between the LEG and the GCF and GEF secretariats has been effective in facilitating exchange of information on LDCs' progress and specific challenges

<sup>27</sup> Decision 12/CP.18, para. 8.

<sup>28</sup> Administered by UNDP and UNEP; see <https://www.globalsupportprogramme.org/nap-gsp>.

<sup>29</sup> Administered by UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; see <http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/en>.

<sup>30</sup> Secretariat hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development; see <http://napglobalnetwork.org>.

<sup>31</sup> Administered by UNDP and UNEP; see <https://www.globalsupportprogramme.org/ldc-negotiators>.

<sup>32</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/7, para. 14.



in accessing funding for adaptation, including for formulating NAPs, and in exploring ways to address those challenges;

(g) Collaboration among the LEG, other constituted bodies under the Convention and relevant organizations has allowed for effective coordination, alignment and delivery of support to the LDCs; for example, the collaboration of the LEG with the AC and the NAP Global Network in developing the *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*,<sup>33</sup> and the collaboration of the LEG and the AC in addressing mandates arising from decisions 1/CP.25 and 11/CMA.1;

(h) The NAP technical working group has been effective at mobilizing, coordinating and aligning the technical support provided by different actors to the LDCs for their formulation and implementation of NAPs;

(i) The LEG plays an important role in identifying gaps and needs in terms of the support required by the LDCs, and in communicating them to relevant actors and stakeholders;

(j) The development of a vision by the LEG to guide its work on providing support to the LDCs has helped it to prioritize its activities and align them with desired outcomes. The vision has also served as a guide to others providing support to the LDCs to align their activities with the work of the LEG;

(k) The technical discussions at the LEG meetings facilitate the Group's provision of support and guidance to the LDCs. This is reinforced by the multidisciplinary composition of the LEG and by the fact that LEG members are typically in senior implementation positions within their respective governments;<sup>34</sup>

(l) The composition of the LEG helps to ensure that analysis and support are tailored to the most vulnerable countries and based on experience on the ground. The participation of European Union and Umbrella Group experts also helps to ensure that global good practices and the perspectives of climate finance providers are captured;<sup>35</sup>

(m) The LEG deploys a range of tools to fulfil its mandate, including high-quality publications, major learning events, consultation workshops and side events at the sessions of the subsidiary bodies;

(n) The LEG, in its role as coordinator of the NAP technical working group, has been able to effectively reach out to, and leverage expertise and resources from, stakeholders outside the UNFCCC.

30. In addition to the lessons learned highlighted at the stocktaking meeting,<sup>36</sup> Parties identified the following experience and lessons learned from the work of the LEG:

(a) Consistent updates and regular communication among the LDCs and relevant funding agencies help to address the challenge of following the many and frequently changing procedures for accessing funding from the GCF;

(b) The LEG could take into account and leverage emerging initiatives and programmes such as the LDC 2050 Vision, the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience and the Global Commission on Adaptation, in addition to the work of the United Nations and other multilateral actors outside the UNFCCC process that contributes to adaptation efforts in the LDCs in its future work;

(c) The LDC work programme has become increasingly complex, which has led to many mandates for the LEG to address. Simplifying and streamlining the LEG workplan

<sup>33</sup> NAP Global Network and UNFCCC. 2019. *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines for the NAP Process*. A Dazé and C Church (eds.). Winnipeg, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at <http://www.napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-gender-responsive-national-adaptation-plans/>.

<sup>34</sup> Based on the submission of Croatia and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

<sup>35</sup> As footnote 34 above.

<sup>36</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/7, para. 15.

and clearly allocating responsibilities in the LDC work programme among the LEG and other stakeholders could be useful;

(d) Technical guidance and support to the LDCs on formulating and implementing NAPs has primarily focused on the national level, but as countries advance further in their work, the LEG should enhance the linkages between national- and subnational-level adaptation planning and implementation;

(e) As pointed out during the stocktaking meeting and one of the submissions, overlaps remain between the mandates of the LEG and the AC in supporting the LDCs, especially with regard to support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The AC considered ways to enhance the coherence of the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements,<sup>37</sup> and the overlaps could be revisited by Parties.

## **VI. Possible elements of a future mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group**

31. On the basis of the views submitted by Parties, the outcomes of the LEG stocktaking meeting and information contained in past reports of the LEG, the following elements, some of which are part of the current mandate, could be part of a future mandate of the LEG:

(a) Providing technical guidance and advice to the LDCs on implementing adaptation-related elements of the LDC work programme;

(b) Providing technical guidance and support to the LDCs on formulating and implementing NAPs;

(c) Providing technical guidance and advice on addressing gender sensitivity, vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems in the formulation of NAPs and the subsequent implementation of policies, projects and programmes;

(d) Facilitating dialogue among the LDCs and relevant entities on accessing funding from the GCF, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund for formulating and implementing NAPs and implementing other elements of the LDC work programme, in close collaboration with other constituted bodies;

(e) Brokering support from other sources for the implementation of NAPs and other elements of the LDC work programme;

(f) Identifying and addressing LDCs' specific gaps and needs in implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(g) Promoting coherence and synergy between climate change adaptation and related issues;

(h) Mobilizing and engaging relevant bodies and a wide range of organizations in supporting the implementation of the LEG and LDC work programmes, including through the creation of special task forces and ad hoc working groups to focus on specific areas of support.

32. Some Parties are of the view that a new mandate for the LEG should be for a term of a minimum of five years, or ideally 10 years to align with the timeline of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

33. Furthermore, some Parties are of the view that the LEG should consider how to make its technical materials, products, meetings and information on its workplan activities more transparent and accessible, such as by:

(a) Facilitating broad stakeholder participation in its meetings and activities;

(b) Exploring options for live-streaming its meetings to encourage more participation and help to enrich discussions;

<sup>37</sup> See decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 2–7.

(c) Uploading meeting documents before a meeting is held and disseminating meeting outcomes in a timely manner.

34. The LEG, following consideration of the mandate from SBI 51 on how to increase the accessibility and transparency of its meetings and information, recommended the following practices:<sup>38</sup>

(a) Publishing meeting documents on the UNFCCC website at least three weeks prior to each meeting, to the extent possible, unless decided otherwise by the LEG because, for example, the documents are sensitive in nature or are related to work in progress;

(b) Extending an invitation to LDC representatives on relevant boards and committees, such as the GCF Board, to take part in LEG meetings and contribute to the discussions;

(c) Continuing to invite individual experts as resource persons to contribute on particular topics and themes at meetings, and continuing to engage individual experts in the work of the NAP technical working group and other relevant areas of work of the LEG;

(d) Continuing to openly engage Parties and non-Party stakeholders in specific activities, such as the design and organization of events and workshops and the production of technical materials.

## VII. Concluding remarks

35. Parties recognized the value of the LEG providing technical guidance and support to the LDCs, and noted that the LDCs have achieved major milestones as a result of the LEG modalities of support. Parties proposed areas in which the LEG should continue to support the LDCs.

36. In their submissions, Parties also proposed to reconsider the working procedures of the LEG for enhancing the accessibility and transparency of LEG meetings and its documents, increasing the membership and considering the term for the next mandate. The LEG responded to a similar mandate from SBI 51<sup>39</sup> and developed recommendations<sup>40</sup> to the SBI on how to enhance the accessibility and transparency of its meetings and documents, drawing on the approaches of other constituted bodies.

37. Several opportunities have been identified regarding the delivery of support to the LDCs under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the vision of the LEG to support the LDCs on their adaptation planning process, the provision of scaled-up financial resources to take into account the needs of the LDCs, complementary work by Parties in preparing and submitting their national reports, global goals under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global frameworks.<sup>41</sup> In addition, several challenges have been observed regarding the delivery of support to the LDCs, which include limited support to the LDCs in languages other than English, the complexity of the process of accessing funding from the GCF, the lack of support in implementing NAPs, the overall lack of capacity, and the growing number of commitments that impose a burden on the LDCs.<sup>42</sup>

38. The LEG took note of the issues raised during the meeting and will, as appropriate, incorporate lessons on the delivery of support to the LDCs in a subsequent mandate.

39. Parties noted that the work of the LEG and support provided by the secretariat will need to be adequately resourced if the LEG is to efficiently fulfil its mandates.

<sup>38</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/6, para. 58.

<sup>39</sup> FCCC/SBI/2019/20, para. 50.

<sup>40</sup> See para. 34 above.

<sup>41</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/7, para. 16.

<sup>42</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/7, para. 19.

## Annex I

### Terms of reference of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group per the annex to decision 29/CP.7

1. The objective of the LEG is to advise on the preparation and implementation strategy for NAPAs, which would meet the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of the LDCs. This includes the provision of technical advice relating to the identification of relevant data and information to be synthesized as part of an integrated assessment. The expert group will also provide advice on capacity-building needs for the LDCs in support of the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. The expert group will coordinate and collaborate with other relevant efforts relating to adaptation activities for the LDCs, including within the greater development context. The expert group will not be directly involved in the execution of identified activities and projects.
2. The group shall consist of 12 experts having recognized competence and appropriate expertise to assist in the development of NAPAs. The group shall consist of five experts from African LDC Parties, two experts from Asian LDC Parties, two experts from small island developing States which are LDC Parties and three experts from Annex II Parties. At least one selected LDC expert and at least one selected expert from Annex II Parties shall also be a member of the Consultative Group of Experts. The experts will be selected by the Parties from their respective regions or groups and shall have expertise in vulnerability and adaptation assessment. The group may draw upon additional expertise as deemed necessary.
3. The expert group shall conduct its work until COP 9, subject to a decision by the COP pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision 29/CP.7.
4. Members of the group shall serve in their personal capacity and shall have no pecuniary or financial interest in the issues under consideration by the group.
5. The group shall elect annually a chair, a vice-chair and two rapporteurs from among its LDC members.
6. The chair, or a representative of the expert group, shall attend meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the COP.
7. The group shall convene twice each year, as appropriate, and, if possible, the secretariat will organize one meeting in 2002 of the expert group back-to-back with the Consultative Group of Experts in order to establish a link on issues relating to adaptation.
8. The group shall report on its work and shall propose a programme of work for the remainder of its term, for consideration at SBI 16, and shall report on its work at SBI 18 and 19.
9. The group shall be mandated as follows:
  - (a) To provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation and on the implementation strategy of NAPAs, including the identification of possible sources of data and their subsequent application and interpretation, upon request by LDC Parties;
  - (b) To serve in an advisory capacity to the LDCs for the preparation and strategy for implementation of NAPAs through, inter alia, workshops, upon request by LDC Parties;
  - (c) To advise on capacity-building needs for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs and to provide recommendations, as appropriate, taking into account the Capacity Development Initiative of the GEF and other relevant capacity-building initiatives;
  - (d) To facilitate the exchange of information and to promote regional synergies and synergies with other multilateral environmental conventions in the preparation and in the implementation strategy of NAPAs;
  - (e) To advise on the mainstreaming of NAPAs into regular development planning in the context of national strategies for sustainable development.

10. The group shall also be mandated to provide input into the review, and if necessary revision, of NAPA guidelines at COP 8.
11. The secretariat shall support the implementation of the above-mentioned activities and facilitate the preparation of the group's relevant reports, which will be made available to the Parties for consideration at subsequent sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

## Annex II

### Modalities of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for delivering support to the least developed countries

<i>Modality</i>	<i>Details</i>
Technical guidelines	To guide the formulation and implementation of NAPs. This includes promoting the application of the technical guidelines for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, developing technical materials to supplement the technical guidelines to provide in-depth coverage of specific issues as they arise, and mobilizing and collaborating with relevant organizations to produce supplements to the NAP technical guidelines
Technical papers	To expand on or provide technical details on specific topics related to the needs of the LDCs
Training activities, workshops and technical meetings	To build the capacity of LDCs in formulating and implementing NAPs. Focus varies depending on the training and capacity needs expressed by the LDCs (e.g. the Open NAP training for the LDCs that takes place in the early stages of the process to formulate and implement NAPs)
NAP Expos	Flagship events bringing together relevant actors and players from governments, local communities, the private sector, and so forth, to advance NAPs. Expos are held at the global and regional level to reach a wide audience and to ensure targeted exchanges among countries and relevant actors
NAP Central	Central repository of all information pertinent to NAPs. NAP Central houses guidelines, NAP documents and other outputs, Open NAPs, information on NAP events, and support on and progress in NAPs. Includes the NAP Blogger, NAP Central Twitter (@NAP_Central) and Global NAP Calendar
Open NAPs	To work directly with country teams in formulating their NAPs by mobilizing and engaging a wide range of organizations and experts (crowd-sourcing), to explore solutions to common problems faced by countries in adaptation, and to mobilize and engage organizations and other actors to support Open NAPs
Collaboration with other bodies and organizations (NAP technical working group)	To mobilize and engage constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, relevant organizations, and regional centres and networks to promote synergy and coherence, and to enhance support to the LDCs
Capturing and sharing experience, best practices and lessons learned	To capture, share and apply experience, best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs
Monitoring progress, effectiveness and gaps on the process to formulate and implement NAPs	To capture regularly information on progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs through survey questionnaires, interviews and country profiling