

## **Submission by Nepal on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group on National Adaptation Plans**

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The Least Developed Countries Group (LDC Group) welcomes the invitation from SBI at its 40<sup>th</sup> session to further submit information on experiences with the application of the initial guidelines for the formulation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), as well as any other information relevant to the formulation and implementation of NAPs. In response to that invitation, the LDC Group made a submission for consideration by SBI at its 40<sup>th</sup> session, and is pleased to submit additional information for consideration by SBI at its 41<sup>st</sup> session.

### **General experience in adaptation planning and further views on the NAP process**

There have been many good practices and lessons learned in the process of formulating and implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) in LDCs. This information has been captured in the outputs of LEG through their close interaction and support to LDCs. These lessons and practices provide valuable information for the process of formulating and implementing NAPs.

With the experience from preparing and implementation NAPAs, national development planning processes, other adaptation planning activities, and with further information from the regional trainings for LDCs organized by LEG and NAP Global Support Programme (NAP GSP), LDCs have now a better understanding of the NAP process. Based on these experiences, LDCs view the production of “national adaptation plan” documents as one of the many outputs of the “process to formulate and implement NAPs”.

As the NAP process includes many activities and stakeholders, the NAP documents will serve to provide a common understanding, promote synergies, and reduce duplication of efforts. Effective adaptation planning and implementation also requires a common understanding of the many critical activities and steps such as climate scenarios, vulnerabilities, data needs, adaptation priorities and needs, and progress. Furthermore, with the continuous, iterative and long-term nature of the NAP process, the NAPs will be “living documents” and an important tool to ensure a common understanding in the progress towards both, “reducing vulnerability” and the “integration of adaptation into development planning” at all levels in a country. The NAP documents will also serve as a means to communicate both needs and progress in the NAP process to various stakeholders within the country, development partners, donors, and the UNFCCC process.

Despite the clear need for NAP documents, there has been confusing messages of whether plans and documents such as a NAP is produced in the NAP process especially when many national adaptation plans are seen to be produced regularly in many developed countries. Such unclear messaging and the lack of clarity on the ultimate fate of adaptation plans and priorities produced from the NAP process have been confusing for LDCs, and has also hindered the launching of the NAP process.

## **Gaps in the NAP process**

The existing support in the NAP process such as the COP's Initial Guidelines for Formulation of NAPs, the LEG Technical Guidelines and regional trainings, and the NAP GSP are adequate only for laying the groundwork in the formulation of NAPs and integration of adaptation planning. While LDCs reiterate the usefulness and relevance of the existing "guidelines for the formulation of NAPs" some key gaps remain, and the LDCs recommend the following for enhancing the guidelines to address some of these gaps:

- The process of formulating and implementing NAPs aim to reduce climate vulnerability by addressing adaptation priorities and also integrate adaptation into development planning. The NAP documents will be important tool for both these objectives, but there are no guidelines on the structure and form of the NAP document. Progress in the NAP process in LDCs would be greatly facilitated by guidelines or common format for NAP documents.
- The NAP process is part of the larger UNFCCC process towards meeting the objectives and commitments of the Convention. Therefore, the UNFCCC process should ensure progress in the NAP process but there is no clarity on how NAPs as a tool for communication can be submitted to the UNFCCC process and how progress will be reviewed.
- The support modalities for the NAP process so far cover aspects of laying the ground work and integration of planning of adaptation into development planning at different levels but do not address how implementation of adaptation priorities to reduce concrete adaptation needs will be supported or implemented. There is a need for guidelines for the implementation of NAPs whether they are by national agencies, sectors or local entities, or whether implementation is through integration in development plans or stand alone NAPA-like activities.

## **Support needs in the NAPs process**

While several support modalities like LEG technical guidelines and regional training workshops and NAP GSP have been launched, there are still more support needs to ensure the launch of NAP process in LDCs. While some of the additional support needs are in the form of guidelines that can be produced by the UNFCCC process and institutions, others are critically needed at the country level.

- In the experience of adaptation implementation under NAPA projects and other programmes, the concept of incremental cost comes into play. With one of the objectives of the NAP process being the integration of adaptation into development planning, the identification of baseline development costs and additional adaptation costs and burdens will be even more important for adaptation planning and implementation. In this regard, LDCs need help in identifying baseline activities and additional climate change burdens and costs with guidelines or tools.
- While planning and implementation of adaptation to climate change can be taken up at different levels and approaches, there is a need for a common understanding of the basic

threats of climate change among all those involved in a country's NAP process. Therefore, for the LDCs to advance in the NAP process, clear understanding of medium- and long-term climate scenarios is critical. Without this information it will be impossible to know the medium-term and future climate vulnerability in various sectors. As such, tools and methods in generation and application of climate scenario and down scaling will be of great value in the advancing the NAP process.

- Monitoring progress in the effectiveness of the NAP process should cover both objectives of (i) reducing vulnerability and (ii) integrating climate change adaptation into development activities. However, reducing vulnerability is the key goal and integration is only one of the means towards this goal. In this regard, LDCs need technical support in methods for monitoring and evaluating progress in meeting both objectives of the NAP process.
- Financial support for launching the NAP process has been grossly inadequate. The window for funding from the LDC Fund has to compete with existing priorities for urgent and immediate needs for implementing the NAPAs. Furthermore, given the understanding to ensure a robust and long-term NAP process, much emphasis has been given to activities for “laying the groundwork” such as data collection, analysis, setting baseline, scenario building, modeling, vulnerability assessment, risk analysis, planning, programming, institutional setting, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements. However, the financial support to ensure the start of a NAP process that can cover such a robust approach to the preparatory steps for building the enabling environment is severely underfunded.
- With regards to preparations for funding of implementation of adaptation activities, coherence among the existing institutions on adaptation under the UNFCCC should be further enhanced to ensure more effective support and implementation of adaptation. In particular, there needs to be closer synergies among Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and other funding sources so that the modalities for funding are aligned with the NAP process.
- There should be a further mandate to LEG after 2015 to support LDCs in the NAP process such as support for formulation of implementation strategies for LDCs, linkages with other relevant bodies of the Convention, and in monitoring progress in the NAP process for LDCs.

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