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Matters relating to Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention

Matters relating to the least developed countries

**Synthesis report on possible elements for a future mandate
for the Least Developed Countries Expert Group**

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This synthesis report has been prepared to advance discussions on the future mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), including its renewal and expansion. The report outlines possible elements for a future mandate of the LEG, drawing on views submitted by Parties and inputs provided by the LEG through the reports on its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings, and suggests updates and enhancements that could be made to the terms of reference of the group, incorporating the key proposals made by Parties in their submissions. These suggestions include broadening the areas of support to be provided by the LEG and revising the composition and the length of the mandate of the group.

* This document was submitted after the due date in order to take into account inputs provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group at its eighteenth meeting, held on 12–15 October 2010.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at its thirty-first session, invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 30 August 2010, their views on possible elements for a future mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), including its renewal and expansion. At the same session, it requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on possible elements for a future mandate of the LEG, taking into account those submissions from Parties and inputs provided by the LEG at its eighteenth meeting, for consideration by the SBI at its thirty-third session, with a view to recommending a decision on a future mandate of the LEG for adoption by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its sixteenth session.¹

B. Scope of the note

2. This report synthesizes the information on possible elements for a future mandate of the LEG contained in 12 submissions,² representing the views of 10 Parties and two groups of countries. Information has also been drawn from inputs provided by the LEG at its eighteenth meeting.³ The report highlights experiences of Parties with regard to the support provided by the LEG for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). It also highlights the possible roles that the LEG, with an expanded membership, could play under a future mandate.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

3. The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this document when making recommendations to the COP on the extension of the mandate of the LEG.

II. Background

A. The least developed countries work programme

4. At its seventh session, the COP acknowledged the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries (LDCs), in that they are least capable of dealing with the adverse effects of climate change, and adopted a package of decisions for the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention.

5. Through its decision 5/CP.7, the COP established the LDC work programme, which comprises the following activities:

(a) 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 LDCs;

¹ FCCC/SBI/2009/15, paragraphs 53 and 54.

² FCCC/SBI/2010/MISC.10.

³ FCCC/SBI/2010/26.

- (b) 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;
- (c) Supporting the preparation and implementation of NAPAs;
- (d) Promotion of public-awareness programmes, to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues;
- (e) Development and transfer of technology, particularly adaptation technology (in accordance with decision 4/CP.7);
- (f) Strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of NAPAs.

6. By its decision 7/CP.7, the COP established the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) to support the implementation of the LDC work programme. By its decision 27/CP.7, the COP entrusted the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, to operate the LDCF, and provided initial guidance to the GEF to focus on providing support for the preparation of NAPAs. The COP, at its eleventh session, agreed on provisions for operationalizing the LDCF to support the implementation of NAPAs.⁴ At its fourteenth session, the COP requested the GEF to facilitate the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme through its operation of the LDCF.⁵

7. The COP established the LEG, by its decision 29/CP.7, with the primary objective of advising LDC Parties on the preparation and implementation strategy for NAPAs. 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. In addition, the LEG was mandated to provide advice on capacity-building needs for LDCs in support of the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, and to coordinate and collaborate with other relevant efforts relating to adaptation activities for LDCs, including within the greater development context.

8. The COP, by its decision 28/CP.7, adopted the guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs, contained in the annex to that decision. NAPAs provide a process for LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change. The rationale for developing NAPAs is based on the limited ability of LDCs to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. According to the aforementioned guidelines, NAPAs are meant to focus on activities to address urgent and immediate needs in relation to which further delay could increase vulnerability or lead to increased costs at a later stage. They are to use existing information, requiring no new research. They are to be action-oriented, country-driven, flexible and based on national circumstances. In order to effectively address urgent and immediate needs for adaptation, NAPA documents are to be presented in a simple format that can be easily understood both by policy-level decision makers and by the public.

B. Mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

9. In establishing the LEG, the COP also adopted the terms of reference of the group, contained in the annex to decision 29/CP.7. In accordance with these terms of reference, the LEG was mandated as follows:

⁴ Decision 3/CP.11.

⁵ Decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 2.

(a) To provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation and on the strategy for implementation of NAPAs, including the identification of possible sources of data and its subsequent application and interpretation, upon request by LDC Parties;

(b) To serve in an advisory capacity to the LDCs, with regard to 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 strategy for implementation of NAPAs;

(e) To advise on the mainstreaming of NAPAs into regular development planning in the context of national strategies for sustainable development.

10. Since its establishment in 2001, the LEG has served four mandates. The initial mandate of the LEG was for two years, from 2002 to 2003. The second mandate covered the two-year period 2004–2005, under the original terms of reference contained in the annex to decision 29/CP.7. The third mandate also covered two years, the period 2006–2007. In this mandate, the COP, by its decision 4/CP.11, requested the LEG, in addition to working under the original terms of reference contained in the annex to decision 29/CP.7, to develop a work programme that included implementation of NAPAs. Lastly, by decision 8/CP.13, the LEG was mandated for three years, for the period 2008–2010. In this mandate, the COP requested the LEG, in addition to working under the original terms of reference contained in the annex to decision 29/CP.7, to develop a work programme that took into account the results of the LEG stocktaking meeting on the progress made by Parties in the preparation and implementation of NAPAs,⁶ and the results of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. At the first meeting of each of its terms, the LEG has formulated its respective work programme, and it reports to the SBI at each of its sessions.

11. The LEG implements its work programme by undertaking specific activities as well as by engaging LDC Parties, the GEF and its agencies, and other relevant partners. It convenes twice each year to review progress in implementing its work programme, in accordance with its terms of reference.⁷

C. Support provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group between 2001 and 2010

1. Development of methods and tools for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

12. The LEG developed and disseminated guides, tools, technical papers, reports, publications and databases to support the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, including the following:

(a) Guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs;⁸

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2007/32.

⁷ Decision 29/CP.7, annex.

⁸ <http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/ldc/application/pdf/annguide.pdf>.

(b) Technical papers relating to NAPAs, comprising a synthesis of available information for the preparation of NAPAs,⁹ papers on synergy among multilateral environmental agreements,¹⁰ regional synergy¹¹ and elements for implementation strategies,¹² and an overview of preparation, design of implementation strategies and submission of revised project lists and profiles;¹³

(c) Publications such as that on the NAPA Primer,¹⁴ a selection of examples and exercises drawn from regional NAPA preparation workshops,¹⁵ a brochure on LDCs under the UNFCCC¹⁶ and an information paper on support needed to fully implement NAPAs;¹⁷

(d) A step-by-step guide for implementing NAPAs, in English, French and Portuguese,¹⁸ and a *Step-by-Step Guide & NAPA Source Kit* CD-ROM;¹⁹

(e) Databases on submitted NAPAs, NAPA priority project profiles, and projects under implementation, available through the LDC Portal on the UNFCCC website;²⁰

(f) A list of frequently asked questions about LDCs, the LEG and NAPAs.²¹

2. Training of least developed country experts in the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

13. The LEG conducted a NAPA global launch workshop in 2002 and four regional training workshops on the preparation of NAPAs in 2003. These workshops drew three experts from each LDC, representing their ministries of the environment, planning and/or finance, and civil society, to equip them with hands-on tools for preparing NAPAs using the LEG annotated guidelines, and to facilitate an exchange of experiences. The training workshops were conducted in close collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and were funded by the LDCF.

14. In addition to conducting this training, the LEG, following a request from the SBI at its twenty-fifth session,²² convened a meeting to take stock of the progress made by Parties in the preparation and implementation of NAPAs.²³ This meeting, held from 3 to 5 September 2007, enabled discussions on best practices, constraints and barriers related to NAPA preparation and implementation, support from the GEF and its agencies and other United Nations agencies and institutions, and integration of NAPAs into national planning. In addition, meeting participants considered a list of possible actions to be taken by the LEG and other stakeholders in support of NAPA preparation and implementation.

15. In 2009, the LEG began a second round of regional training workshops on the implementation of NAPAs.²⁴ These workshops also involved three experts from each LDC, representing the NAPA project coordinator, the planning officer responsible for climate

⁹ FCCC/TP/2005/2.

¹⁰ FCCC/TP/2005/3.

¹¹ FCCC/TP/2005/4.

¹² FCCC/TP/2005/5.

¹³ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/ldc_tp2009.pdf>.

¹⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/4727>>.

¹⁵ As footnote 11 above.

¹⁶ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/ldc_brochure2009.pdf>.

¹⁷ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/09_ldc_sn_napa.pdf>.

¹⁸ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/ldc_napa2009.pdf>.

¹⁹ Available upon request from the secretariat.

²⁰ <<http://unfccc.int/ldc>>.

²¹ <<http://unfccc.int/4743>>.

²² FCCC/SBI/2006/28, paragraph 84.

²³ FCCC/SBI/2007/32.

²⁴ FCCC/SBI/2010/15.

change projects within the national development planning, and a sectoral expert, representing one or more major sectors included in the NAPA, who would be involved in the implementation of a NAPA project. The aim of the workshops was to provide technical support to the LDC teams in their designing of an implementation strategy for their NAPAs, and to build their capacity to prepare and submit project documents to the GEF to access funding from the LDCF. The workshops also provided technical support to those LDC Parties that are still preparing their NAPAs, and provided a platform for sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the preparation and implementation of NAPAs.

3. Provision of specific advice to least developed country Parties upon request

16. The LEG provided specific support to LDC Parties both upon request and in cases where a need to advance or overcome technical issues encountered in the NAPA process became evident. This support included communication by e-mail between the LEG and the LDC Parties, and direct interaction with countries' NAPA teams during sessions of the UNFCCC bodies.

17. In finalizing their NAPA documents, LDC Parties made requests to the LEG to provide comments on their draft documents. The LEG supported more than 25 LDC Parties in this exercise, providing comments aimed mainly at improving clarity in relation to describing methodologies used, stakeholder consultations, prioritization criteria and presentation of project profiles. In addition, the LEG provided substantive inputs to the NAPAs of those LDC Parties hosting LEG meetings or workshops. The LEG took advantage of such events to meet with the national NAPA teams to exchange experiences on the NAPA process at the national level, discuss potential areas of support and provide advice on developing strategies for implementing their NAPAs.

18. In accordance with its work programme for 2008–2010, the LEG conducted surveys on LDC Parties, at sessions of the subsidiary bodies and through national focal points, to collect information on the status of preparation and implementation of NAPAs as well as on any obstacles that Parties may have been facing. The LEG initiated these surveys at the twenty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. As a result, the LEG, in collaboration with the GEF and its agencies, has addressed most of the obstacles identified by the LDCs, which related mainly to capacity at the national and agency levels to design projects, access to funds, and exchange of information. In these surveys, many of the LDCs recognized the important role played by the LEG in providing key support through the NAPA process, and they would like to see the continuation of this support.

4. Monitoring of the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

19. The LEG included the monitoring of the preparation and implementation of NAPAs as one of the activities in its work programmes and provided updates to the SBI at each subsequent session. These updates contained:

- (a) Feedback from countries on their experiences in preparing and implementing their NAPAs;
- (b) The number of countries that had completed, and the number that were still preparing, their NAPAs;
- (c) The number of countries that had initiated the process of accessing funds from the LDCF for implementing their NAPAs;
- (d) The number of countries that had started the actual implementation of their NAPA projects;

- (e) Analysis of the sectors covered in the NAPA projects.

5. Cooperation with other expert groups under the Convention

20. In keeping with its mandate, the LEG fostered effective cooperation with the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) in implementing its work programme. The LEG provided technical inputs to the development of resources for guiding the preparation of national communications and technology needs assessments (TNAs), and provided ideas on ways to integrate information contained in NAPAs into national communications and TNAs, and vice versa.

21. The Chair of the LEG met with the Chairs of the CGE and the EGTT at the sessions of the subsidiary bodies to further explore areas of collaboration in implementing the mandates of each of the groups. The LEG shared two members with the CGE, and these members were tasked with encouraging the flow of relevant information between the two groups and ensuring that documents arising from each group's work were disseminated at the meetings of the other group.

6. Cooperation with relevant international agencies and other multilateral environmental agreements on issues in relation to the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

22. The LEG engaged multiple stakeholders in providing support and advice to the LDCs for the preparation and implementation of their NAPAs, including the GEF, United Nations agencies, various non-governmental organizations and individual experts. During its fourth work programme, the LEG dedicated the first day of its meetings (or part thereof) to interacting with the GEF and its agencies on progress made in, and the support provided to LDCs for, the preparation and implementation of NAPAs.²⁵ The LEG and the GEF and its agencies established a dialogue that focused on exploring ways to effectively support LDCs in the implementation of their NAPAs, in particular with regard to the process for accessing funds from the LDCF in order to adequately respond to the urgent and immediate nature of NAPA priority activities and projects.

23. Concerning practical activities, the regional training workshops on the preparation of NAPAs held in 2003 were conducted in close collaboration with UNITAR. The 2009–2010 regional training workshops on the implementation of NAPAs were conducted in partnership with the GEF and its agencies.²⁶ The LEG has also provided to the GEF specific inputs on strategies for implementing NAPAs, and further ideas on how to implement all the other elements of the LDC work programme.²⁷ This cooperation has facilitated smoother progress of the NAPA process by addressing obstacles and barriers that LDC Parties have faced in preparing and implementing their NAPAs.

7. Promotion of awareness of climate change and of integration of climate change considerations into policymaking and development planning

24. In its cooperation with the CGE, the EGTT and other relevant actors, the LEG facilitated an exchange of information on NAPAs. As part of these efforts, the LEG promoted regional synergies, and synergies with other multilateral environmental conventions, in the preparation of and implementation strategy for NAPAs.

²⁵ Decision 8/CP.13, paragraph 4.

²⁶ FCCC/SBI/2010/15.

²⁷ FCCC/SBI/2010/5, paragraphs 31–33.

25. The LEG has provided inputs to the efforts of the secretariats of the UNFCCC and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in promoting synergies in the implementation of national action plans under the UNCCD and NAPAs. The LEG has also contributed to the review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001–2010. In this review, the United Nations General Assembly intends to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, identify effective international and domestic policies, reaffirm the global commitment aimed at eradicating poverty in the LDCs and integrating them beneficially into the global economy, and adopt a renewed partnership in favour of the LDCs.

26. At the national level, the LEG has developed for the LDCs, as part of its guidance on the implementation of NAPAs, options for scaling up adaptation efforts and ways to foster synergies with national development planning.²⁸

27. In order to maximize outreach to all LDCs, the LEG adopted internally a system of rapporteurs, one each for English-speaking LDCs, French-speaking LDCs and Portuguese-speaking LDCs. The rapporteurs actively liaised with LDCs during intergovernmental meetings and other events and kept records at meetings. In addition, the Francophone and Lusophone rapporteurs were also involved in accessing relevant literature in French or Portuguese for use by the LEG and in addressing specific requests of the LDCs in their respective language groups.

28. The LEG increased its efforts to target Portuguese-speaking countries by translating into Portuguese and disseminating selected products to support the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, and by conducting, in September 2010 in Sao Tome and Principe, a regional NAPA implementation workshop for these countries in Portuguese.

29. Events organized by the LEG have provided a platform for LDCs to interact with each other, share best practices and lessons learned in the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, and enhance their networking. For instance, at a NAPA implementation training workshop for French-speaking LDCs held in February 2010,²⁹ participants formed an adaptation network for Francophone LDCs.

III. Synthesis of views of Parties and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on a future mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Introduction

30. This chapter contains a summary of the views of Parties and the LEG on a future mandate of the LEG.³⁰ It provides a summary of the support activities provided by the LEG to LDCs as cited in Parties' submissions and the reports on the meetings of the LEG, and then lists a set of functions that Parties and the LEG propose to be undertaken by the LEG under a renewed mandate.

²⁸ Step-by-step guide for implementing NAPAs. Available at http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/ldc_napa2009.pdf.

²⁹ FCCC/SBI/2010/15.

³⁰ FCCC/SBI/2010/MISC.10, FCCC/SBI/2010/5 and FCCC/SBI/2010/26.

B. Overall work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

31. Parties, in their submissions, and the LEG itself highlighted the critical role played by the LEG in supporting LDCs, and provided examples of positive contributions that the LEG has made to LDCs in the context of preparing and implementing NAPAs (EU, LDC Group, Chad, Guinea, Haiti, Malawi). Parties acknowledged the good progress made by the LEG in implementing its work programme for 2008–2010 (EU, Malawi, LDC Group). Furthermore, they recognized the value of the close collaboration established by the LEG with LDC Parties and relevant stakeholders in terms of facilitating progress in the implementation of NAPAs (EU, LDC Group).

32. All of the submissions called for the extension of the mandate of the LEG (ALL). They indicated the need for continued technical support and advice to be provided to LDCs on NAPAs, with a number of the submissions pointing out that, since the implementation of NAPAs has only just begun, LDCs will need continued support and technical guidance (Guinea, Malawi). The submissions further indicated a consensus among Parties that the terms of reference of the LEG as contained in the annex to decision 29/CP.7 remain relevant (EU, Benin, Kiribati, LDC Group, Togo). Also, they identified additional potential areas of support to be included in a renewed mandate and provided views on the composition of the LEG and the length of its mandate.

C. Support for the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

33. The submissions indicated that the LEG has efficiently supported LDCs by providing information and guidelines on where to start, what to do, and how to do it in relation to the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, citing specific examples of the areas of support provided:

(a) Technical support and advice in relation to the preparation of and implementation strategy for NAPAs through: the development and dissemination of guidelines; regional training workshops; technical papers, reports and publications that provided information, methods and tools for preparing NAPAs; close communication with LDCs, providing ad hoc advice and promoting networking with relevant institutions; and the provision of comments on draft NAPA documents before their submission to the secretariat (EU, LDC Group, Nepal, Haiti, Mali, Guinea, LDC Group, Malawi, Nepal);

(b) Regular updates through the reports of the LEG to the SBI and NAPA side events on the status of preparation and implementation of NAPAs, providing information that guided LDCs in the intergovernmental process and in the preparation and implementation of their NAPAs (LDC Group);

(c) Providing support to LDCs using their three most widely spoken languages (English, French and Portuguese) (LDC Group);

(d) Collaboration with relevant institutions, including the facilitation of fruitful discussions between NAPA teams and the GEF and its agencies in relation to understanding the process of, and barriers to, NAPA preparation and implementation, with a view to providing solutions to barriers and facilitating progress (EU, LDC Group);

(e) Sharing of experiences in and spreading of advice for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs.

34. The submissions also reflected additional areas of NAPA preparation and implementation where the LEG would need to provide technical support and advice to LDCs:

- (a) Revising and updating NAPAs using guidelines prepared by the LEG,³¹ and strengthening collaboration with the GEF and its agencies and research organizations to provide technical analysis and ideas in relation to the revision and update of NAPAs (LDC Group, Chad, Haiti, LDC Group, Malawi, LEG);
- (b) Conducting in-depth vulnerability and adaptation assessments on key social and economic sectors (Benin);
- (c) Developing medium- and long-term adaptation strategies that integrate adaptation needs into development planning (EU);
- (d) Strengthening gender-related considerations in NAPAs (EU);
- (e) Mainstreaming and integrating NAPAs and adaptation plans into national development planning and disaster risk reduction (EU, Chad, Kiribati, LDC Group, Malawi, Haiti);
- (f) Developing local adaptation plans (Nepal);
- (g) The development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects, with the support provided by means of the following:
 - (i) Guidelines, data sources and technical support in designing implementation strategies using programmatic approaches, and preparation of prototype project templates on key thematic areas (Benin, Chad, Kiribati, LDC Group, Malawi, Mali, Togo);
 - (ii) Capacity-building for national institutions and national adaptation experts on a continuous basis (Guinea, Kiribati, LDC Group, Malawi);
 - (iii) In-country assistance, including for training and public-awareness raising, to ensure the dissemination of climate change information at the national level (Benin, LDC Group, Malawi, Mali);
 - (iv) Strengthening and/or creating linkages with existing regional climate change adaptation and related networks (LEG);
 - (v) Establishing regional helpdesks supported by funds under the Convention and by developed countries through the secretariat to support national-level activities (Nepal);
 - (vi) Providing support for access to and use of adaptation technologies (Chad, LDC Group, Malawi);
 - (vii) Engaging local and private actors in implementing national adaptation priorities (Kiribati).

35. In their submissions, LDCs called for the establishment of a technical support programme comprising the LEG, the GEF and its agencies, and other relevant organizations to support the implementation of NAPAs and national adaptation plans in LDCs (LDC Group). Such a programme could be supported by funds from the LDCF or by voluntary contributions. It would complement and build on the work of the LEG and would ensure the broader and more informal participation of other stakeholders. The programme could also serve as a platform for the provision of support for adaptation to LDCs.

³¹ FCCC/SBI/2009/13, annex I.

D. Areas of support other than national adaptation programmes of action

36. The submissions identified the following areas where the LEG would need to undertake actions to provide support to the LDCs under a new mandate, in addition to the support provided for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs:

(a) Implementation of all the elements of the LDC work programme, including through South–South cooperation, taking into account elements of the scope for capacity-building in LDCs,³² and collaboration with relevant organizations to collect and analyse the information necessary for a periodic review of the implementation of the work programme (Benin, Chad, LDC Group, Malawi, Mali, Nepal);

(b) Revision of the LDC work programme to cover emerging areas of importance to the LDCs such as on strategies for the clean development mechanism, low carbon development, green technologies, and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (LDC Group);

(c) Promotion of synergies between NAPAs, the LDC work programme, the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs under the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and other multilateral environmental agreements (LDC Group);

(d) Provision of support for addressing adaptation in LDCs in a broader context, going beyond NAPAs, and extending support to other vulnerable countries (Benin, LDC Group);

(e) Promotion of knowledge management and outreach activities by providing a platform for the sharing of best practices and lessons learned from implementing the LDC work programme (LDC Group, Malawi, Nepal);

(f) Provision of support for capacity-building, including mobilizing enabling environments for the development of low-carbon growth strategies in LDCs (LEG).

E. Composition of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

37. The submissions indicated the need to increase the number of experts in the LEG, taking into consideration the following options:

(a) Including members with expertise in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects in key thematic areas such as agriculture, water resources and coastal zones. This could also include the engagement of external thematic experts where the LEG does not have such expertise (Benin, LDC Group, Malawi, Mali);

(b) Extending membership to other non-LDC developing countries to promote South–South cooperation (Malawi), and to other Parties included in Annex II to the Convention to achieve more regional coverage, for example member countries of the Umbrella Group (Benin);

(c) Increasing the number of experts representing small island developing States (SIDS) to three, taking into consideration the subregions in which SIDS are located (i.e. the Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean-Atlantic Ocean regions) (Kiribati);

³² Decision 2/CP.7, annex, paragraph 17.

(d) Providing an opportunity for all regional groups among the LDCs from Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific to be represented, owing to the diversity of their situations and needs (Kiribati, LEG);

(e) Encouraging the participation of women in the group (LEG).

38. The submissions noted that such an expansion should not result in the group becoming too large. The LEG discussed the optimum size for the group and proposed limiting the size of the group to about 15 experts. The submissions also proposed the need for regional groups, when nominating members, to ensure an overlap between the terms of old and new members in order to maintain the group's institutional memory and the smooth continuity of its work (LEG).

F. Length of the mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

39. Most of the submissions proposed a mandate of between five and 10 years. Parties argued that a longer mandate than those previous (i.e. of more than two to three years) would ensure the provision of sustained and predictable support to the LDCs, which is necessary as they are only just starting to implement their NAPAs under the LDCF and are also venturing into other adaptation funding sources (e.g. the Adaptation Fund) (Benin, Chad, Kiribati, LDC Group, Malawi, LEG). One Party recommended that the LEG become a permanent body under the Convention, supporting LDCs, with a renewed mandate up to 2020 (Nepal).

G. Collaboration with least developed country Parties and other relevant stakeholders

40. The submissions indicated that the close collaboration of the LEG with LDC Parties has enabled the provision of ad hoc advice on the preparation of and implementation strategy for NAPAs. They also indicated that this collaboration has supported networking, especially with relevant stakeholders and institutions (e.g. the GEF and its agencies, and the CGE), resulting in the sharing of experiences in and the spreading of advice on the preparation and implementation of NAPAs. They further indicated that the LEG has conducted several of its activities in collaboration with relevant institutions, and that this approach seems to have been an efficient way of sharing experiences in and spreading advice on the preparation and implementation of NAPAs (LDC Group, EU).

IV. Summary of possible elements for a future mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

41. On the basis of the views of Parties and the LEG summarized in chapter III above, the SBI may wish to focus on the following points in recommending to the COP a renewal of the mandate and the expansion of the LEG.

42. The LEG could be mandated as follows:

(a) To provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation, update and implementation of NAPAs, including the identification of possible sources of data and their subsequent application and interpretation;

(b) To provide technical guidance and advice on the design of programmatic approaches in the implementation strategies of NAPAs;

(c) To provide technical guidance and advice on integrating gender-related considerations into NAPA projects;

(d) To provide technical guidance and advice on mainstreaming NAPAs into regular development planning in the context of sustainable development;

(e) To provide technical guidance and advice to LDCs on how to develop medium- and long-term adaptation plans that integrate adaptation needs into development planning, building on their NAPAs;

(f) To provide technical guidance and advice on the revision, monitoring and implementation of the LDC work programme, in the context of adaptation;

(g) To provide advice on capacity-building needs for the preparation, update and implementation of NAPAs and the implementation of the other elements of the LDC work programme, and to provide recommendations, as appropriate, on other capacity-building initiatives;

(h) To facilitate the exchange of information and to promote regional synergies with other multilateral environmental conventions and relevant organizations in the preparation, update and implementation of NAPAs and the LDC work programme.

43. The composition of the LEG could be expanded to take into account the diverse regional representation of the LDCs and the skills necessary to support the implementation of NAPAs and the LDC work programme. Experts nominated should have recognized competence and appropriate expertise in vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of adaptation projects and programmes in key thematic areas such as agriculture, water resources and coastal zones. The LEG may draw upon additional expertise as deemed necessary.

44. The LEG could be mandated for a period of at least five years, with a two-year rolling work programme for the conduct of its work, complemented by the overlapping membership of the experts.

45. The LEG, in developing its work programme, could take into account the priorities identified by LDCs for the next five years, which include enhanced technical guidance on and support for the implementation of NAPAs, regional workshops to share experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of NAPAs, and the revision of the LDC work programme.

46. The SBI may also wish to request the LEG to take into account, in developing its work programme, the submissions containing information on the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, including on accessing funds from the LDCF,³³ the ideas and proposals contained in the reports on the seventeenth and eighteenth meetings of the LEG,³⁴ this synthesis report, and other relevant documents prepared for the thirty-third session of the SBI.

³³ FCCC/SBI/2010/MISC.9 and FCCC/SBI/2010/17.

³⁴ FCCC/SBI/2010/5 and FCCC/SBI/2010/26.