



# First session of the Preparatory Committee for the 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries

I

## Thematic panel discussion 5: Supporting our climate, recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and building a resilient society against future shocks

*Virtual meeting*

**Input required:** to speak as a panelist during the thematic session: “Supporting our climate, recovery from COVID-19 pandemic, and building a resilient society against future shocks”

**Date and time:** Thursday 27 May 2021, 1500–1700hrs NY (21:00–23:00hrs Bonn, CET)

---

Excellencies, it is a pleasure to address you here today at this important session, dealing with the greatest challenges yet to mankind.

At the outset let me express our gratitude to the Co-chairs, their excellencies Rabab Fatima (of Bangladesh) and Robert Rae (of Canada), for inviting us to offer our reflections in shaping the next ten year programme of action for the least developed countries with climate action at the heart of it.

The UNFCCC places great importance and priority to the LDCs. Dedicated provisions to support the LDCs were consolidated as early as 2001 and continue to operate and grow in importance and size. Established in 2001 and recently updated in 2018, the LDC work programme sets as the framework for bringing together and channelling support to the LDCs.

Looking forward to the LDC 5 process and the upcoming new programme:

We already know very well that: *first*, climate change impacts will only worsen in the coming years; *second*, the least developed countries due to their special circumstances are among the most vulnerable nations on the planet; *third*, the scale and pace of funding and support for the LDCs is far short of the required levels. This should be at the centre of the process towards the new programme of action.

We also know what the priority target areas are, based on existing evidence and experience: For instance, agriculture and livestock is of primary importance for the LDCs, with major implications for food security and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable segments of society, and employment. Water resources already face multiple pressures and are highly sensitive to climate change impacts such as the disruption in rainfall patterns and increased frequency of both extreme and slow-onset events. We therefore need to put in place essential



resilience-building programmes to support the LDCs in these, and other key areas such as health, infrastructure, etc.

While this should not be seen as a precondition for action, we need to increase efforts to strengthen the capacity for adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs, building on existing programmes under the UNFCCC as well as through additional and complementary means, as appropriate. This should go along with enhanced support for data collection and analysis to inform national policies and actions.

The true success of resilience-building lies in the actual vulnerabilities reduced and avoided adverse impacts of climate change. And the only way to achieve that is through actual investments in adaptation and resilience. The Green Climate Fund is determined to providing half of the adaptation financing to the LDCs, small island developing States and vulnerable African countries. This is a development we should capitalize and build upon.

Another important aspect to mention is the competency and excellence that exists within the United Nations and the international system at large. At the UNFCCC secretariat we are launching a UN-wide partnership that would mobilize the whole UN systems to support the most vulnerable countries in preparing and implementing their national adaptation plans. The initiative builds on the call from UN Secretary-General for the whole UN system to advance adaptation plans under the slogan “more, faster, better”, with a focus on increasing support to vulnerable nations, including the LDCs and small island developing States.

While the COVID19 pandemic has undoubtedly brought unprecedented challenges worldwide, it should now give us enough impetus to create an ambitious programme of action that would assist the LDCs to build their national capacities against shocks of this kind, and others we are yet to see.

In the spirit of global solidarity, multilateralism and collaboration between governments, international organizations, international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector, it is prudent that we operationalize the declaration of *leaving no-one behind* by supporting the LDCs in adapting to climate risks.

The UNFCCC remains committed in contributing towards a successful LDC 5 Conference and the new programme of action for the LDCs.

Thank you for your attention.