

Description: Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and invite you to the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5 PrepCom)

Date: 8 February 2021 (10AM EST)

Input required: General statements from Member states and observers in terms of broad ambitions and expectations from the LDC5 Conference.

- Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to address you here today at this important gathering where we are shaping an important course of action to ensure that we leave no one behind, specially the least developed countries, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The UNFCCC and Paris Agreement continues to place great importance and priority on addressing the impacts of climate change and future climate risk on the LDCs. The dedicated programmes on LDC support were consolidated as early as 2001, this includes the LDC Work Programme (updated in 2018), the creation of the LDC Expert Group (LEG), the creation of the LDC Fund, the establishment of the National Adaptation Programmes of Action.
- In 2010, the National Adaptation Plans was established to enable LDCs to address their adaptation needs in the medium to long term.
- The efforts under the UNFCCC continue to operate and grow in importance and size as can be seen from the progressive actions placed for them over the years.
- The renewal of the LEG mandate at COP 26 presents a unique opportunity for Parties to scale up their support to match the urgency needed under climate change.
- The National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement remains to play a critical role in addressing adaptation needs in the LDCs; it is therefore important to support all LDCs in producing their first NAP by end of 2020; expedite support in implementing their priority adaptation needs in the NAPS under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as other sources; and, developing indicators for measuring progress on adaptation on the ground in LDCs.
- Preferential advantage of the LDCs under the Green Climate Fund underscores the priority given to LDCs along with other vulnerable groups such as the small islands developing states and the Africa.
- The allocation of 50% of adaptation funding under the GCF to the LDCs, SIDS and vulnerable countries in Africa should be fully implemented, to supplement dedicated funds for addressing the climate crisis by LDCs, for example the LDC Fund established by the UNFCCC. The LDCs face great capacity constraints in accessing these funds.
- The Green Climate Fund should be operationalized in a fully and timely manner, with the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion per year by 2020, promoting and facilitating low carbon

and resilient-building projects in the LDCs and addressing the needs of people adversely impacted by climate changes and extreme weather events.

- The LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR), which steps up the climate ambition of LDCs with its vision to deliver climate-resilient development pathways by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050 shows the commitment of the LDCs to work together with the world to be able to adapt.
- The LEG under the UNFCCC continues to assess gaps and needs in LDCs on adaptation. This information is critical in packaging the work programme of the LEG to ensure that the support provided addresses the demands and current needs of the LDCs.
- For instance, the need for adequate and effective mobilization of and access to financial and other forms of support, including from the Green Climate Fund, to support the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans are being addressed through active engagement under the NAP Technical Working Group and the regular dialogue among key actors such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environmental Facility.
- The need for capacity to frame, analyze, define baselines, assess, manage and monitor climate change risk and vulnerability at relevant levels and scales are being addressed through the Open NAP Initiative whereby framing tool such as the integrative framework adaptation and SDGs are showcased and tested.
- These are just some of the needs communicated by the LDCs and the UNFCCC community continues to mobilize and coordinate its approach to ensure that these needs are met and responded to.
- Specifically, as a contribution to the LDC V process, directly and more broadly in support of LDCs:
 - We are updating a publication we produced for LDC IV on “Reducing vulnerability to climate change, land degradation and loss of biodiversity in the LDCs ” to capture latest findings on key climate risks and vulnerabilities in the LDCs, and how efforts under the NAPs are contributing towards successful adaptation and resilience-building. This will be accompanied by an online NAP Tracking Tool with metrics on NAPs, support needs, support being provided, etc.
 - We are scaling up our efforts under the Open NAP initiative, and we are reaching out to many UN partners to join in this effort to ensure LDCs are assisted to co-produce their NAPs and that they are not left behind. We at least 50 NAPs by COP 16 end of 2021.
 - We are also scaling up efforts to support the LDCs submit proposals to the GCF for implementation. To this end, we are about to launch a series of proposal writing workshops, jointly with the GCF and delivery partners, to ensure every LDC has at least one project funded under the GCF related to their NAP.
 - We have designed an online course on Addressing the PA in the LDCs, which is undergoing final testing before launch in the first quarter of this year.
 - Under the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, the Santiago Network that was decided at COP 25 in Madrid last December, was launched in

June 2020, and will be developed further to mobilize technical assistance in addressing loss and damage, notably in LDCs, SIDs and other vulnerable countries. We conducted a survey to assemble technical assistance needs, and have 15 responses so far, we hope to receive more inputs during the Climate Dialogues this month.

- Thank you.