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Agenda item 11
Matters relating to the least developed countries

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Proposal by the President

Draft decision -/CP.31

Matters relating to the least developed countries

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 5/CP.7, 29/CP.7, 7/CP.9, 4/CP.10, 4/CP.11, 8/CP.13, 6/CP.16, 5/CP.17, 9/CP.17, 12/CP.18, 3/CP.20, 1/CP.21, 19/CP.21, 16/CP.24, 7/CP.25, 15/CP.26, 9/CP.27, 10/CP.27, 15/CP.29 and 15/CP.30,

Taking note of decisions 11/CMA.1, 19/CMA.1, 1/CMA.5, 1/CMA.6 and 12/CMA.7,

Recalling Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention, which provides that Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology,

Recognizing common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, consistent with Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Convention in the context of Article 3 of the Convention as a whole,

Having considered the report on the 50th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group[1] and the 2026 synthesis report by the secretariat on the progress of the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group,[2]

Recognizing the evolving nature of the adaptation architecture under the Convention and the Paris Agreement,

1. *Welcomes* the progress of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in implementing its work programme for 2026–2027[3] under its current mandate[4] and *expresses appreciation* for its sustained contribution to advancing adaptation efforts in the least developed countries;

2. *Recognizes* that the current mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group includes providing technical guidance and capacity-building to the least developed countries

[1] FCCC/SBI/2026/27.
[2] FCCC/SBI/2026/11.
[3] Contained in document FCCC/SBI/2026/8, annex II.
[4] See document FCCC/SBI/2026/11, annex.

for formulating and implementing national adaptation plans; supporting the least developed countries in accessing means of implementation to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, including financial support; developing knowledge products relevant to the least developed countries; facilitating reporting on adaptation; and collaborating with other constituted bodies under the Convention and relevant organizations in fulfilling its mandates from the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 21 of decision 5/CP.17, in which developed country Parties were urged to mobilize financial support for the national adaptation plan process for the least developed country Parties through bilateral and multilateral channels, including through the Least Developed Countries Fund;

4. *Notes* the broad range of challenges faced by the least developed countries in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, including:

(a) Limited access to Green Climate Fund accredited entities that are willing and able to prepare and submit to the Fund a project proposal that is based on one or more priorities identified in the national adaptation plan;

(b) Insufficient capacity of Green Climate Fund accredited entities to respond to the scale of the least developed countries' needs in terms of developing project proposals and supporting the implementation of multiple adaptation projects across several countries;

(c) For many of the least developed countries, simplified access procedures and templates for project proposals not necessarily leading to faster access to climate finance for the implementation of adaptation projects;

(d) Unequal access to climate finance, with many of the least developed countries continuing to face difficulties in accessing finance available through climate funds despite significant adaptation finance needs;

(e) Limited uptake by funding channels of project concept notes and project pipelines developed by the least developed countries, with very few progressing, so far, into projects that have been approved, had funds disbursed and been delivered;

(f) Low uptake of existing support offers by the least developed countries, such as support provided for accreditation of direct access entities, deployment of liaison officers and support for project development;

(g) Capacity gaps in meeting fiduciary and procurement standards for accreditation of direct access entities under the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund;

(h) Gaps in tracking progress beyond finance approved or accessed and results against priorities identified in the national adaptation plans, making it difficult to determine which priorities have been funded, how much finance has been disbursed and how supported activities are contributing to the implementation of national adaptation plans;

5. *Also notes* the importance of addressing the challenges referred to in paragraph 4 above in a holistic manner in order to facilitate the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans;

6. *Decides* to establish the least developed countries national adaptation plan implementation platform under the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, within its mandate;

7. *Notes* that the least developed countries national adaptation plan implementation platform established in paragraph 6 above should take into account the following safeguards: avoiding duplication of work with existing constituted bodies under the Convention and as appropriate the Paris Agreement and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, where appropriate; does not involve creating a new constituted body; accommodating new activities through prioritization and structuring of existing workstreams of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group;

8. *Decides* that the least developed countries national adaptation plan implementation platform is to function in a holistic manner in facilitating the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support for the least developed countries to access finance for

implementing the priorities identified in their national adaptation plans and overcome the challenges referred to in paragraph 4 above, including support for:

(a) Translating nationally identified adaptation priorities into coherent, programmatic, country-driven approaches to implementing national adaptation plans, including by using nationally validated registries of priorities, catalogues of project concept notes and the NAPX[5] toolkit of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, as appropriate;

(b) Sequencing the implementation of identified national adaptation priorities, undertaking feasibility studies for project proposal development, developing coherent programmes for implementation of national adaptation plans and preparing implementation-ready adaptation project proposals and pipelines, with early engagement with delivery channels;

(c) Navigating the evolving climate finance landscape, matching priorities identified in national adaptation plans with suitable readiness support and financing windows and delivery channels, and facilitating follow-up on processing and feedback throughout proposal submission, project approval, fund disbursement and implementation processes related to accessing financing for the implementation of national adaptation plans;

(d) Presenting national priorities for adaptation that have been translated into projects that are ready for funding to relevant funding channels in order to complement the finance provided by developed country Parties to, and support received via other channels by, the least developed countries;

(e) Strengthening capacity and institutional arrangements at the national and local level relevant to coordinating and managing adaptation programmes, including for channelling financial and technical resources to the subnational level for and monitoring the results of those programmes, drawing, as appropriate, on the roster of experts from the least developed countries maintained by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as well as experts from universities, including those included in the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change, and relevant regional institutions;

(f) Integrating application of the targets under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and use of the Belém Adaptation Indicators, which are to be used on a voluntary basis for tracking progress in achieving those targets, into the least developed countries' adaptation planning processes, while respecting the country-driven nature of national adaptation plans and avoiding additional reporting burden;

(g) Using climate information services and applying frontier technologies, including artificial intelligence and remote sensing, as appropriate, for strengthening the design, implementation and monitoring of adaptation action;

(h) Tracking progress in the implementation of the least developed countries' national adaptation plans, identifying unresolved barriers to the implementation of those national adaptation plans, and generating, synthesizing and communicating evidence of adaptation on the basis of country experience, national adaptation plans, biennial transparency reports and existing national processes and reporting arrangements, as appropriate, while avoiding additional reporting burden;

9. *Requests* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to identify modalities through which the least developed countries national adaptation plan implementation platform can strengthen collaboration and coordination and avoid duplication of efforts, under existing initiatives as well as with the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, on relevant work and to include information thereon in its reports on its 51st and 52nd meetings for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-second session (November 2027) and *invites* the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to consider the same information at its ninth session (November 2027);

[5] NAPX is an adaptation data model used to map the contents of a national adaptation plan as typed, evidence-linked entities; see https://napexchange.org.

10. *Also invites* relevant entities accredited to the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund and the implementing agencies of the Least Developed Countries Fund, as well as other relevant channels, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, to collaborate with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in supporting activities of the least developed countries national adaptation plan implementation platform;

11. *Further invites* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to identify initial activities that may be undertaken via the least developed countries national adaptation plan implementation platform with the least developed countries and relevant channels using available financial and technical resources and to include information thereon in the reports on the meetings of the Group;

12. *Appreciates* the commitment of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to integrating gender-responsive approaches into its work and *encourages* the Group to make continued efforts in this regard, including in support of the implementation of the Belém gender action plan for 2026–2034[6] and by taking into account the gender-related provisions under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience;[7]

13. *Requests* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to prepare a knowledge product containing a synthesis of adaptation priorities identified by the least developed countries in their national adaptation plans, through a programmatic lens, which is to include a summary of arrangements for implementing national adaptation plans and of existing support and further opportunities for supporting the implementation of the national adaptation plans;

14. *Also requests* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, building on the synthesis referred to in paragraph 13 above and taking into account the priority area for support referred to in paragraph 8(a) above, to explore and identify the most effective approaches for improving access by the least developed countries to adaptation finance and enhancing their access to readiness support, taking into account existing support arrangements, initiatives and mechanisms and avoiding duplication of effort;

15. *Encourages* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to continue providing targeted support to individual least developed countries on an ongoing basis, particularly to those that have not yet submitted a national adaptation plan;

16. *Also encourages* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to explore synergies between NAP Expos and UNFCCC climate weeks, wherever appropriate;

17. *Further encourages* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to enhance its provision of scientific information and sharing of climate risk assessment knowledge on climate adaptation, drawing on the roster of experts from the least developed countries that it maintains, peer learning platforms such as NAP Expos, resources made available by universities in the least developed countries and practical tools such as the NAP AI Studio, with a view to supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and reducing the burden of this process on the least developed countries;

18. *Requests* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to further strengthen its collaboration with the Adaptation Committee, the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund, on supporting the least developed countries in formulating and implementing national adaptation plans and to explore opportunities for collaboration with organizations, including representatives of relevant adaptation-related initiatives, research communities, networks and regional platforms, that can support the implementation of its current mandate;

19. *Also requests* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, on the basis of the challenges outlined in paragraph 4 above and the elements listed in paragraph 8 above, as appropriate, to provide recommendations on improvements to the least developed countries work programme contained in paragraph 3 of decision 16/CP.24, and to include information

[6] Decision 7/CP.30, annex.

[7] Decision 2/CMA.5, paras. 10(b) and 13.

thereon in its report on its 51st meeting for consideration by Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sixty-sixth session (June 2027) with a view to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation forwarding a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-second session;

20. *Further requests* the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to continue making efforts to enhance the transparency of its meetings;

21. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations to continue providing financial and technical assistance for supporting the implementation of the work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group;

22. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs 6, 8 and 13 above;

23. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.