

November Climate Change Dialogues

2050 Vision and Initiatives: synergy with support mechanisms for the LDCs under the UNFCCC

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Submitted by Tracy Bach, CFP RINGO

From the CD program description:

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Background

Article 4, paragraph 9, of the Convention provides for the special support to the least developed countries (LDCs), with respect to funding and transfer of technology, given their specific needs and special situations. Over the years, a number of mechanisms have been set up to specifically support the LDCs including the LDC work programme, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), as well as specific request to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, Parties and organizations to enhance support to the LDCs. The LEG is mandated to provide overall technical guidance and support to the LDCs on the aforementioned issues as well as on other specific areas such as regional approaches, gender, vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems, and to engage other bodies and organizations in doing so.

The LDC Group at the UN climate change negotiations has developed a vision, The LDC Vision 2050, for all LDCs to be on climate-resilient development pathway by 2030, and to deliver net-zero emissions by 2050 to ensure societies and ecosystems thrive. The vision unites and draws on the knowledge, resources and work of three initiatives developed by the LDC Group to support this transition: the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR); the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI); and the LDCs Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC). These initiatives focus on several key areas central to LDCs including development of long-term strategies in effective adaptation, resilience and development, access to renewable energy and capacity building in climate research."

Objective and description

This event will discuss the LDC Vision and Initiatives of the LDC Group, and will explore potential synergies with the established support mechanisms under the UNFCCC, in particular the LDC work programme and the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The event will explore ways in which support to the LDCs can be coordinated for scaled up implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Opening remarks delivered by Sonam P. Wangdi, Chair, LDC Group on Climate Change, Bhutan; Hana Hamadalla Mohamed, LEG Chair; Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Adao Soares Barbosa, LEG Member, gave an update on the LDC work programme

teams.microsoft.com/_/#/pre-join-calling/19:meeting_Y2FIODVhZWQtdhKYS00MGU5LTg2MGEtOTc1MDY4NmU5NTg4@thread.v2

Funding provisions under the GCF

GCF Governing Instrument

In allocating resources for adaptation, the Board will take into account the urgent and immediate needs of developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including LDCs, SIDS and African States, using minimum allocation floors for these countries as appropriate

GCF FUNDING (USD)	GCF GLOBAL PORTFOLIO (USD)
2.1b GCF funding*	7.2b Total GCF funding
62 Total approved GCF projects, including 9 multiregional projects	41 Projects under implementation

Source: GCF (2020). GCF spotlight: Least Developed Countries. Accessible at <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-least-developed-countries-factsheet>

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teams.microsoft.com/_/#/pre-join-calling/19:meeting_Y2FIODVhZWQtdhKYS00MGU5LTg2MGEtOTc1MDY4NmU5NTg4@thread.v2

Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

Modalities for supporting the LDCs

- ☐ Open NAPs, case studies
- ☐ Guidelines, technical papers
- ☐ Training workshops
- ☐ NAP Expos
- ☐ Tracking: progress, effectiveness, gaps
- ☐ NAP Central
- ☐ Collaboration with other bodies and organizations
- ☐ COP, CMA, SBI mandates

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LDC Vision 2050 and initiatives (LIFE-AR, LDC-REEEI, LUCCC) explained by Phento Tshering, LDC Group Lead Negotiator, Bhutan

The top screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams meeting interface. The main content area displays a slide titled "LDC INITIATIVES" with a table of initiatives. The table has three columns: Initiative Name, Description, and Focus Area. The initiatives listed are LIFE-AR, LDC REEEI, and LUCCC. The bottom of the screen shows a list of participants and a search bar.

Initiative Name	Description	Focus Area
LIFE-AR	The LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience	Effectively adapting to climate change and building resilience
LDC REEEI	The LDCs Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development	Increasing access to energy without exacerbating climate change
LUCCC	The LDCs University Consortium on Climate Change	Capacity building in climate research and policy

The bottom screenshot shows the same Microsoft Teams meeting interface, but the main content area displays a hexagonal diagram of the LDC initiatives. The diagram consists of six hexagons arranged in a circle, each representing an initiative. The initiatives are LIFE-AR, REEEI, LUCCC, and three others. The bottom of the screen shows a list of participants and a search bar.

LDC INITIATIVES

- LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR): Effectively adapting to climate change and building resilience
- LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative (REEEI): Increasing access to energy without exacerbating climate change
- LDC University Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC): Capacity building in climate research and policy

The Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development

Cecilia Bernardo, LDC country representative (Angola), not Adaptation Committee co-chair:

Linkages between NAPs and LDC vision: defines vision as redefining the relationships between LDCs, donors, and other development partners, to strengthen their own delivery system and results in high quality climate response.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams meeting interface. The main slide is titled "Key linkages of NAPs and LDC Vision". It contains two bullet points:

- LDC Vision is guided by our desire to redefine relationships between LDCs, donors and wider development partners, so we can work together more effectively to strengthen our own delivery systems and ensure high quality climate response.
- We aim to build the institutional systems and capabilities we need for long-term transformative changes. To achieve this, we will develop delivery mechanisms that are flexible and forward-looking; that help us implement our Climate Action Plans including our NDCs and NAPs and that strengthen our institutions to be agile and responsive to changing circumstances, needs and new knowledge as they arise; that are designed according to the principles of subsidiarity, and that are transparent and open, with predictable but flexible budgets rather than for prescribed activities. We want these mechanisms to be vertically integrated within our systems and structures while also enabling horizontal collaboration across different sectors.

Below the slide, there is a row of participant avatars with initials: +42, JW, LS, SB, ES, HL, MK, FU, AK, JA, ME, AB, PT, and CB. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 7:48 AM on 12/3/2020.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Teams meeting interface. The main slide is titled "Key Suggestions". It contains three bullet points:

- The LDC vision and the initiatives should not replicate work being undertaken by other initiatives operating in country or at the international level, but rather ensure the delivery support provided respond to these and look at opportunities to support such initiatives better in terms of strengthening overall climate coordination, planning, and building of systems and structures in country to deliver on these climate in.
- working together better, through strengthened dialogues and more coordinated approaches, joining the dots with existing initiatives and sharing lessons and approaches, we can ensure the most vulnerable countries and communities receive the climate support they urgently need.
- Looking at the progress we are making in formulating our NAPs, significant effort and energy needs to be redirected to ensure effective delivery of our national plans and priorities.

Below the slide, there is a row of participant avatars with initials: +42, JW, LS, SB, ES, HL, MK, FU, AK, JA, ME, AB, PT, and CB. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 7:50 AM on 12/3/2020.

Panel discussion on LDC Initiatives and synergies in delivering support to the LDCs:

Yamikani Idriss, LIFE-AR focal point, Malawi: *What are milestones on the LIFE-AR implementation and its potential synergies with Adaptation related support?*

Signed compact with development partners on LIFE-AR in Madrid, and 2020 was expected to be a big year; Malawi still making progress, in signing of documents and appointment of focal point, and now in process of identifying financial support for scoping study.

LIFE-AR principles are in sync with Malawi's MDG 3 goals on agriculture and resilience; through GEF, Malawi completed a climate proofing project and resilience enhancement, integrating mitigation and adaptation principles into local and national objectives

Ephraim Mwepya Shitima, Zambia LDC-REEEI: *How this initiative could support national efforts on renewable energy and energy efficiency and potential areas for collaboration on other related support.*

Most LDCs typically have < 30% of population with access to electricity, so when improving access, have opportunity to do it in green way. E.g. Zambia traditionally used mostly hydro power for electricity production (97%), but currently decrease to 85% due to CC water impacts is being supplemented by solar and wind, given this initiative.

Ajay Mathema, Nepal LUCCC: *What role can academic institutions play in supporting LDCs to build capacity for adaptation & resilience? What benefits do you foresee from being a member of LUCCC?*

Describes the background of PA Article 11, in striving to avoid use of developed country experts who fly in/out and don't leave sustainable capacity building; LDC universities often the least powerful stakeholder. Hence creation of LUCCC, to focus on building local capacity within university experts.

Video by H.E. Mr. Lamin B. Dibba, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, The Gambia on experience from The Gambia on LoCAL is available on demand (not shown)

Q&A:

Q on gender inclusion in NAPs:

- LEG chair: 18/20 submitted NAPs mention gender and 17/20 mention women
- Shitima of Zambia: describes disparate impacts on women (e.g. crop failure and food insecurity) and why/how Zambia includes gender in its NAP

Q: How LDC vision is ensured in Country specific policies and legal documents to address the climate related issues? what is the monitoring and reporting mechanism for this?

- Zambia describes some specific policies that incorporated part of the vision (e.g. low carbon, resilient), but not literally the vision language; did not address MRV Q

Q: How will LDC 2050 connect with the 21 LDC country Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility which provides a route to direct access to the GCF for locally led adaptation?

- Mathema, Nepal: 3 layers of govts (central, local, provincial) and most policy development is at central level, need more capacity building at the lower levels and local universities can help fill those gaps.
- Wangdi: believes that LIFE-AR is very similar to LoCAL; he serves as co-chair on LoCAL board, working on synergies between the two programs; is new program, currently serving only 3-4 counties but have some 30 countries applying

Closing remarks by Sonam P. Wangdi, Chair, LDC Group on Climate Change, Bhutan: to date, have been working within silos, now is time to not only look for synergies but harness them; the three initiatives described in this session sum up the three climate change priorities for LDCs, but are currently underfunded; LDC leadership is making connections at constituted body level, and w/LEG