

Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

Recommendations on ways to address the challenges faced by the least developed countries in accessing funding for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans

1. Mandate

COP 26 requested the LEG to continue to collaborate with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) on matters relating to access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other funds under the Financial Mechanism by the least developed countries (LDCs) for funding the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs).¹

Additionally, COP 27 invited the LEG (and the Adaptation Committee) to continue formulating recommendations on ways to facilitate the mobilization of support for the formulation and implementation of NAPs with a view to addressing the challenges by developing countries and to submit the recommendations to the SCF for consideration.²

Furthermore, SBI 62 requested the LEG to continue formulating recommendations on ways to address the challenges in accessing GCF funding for NAPs, and to submit the recommendations to the SCF for consideration.

2. Recommendations

The table below presents recommendations by the LEG for addressing the challenges faced by the least developed countries in accessing funding for the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

¹ Decision 15/CP.26, para. 13.

² Decision 9/CP.27, para. 5.

Table: Recommendations for addressing the challenges faced by the least developed countries in accessing funding for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans

Challenges	Proposed COP guidance	Background to the recommendations
The absence of specific modalities for expedited support to the LDCs for the implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified in the NAPs, in line with paragraph 46 of decision 1/CP.21, limits the speed at which the countries implement their NAPs	The Conference of the Parties reiterates the request to the Green Climate Fund to expedite support for the implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified in the national adaptation plans in line with paragraph 46 of decision 1/CP.21	The LDCs will have submitted their NAP by end of 2025, and are ready to embark on implementation. The GCF provides financial support and technical assistance through its delivery partners for the formulation of NAPs under the readiness support programme. COP 21 requested the GCF to expedite support for the LDCs and other developing country Parties for the formulation of NAPs, consistent with decisions 1/CP.16 and 5/CP.17, and for the subsequent implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified by them.
Many LDCs have initiated promising adaptation actions through their NAPs, however, overall implementation remains insufficient relative to escalating climate risks	The Conference of the Parties requests the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support to the least developed country Parties for the establishment and operationalization of programmes aimed at facilitating the implementation of all policies, programmes and projects identified in their national adaptation plans	The extensive criteria and requirements for adaptation funding proposals restrict the number of projects the LDCs can manage at a time, leading to only a few submissions each year. Moreover, the LDCs cannot present their entire NAP as a single implementation programme. Instead, they must submit individual projects, each undergoing the full project cycle, despite the significant effort already invested in identifying and prioritizing policies, projects, and programmes in the NAP.
There are very few national direct access entities in the LDCs since the inception of the DAE process in 2015. Only 13 LDCs have DAEs out of the 44 LDCs. A critical	The Conference of the Parties requests the Green Climate Fund to explore alternative ways for least developed country Parties to directly access funding, such as through pilot trials with national entities to implement projects on their way towards accreditation.	As at 24 March 2025, 13 of the 44 LDCs had a total of 20 direct access entities (DAEs), (FCCC/SBI/2025/7, para. 32).

Challenges	Proposed COP guidance	Background to the recommendations
mass of DAEs is unlikely in the near future, hence other modalities are needed to enable LDCs to access funding directly		
There is insufficient availability of regional and international implementing partners to support the LDCs in implementing their NAPs	The Conference of the Parties invites regional and international implementing entities to increase their support to the least developed country Parties in implementing their national adaptation plans, in a manner that is country-driven and responsive to national priorities, and further requests the Green Climate Fund to facilitate and enable such support	Some LDCs have failed to secure accredited entities to support the development of country driven project ideas into project proposals for submission for funding
There currently is insufficient resources in the LDCF to meet the cost of adaptation project proposals submitted by the LDCs	The Conference of the Parties encourages continued and increased voluntary contributions of financial resources to the Least Developed Countries Fund to meet the adaptation needs of the least developed countries	The SBI noted with concern that the session for pledging funds to the LDCF planned for the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties was cancelled because outreach to donors indicated that the magnitude of such pledges would not warrant the session, and that, as at 5 June 2025, seven project proposals from the LDCs requesting USD 89 million had already been technically cleared by the Global Environment Facility but were awaiting funding (FCCC/SBI/2025/11, para. 130)