

## Summary

In order to address the key issues of climate change in a coordinated way in national, regional and international level, the Paris Agreement was adopted by the representative countries at the 21st Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris, France in 2015. The preamble to the Paris Agreement highlights the Least Developed Countries' (LDCs) special situations and needs with regard to funding and technology transfer, while Article 2, which contains the purpose of the agreement, includes a call for parties to pursue efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The 22nd Session of Conference of Parties, held from 7th to 18th November 2016 at Marrakech, Morocco, according to the LDCs, needed to deliver upon their paramount responsibility of building upon the

foundations set in the Paris and construct rules, implementation procedures and review mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

In LDC Watch's fight for Climate Justice, it is critical that the Paris Agreement addresses the concerns of the LDCs and that the Agreement is based on historical responsibility, is without offsets and loopholes, emphasizes on the need of limiting temperature rise to well below 1.5°C, ensures delivery of finance and technology and other mechanisms to empower LDCs and its communities to build resilience and deal with loss and damage. We urge all international partners to provide full support to LDC countries in keeping with the Istanbul Programme of Action's (IPOA) and the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) objectives for the LDCs.

## Climate Change Impacts in Least Developed Countries

Climate change has gradually undermined the lives of poor people in the LDCs, also undermining their ambitions vis à vis graduation out of the LDC category. The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) states that LDCs are systematically more vulnerable to climate change than rest of the world.

Although LDCs have least contributed to climate change, they are disproportionately placed in the frontlines of the climate catastrophe, with devastating impacts on food security and livelihoods. Some LDCs like Nepal and Bhutan are facing glacier melt and glacier lakes outburst floods (GLOF). In the South Asian region the impacts of higher temperatures such as variable precipitation, more extreme weather events, and sea level rise will likely continue to intensify whereas in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which comprise of numerous LDCs, population and infrastructure are highly exposed to the risk of sea-level rise and increased storm surges.

Sub-Saharan African countries, which constitutes majority of the LDCs, are facing cascading effects of climate change, with some areas becoming drier due to more heat and evaporation. Such situation has increased the level of internal displacement, food insecurity and other humanitarian catastrophe in the LDCs.

**Table 1: Key Regional Impacts of Climate Change**

Africa	Uncertain rainfall change; shifting ecosystem ranges; increased stress on water availability; increased vulnerability of agricultural systems; multiplied health vulnerabilities.
Asia	water scarcity; higher temperatures causing lower rice yields; potential decrease in marine biodiversity; stresses caused by rapid urbanization compounded; extreme climate events increasingly affecting human health, security, livelihoods, and poverty.
Small Island	sea-level rise; degradation of fresh groundwater by sea water; degradation of coral reef ecosystems, affecting island communities and livelihoods.

Source: (IPCC, 2014)

Climate change will significantly hamper LDCs' ability to achieve the SDGs on poverty, hunger, health, water, growth, infrastructure, cities, marine resources and ecosystems. It may also decrease LDCs' ability to meet goals on education, gender, energy, inequality, sustainable consumption and production, peace, and implementation. And extreme climate change will make combatting climate change itself more difficult.

Climate impacts are also very likely to increase the cost of meeting all SDGs in LDCs, especially under high-emission scenarios. Climate change will undermine LDCs' ability to achieve the SDGs most critical to their own development strategy: building productive capacity, adding value in natural resource sectors and achieving sustainable

structural transformation. Climate change is felt through the interaction of biophysical effects with social and institutional factors: the LDCs' starting point of high poverty levels and weak institutional capacity potentially moves the already huge challenge of attaining sustainable development goals beyond their reach. (Fifth Assessment Report, 2014)

## Demands of LDC Watch

### Mitigation

We demand action pledge that reinforces the mitigation commitment of developed countries, inspires partner organizations to in furthering their actions in mitigation and report on these actions pledged the outcomes. The action pledge should be based on science based greenhouse gas reduction targets.

We urge all major emitter countries to enhance mitigation ambition and fix the peak for least developed, developing and developed countries respectively in 2035, 2025 and 2020 through respective enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). We call for these countries to take urgent action now to reduce their emissions before 2020.

### Adaptation

It is critical that adequate and effective support is mobilized for LDCs' adaptation efforts. Developed countries need to provide adequate finance to LDCs, as they rightfully deserve, to prepare themselves to adapt to, and build resilience to cope with the adverse effects of climate change. We continue to call for development partners to acknowl-

edge their historical responsibility and equity under the UNFCCC and provide debt-free climate finance in order for us to adapt and build resilience against climate change impacts in LDCs.

### Loss and damage

The Warsaw International Mechanism on 'loss and damage' needs to be operational. It must have resources to recuperate the loss and damage caused by climate change impacts.

We urge Parties to provide and increase support to social protection programs in vulnerable and least developed countries and add that providing insurance mechanism to Developed Country Parties would only serve as repatriation of resources in the name of insurance mechanism

**Table 2: Likely Implications of Climate Change in Realizing the SDGs.**

Sustainable Development Goals	Likely impact of Climate Change
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change poses a huge obstacle for LDCs in their aim to eradicate poverty. It makes providing social protection to the poor, who are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, more difficult.</li> <li>Food-related impacts indirectly affect poverty: under a low crop productivity scenario, countries like Bangladesh could experience a 15 per cent net increase in poverty by 2030.</li> <li>Land access is threatened as rising sea levels endanger the very existence of some atoll nations.</li> </ul>
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change may lead to 170 million more undernourished people in 2080.</li> <li>Crops already near their maximum heat tolerance (UNFCCC, 2002) are particularly vulnerable.</li> <li>By 2080, major decreases in land productivity are expected in sub-Saharan Africa (14–27 per cent) and Southeast Asia (18–32 per cent).</li> <li>Losses to genetic diversity are also projected.</li> </ul>
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate-related hazards impacts SDG target of sustaining GDP growth in LDCs above seven percent per year.</li> <li>Coral reef degradation will negatively impact island communities and livelihoods, including tourism. In Ethiopia, hydrological variability is projected to decrease GDP growth by up to 38 per cent. In Tanzania, estimated costs of treating 3 climate-related cholera cases in 2030 are 0.32–1.4 per cent of GDP.</li> <li>Dehydration and heat exhaustion undermine people's ability to carry out physical work – threatening safe working environments. By 2100, climate change may reduce labour productivity by 11–27 per cent in the tropics, which could reduce economic output in affected sectors by 8–22 per cent.</li> </ul>
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change can impact on infrastructure, including energy, water, transportation and health.</li> <li>For instance, Cotonou, Benin is one city where property, infrastructure and water resources will be negatively affected.</li> </ul>
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limitations in Adaptation such as lack of resources, information and physiological limits challenge the aim to strengthen resilience to climate related hazards.</li> </ul>
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change will increase the need for financial resources and capacity building for LDCs to meet this goal of SDGs.</li> <li>Climate change will affect trade patterns, given its potential impact on agricultural prices.</li> <li>Under the mid range scenario, an increase in imports into developing countries is projected, potentially undermining SDG's target which aims at doubling LDC's share of exports.</li> </ul>

Source: (IPCC, 2014)

## Finance

The key to effective implementation of climate action in LDCs is adequate financing, but the finance to carry this out has not been nearly enough. It is critical that the available Financial Mechanisms -GCF, GEF, LDCF and AF- are provided substantial resources to support climate action in LDCs. It is imperative that the finance is new, additional, sustainable as well as predictable. The operating entities of the Financial Mechanism must ensure country ownership, facilitate direct access and provide support while prioritizing the most vulnerable countries particularly LDCs to develop quality projects.

## Capacity building and Technology development and transfer

Capacity Building should address the specific needs of LDCs and ensure their enhanced capacity to undertake climate action including adaptation. It should facilitate technology development and secure financial support to deliver the long-term vision on technology development and transfer.

## Transparency Framework

The transparency framework must be cognizant of LDCs' capacity and challenges, to ensure that the resulting rules reflect the discretion and flexibility provided to LDCs' under the Paris Agreement and its adopting decision.

## Key Concerns of LDC Watch at COP22

- The Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol, that establishes the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, did not come into effect. The failure for the developed countries to fulfill their pre 2020 commitment to ratify this agreement is not only disappointing for LDCs but also detrimental to the ability of accomplishing the post 2020 global temperature target.
- Subsidiary Body for Science and Technological Advice (SBSTA) failed to make a decision on setting up of a work pro-

gram on agriculture, and the matter has been deferred until the next SBSTA meeting on May 2017. This is an extremely disappointing result for the LDCs that are eager to work in adapting the agriculture sector to the effects of climate change and build the capacity of small scale farmers in rescuing their livelihood and ensuring food security.

- The lengthy debate on whether or not the Adaptation Fund serves the Paris Agreement and the subsequent preparatory work to make it address the governance, institutional arrangements of Paris Agreement and preparing its operating modalities is eating up LDC's valuable time of starting their adaptation action. In our fight against climate change time is against us and we cannot afford to drag our feet into taking concrete actions.
- LDC Watch is deeply concerned with the observation that developed countries are down playing their commitment in climate finance. Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) is suffering from shortfall of resources and the Adaptation Fund's financial gap was barely met by Germany, Italy, Sweden, and Walloon and Flemish regions of Belgium. It is estimated that annually \$56-73 billion is needed for adaptation in developing countries, and it is expected to rise to \$140-300 billion in the coming 13 years. We would like to draw attention to the fact that insufficient allocation of financial resources to LDCs harms their programs for resilience building and social protections.
- Discussion on long term finance has delivered no clear decision on the mobilization and provision of scaled-up financial resources for LDCs. There have been some small-scale wins: avoiding adopting the finance road map with its dodgy, unfair and incorrect accounting modalities, some seemingly-positive intentions such as the emphasis given to

public finance for adaptation, the call for a balance between adaptation and mitigation and mention of scaling up adaptation finance.

- NAPAs were agreed five years ago at COP17, but developing countries - LDCs in particular - are still waiting for financial support to implement their NAPAs. To date, 32 NAPA implementation projects have been submitted by LDCs and approved by GEF, but the projects are still awaiting support from LDCF.

## Key Outcomes at COP22

- During CoP22 two initiatives that are opportunities and are of interest to LDCs were launched. This is because they attempt to focus on small scale climate adaptation actions. First, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency initiative (REEEI) was launched. It announced that it intends to scale up the provision of renewable energy to LDCs, while promoting energy efficiency. Secondly the African Adaptation Initiative, whose major focus is to strengthen and support small-scale adaptation actions to access financial support, was also launched.
- Progress was made under the Loss and Damage discussion. An agreement on a series of technical processes, that will help developing countries deal with impacts not addressed by adaptation, was reached. The decision establishes a review of the Warsaw International Mechanism - the overall governing framework for the loss and damage discussion. There was also agreement to produce a technical paper elaborating the sources of financial support for loss and damage.

## Call for Action and Way Forward

Although the Paris Agreement has agreed upon the ambition to keep the global average temperature "well below 2°C" above pre-

industrial levels, LDC Watch reiterates its belief, on the basis of IPCC reports, that the limit of 1.5°C should be adhered through comparable action Pre-2020 and continuing in Post 2020. We call upon LDC negotiators to continue to collaborate including with other groups of Parties and partners to ensure effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. This collaboration should safeguard and preserve the key interests of LDCs along with the various flexibilities provided to LDCs as well as special circumstances recognized in the Paris Agreement. Equally critical is that international partners, bilateral or multilateral, provide full support to LDCs, bearing in mind the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) as well as the SDGs to ensure all LDCs engage effectively in a pathway towards a low emission and environmentally friendly pathway to graduation and development which will protect the life of our people and the ecosystem. It is critical for LDC Watch and its concerned groups to be engaged in developing compliance mechanisms and work to ensure that compliance mechanism encompasses all obligations under the Paris Agreement. Equally important is to effectively engage in elaboration of the transparency framework to ensure that the resulting rules reflect the discretion and flexibility provided to LDCs' under the Paris Agreement and its adopting decision. We remain committed to continue to be fully engaged in the UNFCCC process to provide political orientation to our lead negotiators in future conferences of Parties and to work towards respective domestic climate agendas. Finally, we appreciate that many countries that have already deposited their instruments of ratification of the Paris Agreement and those that have fulfilled or are well advanced in fulfilling their domestic processes with a view to ratifying in 2016 and 2017. We urge remaining Parties to join, thereby reinforcing the Paris Agreement and providing the best chance of achieving the 1.5°C warming limit.

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**Cover photo:** Villagers in Bangladesh take shelter on hut tops as they await safety after floods. Photo credits: Unnayan Shamannay

# LDC Watch Position Paper



## Uphold the Climate Justice of the LDCs in the Paris Agreement



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