



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

## **Report of the UNCCD COP 11 Side Event on Building the Resilience of Landlocked Developing Countries to the Impacts of Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought**

**Pre-conference event held in preparation for The Ten-Year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action 2014**

**Held on Wednesday, 18 September 2013 in Windhoek, Namibia**

## **A. Introduction**

The United Nations Office of the High-Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), UNCCD and UNFCCC jointly organized the UNCCD COP 11 side event on “Building the Resilience of Landlocked Developing Countries to the Impacts of Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought”. The meeting was also held as a pre-conference event of the Comprehensive Ten-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action to be held in 2014. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the impact of climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought on the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and suggest recommendations that can be included in the new development agenda for the LLDCs.

The meeting was moderated by Ms. Mutsa Chasi, Director General, Environmental Management Agency of Zimbabwe. The meeting was attended by 51 participants from LLDCs and other countries and civil society representatives.

## **B. Summary of Opening Remarks**

In her opening remarks Ms. Chasi indicated that LLDCs face special challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and remoteness and isolation from world markets. They incur higher costs for transportation and trade and as such are disadvantaged in their development as they cannot fully utilize their trade potential. She further noted that LLDCs because of their geography are also disproportionately affected by climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought. She underscored that a large proportion of LLDCs is under dryland ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to the impact of desertification and climate change and that degraded land and encroaching desertification foster extreme poverty, food insecurity and hunger and contribute to increased migrations, instability and other social crises.

Ms. Chasi informed the meeting about the Almaty Programme of Action that was adopted by the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2003, aimed to address the special needs and challenges faced by the LLDCs in achieving their development goals with a focus on transit cooperation. She indicated that the first ten years of the Almaty Programme of Action was coming to an end, and the UN General Assembly had mandated the convening of a comprehensive ten-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014 with the UN-OHRLLS as the lead coordinator of the preparatory process. The side event was being held to contribute to the substantive preparations of the comprehensive global 10-year review conference.

She noted that the main objectives of the Meeting include to:

1. Discuss how climate change, desertification and land degradation are affecting the overall development of the LLDCs;
2. Identify the measures that have worked well and what has not worked for LLDCs;

3. Identify priority actions and measures needed to adequately address the challenge of climate change, desertification and land degradation.

## **C. Presentations by UN-OHRLLS, UNCCD and UNFCCC**

In his presentation, Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Policy Development, Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Service, UN-OHRLLS provided a background of the work of UN-OHRLLS on LLDCs and the importance of the comprehensive ten-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014 and stressed the need for the side event to come up with key recommendations that could feed into the Outcome Document of the Second UN Conference on LLDCs.

Mr. Erdenebileg highlighted that LLDCs require special attention because high transport and trade transaction costs reduce their competitiveness and diminish export profits resulting in decreased economic growth. He also noted that high transport and trade transaction costs inflate the prices of imported inputs for manufacturing, discourage investment and limit technology transfer to LLDCs. The overall impact on LLDCs is reduced sustainable economic growth and difficulties to achieve the MDGs. According to a recent study by UN-OHRLLS, the level of development in the LLDCs is on average 20% lower than what it would be were the countries non-landlocked. As a result LLDCs are among the world's poorest countries -15 are least developed countries (LDCs) and 19 LLDCs have a GDP per capita that is below \$1,000. Although the Human Development Index in the LLDCs has improved between 2003 and 2013) it is however much lower than other groups and poverty levels were still high.

Furthermore, Mr. Erdenebileg noted that LLDCs' economies were heavily reliant on low-value – high-bulk primary commodities which made them vulnerable to commodity price volatility, had limited productive capacities and high vulnerability to the external and internal shocks and including the impacts of climate change and desertification and land degradation. The LLDCs were also experiencing a decline in value addition in manufacturing which declined from 18% in 1990 to 11% in 2011 and their value addition in agriculture also declined from 23% in 2001 to 18% in 2011.

Mr. Erdenebileg noted that the LLDCs are more vulnerable to desertification because of their geography. Of the 29 countries in the world that have a proportion of the population living on degraded land of 20 percent or greater, 14 are LLDCs. The LLDCs also have the highest proportion of the population living on degraded land that exceeds 70%. 72% of the global drylands are in developing countries and of these, 60% are in LLDCs. He pointed out that 70% of the 400 million people living in LLDCs are rural based and heavily rely on the land resources, livestock production, fisheries, forests for food production, exports, employment and energy. He stressed that climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) were having negative impact on the agriculture, water, environment and transport infrastructure. The specific impacts include decreased agricultural productivity, increased incidence of food insecurity, famines, poverty and loss of human life; water scarcity and floods; reduced hydro energy; increased conflicts and migration; increased prevalence and severity of disease; and loss of biodiversity.

Specific country examples of the impacts were also presented. In Ethiopia, GDP loss from reduced agricultural productivity due to land degradation is estimated at \$130 million per year. In Lesotho, arable land is quickly diminishing and is predicted to shrink to 3% by 2030. Due to the 1991 drought, Zimbabwe's economy shrank by 5-7%, while in Zambia and Malawi economic growth declined by 4-6 and 8-9 percent respectively. Armenia loses an average of USD 33 million each year as a result of damages by extreme climate events. 41 percent of Mongolia is already severely affected by desertification. Floods and droughts in Bolivia with the 1997/98 El Nino caused a total loss of US \$530 million, approximately 2.2 percent of Bolivia's GDP.

On interventions that LLDCs have implemented at national level, Mr. Erdenebileg highlighted that these include: National action programmes - to combat desertification in specific ecosystems; National Action Programmes on Adaptation – for climate change; and National environmental plans. He also indicated that some countries have increased budget allocations or established specific funds such as national climate funds. He also noted that various programmes have been implemented on sustainable land and water resources management, mitigation, adaptation, conservation, reclamation of degraded areas, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, capacity building and early warning and disaster management.

At sub-regional and regional levels, Mr. Erdenebileg pointed out that Sub-regional and Regional Action Programmes had been established; regional financing mechanisms have been established by the African Development Bank and Asian Development Bank to support countries. In addition some facilities existed such as the Africa water facility and the Energy and Environment Partnership program that LLDCs could benefit from. At the international level the UNCCD has put in place a 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and financing mechanisms exist such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Climate Investment Funds and Green Climate fund.

Mr. Erdenebileg highlighted that the major challenges faced by LLDCs include: lack of adaptive capacity – because of being economically disadvantaged, undiversified agro-based economies and lack of equitable access to resources; lack of capacity in terms of both quality and quantity of skilled personnel required for analyzing and developing responses to the problems of climate change and DLDD in LLDCs and to systematically integrate the action plans into national planning and budgets; inadequate financial resources to fully implement designed plans; and poor data and monitoring mechanisms. He stressed that the new development agenda must adequately respond to the needs of LLDCs.

On the way forward, Mr. Erdenebileg highlighted some priority areas for action to strengthen the capacity of LLDCs to address climate change and DLDD. He stressed that the problems of climate change and DLDD in LLDCs should be addressed in a holistic way addressing all the areas linked to land productivity such as poverty, climate change, food security, biodiversity, deforestation, forced migrations and others. LLDCs should be supported to diversify their economic base so as to be able to generate resources to address climate change and DLDD. He also noted that regional integration is important in particular development and strengthening of relevant regional programmes. It is also important to foster development of regional technology

centers, and regional networks of excellence. He stressed the importance of strengthening of international support and broad access to financial facilities and strengthening and supporting the participation of LLDCs in relevant intergovernmental and multilateral processes relating to the environment.

In his statement, Dr. Mohamadou Mansour N'Diaye, Chef de Cabinet of UNCCD noted that most of the world's poor, hungry and malnourished reside in the LLDCs. He stressed that all LLDCs are heavily reliant on land for their development, particularly agricultural products for export. He highlighted that the LLDCs are worst affected by DLDD. Worldwide more than 50% of agricultural land is moderately to severely degraded. At the global level DLDD directly affects 1.5 billion people and 75 billion tons of fertile soil are lost through different means ( soil erosion etc) per year and 12 million hectares per year are lost due to drought and desertification. He noted that land degradation does not only entrench people in poverty, it jeopardizes food security, increases water stress locally and regionally, triggers biodiversity loss and deforestation and is closely linked with conflicts. DLDD hampers the achievement of the MDGs.

He indicated that at Rio plus 20, world leaders recognized that land degradation and desertification posed serious challenges for the sustainable development of developing countries particularly LLDCs and also committed to strive to Land Degradation Neutral world. He underscored that as the preparations of the new development agenda for LLDCs will take place soon, it is important to consider sustainable development of LLDC's land because it is from the land that they will be able to develop their economies.

Dr. N'Diaye concluded by informing the meeting that UNCCD brings a unique approach whereby they consider the drylands as central to global solutions on a number of global emergencies or crises including poverty eradication, food crisis and hunger, climate change and environmental induced forced migrations. UNCCD has a 10 Year Strategy whose mission includes generation of global benefits and improving livelihoods, and provides an effective tool for addressing poverty and a platform for climate resilient development. Investing in DLDD will improve the living conditions of affected populations and the affected ecosystems. It will also serve to improve agricultural outputs so as to stimulate economic growth.

UNFCCC was not able to attend the meeting, but they submitted a presentation and Ms. Gladys Mutangadura of UN-OHRLLS presented on their behalf. The presentation was entitled Climate Change in LLDCs: The National Adaptation Plan process. It provided details on how the National Adaptation Plan process was established at UNFCCC COP 16 in 2010 as a process for LDCs, with the opportunity for non-LDC developing countries to also participate. The COP mandated the GEF to support LDCs undertake the NAP process through the LDC Fund. The presentation provided more details about the NAP process, progress made by LDCs and the recently completed Technical Guidelines published by the LDC Expert Group.

The main message of the presentation was to inform the LLDCs about the opportunity that the NAP process presents and to encourage them to fully utilize it. The NAP process is the main opportunity for LLDCs to undertake adaptation. The NAP process is more advanced for LDCs and they get support through the GEF/LDC fund. The LLDCs that are not LDCs will be able to get support through the Special Climate Change Fund, another fund managed by GEF that has

less money, and is open to all developing countries (even the mid-income ones). LLDCs need to demonstrate or make a case on their special vulnerabilities to climate change. Furthermore many donor countries are willing to assist and LLDCs should also seek support directly with bilateral agencies.

The LDC Expert Group (LEG) has developed technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process. Whilst the LEG supports the LDCs, the new Adaptation Committee formed as part of the Cancun Framework, is able to support all developing countries. However not to the same extent as the LEG, but they can help mobilize attention. There is reference to vulnerable groups under the work of the committee, and thus the LLDCs can get attention through that.

The UNFCCC presentation also indicated that LLDCs can access funding support from (1) the green climate fund that was established after UNFCCC COP 16 and supports projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country Parties; and (2) the Adaptation Fund that was established after COP 7 and officially launched in 2007 to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol and are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

#### **D. Presentations on Country Experiences**

Mr. Oroth Sengtaheuangoung, Deputy Director of Agriculture and Land Utilization Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao People's Democratic Republic made a presentation on the Impact of Land use Change on soil and water in the mountainous catchment of Lao PDR. He explained the results of several studies conducted on how the different cultivation practices have an impact on soil erosion. One of the main conclusions is that changes of land cover from lower to higher cover results in decreasing of volume of surface water runoff/soil erosion. In addition, fallow re-growth decreases water runoff and stabilizes groundwater recharge and stream water yield by: extracting water from the soil profile to transpire through their leaves and intercepting parts of the rainwater and then infiltrating it directly into the soil. He recommended that use of appropriate agricultural techniques can reduce soil loss and maintain soil fertility and also reduce pollution to stream water by sediment and bacteria.

Mr. Tsened Banzragch, Director, Division of Forest Conservation and Reforestation Management of the Ministry of Environment and Green Development from Mongolia made a presentation on the Gobi Desert and Desertification in Mongolia. He indicated that approximately 70% of the total landscape of Mongolia is under threat of desertification and land degradation. 5% of the land was severely affected by desertification, whilst 18% was heavily affected, 26% moderately affected and 23% lightly affected. The Central and settlement area of 145 sub-provinces in Gobi-steppe region is also under sand movement.

Mr. Banzragch pointed out that the natural causes of desertification in Mongolia include: changes on average air temperature (over the past 70 years, air temperature has increased by 2.1°C) and fluctuation in total amount of rainfall; geographical location and harsh continental climate. While the world average annual air temperature has increased by 0.5-0.6°C over the past 100 years, the average annual air temperature in Mongolia has increased by 1.66°C. The man

made causes of desertification include: neglect of pastureland utilization or traditional way of pasture use; weak awareness on combating desertification among the public; exceeding the carrying capacity of the pasture (the current pasture capacity exceeded the carrying capacity by 32.5% or by 16 million head of sheep); and dried rivers and lakes due to mining and other human activities. Researchers have also found that about 50 percent of yellow dust originates from South of Mongolia.

The Government of Mongolia is implementing several policies and programmes to address climate change, and DLDD. These include a policy on combating desertification, National Forest Program, National Water Program, National Climate Change Policy, “Green belt” National Program and other 25 National Programs of the Government. The priority areas of the National Program on Combating Desertification include: Strengthening of institutional capacity; Strengthening of the legislation and legal environment; Enhancing scientific and technological knowledge; Increasing public awareness and participation and supporting public education; and Support tangible measures at local level and increasing investment.

The presenter concluded his presentation by highlighting the constraints that the country has experienced and stressed that future actions need to address them. These include: Legislation on combating desertification and economic situation that is not meeting with current need and requirements; Insufficient planning, utilization and regulation of agricultural land, which occupies over 70% of total landscape of Mongolia; Inadequate financial sources to combat desertification; Weak capacity at local level to combat desertification; Immature monitoring, evaluation, research and information system of desertification; Lack of Government incentive giving system to encourage active involvement and initiations from public, economic entities and local organizations in combating desertification; Weak law enforcement by the Government and public for controlling illegal utilization of natural resources; Inadequate introduction of innovation and modern technologies in restoration of abandoned areas and controlling sand movement and low level of public ecological education.

Representatives of Nepal, Dr. Jay Ram Adhikari, Under-Secretary (Technical), Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and Mr. Gokarna Mani Duwadee, Joint Secretary and UNCCD Focal Point made a presentation on their country’s experience with climate change and DLDD. Nepal has a mountainous landscape with about 73% of the country located on an elevation of more than 1000 meters above sea level and also has the Himalayas. The presenters noted that Nepal is one of the most vulnerable (4th) country in terms of climate change. Climate change is impacting both the upland and lowland ecosystem systems, and is especially threatening the vital biodiversity, water, energy and food security.

Climate change is causing the rapid melting of glaciers, formation of new supra-glacial lakes, expansion of existing lakes, and disappearing of some small lakes have been noticed. The accelerated melting rate of snow and glacier will have an impact, on water flows in rivers, health of the people and food and biomass productivity which depend on water derived from the Himalayas. Studies indicate an increase in temperature at an annual rate of 0.06°C. Over the last 100 years, the warming in the Himalayas has been much greater than the global average of 0.74°C. Glaciers in the Himalayas of Nepal are retreating at a faster rate than before (30-60 meters between 1970 and 1989). Similarly, thinning of the glacier surface is by 12 meters

between 1978 and 1989. The Nepal Climate Vulnerability Study Team estimated that the mean annual temperature will increase by 1.4°C by 2030, 2.8°C by 2060 and 4.7°C by 2090. The study showed higher temperature increments for winter compared to the monsoon season.

The IPCC 4th Assessment Report estimates that because of climate change by 2050 crop yields in South Asia can decrease by up to 30%. There will be an increase in pests, diseases and invasive species owing to temperature change affecting agricultural productivity resulting in food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. The atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration will reduce Nepal's forest types from 15 to 12, and affect the habitats and ecosystem. The adverse impacts on the Himalayas are expected to affect both the upland and lowland systems, especially threatening the vital biodiversity, water, energy and food security.

Dr. Adhikari highlighted some of the impact of climate change in Nepal. Extreme climate events have exacerbated the incidence of landslides, floods, soil erosion, and drought in Nepal which has negative impact on food production, physical infrastructure, hydropower and well-being of people. In August 2008, the eastern embankments of the Koshi Barrage collapsed, resulting in a flood that left nearly 100,000 people homeless in Nepal. Seti river flood in May 2012 killed 72 people and destroyed two villages. On June 17, 2013 there was massive rainfall in the catchment of Mahakali river that swept away much of Darchula and killed at least three people and over 100 families were displaced. Property and transport and communication infrastructure were destroyed. Communities living in the mountains are more vulnerable to climate change. Nepal is experiencing food deficit in the mountain districts for 4-5 months and the situation will be worsened by further warming. In 2008, more than 300,000 people in nine hill districts of far western and mid-western Nepal faced a precarious food situation after the crops failed due to drought.

The concern over environmental degradation and its close relationship with the population resulted in the establishment of the Ministry of Population and Environment in 1995. The Government of Nepal has also established policies, legislation and other programmes to address climate change and DLDD. These include: the Environmental Protection Act in 1997; the Sustainable Development Agenda for Nepal (2003); the National Conservation Strategy (1988), Master Plan for Forestry Sector (1989), Environmental Policy and Action Plan (1993), Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995), Water Resources Strategy (2002), Forest Sector Policy (2002), Nepal Biodiversity Strategy 2002; a Climate Change Council in 2009; a multi-stakeholder Climate Change Initiatives Coordination Committee in 2010; and a Climate Change Policy in 2011. In fiscal year 2010-11 the National Planning Commission initiated climate-resilient planning tools to make the country's economy and infrastructure climate-resilient.

In 2010, Nepal adopted a National Adaptation Programme of Action to climate change that identifies ways to address the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of the country. The total cost for the implementation of NAPA has been estimated at about US\$ 350 million. The country also has several climate change adaptation projects and programmes. The Strategic Program for Climate Resilience is one of them. It has 5 components: Building Climate Resilience of Watershed in Mountain Eco- Regions (US\$ 41 Million); Building Resilience to Climate Related Hazards (41 Million); Mainstreaming Climate Risk Management in development (US\$ 10 Million); Building Climate Resilient Communities through Private Sector Participation (US\$ 13



Million); and Enhancing Climate Resilience of Endangered Species ( US\$ 5 Million). The total cost of the programme is US\$110 of which US\$ 50 million is grant and US\$ 60 million is credit.

The presenter suggested the following recommendations: the need to scientifically model and assess the ongoing effects and likely impact of climate change on natural resources, including water resources and other economic sectors; lack of scientific data and information related to the science of climate change and its impacts on different geographical and socio economic development sectors limit the use climatic modeling for proper planning and decision making; proper institutional set up, flow of financial resources and technology transfer is crucial for mitigation and adaptation; and the need for increased support in the form of capacity building, technology transfer and financial resources.

The representative of Botswana, Prof. Julius R. Atlhopheng, Head Environmental Science, University of Botswana, stressed that landlocked developing countries have missed economic benefits because of being landlocked. For example they only have land-based tourism since they do not have beaches and on employment they miss out on marine services and jobs. Furthermore they incur high trading costs that reduce their competitiveness. Many LLDCs have a dry climate because of their location, as they do not get rain-bearing winds from the ocean. He indicated that in Southern Africa there is increased occurrence of droughts induced by El nino. Botswana had a large proportion of about two thirds of its land under the Kalahari desert.

The presenter noted that climate change and DLDD was having severe negative impact on livelihoods in particular water scarcity, disease outbreaks, and food insecurity. He indicated that the country is experiencing severe biodiversity loss which affects the cattle industry, tourism and wildlife. He stress that there is need for the international community to support LLDCs to strengthen their capacity to deal with climate change and DLDD in particular skills development, financial resources and to improve their efficiency. He called for strengthened synergies in addressing climate change, DLDD and biodiversity and the related sister conventions in developing national action plans.

In his presentation, Mr. Steady Kangata of the Environmental Management Agency of Zimbabwe indicated that Zimbabwe is divided into 5 agro-ecological regions based on rainfall regimes. Natural regions 4 and 5 were characterized by low rainfall regimes. Up to 60% of the country is semi-arid marginal agricultural lands that suffer from drought occurrence and land degradation. He indicated that due to landlockedness, Zimbabwe has limited access to marine resources necessary for provision of nutritional and livelihoods options leading to high dependency on the terrestrial natural capital and has compromised viability of the agricultural sector due to high import and export costs for inputs and outputs respectively.

He indicated that Zimbabwe had high vulnerability to encroachment of desert like conditions, land degradation and drought. This is particularly true of the south eastern regions of Zimbabwe which fall in region 4 and 5. Semi-arid areas were gradually encroaching the previously humid zone turning them to semi-arid transition zones due to climate change. Zimbabwe had suffered from the effects of climate change and there were more frequent and severe droughts since the 1980s than before, a new phenomenon that was previously very rare.

Mr. Kangata noted that some of the successes that the country had achieved in combating DLDD include: investment in alternative technology to harness those natural resources that are abundant; irrigation and water harvesting; and empowerment of communities to solve own challenges. He suggested the following recommendations: establishment of flagship transboundary projects to reverse DLDD; increased funding mechanisms for projects; investment in good transport infrastructure, improved access to services by affected communities as well as improved access of LLDCs to the seaports.

The representative of South Sudan, Mr Matthew Udo indicated that his country is highly dependent on the land resources, however the impact of climate change and DLDD was negatively affecting the availability of the resources. For example he indicated that the majority of the population in the country was dependent on wood as a source of energy and DLDD affected availability of the resource. As a young nation, he stressed the need for international support to help support the development and implementation of relevant policies and programmes.

## **E. Summary of the discussion**

In the ensuing discussion, participants reiterated that LLDCs had special vulnerabilities to climate change and DLDD because of their location. They experienced more droughts and incidences of moisture stress and a large proportion of their land area was under desert conditions. Participants emphasized the severe impact that DLDD and climate change were having on their economies including extreme poverty, food insecurity, increased migrations, loss of bio-diversity, extreme water stress and floods, poor health, reduced energy and destroyed transport infrastructure. They also underscored that the costs of non-action were high. Furthermore they expressed their concern that their countries were economically disadvantaged as they are not able to fully harness their development potentials particularly trade due to substantially higher trade transaction costs as a result of being landlocked. They stressed that it was important that special recognition and treatment is provided to LLDCs in order to help them address the challenges from climate change and DLDD.

Participants also noted that besides the conventions, there is need to put in place international environmental laws that can promote compliance and effective implementation of the conventions in all countries. Furthermore they underscored the need to strengthen follow-up at national and regional levels and the need to address the 3 conventions in synergy. They expressed concern that the monitoring, evaluation, research and information systems were not robust and needed strengthening. Participants highlighted some good practices that could be replicated such as national climate funds, irrigation and water harvesting; and empowerment of communities to solve own challenges. They also stressed that local level ownership and participation is key to successful interventions. In this regard they stressed the importance of awareness raising and public education.

Participants noted that despite immense national efforts to develop national action plans to combat desertification, implementation was severely constrained by inadequate financial resources and weak capacity at local levels.

## **F. Suggested priorities for a new development agenda on LLDCs**

Participants made the following suggestions on priorities needed to build the resilience of LLDCs to climate change and DLDD.

- Promotion of a holistic and integrated approach to addressing climate change and DLDD in national development strategies and to use a synergy approach to address the sister conventions.
- Strengthen capacity in LLDCs to analyze and develop national action plans to address climate change and DLDD and to systematically integrate the action plans into national planning and budgets.
- LLDCs should fully utilize the existing opportunity that the National Adaptation Plan process presents and access existing resources including the GEF, green climate fund, adaptation fund and the special climate change fund.
- Strengthen sustainable land and resource management and reclamation and protection of degraded land to achieve a land-degradation neutral world. Investing in climate-smart agriculture to counter the impact of climate change, desertification and land degradation.
- Strengthening and effective enforcement of relevant legislation and legal environment.
- Increasing public awareness and participation and supporting public education and supporting tangible measures and participation at local levels.
- Promote sharing of experiences and good practices that can help LLDCs to achieve some positive results.
- Enhance diversification of the economic base of LLDCs and build their productive capacities in order to achieve sustainable economic growth that would help reinforce investments to address climate change and DLDD.
- Promotion of regional integration and cooperation to address climate change and DLDD particularly through fostering development of regional technology centers, regional networks of excellence and trans-boundary projects and effective implementation of regional and sub-regional action plans.
- Strengthening of early warning systems and information and institutional capacity on climate and weather information systems.
- Strengthening generation, gathering and analysis of scientific data and information related to the science of climate change and DLDD and their impact. Strengthening of monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, mitigation and reclamation.

### **International support**

- The international community should strengthen support and broad access to existing financial facilities to LLDCs towards adaptation, mitigation, and land reclamation.
- The international community should consider establishing special financing facility just for LLDCs to cater for their unique needs.
- The international community should provide technological and capacity building assistance to LLDCs including promotion of scientific and technological knowledge.
- The international community should strengthen and support the participation of LLDCs in relevant intergovernmental and multilateral processes relating to the environment.

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