



LDC5
5TH UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



Least Developed Countries Fund:

Catalysing climate adaptation actions in Least Developed Countries

Monday, March 6, 2023

17:15 to 18:45 (Doha time)

Meeting room 101, Qatar National Convention Center

Reception following the event

AGENDA

The Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is the only multilateral fund that focuses exclusively on the unique climate adaptation challenges of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and is widely embraced by LDCs as their own. It was established in 2001 as one of the climate change adaptation funds of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since the Paris Agreement entered into force in November 2016, Parties have further entrusted the LDCF to deepen its key role in areas such as strengthening LDCs' adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change. The LDCF is part of the family of funds managed by the Global Environment Facility.

The Fund has a strong track record of supporting LDCs to build climate resilience and to address adaptation priorities. The LDCF delivers targeted support to the world's most vulnerable countries, and their people and ecosystems. 51 current and graduated LDCs gained access to more than US\$1.7 billion of grant since creation of the LDCF through close to 400 projects, programs and enabling activities, catalysing more than \$7.1 billion in co-financing. This has directly benefited more than 60 million people and strengthened management of over 9.6 million hectares of land.

The LDCF supports systemic, integrated programs with the GEF Trust Fund and other partners, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). A prime example of partnership to catalyze action is the Great Green Wall initiative of Africa, which aims to restore the continents' degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in the Sahel region. This initiative has been supported with the GEF, the LDCF, and the GCF, along with various other bilateral and multilateral institutions.

Despite the progress being made, LDCs remain highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The latest IPCC report, highlights, *with very high confidence* that "global warming, reaching 1.5°C in the near-term, would cause avoidable increase in multiple climate hazards and presents multiple risks to ecosystem and humans", and underscores the role of "adaptation" in reducing the risks.

This urgent call for climate adaptation action demands political attention and financing for catalyzing action in LDCs. In line with this urgency, *the GEF's new climate change adaptation strategy*¹ outlines priority areas and adopted ambitious financial scenarios.

At this event, Heads of State and/or Ministers will share their insights on how the GEF is catalysing adaptation action with concrete positive impacts for their economies, environment, and people in their countries.

Time	
17:15 – 17:30 15 min	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, GEF • HE Dr. Lotay Tshering, Honorable Prime Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan
17:30 – 18:15 45 min	Moderated Panel Discussion: Catalyzing climate adaptation actions and climate resilient development in Least Developed Countries High level participants will share their perspectives on the importance of addressing climate vulnerabilities and adaptation needs for sustainable development. All panelists are also invited to share their expectations from the GEF and the LDCF to address critical needs and priorities of LDCs. Moderator: <i>Tshewang Dorji, GEF Secretariat</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Kewal Prasad Bhandari, Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal • HE Seve Paeniu, Minister of Finance, Tuvalu • HE Micheal Bizwick Usi, Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi • Ms. Michele Sumilas, Assistant to the Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
18: 15-18:30 15 min	Interaction with Participants (Q&A) Honorable Panelist and GEF CEO will interact with participants.
18:30 – 18:45 15 min	Reflections and Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Micheal Bizwick Usi, Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi • Mr. Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC Secretariat • Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson, GEF

¹ GEF, 2022, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026 and Operational Improvements](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/04/Rev.01