

Submission by the Republic of Malawi on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group (LDCs) on increasing efficiency in the UNFCCC process, including the streamlining of the agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies

The Republic of Malawi, on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group, is pleased to submit its views on increasing efficiency in the UNFCCC process, including streamlining the agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies, pursuant to paragraph 192 of FCCC/SBI/2024/13. The LDC Group offers the following recommendations for consideration by parties to enhance the efficiency of the UNFCCC process.

Increasing efficiency in the UN Climate Change process

The LDC Group underscores the importance of improving both the efficiency and effectiveness of deliberations under the UN Climate Change process.

- i. Streamlining the provisional agendas of the governing and subsidiary bodies should be carried out in a party-driven, inclusive, and transparent manner, ensuring procedural fairness and consideration of the diverse needs and capacities of parties, especially those from vulnerable countries.
- ii. The main objective of increasing efficiency should remain focused on achieving the goals of the UN Climate Change process, particularly limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, mobilizing adequate and accessible resources for vulnerable countries, and preventing future risks and residual damages.
- iii. Efficiency should also aim to make the UN Climate Change process more relevant to the evolving global context and responsive to emerging needs.

Space to discuss new agenda proposals

In recent years, there has been a trend toward expanding agenda items and mandated events, resulting in extended discussions that divert limited time and scarce resources. This places an additional burden on LDC delegations that are small in size, thereby compromising our ability to participate effectively. Moreover, some critical agenda items receive inadequate attention due to time constraints.

The group suggests that drafting of provisional agendas should be based on agreed mandates, avoiding the inclusion of items without proper due process. This approach would ensure full transparency in the process.

For new agenda items proposed for inclusion, the LDC Group suggests the following options:

- Create a space within the 'Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings' to propose new agenda items for future meetings and explain the rationale behind their inclusion. This would foster a better understanding of proposed agendas and better prepare parties for future sessions.
- Establish a standing agenda item across governing bodies to discuss new agenda items.

Streamlining agenda items

The LDC Group recommends exploring ways to cluster similar agenda items for consideration. This could involve organizing joint sessions between the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement agenda items addressing similar issues. Streamlining the agenda should prioritize addressing the ambition and implementation gaps to increase the efficiency of the UN Climate Change process.

To this end, agenda items could be consolidated under broader headings, grouping them based on similarities and overlaps. For example:

- 'Matters related to finance' and 'Matters related to adaptation' contain several sub-items.
- Loss and Damage has evolved with specific agenda items addressing related mandates, which could be grouped under 'Matters related to Loss and Damage'.
- Items related to the Global Stocktake, without prejudice to its outcome, should be listed as sub-items under 'Matters related to the Global Stocktake' for both subsidiary and governing bodies.
- The "Linkage between Technology Mechanism and Financial Mechanisms" should remain as a distinct item, ensuring both mechanisms contribute to the needs of developing countries, particularly LDCs.
- Similarly, capacity-building items under the COP, CMP, and CMA could be better organized.

Possible additional role of the bureau

Given that it may take considerable time to reach consensus within negotiations on streamlining the agenda, the Bureau could play a key role in clustering agenda items of similar nature. This would enhance efficiency, coherence, and coordination, ultimately leading to more effective discussions and improved outcomes.

While the LDC Group has been recognized as a regional group across the UN process and has had a designated seat at various UN Climate Change constituted bodies, financial mechanisms and committees, since the early 2000s, the Group currently serves as an observer in the Bureau. The status of LDC Group representation to the Bureau should be formalized.

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