

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and adaptation practitioners and experts.

I congratulate LEG for its valuable work, when developing the technical guidelines for National Adaptation Plans.

NAP has a crucial role in mainstreaming adaptation into sustainable national development planning at all levels, and to decrease vulnerability of countries. Planning at national level can take many forms. It is important that NAP is not designed as a blueprint, or to duplicate other planning efforts. NAP is a national, country driven process. Each country decides, based on its national circumstances, whether it decides to prepare a separate NAP or not. NAP should encourage integrated planning efforts and synergies, foremost with sectoral and general development planning. It should support also other environmental and sustainability issues like synergies with its sister Rio Conventions. It is clear that implementation of their goals coincide in many occasions supporting climate change adaptation efforts.

The international community supports LDCs and non-LDCs in their efforts. There is huge political momentum – and a commitment of the EU - to support LDCs and developing countries in their national adaptation planning processes; through various channels. The support has been designed to come through a broad spectrum of channels, as is the case now. The international community also supports peer-to-peer and south-south learning. Also the LEG has been tasked to bring in its expertise in this work. Developing countries must bring their adaptation issues into the attention of the donors in the dialogue with donor countries when their national support priorities are discussed. Preparing a NAP and integrating its goals into this dialogue has an utmost importance.

My own country, Finland, was one of the first countries to prepare a NAP several years ago. We have noted with pleasure that also many developing countries have already included a long term vision on adaptation into their climate action and general planning. The NAP process in Finland and its outcomes were very successful by raising awareness among policy and decision makers bringing the adaptation issues to the drawing boards of policy planners. Our NAP impacted both general development plan of my country as well several relevant sectoral plans prepared since then. The broad participation of relevant sectoral ministries and institutions was crucial to preparation and is crucial to the implementation of the Finnish national adaptation plan. Now Finland is in the process to review its NAP and based on that a decision will be taken on next steps. Thus, NAP is certainly not a one-off-exercise.

As I stated already in the beginning, I am delighted to see the outcomes of LEG's work and believe that on the basis of this the NAP process will greatly be enhanced in the future in LDC countries.

Thank you for your attention.