ADVERSE EFFECTS AND IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON SBI AGENDA ITEM MATTERS RELATING TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

1. The AGN has majority of the LDCs, around 33 or 34 of them.

2. Majority of LDCs have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Human lives have been lost. Economies have been affected.

4. Impacts
   i. Communication of updated and revised NDCs has been difficult – challenging to collect data from stakeholders due to the social distancing and no gatherings measures announced by several governments.
   
   ii. Most officials have relied on zoom calls to talk with international partners who can connect, but this has been a challenge to connect with local participants and the general public. Internet connectivity in most of the developing countries in particular LDCs is very un-reliable.
   
   iii. External consultants have found it difficult to fly into our countries to effort any needed expertise.

5. Progress on implementation of projects
   iv. It has proved challenging to do monitoring and supervision missions for projects implemented in the vulnerable communities - due to the social distancing and no gatherings measures announced by several governments

   v. Some partners are re-channeling some resources towards the COVID-19. The pandemic has become a priority as opposed to climate change.

6. It is becoming difficult also to process more projects and readiness proposals with operating entities such as GCF since operations at the secretariat have also been scaled down.

7. With the postponement of the SBs from June to October, and the COP26 to next year, as well as the cancellation of physical meetings since the advent of the COVID-19, issues that were to be considered by the LEG, NAPs and other areas of interest to developing countries have been greatly affected.