

Input from the G77 & China in preparation for COP19 on loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change

1. The G77 & China takes this opportunity to present views in preparation for COP19 for achieving the mandate set out in 3/CP18.

2. Climate change and related loss and damage is happening now - at different scales on the national, regional and international levels, that will require additional resources. At the heart of the challenge of loss and damage is comprehensively addressing the needs and aspirations of communities and people, who have contributed least to the causes of climate change, yet are among its first and worst victims. The urgency and importance of responding to these challenges are beyond dispute and requires real action. We call for an approach that considers needs to address loss and damage in order to develop the functions and modalities of the international mechanism.

3. The recent IPCC AR5 SPM points to irreversible negative consequences for physical and social systems that will set back or reverse human welfare. Addressing loss and damage will require diverse of tools to manage climate risks, and entirely new approaches at different and greater scales. The scientific certainty of the IPCC AR5 SPM bolsters the need for a systematic response to address loss and damage and to soften the consequences of loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate change on socioeconomic development and ecosystems.

4. The G77 & China reiterates that the COP “invited Parties, taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, to enhance action on addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account national development processes”. Carrying out such actions requires the provision of adequate support and creating the appropriate mechanism and calling for meaningful activities. In this context, the Group reiterates the “request (to) developed country Parties to provide developing country Parties with finance, technology and capacity-building, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties”. There are clear gaps in multiple areas, particularly in the area of slow onset events. Filling the knowledge gaps requires guidance and oversight from the UNFCCC, even though the expertise may exist outside the Convention. However, it is also not possible to wait for all knowledge gaps to be addressed before acting, including under the Convention.

5. Leadership from the UNFCCC is critical and the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. The frequency of occurrence and magnitude of climate change-related events and their resulting impacts cannot be predicted. Therefore, there are limits to adaptation planning and the mainstreaming of adaptation concerns. As the policy-relevant forum for climate change, the UNFCCC must take a leading role in managing the problem of loss and damage and signalling to other bodies what assistance is required.

6. At COP18 we decided to establish, at COP19, institutional arrangements, such as an international mechanism, to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change, and fulfilling this mandate is key for the success of Warsaw. The G77 and China has been calling for the establishment of an international mechanism, under the Convention, on loss and damage that addresses the needs of developing countries as a result of extreme and slow-onset events, and the urgency for this mechanism has only increased. This mechanism cannot be an empty shell, and addressing loss and damage under the Convention cannot be done through talk-shops, in the form of forums, platforms, or any other similar arrangements that does not clearly support implementation on the ground. The mechanism has to ensure enhanced action on addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change through the provision of new, predictable, and reliable financial support for the assessment of, and responses to, loss and damage through an appropriate financial mechanism.

7. The G77 and China reiterates its call for international mechanism to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change from extreme and slow onset events by developing country Parties, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States and other developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change by, inter alia:

- provide global oversight and coordination on the assessment and implementation of actions related to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
- promote cooperation, linkages and enhanced action to address loss and damage, and strengthen engagement between national, regional, and international organizations, centres, and networks involved in assessing and addressing loss and damage;
- develop and, as appropriate, strengthen the knowledge base at multiple levels on loss and damage to the adverse effects of climate change, including on slow onset events, non-economic losses, migration, and displacement;
- develop innovative measures, approaches and modalities to assess and address permanent losses and irreversible damage, including non-economic losses;
- enhance action to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change through provision of technical support and guidance to national governments on comprehensive approaches to risk assessment and risk management for extreme and slow onset events, including socioeconomic and non-economic impacts;
- support for the efficient development and operationalization of approaches, at all levels, to address loss and damage from extreme weather events and slow onset events;
- support the establishment of social safety net and social protection programmes to address damage to or loss of livelihoods associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
- support the development and ensure that a spectrum of risk transfer tools is available to Parties and regional bodies, including insurance, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

8. Further, the G77 & China believes that the SBI work programme on loss and damage should continue contributing to the systematic work under the Convention on loss and damage including, inter alia,

assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the current knowledge on the same; exploring a range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, taking into consideration experience at all levels; and on the role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

9. The G77 & China is committed to work constructively and expediently to achieve the mandate set for Warsaw to strengthen the actions undertaken under the Convention to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries.