

# UNFCCC Expert Meeting to Consider Future Needs, Including Capacity Needs Associated with Possible Approaches to Address Slow Onset Events

12–14 September 2013

Nadi, Fiji

Information for participants (*as at 12 August*)

## 1. MANDATE

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at its 18<sup>th</sup> session (December 2012, Doha), requested the UNFCCC secretariat to organize, under the work programme on loss and damage, an expert meeting to consider future needs, including capacity needs associated with possible approaches to address slow onset events.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. BACKGROUND

The COP adopted the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF)<sup>2</sup> at the 2010 Climate Change Conference. Under the CAF, the COP established a work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts (L&D) in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to make recommendations on L&D to the COP for its consideration at COP 18 (2012).

The elements for consideration in the context of the work programme<sup>3</sup> include:

- Possible development of a climate risk insurance facility to address impacts associated with severe weather events;
- Options for risk management and reduction, risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance, including options for micro-insurance, and resilience-building, including through economic diversification;
- Approaches for addressing rehabilitation measures associated with slow onset events;
- Engagement of stakeholders with relevant specialized expertise.

The following three broad thematic areas (TAs) were agreed at SBI 34 (June 2011) in implementing the work programme:

**TA1: Assessing the risk of loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the current knowledge on the same;

**TA2: 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;

**TA3: The role of the Convention** in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 3/CP.18, paragraph 10(a).

<sup>2</sup> Decision 1/CP.16.

<sup>3</sup> As contained in Decision 1/CP.16.

Throughout 2012, a range of information/knowledge products were developed and synthesized under these TAs, and expert and informal meetings were held to enhance common understanding of key issues.

At the 2012 Climate Change Conference (Doha, COP 18), taking into consideration the outcomes of the implementation of the work programme up to that point, the COP:

- Agreed that comprehensive, inclusive and strategic responses are needed to address L&D and identified the areas of work by all Parties to enhance action on addressing L&D, and areas requiring further efforts to advance the understanding of and expertise on L&D
- Decided to establish, at COP 19, institutional arrangements, such as an international mechanism, including functions and modalities, to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries
- Requested the secretariat to carry out the following interim activities under the work programme prior to SBI 39 (November 2013):
  - **An expert meeting to consider future needs, including capacity needs associated with possible approaches to address slow onset events**
  - Preparation of technical papers on:
    - Non-economic losses in the context of the work programme of loss and damage
    - Gaps in existing institutional arrangements within and outside of the Convention to address loss and damage, including those related to slow onset events

### 3. GENERAL SCOPE OF THE MEETING

Using elements of Decision 3/CP.18 as guiding points, the meeting aims to identify 1) future needs in enabling developing countries to enhance action to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts resulting from slow onset events, and 2) possible ways in which the Convention could potentially address these needs in accordance with its identified role as contained in paragraph 5 of Decision 3/CP.18, such as:

- Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address L&D, including slow onset impacts;
- Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders; and
- Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address L&D.

In order to build on the knowledge developed and relevant deliberations to date, the discussion at the meeting will take into account, where appropriate, the needs already identified in the expert meetings held in the context of TA1 and TA2 as contained in the respective reports.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> These reports are contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2012/INF.3 and FCCC/SBI/2012/29.

#### 4. MODES OF DISCUSSIONS

The meeting will employ three modes of discussions: plenary sessions, small round tables, and breakout groups.

Discussions in a plenary setting will be utilized:

- To provide updates on relevant activities as well as relevant background information;
- To establish common understanding on key issues considered during the meeting.

Discussions in small round tables will be utilized:

- To ensure active participation by all experts;
- To provide opportunities for participants to share information on relevant experiences and reflections in an interactive manner, to deepen the understanding of key issues

Breakout group discussions will be held:

- To brainstorm and explore ideas;
- To facilitate output-oriented discussions

#### 5. OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

Distribution of work during the meeting is tentatively envisioned to be as follows:

- Day 1 – Identifying future needs in the plenary and small round table settings
- Day 2 – Considering potential responses under the Convention and through other processes, entities, frameworks, in breakout groups
- Day 3 – Reporting back from the groups and identifying set of recommendations on ways forward

Further details of the programme are provided in the draft agenda.

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