

Submission to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building from the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM Excom) is pleased to provide information to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), specifically in relation to the following topic: **information or suggestions of relevance to PCCB mandates related to the capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention.**

Introduction

The Warsaw International Mechanism has the mandate to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The Warsaw International Mechanism has three main functions, and capacity-building, along with finance and technology, constitutes an important element of its function to *Enhance action and support to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change*. The other two functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism are as follows:

- Enhance knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change; and
- Strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders.

The Executive Committee, through its workplan, guides the implementation of the functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism.

The Paris Agreement reiterated the request of the COP for the Warsaw International Mechanism to collaborate with existing bodies and expert groups under and outside the Agreement.

Moreover, COP 22 recommended that the Executive Committee enhance collaboration, cooperation and partnerships with bodies, entities and work programmes, including the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, within and outside the Convention,¹ and invited the PCCB, within the scope of its workplan, to consider a future theme on addressing loss and damage.²

Against this backdrop the Executive Committee has been actively working with a wide range of relevant entities, including the constituted bodies under the Convention, to facilitate dialogue and catalyse action to contribute to different aspects of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

Among others, the Executive Committee introduced the consideration of financial instruments to address the risks of loss and damage in the work of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), including in the context of the SCF annual Forum. The Executive Committee has an ongoing dialogue with the Technology Executive Committee, through which entry points for collaboration between the two committees are emerging. The Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Country Expert Group constitute members of the Task Force on Displacement, one of the technical arms of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is mobilizing expert organizations and implementing agencies to assist developing countries in the areas related to human mobility and non-economic losses, including through the Task Force on Displacement and the Expert Group on Non-economic Losses. The Executive Committee works closely with the insurance sector and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate the efforts of Parties to develop and implement comprehensive risk management strategies, including risk transfer solutions.

¹ Decision 4/CP.22, paragraph 4(a).

² Decision 4/CP.22, paragraph 5.

The Executive Committee stands ready to engage with the PCCB and looks forward to further exchanges of views on possible entry points for collaboration in the future.

Technical outputs with relevance to capacity-building

The technical work catalyzed by the Executive Committee contributes to enhancing understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. Enclosed below a summary of relevant technical products developed to date under the initial two-year workplan of the committee.³

- **Information paper** on best practices, challenges and lessons learned from existing financial instruments at all levels that address the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.⁴ The paper showcases 19 sets of information provided by Parties and organizations, and contributed to the discussions at the 2016 SCF Forum on this topic.
- **Compendium** of comprehensive risk management approaches (assessment, reduction, transfer, retention), including social protection instruments and transformational approaches, in building long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities.⁵
- **Summary of information** on systems and/or processes, currently in place in developing countries, for conducting and coordinating analyses of climate risk and loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.⁶ Information contributes to a better understanding of the capacity and coordination needs with regards to preparing for, responding to and building resilience against loss and damage.
- **Clearing house for risk transfer** (*to be launched in November 2017*) that serves as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer to facilitate efforts of Parties to develop and implement comprehensive risk management strategies.
- **Three sets of synthesis of relevant information, good practices and lessons learned on migration, displacement and human mobility**, produced on a basis of a technical meeting on migration, displacement and human mobility, held in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, and 69 sets of inputs from over 30 organizations and experts.⁷ These synthesis documents contribute to enhanced understanding of how impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility.

In addition, a side event on non-economic losses⁸ and accompanying photo campaign at SB 44 raised awareness of the nature and extent of non-economic losses, and identified related challenges, risks and lessons learned with addressing non-economic losses associated with climate change impacts. An online database of over 160 organizations working on slow onset events provides easily accessible information on the scope of current efforts in the areas of: increasing temperature, desertification, loss of biodiversity, land and forest degradation, glacial retreat, ocean acidification, sea level rise and salinization.⁹

More technical work will unfold through the implementation of the five-year rolling workplan. The Executive Committee is currently in the process of developing activities for its five-year rolling workplan along the following strategic workstreams: slow onset events; non-economic losses; comprehensive risk management approaches; migration, displacement and human mobility; and enhancing action and support. The Executive Committee stands ready to provide relevant information as the implementation progresses under its five-year rolling workplan.

³ Available at <http://unfccc.int/8805>.

⁴ Available at <http://unfccc.int/9795>.

⁵ Available at <http://unfccc.int/10326>.

⁶ Available at http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/aa5_summary_final.pdf

⁷ See <http://unfccc.int/9682>.

⁸ See <http://unfccc.int/9431>.

⁹ Available at <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/soesearch.aspx>.