



Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Thirty-sixth session

Bonn, 14–25 May 2012

Agenda item 9

Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity¹

- Activities to be undertaken under the work programme

Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity²

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) welcomed the documents prepared for the session,³ and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the expert meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, from 26 to 28 March 2012 to address issues related to assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.⁴
2. The SBI took note of the existing relevant knowledge and work under and outside the Convention, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*⁵ and the United Nations *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*.⁶

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 26–29.

² Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 26–29.

³ FCCC/SBI/2012/INF.3 and FCCC/TP/2012/1.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraph 109(a).

⁵ <<http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/>>.

⁶ <<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/hyogo/gar/2011/en/home/index.html>>.

3. The SBI considered the progress made on the implementation of the work programme on loss and damage, and noted the remaining work to be undertaken under this work programme.⁷ It further noted a number of points relevant to assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the current knowledge on the same, including the following:

(a) The assessment of climate-related risk is complex, involving the consideration of hazards, exposure and vulnerability, and takes into account underlying risk drivers;

(b) A range of approaches, methods and tools are available to assess the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The selection of appropriate approaches, methods and tools depends upon regional, national and local capacity, contexts and circumstances and involves the engagement of all relevant stakeholders;

(c) Gaps in the assessment of the risk of loss and damage for vulnerable communities and populations, including women and children, can be addressed by involving these communities and populations in risk assessment processes;

(d) The use of local and indigenous knowledge and observations helps to fill gaps in information about historic exposure and vulnerability;

(e) Assessment of the risk of loss and damage is often constrained by the limited availability of data and knowledge, including, but not limited to, that on weather, climate, socioeconomic conditions and ecosystems. Risk management actions can still be taken in the absence of complete sets of data and knowledge, taking into account the national circumstances;

(f) Access to, sharing and the use of information and data, such as hydrometeorological data and metadata, on a voluntary basis is important to facilitate the assessment and management of climate-related risk;

(g) Enhanced technical and institutional capacities supported by technical and financial assistance and other resources will help developing countries to continue to determine, prioritize and address their needs in assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

(h) Involvement of, and dialogue with, decision makers at all levels can strengthen the design, dissemination and delivery of information on climate risk;

(i) Numerical data are sometimes not sufficient in conveying a comprehensive range of the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change since available estimates on losses typically lack numbers on non-economic losses.

4. The SBI noted the importance of adopting a holistic approach in considering the three thematic areas of the work programme on loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change,⁸ and of drawing upon relevant work under and outside the Convention.

5. The SBI recalled that the Conference of the Parties (COP), at its seventeenth session, requested the secretariat to organize four expert meetings, three at the

⁷ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 26–29, and decision 7/CP.17.

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraph 109 (a–c).

regional level and one for small island developing States, to be held before the thirty-seventh session of the SBI, to address issues related to 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 of the work programme.⁹

6. The SBI recalled the objective of the work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and appreciated the need to explore a range of approaches and potential mechanisms, including an international mechanism, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, with a view to making recommendations on loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change to the COP for its consideration at its eighteenth session.

7. The SBI requested the secretariat, in consultation with Parties and relevant stakeholders, in organizing the four expert meetings mentioned in paragraph 5 above to take into account, to the extent possible, the following:

(a) Inviting representatives from regional centres and networks, as well as experts from a wide range of relevant domains, disciplines and communities, including those involved in the development of the IPCC assessments and special reports, and experts in disaster risk reduction and in financial approaches to risk management, subject to the availability of financial resources, to attend the expert meetings;

(b) Requesting presenters to make available the abstracts of the materials to be presented at the expert meetings in advance, in order to assist participants to better prepare for the discussions.

8. To facilitate the completion of its work, the SBI requested its Chair to convene an informal pre-session meeting of Parties, in conjunction with its thirty-seventh session, subject to the availability of resources and conflicts of timing, to exchange further views on the possible recommendations on loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

9. The SBI took note of the estimated budgetary implications to implement the activities referred to in these conclusions, as provided by the secretariat.

10. The SBI requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

⁹ Decision 7/CP.17, paragraph 8(a).