

**SUBMISSION BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**

**ELEMENTS FOR A WORK PROGRAMME TO CONSIDER APPROACHES TO ADDRESS
LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS, INCLUDING
IMPACTS RELATED TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND SLOW ONSET EVENTS**

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Canada supports the outcomes of the 2010 Cancun Climate Conference. The Cancun Agreement reflects the resolve by all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to work together to address the global threat of climate change.

Canada believes that the Cancun Agreement strikes an appropriate balance among the interests of Parties through the adoption of a comprehensive package of decisions on a wide range of issues, and represents a significant step in the international effort to reach a fair, effective and comprehensive post-2012 climate change regime.

On mitigation, the Agreement establishes a framework to set out nationally-determined mitigation pledges for all countries, with emission reduction targets and/or nationally appropriate mitigation actions put forward in 2010 by both developed and developing countries and recognized in Cancun.

Canada recognizes the importance of reforms that will increase the transparency and accountability of all countries in meeting their mitigation pledges. In particular, the international community will have access to regular, reliable and comprehensive information on global greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation activities underway. The international consultation and analysis will facilitate Parties' efforts by providing a forum for sharing views and best practices.

On the finance and adaptation side, the Green Climate Fund has the potential to become a key channel for delivering multilateral assistance to developing countries for climate-related support, while the Cancun Adaptation Framework will address the adaptation challenges faced by all Parties, and ensure that support is prioritised for the most vulnerable countries.

Canada is an advocate of clean technology and the Technology Mechanism established in Cancun can lead to a more sustainable low-carbon future by supporting innovation and development of new technologies, while facilitating engaged involvement from the private sector. Canada supports the REDD+ Mechanism (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation), which has the potential to address as much as 15% or more of global greenhouse gas emissions by targeting emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

To implement these and other key decisions, the Cancun Agreement sets out a roadmap for further work. Canada will engage in these continuing discussions as we turn our attention to elaborating the technical details and prepare for the next Climate Conference in Durban in 2011. As part of this effort, Canada is submitting its views on the work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage.

Objective, Scope, Outcomes and Modalities

The Cancun Agreement recognizes the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise to further understand and reduce loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events, and those related to slow-onset impacts. To ensure development of an effective work programme, it is important that Parties agree at the outset on the objective, scope, outcomes and modalities.

Objective

As identified in the Cancun Agreement, the objective of the work programme is to consider 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.

Scope

In Canada's view, there are two important aspects to addressing loss and damage from the adverse effects of climate change that should be included in the work programme:

1. reducing the risk of loss and damage through proactive adaptation planning and measures; and
2. increasing the resilience of institutions, systems and communities to recover from unavoidable impacts caused by climate change, including through insurance and other risk sharing and risk transfer mechanisms.

While recognizing the need for action on both aspects, the work programme should prioritize activities that contribute to strengthening capacities needed to address climate change-related risk in an anticipatory manner. It will also be important to ensure that this programme focuses exclusively on the adverse impacts of climate change, and not encompass consideration of response measures, which will be addressed through a separate process as agreed in the Cancun Agreement.

Outcomes

As agreed in Cancun, a key outcome of the work programme will be a set of recommendations for consideration by the COP at its eighteenth session. Canada sees the potential for several other important outcomes, including increased international cooperation, enhanced expertise, and increased understanding by Parties of the strengths and limitations of various approaches to reduce loss and damage.

In achieving its outcomes, the work programme should build on the work of relevant experts and organizations as well as lessons-learned from existing mechanisms. These lessons include: what aspects of existing mechanisms need to be strengthened, what factors contribute to the success (or failure), and what gaps in action remain. Canada notes the relevant work done previously under the UNFCCC on related issues (including FCCC/TP/2008/9: "Mechanisms to manage financial risks from direct impacts of climate change in developing countries"), as well as the work done by partners to the Nairobi Work Programme in response to the Call for Action related to understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, extreme events.

Further, while the work programme will consider approaches to addressing loss and damage associated with impacts specific to climate change, it is important that the outcomes be informed by lessons learned from ongoing efforts to address climate risks broadly. The work of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the Hyogo Framework for Action, are particularly important.

Finally, to ensure well-founded recommendations, it is Canada's view that the discussions should include consideration of:

- costs, benefits and risks associated with each risk management, reduction and sharing mechanism, with particular regard to benefits for the most vulnerable countries and communities;
- effectiveness of various mechanisms for incentivizing adaptation/avoiding maladaptation;
- advantages and disadvantages of micro, national, regional and international scales of implementation;
- the roles of governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, including innovative partnership approaches to advancing adaptation;
- short, medium and long-term steps required to establish mechanisms, including those that have co-benefits for other aspects of adaptation (i.e., climate data, strengthening observation networks etc);
- effective and proven approaches to encourage the engagement of the private sector in risk reduction or risk management;
- institutional and human resource capacities to implement recommended activities;
- effective and proven tools for sharing risk at pilot or regional scales; and
- how these mechanisms fit within the context of the full spectrum of actions required for adaptation and risk reduction for events unrelated to climate change.

Modalities

In implementing the work programme, it will be critical to engage a broad range of relevant experts, including those from the private sector and civil society organizations, through workshops, expert meetings, and technical papers, as appropriate. In this context, Canada encourages collaboration between the secretariats of the UNFCCC and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to ensure the integration of relevant experts in all relevant workshops and expert meetings.

Finally, in Canada's view, the work programme should be structured in a manner that enables thorough discussion to ensure that recommendations are appropriately placed in the context of the broader suite of actions required for adaptation.

Canada welcomes the opportunity to discuss this important issue further, and looks forward to engaging actively and constructively with our partners to ensure the success of the work programme.