

Summary of interventions, at Excom 1, on the Action Areas of the two-year Excom workplan

This document contains Annex 2 of the summary note of Excom 1, which summarizes interventions made at Excom 1 on the implementation of the two-year workplan of the Excom, including:

- An overview of general observations by the members on the implementation of the two-year workplan given the tight timeframe for implementation; and
- The views expressed on potential linkages among Action Areas, including possible synergies across activities.

The summary note of Excom 1 in its entirety is available at the Excom Collaboration Space <<https://process.unfccc.int/sites/ECP/Documents%20shared%20during%20the%20meeting/Summary%20of%20meeting.pdf>>.

Action Area 1 (AA1)

- The cross-cutting nature of this Action Area (AA) across the workplan as well as the work under the Convention.
 - Close linkages with AA8 and AA2.
- Need for some reporting at the next COP on this AA.
- In relation to the invitation under activity (a), it is important to be specific about the scope of the query/request, and including a timeline of expected response and of action,
 - Important to request for summary of key points from their documents/technical/knowledge products, as opposed to full reports/documents.
 - Need to look at different vulnerabilities, rather than a holistic view of vulnerability.
- AA activities should not be a one-off exercise but a long-term activity.
 - Need for establishing contact with other relevant constituted bodies to consult: 1) how they can assist the Excom, e.g. the results, expected outcomes, limitations, etc., which enables the Excom to identify gaps, if any, in the current efforts; 2) what they believe are the links between the Excom's workplan and theirs. This will help them to determine which areas on their own workplan can be synergized with that of the Excom.
 - Need to establish a formal working relationship with AC and LEG. Request bodies to recommend to the Excom as how problems could be addressed – areas of research, studies.
 - Importance of interaction. The Excom may follow up with other relevant constituted bodies at physical meetings – i.e. invite them to the next meeting of the Excom.
- Importance of understanding the mandates of other relevant constituted bodies. Need for stocktaking as a first step.

Action Area 2 (AA2)

- Need to focus on AA2(a) as a priority area of the workplan.
- Coming up with a comprehensive risk management approach is very ambitious.
 - Need to understand the AA and comprehensive risk management approaches before promoting these approaches.
 - Note that climate change calls for efforts broader than pure risk management approaches - therefore many other aspects of societal planning need to be brought in.
- Synergies exist between AA2 and AA5 therefore important to address both issues in a close manner.
- Possible approaches to address AA2 include:
 - AA2(a) could be addressed through a call for submissions to related institutions (a typical modality).
 - To help get an overview about activities, technologies and good practices and lessons learned with regards to AA2(a) and AA2(b)
 - Identify the current gaps in the context of AA2 based on these submissions.
 - Submissions portal/online platform which allows organizations to make submissions on a rolling basis in regard to AA2(a) and AA2(b).
 - Mapping exercise – make available information on what already exists, such as databases, relevant work in regard to this AA, existing documents on perspectives of the national governments; A literature review with/by the expert panel referred to in AA2(d).
 - In respect of AA2(b), it may be useful to provide guidelines or a handbook to help the national governments understand this AA.

- Need to address AA2(e) after completing AA2(a)–(d).
- In relation to AA2(d):
 - Need to create an expert panel early so that it can give support and guidance to understanding this AA and help establish clarity on key terms.
 - Need to discuss the terms of reference (for the technical expert panel).
 - It could be tasked with analyzing and synthesizing existing knowledge on tools, good practices, knowledge and lessons learned. As such, first activity could be to take stock of existing information of not only existing documents under L&D, but also NWP, LEG and NAPs.
 - Need for clear understanding among the Excom on what the panel/group is to do in order to make the most out of this provision.

Action Area 3 (AA3)

- Importance of long-term implementation of this AA.
 - AA3(a) and AA3(b) – good starting point for the implementation of this AA.
 - AA3(a) could establish a baseline, and then move on to AA3(b) and (c).
 - An informal briefing on the work already been done on slow onset events may be useful.
- Synergy/linkages
 - Work on AA3 could also produce results for AA6.
 - A technical expert panel or group under AA2(d) could also be useful in this AA.
- Need to assess the current state of knowledge, obtain understanding of institutional landscape and organizational settings which can be tapped into.
 - A mapping of organizations – useful to establish a state of current knowledge.
 - May be useful to make available this information before COP21.
 - Mapping to be used as a starting point to identify knowledge gaps – types of knowledge currently exist and where the gaps are.
 - Recommendations in terms of filling gaps become critical and will provide added value.
- This AA may provide an opportunity to educate and motivate people who are not being affected directly. These aspects of communication are perhaps needed to encourage action.

Action Area 4 (AA4)

- One of the most important AA of the entire workplan.
 - The scope of AA4(a), enhancing understanding of how to understand non-economic losses, could be one of the added value of this AA.
- Need to evaluate and establish what is meant by non-economic losses.
- In terms of raising awareness under AA4(a):
 - Need to establish targeted beneficiaries – who is the target of awareness-raising – community or the policy makers? Need for more information as an input.
 - No need to start from scratch with this topic. A lot of information already exists – but it needs to be integrated into the Excom’s information to other bodies under the Convention and external organizations. For example, how the World Bank deals with non-economic losses may be helpful in getting an idea of the standards being applied which we can draw from.
 - Importance of sharing information on good practices in addressing and avoiding non-economic losses
 - Importance of being aware of those who will be hit the hardest. Different communities may have different ideas of what non-economic losses are to them.

- Need to get an idea of different regions and their different stories and emphases on non-economic losses, to get the full picture around the world.
 - Central idea is how to understand what affected people's value systems, how they are exposed, and how they perceive losses
- Importance of keeping in mind limitation of the efforts the Excom could put into.
 - Possibility to invite organizations/ institutions to assist with the awareness raising as the Excom does not have capacity in itself; could rely on the wider community outside.
- Regarding the channel of communication:
 - Need to have technical products available in order to communicate – use existing or a need to produce more technical products?
 - May use an approach taken by the NWP – establish a national focal point to disseminate the collected products. This could be facilitated by the secretariat.
 - May consider holding a workshop or side event to distribute the information.
- Regarding AA4(b):
 - An expert group can identify existing technical products; can take initiative to create new technical products.
 - An expert group is to develop inputs and recommendations. They could use existing papers as a starting point to develop their understanding upon which to make recommendations.
 - The background of the experts will change the recommendations that come out of this expert group.
 - Need to include community groups which could bring the viewpoint of the people at the local level which may not be included otherwise.
- AA4(a) could come after AA4(b) – from a perspective that the work needs to be done first before showcasing it.
- Linkages/synergies with other activity areas:
 - AA1
 - AA6
 - AA2 could help integrate non-economic losses into decision making.

Action Area 5 (AA5)

- Organizations to invite and engage:
 - Examples: WFP, IOM, UNISDR, ISC.
 - Need to make sure, when inviting relevant organizations, to include global and regional disaster coordination mechanisms as well.
 - Take into account existing information and processes/work, e.g. global assessment reports and national assessment reports on risk.
 - Need to take into consideration that the World Humanitarian Summit will set up further reform of the humanitarian system - if the Excom wants to engage and influence the humanitarian system, that is a good space to do it.
 - It is critical that the national risk and disaster management authorities or ministries are engaged in this process/AA. They will be the ones who have to conduct these.
- The same considerations regarding AA1(a) and other invitation-based activities, need to be considered for this AA as well (e.g. who to invite, why, etc.).
 - Significant overlap with AA2 as it deals with similar topics.

- Need to be aware that, potentially, burden is put on other organizations – If the data is not available at the national level, the Excom is putting a lot of work on the DRR and humanitarian sectors.
- Importance of making sure that the Excom does not assume that the work done by the DRR community already fills the gaps for work expected for this AA.
 - A lot of risk and DRR work is being done, risk analyses for countries, but very few specifically on slow onset events. Excom could help to start incorporating this aspect.
 - Need to invite relevant communities outside the DRR community as well, for example, those who are already engaged in climate change specific analyses.
 - Need to identify who is doing the modelling for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, not for disasters in general.
 - When engaging expert group(s), important to be clear on what elements the Excom needs to consult.
- Instead of simply sending invitations and asking for inputs, perhaps the Excom needs a way to bring many of these actors together in one place to discuss, for example, through a meeting or workshop.

Action Area 6 (AA6)

- Possibility to use the networks of organizations in order to engage groups and relevant organizations more easily.
- In undertaking AA6(c), important to be more specific. There is a lot of substance in regards to integrating the issue of human mobility into NAPs, risk management approaches, etc. The Excom can endeavour for more than just what is discussed under AA6(c).
- Synergies and linkages
 - AA6(c) with AA1.
- Must not forget in-country migration in terms of this AA – give the national governments an opportunity to come back to the Excom on that.

Action Area 7 (AA7)

- In terms of synergies and sequencing of action:
 - Possibility to synergize AA7(a) with AA7(c) and AA7(e).
 - AA7(a) might be an outcome for the forum.
 - Under AA7(d), the Excom could ask for interventions and prepare an input for this forum in 2016. Consequently as a result of the forum, the Excom could put together some recommendations to encourage financial institutions to incorporate climate risk into their plans and portfolio.
 - ‘Encouragement’ activities can only take place based on evidence (of entities with relevant expertise). Therefore, the invitation to provide information should be conducted before the encouragement-based activities in AA7(a) and AA7(b).
 - Need to invite Parties for submissions, then invite the research community to analyse these submissions, e.g. assess the current state, challenges, trends, etc., then feed this into the SCF forum in order to ‘encourage’. Thus, AA7(a), to encourage financial institutions outside and inside the UNFCCC to make use of and enhance this dynamic, is the final activity.
 - Clear links with AA2 in terms of encouraging comprehensive risk management.

- Need to conduct a mapping exercise in terms of these financial instruments mentioned in AA7 in order to allow the Excom to identify the gaps.
- Need to facilitate a gathering of experts on financial instruments.
 - This way the Excom could discuss and learn about the benefits of the different financial instruments, and how these financial instruments could be best utilized to the benefit of vulnerable communities.
- Need to engage directly with different funds, multilateral banks, invite them and establish collaboration, and learn from them how best they could be encouraged and engaged on the topic of finance.
- Through AA7 the Excom needs to encourage more investment in research and studies in regards to all Action Areas.
 - This encouragement-based activity should be conducted very early on in 2016.
 - Important to also encourage other bodies under and outside the Convention.
 - Insurance is also a key tool for risk reduction and risk transfer. Need to focus more on this issue in terms of research and development.
- The Excom should not only discuss AA7(c) and AA7(e) with the SCF but also AA7(a).

Action Area 8 (AA8)

- Importance of AA8(b) to move forward soon.
- AA8 allows the Excom to draw on experience from both under and outside of the Convention as necessary, and learn from best practice and experience from other bodies.
- Provides an opportunity to be innovative, rather than merely producing papers and databases.
- Key questions:
 - How to stimulate and sustain interest from all relevant stakeholders in issues related to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts?
 - How to attract the attention of the private sector?
- AAs that contain activities to establish expert groups have specific issues/elements that are defined. Need to determine for expert group under this AA – what functions to assign and whether to have big panel/pool or parallel groups on specific aspects:
 - More appropriate to have different groups with different tasks.
 - Useful to have a roster of experts – persons or organizations that can assist the Excom.