



**Submission by “Brot für die Welt” („Bread for the World“, Germany) on
Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change**

This is the second submission¹ on Loss and Damage in accordance with 1/CP.16 handed in by “Bread for the World”².

Acknowledging the science-based fact that even ambitious mitigation efforts and intensive adaptation action will very likely not hinder unavoidable loss and damage associated with climate change taking place, re-calling the internationally widely accepted precautionary approach³ as well as the States’ obligations under international human rights law as enshrined in the International Covenants on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)⁴ and on Civil and Political Human Rights (ICSPR)⁵,

“Bread for World” re-emphasizes that risk reduction, rehabilitation and compensation should become a strong pillar within the future UNFCCC adaptation framework.

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation under the UNFCCC held several expert meetings and four regional meetings in 2012 following decision 7/CP 17, paragraph 1 to continue the work programme on approaches to address loss and damage and to exchange views and offer guidance for decision making and recommendations on loss and damage associated with adverse impacts of climate change for the COP in Qatar.

“Bread for the World” welcomes these activities and asks for continuation and intensification of work on loss and damage within the UNFCCC process.

Perspectives, methodological approaches, local, regional and international knowledge to address loss and damage as gained so far need to be completed, documented and systematized. Findings need to be taken up in further deliberations in order to better understand and appraise approaches to address loss & damage and the constrains in possible implementation.

Decision 7/CP 17 states the “need to explore a range of possible approaches and potential mechanisms, including an international mechanism to address loss and damage.” In the conclusions of the 36th SBI session, the SBI confirmed this view in regard to the COP for its consideration in Qatar.

¹ See Submission of Bread for the World, Dan Church Aid and EED (Church Development Service, Germany) on 21.02.2011 on Decision 1/CP.16, Para 26 Establishment of a work program 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.

² „Bread for the World“ is the development cooperation and humanitarian aid agency of the Protestant Churches in Germany with observer status under the UNFCCC and ECOSOC. “Bread for the World” has been partnering with churches, civil society and community based organizations in developing countries since more than fifty years. Overcoming poverty and injustice, realizing human rights, food security, sustainable development, disaster management and climate change are main areas of intervention on program and policy level. “Bread for the World” is founding member of the global ACT Alliance – Action of Churches Together.

³ <http://www.gdrc.org/u-gov/precaution-7.html>

⁴ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

⁵ <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm>

“Bread for the World” strongly recommends SBI and Conference Parties to further explore and elaborate on a potential international mechanism.

This mechanism may become an international instrument with strong reference to the principle of state responsibility to be coherent and legally sound. States do have the obligation to ensure that activities under their jurisdiction do not cause damage to the environment. Where there is a breach of this international obligation, there is a duty to cease and make reparation.

The international mechanism should also have a strong linkage to human rights and a focus on vulnerable people.

Climate associated slow and sudden onset events such like rising sea level, melting glaciers as well as extreme weather events are direct causes of flooding of territories, population displacement, salination of fresh water resources, diminishing habitable and cultivable land and thus do affect the right to self-determination, right to own property, right to life, right to work, right to adequate food, right to water, right to shelter and right to health among other fundamental human rights.

High attention needs to be given to **vulnerable people and groups** in developing countries as they find themselves with diminished capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact **of slow and fast onset changes of climate.**

Loss and Damage will severely affect those already living in poverty or in marginalized, isolated, insecure and defenseless areas. Any concept and definition of Loss and Damage shall take into consideration specific groups within the local population, such as marginalized, excluded or destitute people; young children, women, elderly people, disabled persons; as well as displaced communities and migrants who leave or flee their habitual residence to seek better and safer perspectives.

“Bread for the World” therefore claims the work program on loss and damage to include the address the following elements:

- Avoid loss & damage where possible
- Tackle root causes of vulnerability, such as poverty, human rights violations, discrimination, inequality and inadequate access to resources and livelihoods
- Find mechanisms to identify local priorities and appropriate action
- Define liable approaches to assess risks and capacities which involve stakeholders such like local authorities, community based organizations and humanitarian/development organizations
- Draw up action plans to prepare for and respond to the identified risks
- Identify appropriate and targeted risk-reduction activities to prevent or lessen the effects of expected hazards, risks and vulnerabilities
- Think beyond concepts of adaptation where necessary and explore mechanisms for remedy, reparation and compensation. This includes the development of concepts of protection and to support human rights based relocation in the case of climate induced migration.