

Canada's views and relevant inputs on possible activities for the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee

Introduction

Canada welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on relevant inputs and activities under the strategic workstreams as contained in the framework for the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee (ExCom) for the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM).

Canada fully supports the work under the WIM to enhance knowledge on comprehensive risk management approaches and to strengthen coordination among relevant stakeholders.

We thank the ExCom for considering views and inputs from Parties and observers to guide the elaboration of activities under each strategic work stream for the five-year rolling workplan of the WIM.

Context

Canada recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.

The establishment of the WIM, and its ExCom, which guides the implementation of the three functions namely: enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches; strengthening dialogues, coordination and synergies among relevant stakeholders; and enhancing action and support, has brought increased attention to the issue of loss and damage.

Canada believes that one of the best ways to address loss and damage associated with climate change is to increase the resilience of individuals, communities, and local institutions through proactive adaptation planning that includes strategies to prepare for, respond to, and recover from situations when populations may be affected by losses or damages. We have been and will continue to be a strong supporter of initiatives that help the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. For example, in 2015 Canada announced CAN\$50 million to support the G7 initiative on climate risk insurance, which includes \$40 million to the African Risk Capacity to help people in developing countries protect themselves against the economic consequences of natural catastrophes.

Canada further recognises the importance of strengthening the global response to climate change impacts, including to losses and damages that may occur because of climate-related events. This is why Canada contributed \$10 million to support the improvement of early warning systems in some of the most vulnerable communities through the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Climate Risk Early Warning System (CREWS) project. Further, we feel an important component of strategies to address loss and damage is increased collaboration and dialogue between relevant fields, such as the disaster risk reduction, humanitarian aid and climate change adaptation communities, as well as harnessing local knowledge to best apply this technical expertise on the ground.

Views on progress to date and the way forward

With the successful completion of the review of the WIM at COP22, we feel that the ExCom is in a place to continue to build on its progress in supporting the three functions of the WIM and support Parties in incorporating climate vulnerabilities and risks into their decision making and planning processes.

As per decision 3/CP22, the indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan of ExCom of the WIM was approved as the basis for the ExCom to develop corresponding activities. Canada recognizes the progress the WIM has made in the implementation of its initial two-year work programme and feel that much of this work will offer a foundation to build upon as it develops corresponding activities for its five-year workplan. In particular, we feel the ExCom has demonstrated its ability to work with a wide range of organizations and experts from various communities of practice. As the ExCom considers the elaboration of its five-year rolling workplan we would reiterate the importance of taking into account, in a cross-cutting manner:

- Actions to complement, draw upon the work of and involve other bodies under and outside the Convention;
- Particularly vulnerable developing countries, gender, and local communities and indigenous peoples; and
- The role of sustainable development, including policy and regulatory enabling environments.

Inputs to strategic workstreams as contained in the indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan

As noted above, to assist the ExCom in elaborating activities under its indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan, Canada has chosen to focus its views on two workstreams: *c) Comprehensive Risk Management*; and *e) finance/enhancing action and support, including through finance, technology and capacity building, to address loss and damage*.

c) Comprehensive Risk Management Approaches (including assessment, reduction, transfer, retention), to address and build long term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities to loss and damage, including to extreme and slow onset events, inter alia, through:

- *emergency preparedness, including early warning systems;*
- *measures to enhance recovery and rehabilitation and build back/forward better;*
- *social protection instruments including social safety nets; and*
- *transformational approaches.*

As part of the implementation of its initial two-year workplan, the ExCom made substantial progress in enhancing understanding of and promoting comprehensive risk management approaches. In particular we feel it has advanced understanding by developing a compendium of tools, technologies, good practices and lessons learned related to comprehensive risk management approaches, establishing a Technical Expert Group on comprehensive risk management and transformational approaches, and its progress in advancing the mandates contained in 1/CP21.

Canada recognizes that there are a variety of tools and approaches to facilitate comprehensive risk management and that risk transfer and adaptation measures can reduce the negative impacts of climate change. One approach for risk transfer is the use of insurance through facilities outside the Convention. Insurance helps poor and vulnerable countries build resilience to the impacts of climate change by covering a portion of the risks that arise from natural hazards and extreme weather events. Canada's experience with Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) has shown us that insurance can be an effective tool for risk management.

We suggest that the ExCom consider, in conjunction with relevant bodies inside and outside the convention, developing a roster of available tools and approaches for risk transfer, which could include inter alia, insurance. This activity should leverage the work and expertise of the Technical Expert Group on comprehensive risk management and transformational approaches, which was established as part of the initial two-year workplan. This activity would enhance understanding of risk transfer; improve coherence, including connecting actors in the field of risk transfer and comprehensive risk management, and support collaboration. We also suggest the ExCom consider further expanding membership on expert groups, including the one on comprehensive risk management and transformational approaches, to include more representatives from outside of the UN system. For example, other constituted bodies under the Convention include representatives from RINGOs, BINGOs and ENGOs on some of their expert groups / task forces.

e) finance/enhancing action and support, including through finance, technology and capacity building, to address loss and damage

i. Finance

The 2016 Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) forum focused on the theme of "Financial instruments that address the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change". This work highlighted the importance of engaging and sharing knowledge among different stakeholders and that there is no one size fits all approach. Rather, a diverse set of tools is needed, which includes approaches that build longer-term resilience by combining instruments, such as financial tools, with technology and capacity building in a holistic manner.

Canada encourages the ExCom to take into consideration the key takeaways of the SCF Forum¹, in particular, the importance of involving the private sector as it considers further activities under this strategic workstream.

ii. Capacity Building

In addition, Canada recognizes that a key component of enhancing action to address loss and damage is improving Parties capacities to plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural

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http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/standing_committee/application/pdf/scf_forum_2016_information_summary_final2.pdf

disasters, by supporting capacity building efforts. In our view, capacity-building support plays an important role as a means of creating an enabling environment for scaling up climate action, including comprehensive strategies to address adaptation and loss and damage.

The ExCom could consider ways to engage stakeholders with relevant specialized expertise, including disaster risk reduction, development aid, and humanitarian aid to develop knowledge and support the dissemination of best practices to effectively plan, prepare and respond to loss and damage. Canada welcomes the Adaptation Committee (AC) upcoming technical examination process on adaptation (TEP-A), in May, which will be focused on Integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. The ExCom may wish to engage with the AC's TEP-A working group and take into consideration the outcomes of the upcoming TEP-A, in order to identify best practices and synergies for capacity building action.

Canada appreciated the opportunity to share our views on possible activities for the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom. We look forward to further engaging with the ExCom of the WIM as well as Parties and observers in discussions on approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.