

**Submission by the Republic of Mali on behalf of the African Group of
Negotiators**

on

**Views and relevant inputs on possible activities for the five-year rolling
workplan of the Executive Committee of Warsaw International Mechanism
for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts**

10 March 2017

1. Introduction

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of activities of the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM). The AGN believes that all the activities addressed in paragraphs 6 and 7(a) of decision 3/CP.18 should provide a basis for the work of the five-year rolling workplan, in order to effectively carry out the functions of the WIM as identified in decision 2/CP.19.

The AGN welcomes the establishment of the different technical expert groups and task forces, however, for performing their tasks, the AGN believes that the new established bodies should be equipped with the support required, including financial resources. The AGN also welcomes the indicative strategic workstreams of the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom of the WIM as agreed on at COP 22 in Marrakech, and considers them to be a very good basis as they cover many important issues related to the work on loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. The activities of the five-year workplan should be complementary and build on each other. At this stage, there is a need for enhancing the understanding around many issues through information sharing and risk assessment. However, this should always be done in order to arrive at the implementation of appropriate actions that reduce the diverse risks of loss and damage associated with the negative impacts of climate change.

2. General Remarks

The AGN is seriously concerned that developing countries, in general, and African countries, in particular, are currently facing enormous loss and damage because of the negative impacts of climate change. Even for the current level of climate change, African countries are challenged with a lack of appropriate approaches to manage the diverse risks they are facing. As such, there is a great need for more research and assessments of the impacts of loss and damage on the African continent. Taking into consideration the agreed temperature goal, there is now a clear need for support to enable developing countries to put in place comprehensive strategies that reflect current, medium and long-term needs for reducing and managing risks.

The AGN believes that the work on loss and damage should not be conducted on an ad hoc basis that addresses scattered issues. Rather, the WIM should use the opportunity of the five-year rolling workplan and assist developing countries in

preparing and implementing plans and strategies that enable them to overcome losses and damages they are facing now, as well as those anticipated in the medium and long term in light of the agreed temperature goal. The workplan should strategically focus on identifying critical gaps in knowledge, expertise, and action, and aim to provide guidance and mobilize resources to countries in order to fill those gaps as urgently as possible.

3. Inputs on Possible Activities for the Five-Year Rolling Workplan

In light of the Paris Agreement and the agreed temperature goal, the WIM should work towards a framework that moves all its activities forward. In this regard, the AGN recommends that the WIM, in collaboration with relevant research institutions and organizations, develops a special report on the assessment of loss and damage, given a variety of temperature scenarios, with emphasis on regional scales, to enable a prioritization of the work of the WIM and the development of appropriate tools and guidelines.

In its initial two-year workplan the ExCom was tasked with developing recommendations for actions and next steps of how loss and damage affects vulnerable developing countries, populations and ecosystems and how approaches to address loss and damage can be designed to benefit these populations, and for the AGN it is imperative that this activity be carried forward. The workplan should also include an on-going mapping exercise of loss and damage relevant activities globally. One of the functions of the WIM, as the oversight body on loss and damage under the Convention, is to strengthen coherence on loss and damage and this should be the starting point moving forward. The WIM should support and facilitate international and regional centres and networks of climate risk platforms.

In the following, the AGN will propose activities around the following areas:

1. Comprehensive Risk Management;
2. Social Protection Instruments Including Social Safety Nets;
3. Slow Onset Events;
4. Non-economic losses;
5. Migration, displacement and human mobility, including the task force on displacement;
6. Finance-related topics-including finance, technology and capacity-building;
and
7. Emerging needs.

3.1 Comprehensive Risk Management

All the elements listed under comprehensive risk management approaches in the indicative strategic workstreams of the five-year rolling workplan are very important for African countries. However, the AGN believes that these elements are also challenging for developing countries, and accordingly the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management should undertake the following:

- Develop guidelines for creating comprehensive risk profiles, identifying options for designing and implementing country-driven risk management strategies and approaches, including risk reduction, risk transfer and risk-sharing mechanisms building on the outcome of the activities under AA2 of the initial two-year workplan.
- Prepare a technical paper on how national and regional capacities could be enhanced to address loss and damage, including for risk management approaches, such as risk transfer (e.g. regional insurance). Based on the findings of the paper and in collaboration with the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), set modalities for strengthening/building capacity of regional, national, sub-national and local governments to address the threat of loss and damage.
- Build the capacities of developing countries at all levels including through:
 - Conducting and use of primary research (including gender disaggregated data) on loss and damage;
 - Organizing workshops for developing countries on methodologies for assessing losses and damages including an inventory of assets at risk, climate-related hazards giving rise to risk, stakeholder impacts, and scale and timeframe of risks;
 - Training courses for scientists in developing countries, prioritizing gender, age and minority groups, on development and application of models and tools for assessing loss and damage including gender disaggregated data.
- Provide means of implementation for the development and implementation of contingency plans for enhancing early warning systems, emergency preparedness, recovery and rehabilitation;
- Facilitate research and systematic observation to understand the scope, magnitude, and character of climate change risks and impacts, and to assess the type and extent of losses, including economic and non-economic losses;
- Support research that advances risk assessments and setting up early warning systems and early warning actions under different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels;
- Build on the work of the two-year work plan, providing guidance on data collection standards, tools, and methodologies for characterizing loss and damage, including likely bio-physical and socio-economic impacts;
- Foster partnerships for the application of data collection tools and methodologies at regional, national and sub-national levels;
- Facilitate the establishment and access of open source models and information, including to establish baselines and long-term projections of climate change risks and impacts, including slow onset events;
- Coordinate data repositories and encouraging coherence across information frameworks;

- Organise expert meetings on how to promote cooperation and collaboration at regional, sub-regional, and national levels;
- Undertake a mapping process to determine the roles, functions, and modalities of various regional and international institutions, frameworks, and organizations related to loss and damage and how synergies and linkages could be established between these various institutions; and
- Provide a User Interface Platform to implement the Global Framework for Climate Services.

3.2 Social Protection Instruments Including Social Safety Nets

- Enhance the understanding of social protection instruments and how they can be developed and implemented within comprehensive risk management frameworks to address loss and damage including:
 - Technical papers on how social protection mechanisms can address loss and damage, key issues, gaps, needs, challenges and opportunities with examples;
 - Workshops on social protection mechanisms bringing together decision-makers, technical experts and policy makers that have developed successful measures and those planning to do so; and
 - Provision of support (technical and means of implementation) of social protection instruments (social safety nets) in poor and vulnerable communities including through integration into ongoing relevant climate change actions and processes.

3.3 Slow Onset Events

Slow onset events (SOEs) represent a great challenge for African countries. In particular, assessing, identifying and implementing appropriate approaches for managing different slow onset events are a challenge for African countries that needs to be satisfactorily addressed by the WIM. The mapping exercise of organizations working on slow onset events that was conducted under the WIM was a good starting point and provided some information. However, in order to make it useful for developing countries there is a need for further information. The analysis showed that many organizations are working on designing approaches to address slow onset events in different parts of the world. However, the next step should be a proper synthesis of information and creating a mechanism for its dissemination. The mapping exercise of the organizations illustrated that many organizations are working in different continents across the world but certainly their distribution is not even across regions and within regions. The AGN believes that the WIM should expand the exercise for mapping the gaps in coverage, and identify relevant approaches to bridge the gaps in those areas. Looking at Figure (1) below it is clear that many organizations are working on the assessment of loss and damage and on the design of approaches. The AGN is of the view that emphasis should be given to these two areas in particular through:

Organizing high level specialized expert regional meetings that involve organizations as well as Party representatives with the aim of advancing the work on approaches for identification and implementation of current and future risk management related to the stated events.

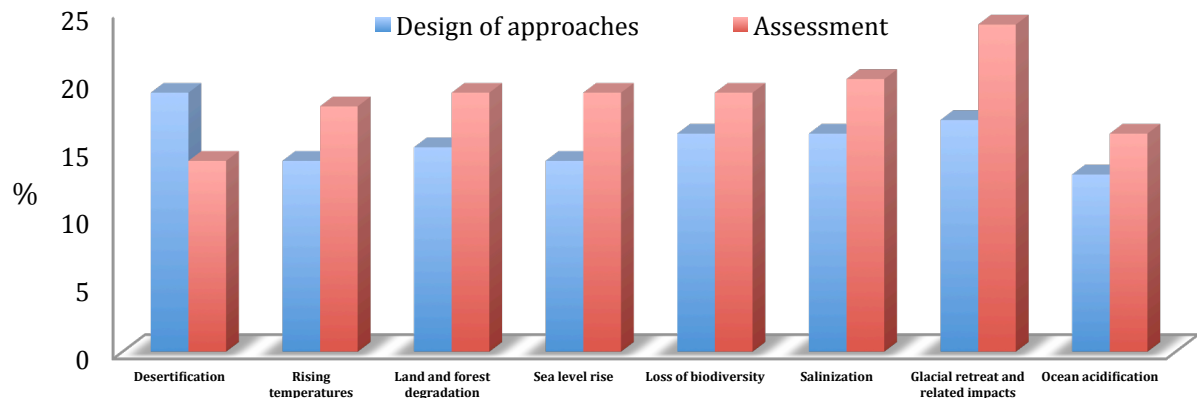


Figure (1): Mapping of organizations working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts (%). Source: synthesized from EXCOM synopses series (at www.unfccc.int/9103)

The WIM in its workplan should work with bodies within and outside (including the financial mechanism, the technology mechanism, and the PCCB) the Convention on issues of technical and financial support, as well as on the development and transfer of technologies required for the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with SOEs in different regions, particularly in Africa.

Specific activities to address gaps in national and regional knowledge on impacts of SOEs, in particular those of significant concern to the AGN with impacts on food production and food security, including ocean acidification, sea level rise, desertification, and salinization, could include:

- An assessment of the scope of work being undertaken on SOEs as reported by partners in the database;
- Technical papers to identify gaps in work being undertaken;
- Assessment of capacities and identification of gaps in capacity at regional agencies to assist countries to address the impacts of SOEs;
- Assessment of capacities to assess the potential regional impacts of slow onset events;
- Identification of capacity gaps (knowledge based and scientific tools) at regional agencies;
- Development of a strategic plan for addressing gaps in research and in strengthening capacities at regional and national levels for monitoring and assessing development and impacts.
- Development of numerical models, indices, decision-support tools, and GIS models such as sea level rise models and the incorporation of their projections

into a risk assessment and development of models of various sea level scenarios and their possible impacts (currently and in the future);

- Identification and implementation of measures and approaches before the damage becomes too costly to repair;
- Provision of financial resources, institutions and scientific, technical and technological capacity in addressing both permanent and non-economic losses and addressing economic losses of slow-onset events; and
- Development of strategic actions to reduce negative impacts on coastal communities.

3.4 Non-Economic Losses and Damages

The expert group should enhance knowledge on non-economic losses and damages (NELD) and should provide guidelines on how to address NELD. The WIM should coordinate, guide and support processes to make available funding for the implementation of activities of the NELD Expert Group. The overarching goal of the Expert Group should be to develop means to assess and address NELD including through activities to:

- Ensure the availability of current assessment tools for NELDs through collection and synthesis of existing tools and or commissioning the NELDs expert group to develop new appropriate tools;
- Coordinate the building of capacity at regional and national levels to assess and quantify NELDs through workshops;
- Develop mechanisms or platforms for assisting countries to select a matrix for assessing NELDs and incorporate the appropriate tools for NELDs into their planning and implementation of climate change policies costing processes;
- Research what NELD is, how it is being experienced in developing countries and how NELD can be addressed;
- Provide support to developing countries to assess and address NELD; and
- Pilot activities.

3.5 Migration, displacement and human mobility, including the task force on displacement

The AGN believes that the task force on displacement should undertake the following activities:

- Research on how climate effects and will affect migration, displacement and human mobility (current and future risk mapping of migration in light of the agreed temperature goal);
- Assessment of displacement (within border and across border migration) induced by droughts and floods in high-risk regions;
- Assessment of economic and non-economic losses and identification of approaches/measures of addressing averting and redressing associated with within border and across border migration induced by drought and floods;

- Development of guidelines on the different approaches (avert, minimize and address) of displacement associated with both climate change extreme and slow onset events; and
- Facilitation of dialogue and engagement with different organization and bodies including through platforms and expert meetings for sharing experiences from different regions on current as well as planning for future anticipated migration.

3.6 Finance-related topics-including finance, technology and capacity-building

The AGN welcomes the Standing Committee on Finance Forum on financial instruments to address the risks of loss and damage held in 2016 and its report. The Forum was a great opportunity to discuss different finance opportunities for loss and damage, which the ExCom and the SCF have to build on. The AGN would like to highlight two findings outlined in the report that are important to further guide the discussions on support: Firstly, the report highlights that “Different loss and damage risks, including rapid-onset versus slow-onset events as well as economic versus non-economic losses, require different responses. It was highlighted that a major gap exists in addressing slow-onset events, because current approaches are more suited to extreme weather events and other rapid-onset events”. Secondly, the report further stresses that while the focus on discussions around finance for loss and damage tends to focus around market-based financial tools like insurance that are difficult to implement in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, “there are differing financing needs associated with loss and damage, including compensation, investment, subsidization, taxes and other forms of public finance”, which we believe need to be further explored.

As a follow-up and based on the findings of the previous forum, the WIM in collaboration with the SCF and GCF board should convene further events (forums, expert meetings etc.) for:

- Bridging the identified gaps related to financial responses/mechanism for addressing slow-onset events;
- Exploring opportunities to identify diverse financial tools for addressing the needs of the poor in disadvantaged vulnerable regions such as in Africa (including: micro credit, contingent credit, social protection schemes);
- Conducting technical papers on what types and levels of finance, technical assistance, and capacity building may be required to addressing loss and damage in developing countries; and
- Organising workshops on the role of finance in addressing loss and damage and on possible resources to access in order to implement approaches/assessments.

The AGN believes that the WIM should coordinate and cooperate with the Technology Mechanism under the Convention as well as other relevant organisations

and institutions to identify and implement appropriate technologies that are required to implement approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with extreme and slow onset events of climate change. In that regard we propose joint expert meetings with the TEC as well as policy-makers focussing, amongst others, on

- Discussing technology needs of developing countries on loss and damage;
- Regional and national institutional arrangements required to coordinate technology needs;
- Research and financial needs for loss and damage related to technology needs.

The AGN also believes that the WIM should cooperate and coordinate with the PCCB to strengthen and build the capacity of developing countries to deal with the challenge of loss and damage that they are facing and are going to face, including through implementing the identified activities in this submission. In that regard we propose joint expert meetings with the PCCB as well as policy makers focussing, amongst others, on:

- Discussing capacity building needs of developing countries on loss and damage; and
- Regional and national institutional arrangements that will be needed to coordinate capacity building needs related to loss and damage

3.7 Emerging Needs

The AGN is of the view that the WIM should dedicate a work stream on loss and damage associated with drought and floods, under which dedicated activities should be conducted in a sequenced manner to enhance knowledge and understanding, assess action and support related to approaches/measures to address economic and non-economic losses associated with both drought and floods. The focus should be on assessment, valuation and management of loss and damage and there should also be consideration of continent and regional specific issues. There is a need for basic technical analysis on the impacts caused by loss and damage associated with drought, famine and floods, and this will help to provide tools and guidelines, and policy directions on how to address loss and damage associated with drought, famine and floods. Such tools and guidelines must include early warning systems, information services, assessment tools and guidelines. Capacity to show temporal and spatial characteristics of drought must be enhanced, and monitoring systems must be developed to detect, track, and map drought-prone areas. There is also a need to develop a useful framework for linking broader adaptations with loss and damage associated with drought and famine. This must allow linkages to be made across scales, policy and practice. The AGN believes that in the five year rolling workplan the WIM should conduct the following:

- Use of different modalities (papers, workshops, expert meetings etc.) for engaging relevant expertise and bodies (e.g. organizations, research institutions etc.) to advance knowledge, technical know how and action and support on:

- Use of critical life-saving tools for floods and droughts such as multi-hazards early warning systems, e.g. through convening technical expert meetings for advancing knowledge and sharing of experiences;
- Vulnerability and risks assessment methodologies for risk mapping using different projection scenarios;
- Detection, monitoring and forecasting of drought and floods and dissemination of timely warning;
- Development and implementation of contingency plans; and
- Response capacity;
- Strengthened meteorological data and service for development of modern weather services in different risk zones;
- Strengthening regional cooperation to support forecasting with multi-hazard early warning systems; and
- Conduct activities on loss and damage from drought and desertification and related food insecurity and famine including:
 - Technical paper on projected impacts of slow onset temperature rise and related drought/desertification on crop yields, pasture health, and food security and livelihoods – with possible approaches to address loss and damage; and
 - Explore possible collaboration and synergies with FAO, CGIAR, CCAFS, WMO, and WFP, as well as the work under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification which could include co-organizing a technical meeting to identify scientific, technical, data collection and systematic observation gaps and needs regarding slow onset temperature rise, drought, and desertification and impacts on crop and livestock production, food security, and livelihoods.

Regarding the clearinghouse, the AGN believes the clearinghouse should take on the following activities:

- Ensuring and supporting the development of regional and/or global catastrophe risk transfer facilities;
- Providing support for new facilities, including through providing for initial capitalization of national and regional insurance and alternative risk transfer schemes, as well as national and regional saving schemes to address slow onset disasters;
- Creating a hub for regional and national level insurance facilities, as appropriate;
- Developing a portfolio of actions to reduce and transfer risks; and
- Promoting an enabling environment that would encourage investment and the involvement of relevant stakeholders in climate risk management.