

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY GROUP (EIG)
LIECHTENSTEIN, MEXICO, MONACO, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SWITZERLAND

SUBMISSION ON LOSS AND DAMAGE (FEBRUARY, 2017)

Warsaw International Mechanism to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change

The Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) expresses its appreciation for the opportunity to submit its views and relevant inputs on possible activities under each strategic workstream as contained in the indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee, with focus on workstreams (e), (f) and (g) (FCCC/SB/2016/L.8, paragraph 5).

We acknowledge the progress achieved over the past two years, particularly concerning the conceptual framework, based on non – economic losses; migration; decrease in inequality and support the human rights, the development of adaptive capacities and on disaster risk reduction associated to climate change.

BACKGROUND

The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its nineteenth session, established the *Warsaw International Mechanism to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change* through its three main functions, with the guidance of the Executive Committee:

1. *Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches;*
2. *Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders; and*
3. *Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity building.*

The COP, at its twentieth session, approved an initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee. Action Area 5 of the initial workplan focuses on enhancing understanding, action and support with regard to prepare for responding to and building resilience against loss and damage associated with *extreme* and *slow onset* events, including through recovery and rehabilitation.

In this context, the Executive Committee invited to the Parties and relevant organizations in the paragraph 5 of the FCCC/SB/2016/L.8 with focus on workstreams (e), (f) and (g) to:

“...submit views and relevant inputs on possible activities under each strategic workstream as contained in the indicative framework for the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee, with a focus on workstreams (e), (f) and (g), by 28 February 2017.”

VIEWS AND RELEVANT INPUTS OF EIG ON POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES UNDER EACH STRATEGIC WORKSTREAM.

(e) Placeholder for finance-related topics

The Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) proposes to explore the potential of combining relevant means from outside the UNFCCC including the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery(GFDRR) and InsuResilience initiative, with the UNFCCC-tools in order to work

towards a comprehensive financial approach that includes potential risks of losses and damages. Thereby, innovative models for finances could also be explored.

In addition, it is needed to highlight the importance to develop an integrated risk management approach including risk transfer (insurance) -to address impacts associated with severe weather events, which also tackles the socio-economic part of loss and damage. To do so, it will be necessary to create synergies with relevant bodies and frameworks outside of UNFCCC, e.g. the Sendai Framework.

We also suggest the following considerations:

1. Address loss and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change, considering a wide range of methods and mechanisms that can be deployed, including the ones mention above (risk management, policy and regulatory frameworks, risk insurance), and improve the efforts to consider L&D aspects in the actions stated in the Paris Agreement related to finance, capacity building, technology transfer and innovation.
2. The importance to develop insurance mechanisms, embedded in an integrated risk management approach, for example, diversified agricultural insurances as a risk-transfer mechanism that can help farmers, in different socioeconomic conditions, to reduce climate risks in the sector. Micro-insurance cooperatives at the local level could constitute a climate change risk sharing instrument and a mean to transfer risk and address possible impacts associated with severe weather events.
3. Parties should strengthen the participation of communities and other stakeholders at subnational level in the design of their disaster risk reduction polices.

(f) Placeholder for emerging needs

The EIG calls for strengthening institutional frameworks to manage non-economic losses and damages through preventive integrated mechanisms that consider different factors: socio-economic characteristics of population, material and intangible cultural heritage, gender perspective, local knowledge, as well as ecosystem services and biodiversity.

It is necessary to recognize the importance of promoting the development and use of methodological approaches to assess the non-economic losses and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change (e.g. life losses and cultural heritage damages), as well as the indirect climate change impacts that may amplify other pre-existing stressors (e.g. migrations by agriculture impacts, water stress, food shortages, poverty, inequality).

The Group highlights the importance of implementing integrated efforts to respond to losses and damages associated with climate change, including extreme and slow onset events. These efforts should be aligned with those that will be undertaken to reduce biodiversity loss and soil degradation, which will optimize the use of resources.

We underline the importance of enhancing international cooperation and collaboration at the regional level, especially in early warning systems, particularly for countries that have similar impacts of extreme and slow onset events (e.g. biodiversity loss, sea level rising, soil degradation).

It is important to emphasize that changes in the intensity, frequency, duration of extreme events as well as slow onset events, such as ocean acidification, accelerated soil degradation, can lead to abrupt changes in the climate system, which in turn could undermine adaptation and

mitigation strategies, as well as the achievements of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

As group, we suggest that Parties should develop early warning and prevention systems in their entire territories, at municipality level, against extreme hydro-meteorological events, taking into account a gender equality and human rights approach.

The EIG proposes that Parties develop early warning systems for climate change, based on comprehensive climate service systems while considering multi-risk approaches, and allow the analysis of combined impacts.

Finally, we agree that the early warning systems (EWS) must be an integral part of all levels of the government's disaster risk management plans and budgets (regional, national and subnational), therefore, development and permanency of EWS requires political commitment and dedicated investments.