

Terms of References for an expert group on non-economic losses under Action Area 4 (b) of the initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

I. Background

1. The COP, at its nineteenth session, established:¹
 - (a) The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts in order to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (hereinafter referred to as the Warsaw International Mechanism); and
 - (b) An Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, to guide the implementation of functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as the Executive Committee).
2. The COP, at its twentieth session, endorsed an initial two-year workplan² of the Executive Committee in accordance with decisions 3/CP.18 and 2/CP.19³ (hereinafter referred to as the Workplan).
3. Action Area 4 of the Workplan aims to ‘Enhance data on and knowledge on non-economic losses associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and identify ways forward for reducing the risk of and addressing non-economic losses (NELs) with specific focus on potential impacts within regions’, including through a mandate for the Executive Committee to establish an expert group on non-economic losses (Activity (b) of Action Area 4).

II. Mandate

4. The mandate of the expert group is to assist the work of the Executive Committee in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism, in an advisory role, and report to the Executive Committee. Specifically, in line with the Executive Committee’s Workplan, the expert group on NELs will help to ‘develop inputs and recommendations to enhance data on and knowledge of reducing the risk of and addressing non-economic losses, including how to factor these into the planning and elaboration of measures to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.’

¹ Decision 2/CP.19, paragraphs 1 and 2.

² Decision 2/CP.20.

³ FCCC/SB/2014/4, annex II.

III. Scope of work

5. In line with the mandate described above, the scope of the work of the expert group, as it relates to the Workplan, is to contribute to delivering expected results of Action Area 4, activity (b) of the Workplan: development of inputs and recommendations, in order to enhance data on and knowledge of reducing the risk of and addressing non-economic losses, including how to factor these into the planning and elaboration of measures to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

6. Subject to direction of the Executive Committee, the expert group may also support the Executive Committee in its efforts to undertake Action Area 4, activity (a) of the Workplan, namely to raise awareness of the nature and extent of non-economic losses and of how to integrate measures to reduce the risk of non-economic losses in comprehensive approaches to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

IV. Activities, tasks, deliverables and associated timeline

7. Within the framework of the mandate and scope of work, the expert group is to organize at least one face-to-face meeting and to prepare a draft workplan, including a list of activities and associated deliverables, as soon as possible, subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee and prior to implementation of the workplan by the expert group. The annex to this document includes a non-exhaustive indicative list of possible work to be considered by the expert group as it develops its workplan.

V. Required qualifications and expertise

8. Selection of technical experts will be based on the following required qualifications and expertise:

(a) Demonstrable expertise⁴ relevant to the different types of non-economic losses, including those referred to in the technical paper on non-economic losses;⁵

(b) Practical international, regional, and/or national experience working on issues related to addressing the adverse effects of climate change, at a range of different levels, is preferred.

VI. Size and composition of the expert group

9. The expert group consists of:

⁴ E.g. appointments by well-established national and international institutions; peer-reviewed publications or other widely recognised bodies of work.

⁵ Loss of Life; Health; Human mobility; Territory; Cultural heritage; Indigenous Knowledge; Biodiversity; Ecosystem services (FCCC /TP/2013/2).

(a) Balanced representation of Annex I and non-Annex I members of the Executive Committee;

(b) Technical experts reflecting regional diversity on issues related to NELs.

10. The total number of individuals described in paragraph 9(a) above will not exceed four at a time. The total number of individuals described in paragraph 9 (b) above will not exceed eight.

11. The expert group will be co-facilitated by two of the members from the Executive Committee.

12. The technical expert members should be drawn as follows:

(a) Representatives from UNFCCC constituency groups,⁶ with no constituency having more than one representative;

(b) Representatives from intergovernmental organizations (IGO) participating in the UNFCCC process; and

(c) Representatives from nationally- or regionally-based research institutions and universities that are not admitted as observers under the UNFCCC.⁷

13. For paragraph 12 (a), (b) and (c) above, Executive Committee members of the expert group will recommend constituency groups and organizations from which representative(s) will be drawn, to the co-chairs of the Executive Committee for approval.

14. The Executive Committee, at the request of the expert group, can invite additional technical experts, as needed, to serve as *ad-hoc* members of the expert group.

15. Expert group members who are not members of the Executive Committee may not act as representatives of the Executive Committee.

VII. Mode of work

16. The mode of the work of the expert group includes:

(a) Electronic modalities (primary modality);

(b) In-person meetings, as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. Support for participation applies to only those in-person meetings which the Executive Committee has approved in advance.

⁶ Constituency groups are as follows: Environmental non - governmental organizations (ENGO); Research and independent non-governmental organizations (RINGO); Business and industry non-governmental organizations (BINGO); Farmers; Indigenous peoples organizations (IPO); Local government and municipal authorities (LGMA); Trade Unions non-governmental organizations (TUNGO); Women and Gender; and Youth non-governmental organizations (YOUNGO)

⁷ A list of UNFCCC admitted NGOs is available at <<http://unfccc.int/9411>>.

VIII. Reporting

17. The expert group reports to the Executive Committee, on a regular basis, through its co-facilitators, at the meetings of the Executive Committee and through written reports, as appropriate.

18. Progress related to the work of the expert group will be captured in the report of the Executive Committee.

IX. Timeframe (the group, and the membership)

19. The term of work of the expert group will be bound by the mandate and scope highlighted in sections II and III above, and by the duration of the Executive Committee's Workplan.

Annex

Areas for work may include, but are not limited to:

- Developing a roster or organizations/experts working on NELs or issues related to NELs;
 - Enhancing the understanding of what NELs are, and how to evaluate/assess them;
 - Identifying NELs-related case studies from various regions, including on the thematic areas highlighted in the UNFCCC technical paper;
 - Gathering information and data on NELs, including through analysis of programmes and projects, in various regions, that may not be climate specific, e.g., a project on biodiversity; and identify any related gaps;
 - Identifying institutions doing country-level research in different regions, and identifying opportunities for collaboration;
 - Identifying gaps and best practices on the planning and implementation of measures to address NELs;
 - Assisting the Executive Committee in developing an awareness raising strategy, in accordance with the Workplan (AA4(a)) and related knowledge products;
 - Specifying the target entity/entities for any recommendations developed;
 - Providing advice to the Executive Committee, if requested by the Executive Committee, on strategies, emerging questions and issues related to NELs.
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