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# Warsaw International Mechanism:

## Enhancing Understanding of Loss & Damage 3/CP18 para 7(a)

**Dr. Koko Warner**

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**What do we understand  
about loss & damage now?**

# Framing the work on loss & damage



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## ■ How does Loss & Damage relate to the Objective of the Convention?

*The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to **ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.** (Article 2)*



**Mitigation** – avoid and reduce climate impacts

**Adaptation** – adjust to climate impacts

**Loss & damage** – manage those impacts that remain



**What do we need to understand in order to facilitate approaches to address loss & damage (the mission of the WIM)?**

# From understanding to action – What we will need to understand in the future



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- (i) The **risk of slow onset events**, and approaches to address them;
- (ii) **Non-economic losses and damages**
- (iii) **How loss and damage affects vulnerable segments of the population** and how approaches to address loss and damage can benefit them;
- (iv) How to identify and develop appropriate approaches that include **risk reduction, risk sharing and risk transfer tools**, and **approaches to rehabilitate** from loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
- (v) How to integrate approaches to address loss and damage into **climate-resilient development processes**;
- (vi) How impacts of climate change are affecting **patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility**;



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**Who is doing what?  
Trends in current work on  
understanding loss &  
damage?**

# Major trends in current work on loss & damage



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- **Established significant body of work on rapid onset extreme events**
  - loss databases at the national level describe physical impacts (loss of life, infrastructure damage, total economic losses)
  - description of climate impacts (IPCC 4AR, IPCC SREX, IPCC 5AR)
  - (limited) documentation of experience with tools like early warning, insurance, risk reduction
- **Research on selected topics where UN / national processes exist**
  - Desertification research & what to do about it (UNCCD & other UN, research institutions)
  - Sea level rise & coastal erosion (regional studies)
- **Research in selected districts in countries on selected topics**
  - vulnerable populations, human mobility
- **Notable gaps**
  - Work to understand relationship of climate impacts on society to development; non-economic loss and damage



Para 7a (ii) Non-economic losses and damages

Global level

UN family e.g

World Bank

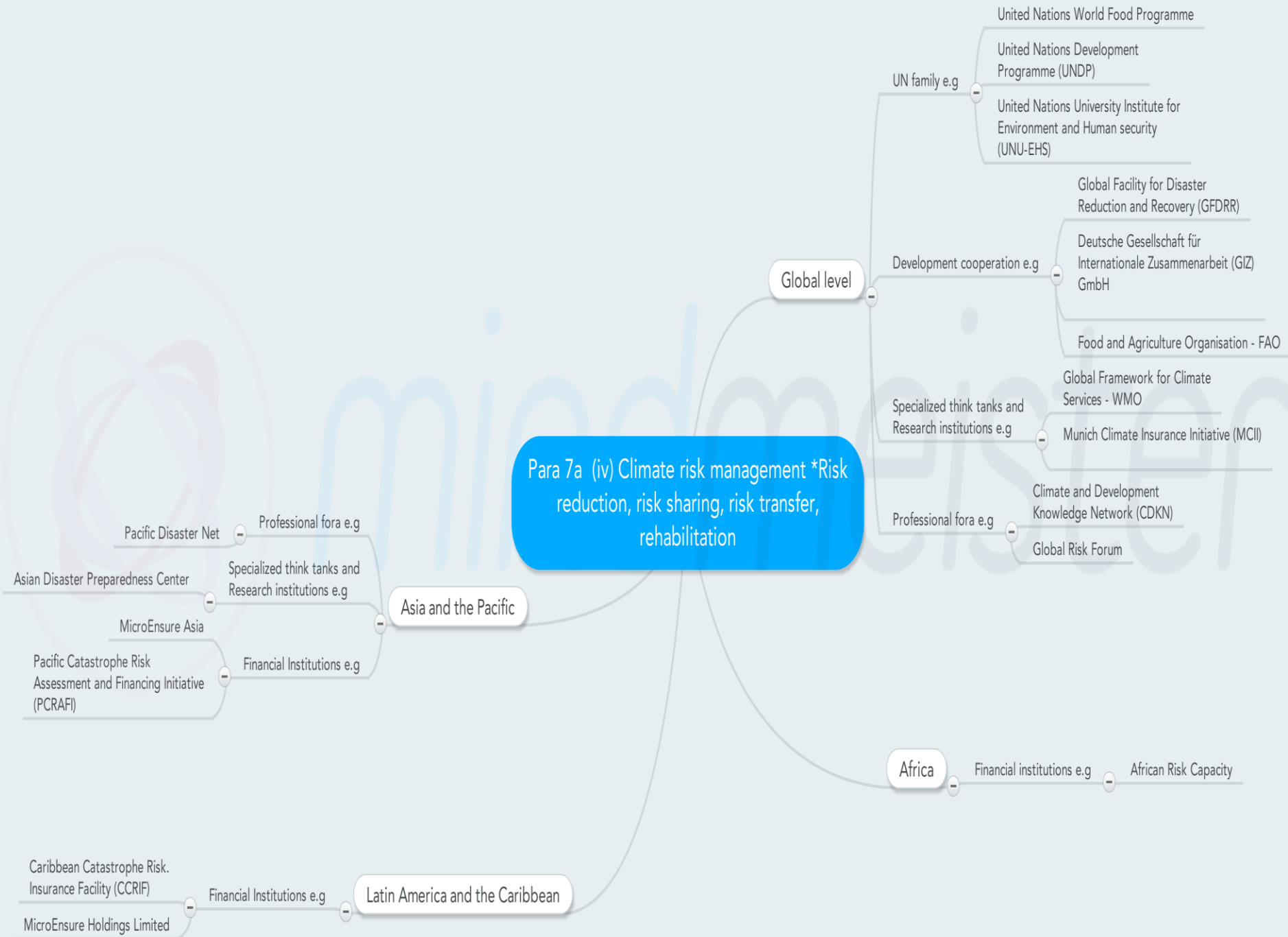
Development cooperation e.g

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent IFRC

Africa

Asia and the Pacific

Latin America and the Caribbean



Para 7a (iv) Climate risk management \*Risk reduction, risk sharing, risk transfer, rehabilitation

Global level

UN family e.g.

- United Nations World Food Programme
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human security (UNU-EHS)

Development cooperation e.g.

- Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Food and Agriculture Organisation - FAO

Specialized think tanks and Research institutions e.g.

- Global Framework for Climate Services - WMO
- Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII)

Professional fora e.g.

- Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)
- Global Risk Forum

Asia and the Pacific

Professional fora e.g.

Pacific Disaster Net

Specialized think tanks and Research institutions e.g.

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

MicroEnsure Asia

Financial Institutions e.g.

Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Financial Institutions e.g.

Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)

MicroEnsure Holdings Limited

Africa

Financial institutions e.g.

African Risk Capacity

# From understanding to action – What we will need to understand in the future



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**Where are gaps in work to understand loss & damage, and what are some ways forward for the WIM?**

- **What does it take to move from knowledge to action?**
  - encourage work that moves from descriptive (like loss databases) to **understanding negative climate impacts on society**
    - non-economic loss & damage, rapid- & slow onset climate stressors and how they affect climate resilient development
  - encourage work (esp. vulnerable populations) that improves **understanding of what factors matter most** in the relationships between climate impacts, development, and resilience (esp. For vulnerable populations)...and then design approaches accordingly
    - human mobility, climate resilient development,
  - encourage assembly of lessons learned, analysis of good practice and **what will be needed for transitions to new climate conditions**
    - combinations of climate risk management tools applied at different levels

# Ways the WIM can enhance understanding of loss and damage



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- **Link** with ongoing efforts and **raise awareness**
- **Assemble communities of expertise and practice** around themes in para 7(a)
  - Vocabularies, building engagement, reaching out
- Work Program & reporting documents can **invite specific types of further work**
  - This would give the communities of expertise and practice an idea of what is needed, give them a “mandate” to contribute in specific areas
- Promote **innovation, testing, and inspiration** through pilots

# Thank you.



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**[www.lossanddamage.net](http://www.lossanddamage.net)**

**Dr. Koko Warner**

Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)

Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10

D-53113 Bonn, Germany

Phone: ++ 49 (0) 228 815-0226, Fax: ++ 49 (0) 228 815-0299

E-Mail: [warner@ehs.unu.edu](mailto:warner@ehs.unu.edu)

**[www.ehs.unu.edu](http://www.ehs.unu.edu)**