

## **Submission by the European Union and its Member States**

**This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey**

**Warsaw, 7 November 2011**

**Subject: Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity**  
**- Activities to be undertaken under the work programme -**

**The European Union and its member states** welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the work programme on loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and the thematic areas that were elaborated in the conclusions of the SBI at its 34th session. (FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraphs 106-116)

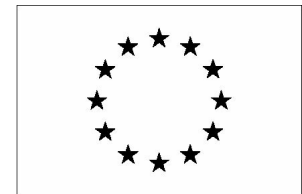
In our view the work programme that was agreed and that has been elaborated should contribute to building the understanding and expertise on the issue of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of increased climate variability and change, in the broader context of disaster risk management. As climate change will impact countries differently, disaster risk management approaches – which include means to address loss and damage-, should be country and context specific.

While we recognize that there are similarities between disaster risk management and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change these two fields, are still largely separated. In most developing countries disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change are still handled by completely separate institutions and programmes.

There is therefore a need to effectively bridge the gap between these two areas. Successful approaches from the disaster risk management community need to be built upon and accompanied by increasingly accurate modeling of the impact of climate change in specific locations. The aim should be to promote an integrated climate risk management approach in development planning at all levels. This approach should take into account a wide range of risk factors, including biophysical and socio-economic, and should be concerned with risks at both long and short timescales and across spatial scales.

Moreover, this integration should link to efforts to increase coherence between the UNFCCC, the Hyogo Framework for Action, the Global Framework for Climate Services and the Rio Conventions.

The three themes that have been broadly elaborated provide an effective framework to approach the discussions.



***a) Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, and the current knowledge on the same***

Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change should be seen in the broader context of disaster risk management, where interventions pertain to reducing the risk, anticipating the risk and responding to it as well as interventions to recover from impacts. As such, we need to understand how countries assess and understand their exposure to risks in general and to climate change in particular, and how this is put into practice at the local, subnational, national and regional level. We need to know what tools countries have at their disposal and what are the institutional arrangements for risk assessment.

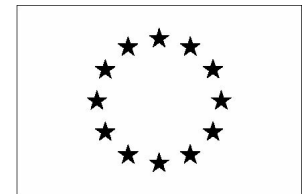
How countries assess their vulnerability is central to understanding the losses that could be included in the event of the risk materialising. As many countries are already applying some degree of disaster risk management, even if not always linked to best available knowledge of climate change, information on how risks are assessed could lend insights on the experiences and gaps being experienced by countries.

***b) A range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including the impacts related to extreme weather and slow onset events, taking into consideration experience at all levels***

Addressing the whole spectrum of risk management, from risk prevention, preparation, response and recovery requires a range of approaches, depending on whether they relate to extreme events or slow onset events. Varying country and regional circumstances will also determine the nature of the approaches, which also depend on the level and context of the intervention.

The EU believe therefore that in further considering issues under this theme, the questions that could be considered include: what approaches are appropriate to different types of risk? How do these differ between sectors and at different levels of application (i.e. from the local to the national)? How are different categories of stakeholders engaged in risk management approaches, i.e. the public and private sectors as well as civil society? How can the specific regional experiences be fed into this discussion? How can risk sharing schemes, such as insurance, enhance the risk management strategies at the macro and micro level and incentivize measures to increase resilience.

As has been stated in previous decisions on adaptation, the definition of approaches and interventions must be preceded by an evaluation and assessment stage. This is relevant also in this context and as such the discussion on experiences at the regional level should also include information on their measures to assess and evaluate risk and vulnerability.



### **c) The role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change**

The EU acknowledges that the issue of disaster risk management and the risk for loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change cuts across different processes. As such, it is important to strive for synergy with processes such as the WMO Global Framework for Climate services and the Hyogo Framework of Action on Disaster Risk reduction. Furthermore, the recent report of the IPCC on extreme weather events to be adopted before Durban, will be also relevant for this discussion. The UNFCCC process can play a role in bringing together the different threads of discussions and as such providing a platform to promote more coherent and coordinated consideration of disaster risk and the risk of loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. The UNFCCC could also through its different work streams facilitate the mobilisation of further knowledge and information building as well as resources to support the efforts that Parties are undertaking in this regard.

#### **Further activities to be considered in the Work Programme**

The EU takes note of the activities already mandated in the conclusions from SBI 34. In addition to these, we would like to propose the following for consideration:

- 1- Organisation of **three regional workshops**, in collaboration with relevant UN Agencies and/or regional centers providing climate services, subject to the availability of support, and drawing on the participation of a broad range of stakeholders including the private sector, to consider existing approaches to address disaster risk and the risk for loss and damage associated with climate change.

The EU thus proposes consideration of three regional workshops, one for Latin America and the Caribbean, one for Africa and one for the Asia Pacific region with the aim of getting an overview of the range of approaches available in those regions to address the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The workshops could also consider how such approaches could be enhanced, and where absent, what could be done in those regions.

- 2- Preparation of a **synthesis report** highlighting the outcomes of these workshops for consideration at COP18.