



United Nations

FCCC/SB/2015/3



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
17 November 2015

Original: English

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Forty-third session

Paris, 1–4 December 2015

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism
for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts**

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Forty-third session

Paris, 1–4 December 2015

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism
for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts**

Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts*

Summary

This report covers the work of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts during and since its 1st meeting, held from 24 to 26 September 2015. It contains information on: the nomination and election of its first members and officers; organizational and procedural matters, including information on its 1st meeting; and the implementation of its initial set of mandated activities. It concludes with recommendations to the Conference of the Parties through the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation.

* This document was submitted after the due date in order to include information on the outcomes of the 1st meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.

GE.15-20141(E)



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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 2/CP.19, decided that the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (hereinafter referred to as the Executive Committee) shall operate under the guidance of, and be accountable to, the COP, in guiding the implementation of the functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism.¹

2. By the same decision, the COP requested the Executive Committee to report annually to the COP, through the subsidiary bodies, and make recommendations, as appropriate.²

B. Scope of the note

3. This report contains information on the work of the Executive Committee at and since its 1st meeting, which was held from 24 to 26 September 2015.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

4. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) may wish to consider this report and recommend the relevant elements contained therein to the COP for further action, as appropriate.

D. Background

5. The COP, by decision 1/CP.16, established the Cancun Adaptation Framework, with the objective of enhancing action on adaptation, including through international cooperation and coherent consideration of matters relating to adaptation under the Convention.³ Within this context, and by the same decision, the COP established a work programme in order to consider, including through workshops and expert meetings, as appropriate, 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.⁴

6. By decision 3/CP.18, the COP, taking into account the results arising from the implementation of the work programme mentioned in paragraph 5 above, decided to establish, at its nineteenth session, institutional arrangements to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.⁵

7. Accordingly, the COP, by decision 2/CP.19, established:⁶

¹ Decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 2.

² Decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 3.

³ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 13.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 26.

⁵ Decision 3/CP.18, paragraph 9.

⁶ Decision 2/CP.19, paragraphs 1 and 2.

(a) The Warsaw International Mechanism, under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, 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;

(b) An Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism, which shall function under the guidance of, and be accountable to, the COP, to guide the implementation of functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism as referred to in paragraph 5 of the same decision.

8. The COP requested the Executive Committee to report annually to the COP through the SBSTA and the SBI and make recommendations, as appropriate.⁷

II. Organizational matters

A. Nomination of members

9. The COP decided that the Executive Committee shall be composed of 20 members⁸ nominated by Parties in their respective groups or constituencies, and encouraged Parties to nominate to the Executive Committee experts with the diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, taking into account the goal of gender balance pursuant to decision 23/CP.18. Members shall serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms of office. Half of the members shall be elected initially for a term of three years and half of the members shall be elected for a term of two years.⁹ Thereafter, the COP shall elect members for a term of two years.

10. The secretariat received nominations from all groups and constituencies of Parties in line with the relevant provisions on the composition of the Executive Committee. The list of nominated members is contained in the annex.

11. As a result of the late confirmation of its members in 2015, with the last nomination received on 11 June 2015, the Executive Committee recommends that the COP agree that the term of the members of the Executive Committee currently in office officially ends immediately before the first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2018 for the members with a term of two years, and immediately before the first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2019 for the members with a term of three years.

B. Election of officers

12. In accordance with decision 2/CP.20, paragraph 10, the Executive Committee elected, by consensus, Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi (Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention) and Ms. Shereen D'Souza (Parties included in Annex I to the Convention) to serve as Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee for a period of one year.

13. The Executive Committee recommends, as a consequence of the proposed adjustment to the terms of office of its members as referred to in paragraph 11 above, that the COP agree that the term of the Co-Chairs currently in office ends immediately before the first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2017.

⁷ Decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 3.

⁸ Decision 2/CP.20, paragraph 5.

⁹ Decision 2/CP.20, paragraph 7. The allocation of the two- and three-year terms has not yet been communicated to the secretariat.

III. Work of the Executive Committee in 2015

14. In accordance with decision 2/CP.20, paragraph 13, the Executive Committee began implementing its initial two-year workplan at its 1st meeting.¹⁰

A. The 1st meeting of the Executive Committee

15. At its 1st meeting, held from 24 to 26 September 2015, the Executive Committee exchanged views on: the vision and expectations of the work of the Executive Committee; the implementation of its initial two-year workplan and the delivery of activities; arrangements for the operationalization of the Warsaw International Mechanism; and guidelines for intersessional work, including the designation of members to represent the Executive Committee in external events.

16. Discussions were held in a plenary setting throughout, taking into account inputs by the observers present. In addition to sharing their views during the plenary discussion, observers were invited to provide, in writing, their views on the implementation of the specific areas of action contained in the initial two-year workplan, in order to provide a broadened range of perspectives for the Committee's consideration of the matter.¹¹ Similarly, in some cases members worked individually and/or informally in groups on the margins of the official meeting, together with observers with thematic expertise, to prepare inputs for plenary discussion.

17. The Executive Committee noted an urgent need to make available resources to support the successful and timely implementation of its initial two-year workplan, in order to deliver the expected results as entrusted to it by the COP. In response to questions from members on this topic, the secretariat provided relevant information, including on the budgetary implications of the implementation of the initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee, as referred to in the report on COP 20,¹² as well as on a biennial cycle of budgetary deliberations.

1. Rules of procedure

18. The COP, by decision 2/CP.20, decided that the Executive Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure at its first meeting. Accordingly, the Executive Committee agreed on its rules of procedure.¹³

2. Arrangements for the next meeting

19. The Executive Committee recalled that the COP, by decision 2/CP.20, decided that the Executive Committee shall meet at least twice per year, while retaining its flexibility to adjust the number of meetings, as appropriate. Noting the late timing of its 1st meeting, the Executive Committee decided to schedule its 2nd meeting during the first quarter of 2016, and to hold at least three meetings in the course of 2016.

20. The 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee is planned for 2–5 February 2016.

¹⁰ The initial two-year workplan is contained in document FCCC/SB/2014/4, annex II. It is also available at <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workstreams/loss_and_damage/items/8805.php>.

¹¹ Observers made seven submissions of written input, available on the meeting web page at <<http://unfccc.int/9283>>.

¹² FCCC/CP/2014/10, paragraph 157(c).

¹³ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/9215>>.

B. Implementation of the initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee in 2015

21. The Executive Committee agreed on a set of parameters to initiate the work in relation to:

(a) Enhancing the understanding of how loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change affect particularly vulnerable developing countries, segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihood, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability, and the ecosystems that they depend on, and of how the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage can benefit them;¹⁴

(b) Enhancing data on and knowledge of the risks of slow onset events and their impacts, and identifying ways forward on approaches to address slow onset events associated with the adverse effects of climate change with specific focus on potential impacts, within countries and regions.¹⁵

22. The Executive Committee also initiated discussion in relation to engaging with and reaching out to the following entities, and will continue to work intersessionally in this regard:

(a) Relevant national disaster risk management and international humanitarian organizations and their partners, taking into account extreme and slow onset events, and, with a view towards comprehensive climate risk management:¹⁶

(i) To develop and conduct country-specific analyses of climate risk and associated loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in different sectors;

(ii) To identify institutional requirements to prevent, minimize or otherwise manage loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

(b) Relevant organizations and experts to provide scientific information on projected migration and displacement based on projected climate and non-climate related impacts in vulnerable populations;¹⁷

(c) Parties and relevant organizations to provide information on best practices, challenges and lessons learned from existing financial instruments at all levels that address the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.¹⁸

23. In addition, the Executive Committee launched intersessional work related to awareness-raising on non-economic loss and damage¹⁹ as well as on channels of collaboration.

24. In order to facilitate electronic means of communication for facilitating the work of the Executive Committee, the secretariat made available a secure and dedicated web interface.

25. Initial communication with the following relevant constituted bodies under the Convention was established in the context of action area 1 of the initial two-year workplan

¹⁴ Action area 1 of the initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee, referred to in paragraph 14 above.

¹⁵ Action area 3 of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

¹⁶ Action area 5, activity (a), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

¹⁷ Action area 6, activity (a), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

¹⁸ Action area 7, activity (d), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

¹⁹ Action area 4, activity (a), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

of the Executive Committee: the Adaptation Committee, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Technology Executive Committee.

26. The Executive Committee invited these constituted bodies to consider making efforts to reduce and avert losses and damage among particularly vulnerable developing countries, vulnerable populations and the ecosystems that they depend on, as these bodies undertake their work, and to share the outcomes with the Executive Committee.²⁰ The Executive Committee specifically requested that these bodies indicate, following their next meeting and/or as soon as practicable, ways in which the respective constituted bodies plan to take this invitation into account.

27. Stocktaking of organizations that are working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts²¹ is under way. A database containing results of the mapping of over 170 such organizations will be made available on the UNFCCC website prior to the 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee, in order to serve as an input for further work under action area 3 of the initial workplan.

28. The Executive Committee initiated a dialogue, through various modes of communication,²² on possible collaboration between the SCF and the Executive Committee, in particular in the context of:

(a) The next biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows, with a view to including information on financial instruments that address the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;²³

(b) Facilitating the diffusion of comprehensive information through an invitation to the SCF to dedicate its 2016 Forum to financial instruments that address the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.²⁴

29. The SCF, at its 11th meeting,²⁵ considered the initial communication of the Executive Committee and accepted the invitation for possible collaboration between the two committees as mentioned in paragraph 28 above. The Executive Committee looks forward to furthering the work in this regard.

30. The Executive Committee at its 2nd meeting will, inter alia, continue its deliberations on arrangements for the operationalization of the Warsaw International Mechanism, including on issues related to: financial support and availability of resources in the secretariat for the work of the Executive Committee; establishing groups/panels with reference to decision 2/CP.20, paragraph 8; modalities of work, including small groups, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Executive Committee; ways to capture elements relevant to the development of a five-year rolling workplan; and arrangements for working intersessionally.

IV. Recommendations to the Conference of the Parties

31. The Executive Committee recommends that COP 21:

²⁰ Action area 1, activity (a), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

²¹ Action area 3, activity (a), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

²² Teleconference, written communication and participation in the 11th meeting of the SCF.

²³ Action area 7, activity (c), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

²⁴ Action area 7, activity (e), of the initial two-year workplan referred to in paragraph 14 above.

²⁵ Held from 26 to 28 October 2015. For further information, see <<http://unfccc.int/6881>>.

- (a) Agree to the adjustments relating to the terms of office of the members and Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee, as outlined in paragraphs 11 and 13 above;
- (b) Encourage Parties to make available resources for the successful and timely implementation of the initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee, in view of the ambitious nature of the workplan.

Annex

Nominated members of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

1. Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

African States

Mr. Shonisani Munzhedzi

Mr. Idy Niang

Asia-Pacific States

Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi

Mr. Nurul Quadir

Latin American and Caribbean States

Mr. Antonio Canas

Mr. Orville Grey

Least developed countries

Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa

Small island developing States

Ms. Dawn Pierre-Nathaniel

Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Ms. Ama Essel

Mr. Krishna Chandra Paudel

2. Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

Ms. Helen Bryer

Ms. Shereen D'Souza

Mr. Gottfried von Gemmingen

Mr. Helmut Hojesky

Ms. Karla Juranek

Ms. Monika Kuśmierczyk

Mr. Erling Kvernevik

Mr. Thomas de Lannoy

Mr. Valeriy Sedyakin

Mr. Kimio Takeya
