

स्वच्छ उर्जा नेपाल (CLEAN ENERGY NEPAL)



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CEN takes this opportunity to submit its views and information on the possible elements to be included in the recommendations about the role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 and as per paragraph 9 of the decision 7/CP.17

Overview

Specific circumstances, regional experiences, priorities, capacities and needs including those of mountainous countries like Nepal, especially of the most vulnerable people, communities and ecosystems should be taken into account while evaluating and selecting approaches, methods and tools to address vulnerability, building resilience and adaptive capacity. It would be worth to note that the Himalayan glaciers are disappearing at an unprecedented rate with transformational implications to the livelihoods of 1.3 billion people living downstream and dependent on the glacier fed river basins. The annual cost of floods and landslides in Nepal between 2001 and 2007 was \$14.7 million. In 2007 the droughts cost up to 30% of Nepal's rice yield, as well as electricity, which would have otherwise been generated using hydro-power¹. The cost of assets that are at risk of being lost to potential glacier lake outburst floods is between \$1.8 and \$8.7 million, not to mention the number of lives at risk, and the potential loss of traditional knowledge and practices². Also, both economic and non-economic damage and losses must be considered in both the assessment of loss and damage and in the analysis of approaches to address loss and damage.

Terminologies such as Exposure, Vulnerability, Hazard, Sensitivity, Risk, etc. are defined in different scope and context in Climate change adaptation (CCA) and Disaster risk reduction (DRR) approaches and practices. Instead of a very specific hazard focus and countermeasures on climate impacts, new approaches which recognize social-ecological systems and their interdependence, are required. CCA and DRR approaches should be integrated and scaled-up by building on existing architecture, such as Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) and the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

As loss and damage will be continuously affecting the economies and livelihoods in developing countries, the Convention should find a way to systematically support developing countries instead of

¹ World Bank, GFDRR: Vulnerability, Risk Reduction and Adaptation: Nepal

² World Resources Report Case Study: Nepal: Responding Proactively to Glacial Hazards

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ad hoc post disaster humanitarian pledge in practice at present. Recognizing the precautionary principle, proposals for mechanisms which can address rehabilitation and compensation needs to be discussed.

With this note, Clean Energy Nepal would like to submit the following views:

1. Institutional linkages/coordination

- The programme on Loss and damage should have strong linkages with existing mechanism under the convention i.e. finance, adaptation, and technology mechanism and LDC work program.
- The loss and damage work programme could develop guidance and recommendations, closely coordinated with the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) process to take account potential failure of adaptation and risk reduction planning for effective climate risk management. Assessment of Loss and Damage should build on Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Assessment Frameworks and use the tools and methodologies used in Vulnerability / Risk assessment.

2. Capacity building and build up understanding about the issue

- Developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDC) need adequate support on capacity building, technical and financial aspects and institutional strengthening. To assess extreme and slow onset events, strengthening the capacity to collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information is very important. Therefore, in accordance to LDC work program 5/CP.7 and also for its successful implementation, there should be strong coordination with such existing mechanisms.
- CEN requests to incorporate activities that help to enhance understanding and build on existing knowledge on loss and damage for developing countries, particularly LDCs. Similarly, a mechanism for sharing extreme and slow onset events and its documentation and dissemination with an involvement of development partners and civil society organization could be established.

3. Financing loss and damage actions

- Addressing Loss and Damage in developing countries require substantial financial support from the developed countries. Existing climate financing channels under the Convention, for example the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed countries fund should be used to jump start action on loss and damage. Once fully set up, Green Climate Fund should be given capacity with adequate fund so leverage the necessary quantum leap in financial support for poor countries.
- The Convention should discuss on fostering financial measures to assist developing countries in coping with loss and damage, for example; deferral of payments to international institutions, debt relief, grants instead of loans, etc.

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4. Linkage with mechanisms outside the convention

- Private and public sector involvement on insurance mechanism to shift the risk of the most vulnerable communities is crucial. However, there is still no consensus on how such mechanism will work. As the existing insurance instruments are unlikely to invest in projects involving high risks, the work programme should come up with the means which will assure the mechanism is accessible to the most vulnerable communities without language and cultural bar, technology hindrance, etc.

CEN is an independent, non profit service oriented, policy, research and implementation organisation focusing on research based education and advocacy campaigns with policy inputs and implementation on issues related to sustainable energy use and environmental conservation. Established in 2000 AD, CEN envisages contributing in development, promotion and application of clean energy technologies in the country reducing air pollution and global warming impacts to natural and human system. CEN vision is "Sustainable Nepal where right to clean environment is ensured for all".

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