

Submission from Colombia on Views and information on the themes to be addressed in the implementation of the work programme on Loss and Damage

The Colombian Government welcomes the opportunity to present considerations regarding the implementation of the work programme on Loss and Damage as this is a priority issue for particularly vulnerable countries:

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

There is a need to enhance information and capacity at national level for mapping assets, including ecosystems that have differing exposure to loss and damage in countries. However, the possibility of working at sub-regional levels, for example to assess shared ecosystems or infrastructure investments, should be explored. Loss and damage caused by climatic variability and climate change need to be quantified, and guidance provided on available methodologies. Greater support and efforts are needed to provide the necessary scientific evidence, given that downscaled information is often inexistent or inadequate, and vulnerability assessments are often incomplete. Quantification should include such issues as loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

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

There is already considerable knowledge acquired through work in disaster risk management and in insurance schemes such as micro insurance and weather-index insurance. The loss and damage work program should explore a range of risk management tools and risk transfer mechanisms given that needs – and the capacity to access risk transfer mechanisms - will vary greatly not only between countries but between sectors and areas.

- 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 Convention needs to address the fact that although many risk management tools and risk transfer mechanisms can increase the capacity of countries and sectors to respond to climatic impacts, in many cases these are expensive options that are beyond the capacity of countries. At all levels - countries, sectors, cities, local authorities – will be unable to either access insurance or to afford it.

In order to put in place these risk management and transfer mechanisms, countries may also need to put in place appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks. Support and guidance are needed.

In complement to risk management approaches, the Convention should also ensure that countries and stakeholders are able to put in place robust planning and programming processes to increase resilience at country levels and in all sectors. Preventive measures, such as “climate-proofing” existing and projected investments, productive practices and urban spaces, among others, should be advanced within the broad, deep approach to Adaptation that Colombia has called for.