

**Work programme on 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**

1. **Norway** welcomes the opportunity to share views and information on possible elements to be included in the recommendations on loss and damage in accordance with 1/CP/16 (FCCC/SBI/2011/L.35/Add.1)
2. The activities under work programme on loss and damage are still ongoing. Norway is mindful that one of the regional workshops has not yet taken place and that the reports from the regional meetings are yet to be produced. Hence, the views reflected below on possible elements are preliminary reflections based on the technical papers and reports, including “Report on the expert meeting on assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change” (FCCC/SBI/2012/INF.3).

***Framing loss and damage***

3. The risk of loss and damage is the very reason we mitigate greenhouse gases and adapt to a changing climate. Mitigation, adaptation and adaptive capacity will determine the scale of losses and damages. Loss and damage associated with climate change impacts is to Norway’s understanding the residual risk when mitigation is insufficient to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and when the full potential of adaptation to reduce the risks associated with the effects of climate change is met.
4. The risk of loss and damage can be substantially reduced by mitigation and adapting to a changing climate. This has been thoroughly established through the IPCC special report on managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation (SREX report), as well as the annual Global Assessment Reports (ISDR). The approaches to reduce the risk of loss and damage are, to Norway’s consideration, an integrated part of mitigation and adaptation efforts.
5. Norway recognize that while adaptation and disaster risk reduction processes can build considerable resilience towards the risk of loss and damage, the current mitigation efforts are insufficient to keep the global average temperature rise at a level that enable nature and society to timely and adequately adapt to the impacts of climate change. According to the IPCC AR4 there are limits to adaptation both related to natural, managed and human systems. Further for some gradual changes such as ocean acidification, mitigation remains the only viable option to reduce the risk of loss and damage. As a result losses and damages to nature and human systems may occur.
6. Losses and damages associated with the effects of climate change are frequently perceived and addressed from a perspective of economic loss as a result of extreme weather events. Norway would highlight that key aspects of loss and damage such as losses of lives and negative impacts for health, e.g. cause a rise in infectious and vector borne diseases are not easily accounted for in economic figures. Also gradual changes, including temperature rise,

glacial melt, ocean acidification and sea level rise add pressure to already stressed ecosystems, resulting in loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services necessary to sustain livelihoods. Norway consider that these are aspects that is key to understand losses and damages associated with the effects from climate change.

### ***Convention's role in addressing the risk of loss and damage associated with climate change***

1. Norway consider that elements in the recommendations on loss and damage to be considered at SBI 37<sup>th</sup> session may include;

- a. *Strengthening the knowledge base*

Loss and damage from the impacts of climate change is to Norway's opinion not well understood. An important element in the recommendations on loss and damage would therefore be to strengthen the knowledge base on losses and damages from the impact from extreme weather events and gradual changes associated with a changing climate. This should be included in existing workstreams on knowledge building for adaptation under the Convention and may be included as a pillar of the new Nairobi Work Programme to be considered at the SBSTA 38<sup>th</sup> session.

- b. *Strengthen coherence and cooperation*

A key message coming out of the regional expert meetings, as well as the workshop on methods to assess loss and damage held in Tokyo in March 2012, is that better coordination and coherence between frameworks, organizations and institutions working on risk management strategies and approaches to address risks of loss and damage, in particular with regard to risk assessments and risk reduction, is needed. Further, there is a need to improve sharing of information, for example related to climate and meteorological data, between countries (ref WMO's Global Framework for Climate Services). Norway considers that there is an opportunity for the Convention to play a catalytic role in this regard and that the Adaptation Committee may provide an arena for furthering coherence and cooperation in this regard.

- c. *Strengthen regional cooperation*

Shared risks and the benefits of working together across nations to develop knowledge and build capacity, calls for regional cooperation. The regional workshops have shown that such regional cooperation exists in many areas, but that there is also a need to strengthen them. Through the Cancun framework for adaptation, as well as the decision on the adaptation committee from COP 17 in Durban, regional cooperation through regional centres and networks has been highlighted. Norway consider that work to build knowledge and strengthen capacity to address loss and damage from the impacts of climate change should be an integrated part of an effort to strengthen regional cooperation under the Convention.

- d. *Support*

The effects of climate change are geographically specific, and the impacts are highly contextual. The time perspective is also a key dimension when considering the impacts of climate change. Further, the impacts of climate change imply different risks to different

people, groups and communities. Hence any support to address these risks, must be able to respond to very different needs. To Norway's understanding, addressing loss and damage must include a range of activities such as strengthening data collection and improving climate-related research and systematic observation, impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments; disaster risk reduction and management strategies, risk sharing and transfer as well as enhanced understanding and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement. These activities are already included in the list of actions Parties may undertake to enhance action on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, referred to in § 14 of 1/CP.16, which are all eligible for support according to 1/CP.16, §18. With regard to risk sharing and transfer Norway regard that such instruments may work as in the context of climate change adaptation as long as such instruments incentives adaptation. In Doha, it is to Norway's consideration important that we reaffirm, rather than duplicate, efforts already undertaken to support activities that address loss and damage associated with climate change.