

Twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, Bonn, Germany, 12–16 October 2020

Reference document for item 7(c)

Modalities for fostering the sharing of relevant knowledge and experience among practitioners and vulnerable countries in an interactive and practical manner

About this document

This document provides a summary of views on effective communication modalities and target users for knowledge products, provided via e-Delphi, during Excom 11 (March 2020).

The Executive Committee will be invited to consider effective interactive and practical modalities for communicating knowledge and experience related to loss and damage to practitioners and vulnerable countries, including but not limited to its products.

I. Mandate

1. As part of the 2019 WIM review outcomes, Parties:

(a) Recognized the need to enhance the relevance, usefulness and dissemination of the outputs of the Warsaw International Mechanism to enable Parties and stakeholders to easily use and integrate these outputs into planning and implementing approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage (decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 10);

(b) Encouraged the Executive Committee to communicate its outputs in formats that are easy to translate, adapt and access in different contexts and by different users (decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 11);

(c) Requested the Executive Committee to identify modalities for fostering the sharing of relevant knowledge and experience among practitioners and vulnerable countries in an interactive and practical manner (decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 12).

2. In addition, decision 10/CP.24, paragraph 8, invited relevant organizations and other stakeholders to collaborate with the Excom, including through partnerships, in developing and disseminating products that support national focal points, loss and damage contact points and other relevant entities in raising awareness of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

II. Process to date

3. Increasing the effectiveness of the outreach and dissemination of technical products has been an issue of interest by the Excom, accordingly, it developed a communications strategy and endorsed it at Excom 8 (September 2018).¹

4. In response to the most recent guidance from Parties as referred to in paragraph 1 above, the members shared views at the first meeting of the Excom in 2020 (March, Excom 11) on effective modalities for communicating knowledge produced, collected and synthesized by the Excom and its thematic expert groups, to the targeted practitioners and vulnerable countries and potential target users/audience of the Excom knowledge products within vulnerable countries.

5. Members provided three sets of initial views via e-Delphi at Excom 11. Due to time constraints, these views were not considered during the live online discussions at Excom 11. The views are broadly summarized in the table below.

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom_8_summary_decisions-FINAL.pdf.

6. Excom 11 had encouraged members to continue providing views, electronically or otherwise, on the four broad areas, as well as any other relevant connections to the future work of the Excom. To date, no additional views have been shared.

7. Loss and damage covers a broad range of thematic areas and many organizations have relevant expertise and may have resources to inform the planning and implementation of on-the-ground activities. Some of these organizations are registered for observer participation for Excom 12.

Table. Synthesis of initial views on effective communication modalities and target users for knowledge products by the Excom and its thematic expert groups as shared via e-Delphi

1. Potential target users/audience of the Excom knowledge products within vulnerable countries:

- National Climate Change Focal Points (NFPs) and Loss and Damage contact points (L&D contact points);
- Decision-makers (national, local);
- Private sector executives;
- Academics;
- Civil society organizations (CSOs);
- The general public.

2. Suggested communication modalities:

- Establish a WIM knowledge network of practitioners to channel knowledge generated in the course of the UNFCCC's and Paris Agreement's loss and damage-related work. Such a network could use and apply existing platforms: such as the Fiji Clearing House, Risk Talk, and other platforms under the UNFCCC;
- Utilize virtual means such as webinars, partnering with entities at the regional and national level, to reach multiple target audiences;
- Engage with WIM/Excom current partner organizations to be the conduit for knowledge generated;.
- Attaching the communications strategy to the Excom's workplan will be useful in delivering the communication components of the Excom's work.

III. Suggestions for a way forward

8. The Excom may wish to solicit pledges of action from relevant organizations for the sharing of information relevant to loss and damage contexts, in an interactive and practical manner, to the following audiences: NFPs, L&D contact points, decision-makers at various levels, private sector, academic; CSOs, the general public.

9. These inputs could be collected electronically or via a virtual session, including in a breakout group format. The Excom may, subsequently, wish to invite those organizations who pledged actions to share with the Excom the results of their work.