



**Twenty-second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for
Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, Bonn, Germany**

13–15 May 2025

Note by the expert group on slow onset events for item 7

I. Context

1. ExCom published a technical guide on sea level rise in February 2025.¹ As per activity 4 of the second rolling plan of action² of the expert group on slow onset events, the expert group is preparing a webinar on sea level rise to showcase the key findings of the technical guide and the three main types of strategies to respond to the risk of sea level rise. The concept note of this webinar is presented in the Annex.

II. Next steps

2. ExCom will be invited to consider the preparation of the webinar on sea level rise and provide guidance, where appropriate.

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/key-knowledge-products-2023/2024/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage/technical-guide-on-sea-level-rise>.

² See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Second_PoA_SOEs.pdf.

Annex

Navigating Rising Seas – Insights from the WIM ExCom Technical Guide on Sea Level Rise



Date: **Dates to be confirmed.**



Time: two time slots to cover different time zones (UTC+1 and UTC+8).



Location: Teams (link to be created by the Secretariat). The webinar will be recorded.

Sea level rise poses an increasing threat to coastal regions, amplifying risks such as flooding, saltwater intrusion, and the displacement of communities. These impacts have profound implications for livelihoods, ecosystems, infrastructure, and cultural heritage, particularly in low-lying areas and small island developing states. In response to these escalating challenges, the **Executive Committee of the UNFCCC Warsaw International Mechanism** published a [technical guide on sea level rise](#), providing a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of coastal climate-related risks, immediate and long-term actions towards resilience, and available financing sources to support coastal protection and long-term sustainability. The technical work to develop the guide was co-led by four members of the Expert Group on Slow onset events of the Committee.

This webinar will provide a deep dive into the findings of the guide, focusing on:

- Three main types of strategies: protect, accommodate, and retreat. A spectrum of related approaches for each strategy will be presented, from hard infrastructure (seawalls, breakwaters, flood barriers) to ecosystem-based approaches (mangrove restoration, coral reef rehabilitation, sand dune reinforcement) and social protection measures (insurance schemes, managed retreat, and inclusive adaptation planning).
- Ongoing practices and lessons from the applications of innovative coastal protection initiatives from countries such as Tuvalu, Senegal, Bangladesh, and Puerto Rico, that are showcased as case studies in the technical guide.

In addition, the webinar will also share information from the technical guide regarding:

- Financing options for coastal resilience, such as multilateral funds, climate finance instruments, and public-private partnerships that can support the implementation of adaptation and loss & damage measures.
- An overview of the physical drivers, observed and projected trends, their cascading socio-economic impacts, and risk assessment approaches.

Speakers include technical members of the Expert Group on Slow Onset Events, who co-led the technical work to develop the technical guide. See the bio of speakers in the annex.

Welcome and introduction - **[add names of ExCom champions and/or co-chairs]**

Panelists (alphabetical order, and tbc for each webinar, pending the time zones)

- Dr. **Elisa Calliari**, Member of the Executive Committee (ExCom), Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), researcher at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Vienna/Austria and the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change, Venice/Italy
- Dr. **Mariya Ivanova Aleksandrova**, Senior Researcher, German Institute of Development and Sustainability, Bonn/Germany
- Dr. **Jaroslav Mysiak**, Principal Scientist and former founding director of the Risk Assessment and Adaptation Strategies Division, Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change, Venice, Italy
- Dr. **Albert M. Salamanca**, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute Asia, Bangkok/Thailand
- Dr. **Akhilesh Surjan**, Associate Professor, Humanitarian, Emergency & Disaster Management, Charles Darwin University, Darwin/Australia

Draft Agenda:

Focus	Allocated time
Welcome and introduction By ExCom SOEs champions and/or co-chairs	10 min
Deep dive into the technical guide By the co-leads of the technical guide	20-30 min
Open discussion and feedback session With the participants	20-30 min

Timeline for the preparation of the webinar:

- Draft of the concept note: tbd
- Review by ExCom SOEs champions: tbd
- Finalization of the concept note and validation by ExCom SOEs champions: tbd
- Invitation of the event by the Secretariat: 2 weeks before the event
- Finalization of presentation by co-leads: 1 week before the event (to provide time for ExCom's review)