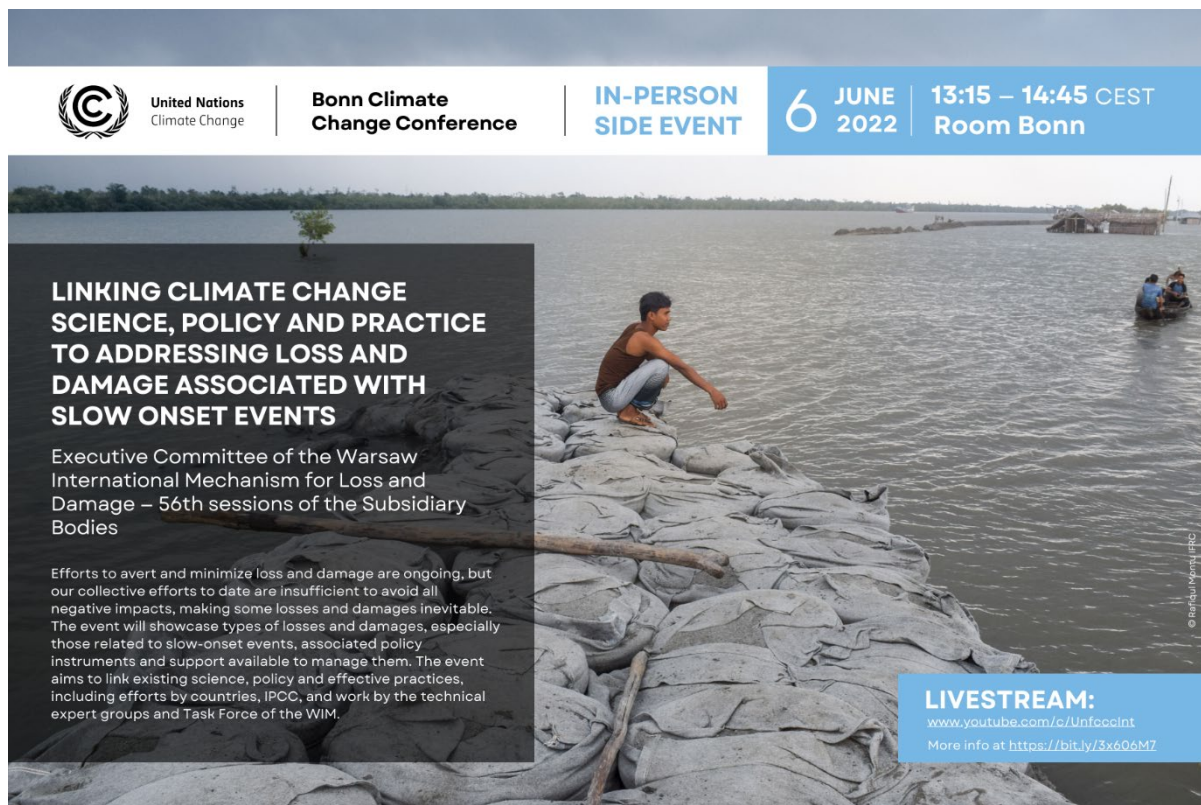


Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM ExCom): SB 56 side event ‘Linking climate change science, policy and practice to addressing loss and damage associated with slow onset events’



United Nations
Climate Change

Bonn Climate
Change Conference

IN-PERSON
SIDE EVENT

6 JUNE | **13:15 – 14:45 CEST**
2022 | **Room Bonn**

LINKING CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE, POLICY AND PRACTICE TO ADDRESSING LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH SLOW ONSET EVENTS

Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage – 56th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies

Efforts to avert and minimize loss and damage are ongoing, but our collective efforts to date are insufficient to avoid all negative impacts, making some losses and damages inevitable. The event will showcase types of losses and damages, especially those related to slow-onset events, associated policy instruments and support available to manage them. The event aims to link existing science, policy and effective practices, including efforts by countries, IPCC, and work by the technical expert groups and Task Force of the WIM.

LIVESTREAM:
www.youtube.com/c/Unfcccint
More info at <https://bit.ly/3x606M7>

Introduction

On 6 June 2022, during the 56th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 56), the WIM ExCom organized a side event titled “Linking Climate Change Science, Policy and Practice to Addressing Loss and Damage Associated with Slow onset Events”, in hybrid format.^{1,2} The event was co-organized by the expert groups of the WIM ExCom, led by members of the Task Force on Displacement from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), with contributions from all five Expert Groups, Task Force and Technical Expert Group of the WIM.

Background and objectives

The side event aimed to (i) showcase various types of losses and damages related to slowonset events and associated policy instruments, action and support available to manage them, and to (ii) link existing science, policy, and effective practices, including efforts by countries, and work under the WIM, particularly by its Expert Groups, Task Force and Technical Expert Group. The event also highlighted losses and damages in the context of human mobility and livelihoods, including non-economic losses and damages, such as those related to cultural heritage.

¹ The agenda and additional information, including presentations, is available on the event page: <https://unfccc.int/event/WIM-ExCom-Side-Event-SB56-Science-Policy-and-Practice-to-Address-Loss-and-Damage>

² The event was broadcasted. A recording is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2abHHi_51Ys

Proceedings

The event was moderated by Mr. Jerome Ilagan, Co-chair of the WIM ExCom, and was composed of two panel discussions and a question-and-answer session.

The first panel focused on “*The state of play: Impacts and risks. Existing losses and damages associated with slow-onset impacts of climate change*”, with speakers from the IPCC and country representatives. The second panel, “*Action and policy support: How are WIM expert groups assisting developing countries? The role of climate change policies, action and support in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage*”, started with an introduction to the work of the Committee and its five Expert Groups, Task Force and Technical Expert Group, followed by the interventions from the members of the thematic expert groups.

Key points of the discussions

Panel 1: The state of play: Impacts and risks

1. THE LATEST SCIENCE – WHAT DOES THE IPCC TELL US?

In her presentation, Ms. Adelle Thomas, an author of the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC, discussed findings from working group II that (i) the current global warming of 1.1 degrees Celsius has already caused dangerous and widespread losses and damages, (ii) future projected losses and damages in the near-term, as well as unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards, will present multiple risks to ecosystems and humans, and (iii) losses and damages are unequally distributed, affecting vulnerable areas, including coastal urban areas, most severely. Substantial damages and increasingly irreversible losses have been observed across a range of ecosystems, including terrestrial, freshwater, oceans, and human systems, with negative impacts across the globe on water scarcity, food production, health, well-being, settlements, and infrastructure. Some of these impacts can be attributed to slow onset processes such as ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and changes in precipitation.

2. THE POLICY AND PRACTICE OF ADDRESSING LOSS AND DAMAGE AND THEIR DYNAMICS: THE CHALLENGES OF HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Filimino Tuivanualevu from Fiji shared experiences of his government in responding to climate change-related threats, especially sea level rise and tropical cyclones, as many of the settlements are located close to the sea. The Government of Fiji, as it has had to relocate several communities to higher ground, released Planned Relocation and Displacement Guidelines³ to better streamline the task of relocating communities to new homes. In addition, a Climate Relocation and Displaced Peoples Trust Fund was established based on government taxes to finance the relocation and rebuilding of national infrastructure.⁴ Mr. Tuivanualevu emphasized the urgent need for greater mitigation and adaptation efforts, stressing that the forced movement of people undermines development gains, affects human rights and human security, across the globe, as it can have devastating social, economic, health and psychological impacts on individuals and communities, and affect the effective enjoyment of their human rights.

³ Fiji: Planned Relocation Guidelines - A framework to undertake climate change related relocation (2018), <https://fijiclimatechangeportal.gov.fj/ppss/planned-relocation-guidelines-a-framework-to-undertake-climate-change-related-relocation/>

⁴ Launch of Fiji's Climate Relocation and Displaced Peoples Trust Fund for Communities and Infrastructure (2019), <http://www.pmooffice.gov.fj/official-launch-of-fijis-climate-relocation-and-displaced-peoples-trust-fund-for-communities-and-infrastructure/>

3. AN EXAMPLE OF LOSS AND DAMAGE ASSOCIATED WITH DESERTIFICATION AND LAND DEGRADATION

Mr. Sani Ayouba, who leads a youth organization in Niger, shared insights on losses and damages related to desertification and land degradation, notably temporary or permanent food insecurity, loss of agricultural land and soil fertility, overexploitation of natural resources, the resurgence of climate-sensitive diseases, loss of culture and ways of life, migration, displacement, and conflicts related to access to natural resources. In a national study on climate change and migration in Niger by IOM⁵, 51.1% of households revealed that at least one family member was forced to migrate due to climate change and environmental degradation. Mr. Ayouba emphasized the importance of working with all stakeholders, including youth and vulnerable communities, climate and disaster risk transfer options, and finding synergies between different processes in efforts to build resilience and address risks. He also shared his experiences in fostering entrepreneurship among youth communities.

4. USING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE TO ADDRESS CULTURAL HERITAGE LOSSES

Ms. Sabantho Corrie-Edghill, from the Caribbean Amerindian Development Organization, shared her insights on how Indigenous Peoples use traditional knowledge to prevent and face the consequences arising from climate change. She described some of the challenges her community is facing, such as more frequent floods and more intense drought and heat, with the latter leading to a 25% loss of productive hours per day. Traditional farming practices are challenged by changing weather patterns, making food production unpredictable. She emphasized the role of women as they are often the custodians of indigenous knowledge passed down through generations, also related to their responsibility of maintaining food security and crop diversity. However, she also highlighted that women are often more vulnerable than men to the impacts of climate change, particularly in developing countries, where women have limited access to resources, economic opportunities, and decision-making positions. Especially in rural areas, women often face discrimination and lack of access to public services, such as water, education, and health care, and rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. Ms. Corrie-Edghill added that the spiritual, collective connection between the inhabitants have allowed rebuilding the areas and expanding their knowledge to new generations.

Panel 2: Action and policy support: How are WIM expert groups assisting developing countries?

Mr. Nedal Katbeh-Bader, WIM ExCom member, introduced the second panel, by briefly presenting the work of the ExCom and its expert groups aims to contribute to filling the gaps in knowledge, action and policy support for addressing loss and damage, such as the Compendium on Comprehensive Risk Management, or recommendations on human mobility and climate change in national policies and frameworks.

5. BRINGING SYNERGIES AND COHERENCE IN CLIMATE CHANGE, RISK MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

Mr. Maarten van Aalst, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, a member of TEG-CRM, showcased the ongoing transformation in humanitarian work, where anticipatory action, including the deployment of early warning systems, has helped save people's lives. He emphasized that this transformation would need to be scaled up, which would require large-scale, anticipatory humanitarian financing and a better connection with the climate financing channels. Better integration with long-term planning would allow tailoring solutions that reach the most vulnerable people and contexts in order to save livelihoods rather than lives.

⁵ IOM, 2021: <http://rodakar.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl696/files/documents/study-iom-migration-environment-and-climate-change-niger.pdf>

6. PERSPECTIVES FROM THE TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON COMPREHENSIVE RISK MANAGEMENT: WHAT DO RISK ASSESSMENTS TELL US?

Maarten's intervention was complemented by Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet from UNDRR, a member agency of the TEG-CRM, who stressed the need for a multi-dimensional approach to managing risks and for a better understanding of the interactions of extreme and slow-onset events. She mentioned that a recent publication, catalysed by the TEG-CRM, 'Technical Guidance on Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Planning in the Context of Climate Change'⁶ offers a compilation of relevant case studies, technical resources and guidelines. In addition, she referred to the Sendai Framework Monitor that generates official statistics in 155 countries⁷ and feeds into a risk information exchange platform, aiming to bring together national risk data that is often scattered between different users, e.g., climate projections that are not used by development ministries. She also described how the initiative help countries and UN agencies make more risk-informed planning decisions.

7. PERSPECTIVES ON POLICIES, ACTION AND SUPPORT FROM THE TASK FORCE ON DISPLACEMENT

Ms. Caroline Dumas from IOM, a member agency of the TFD, reiterated the urgent call for action from science, as losses and damages occur everywhere, leading to increased economic and non-economic consequences, including displacement. She also highlighted a need for strengthening resilience in an integrated and multi-dimensional manner at local, national and international levels, and described how the TFD has been following such integrative and multi-dimensional approach to human mobility.

POINTS RAISED IN THE DISCUSSION

During the discussion, the panellists stressed the following:

- 1) It is important to enhance integrated strategies rather than having separate national strategies for loss and damage, disaster risk reduction and adaptation, because most disasters are related to climate;
- 2) Such integrated approaches have been successfully developed in some countries, especially in the Pacific region. Years of work and political leadership were mentioned as success factors;
- 3) As climate impacts, including losses and damages, are increasing, it will be crucial to accelerate the learning process on such integrated approaches;
- 4) Innovative solutions can already be found in many countries, e.g., social protection, sometimes outside of the climate realm;
- 5) The need for greater political prioritisation of disaster risk reduction efforts and the related funding;
- 6) Comprehensive risk management approaches need to be both anticipatory and responsive, which is particularly challenging for countries where the frequency and intensity of climate hazards leads to increased vulnerability.

Moving forward

This year, all five Expert Groups, Task Force and Technical Expert Group will hold the second cross expert group meeting, at the margins of ExCom16, aiming to identify synergies and advance the selection of themes for the mandated technical guides⁸, which will cover risk assessments, including long-term risk assessments, of climate change impacts; Approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the risk assessments; resources available for supporting such approaches; (d) Monitoring systems for assessing the effectiveness of these approaches.

⁶ <https://www.undrr.org/publication/technical-guidance-comprehensive-risk-assessment-and-planning-context-climate-change>

⁷ www.sendaimonitor.undrr.org

⁸ Decision 2/CMA.2

The five Expert Groups, Task Force and Technical Expert Group will continue their work towards enhancing the understanding and developing tools for averting, minimizing, and addressing Loss and Damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change.

Annex

Agenda

Panel 1: The state of play: Impacts and risks. Existing losses and damages associated with slow onset impacts of climate change	
1. The latest science – What does the IPCC tell us?	Ms. Adelle Thomas, IPCC AR6 author.
2. The policy and practice of addressing loss and damage and their dynamics: the challenges of human mobility in the context of climate change (migration, displacement and planned relocation).	Mr. Filimino Tuivanualevu, Senior Climate Change Adaptation Officer, Climate Change and International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Economy, Government of Fiji.
3. Country experience: An example of loss and damage associated with desertification and land degradation.	Mr. Sani Ayouba, Executive Director of JVE Niger (Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement).
4. Using indigenous knowledge to address cultural heritage losses.	Ms. Sabantho Corrie-Edghill, of the Caribbean Amerindian Development Organization.
Panel 2: Action and policy support: How are WIM expert groups assisting developing countries? The role of climate change policies, action and support in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage	
Introduction by Mr. Nedal Katbeh-Bader, WIM ExCom.	
5. Bringing synergies and coherence in climate change, risk management and humanitarian support.	Mr. Maarten van Aalst, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Member of the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management (TEG-CRM).
6. Perspectives from the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management: What do the risk profile assessments tell us?	Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief, Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development Branch, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), a member agency of the of the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management (TEG-CRM).
7. Perspectives on policies, action and support from the Task Force on Displacement.	Ms. Caroline Dumas, IOM Director General's Special Envoy on Migration and Climate Action, and former French Ambassador. IOM is a member agency of the Task Force on Displacement (TFD).