



5 May 2022

The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

Synthesis report for the technical assessment component of the first global stocktake

I. Introduction to and mandate for the global stocktake

1. In response to the invitation contained in decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 24, the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (ExCom) submits this synthesis report for consideration by Parties in the context of the technical assessment phase of the first global stocktake.

2. The report provides comprehensive information on efforts related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, with the aim of showcasing the progress of work under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), and thereby providing an information basis for the assessment of collective progress made in the context of the global stocktake from this perspective. Therefore, the report, inter alia, outlines the approaches taken by the ExCom in conducting its work and achieving key results, particularly in relation to the work on slow onset events, non-economic losses, comprehensive risk management, human mobility, and action and support. Key information that informed the discussions contained in this report are compiled into a separate, annex file to this report.¹

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Annex_file_of_ExCom_draft_GST_report.pdf.

Figure 1: Overview of the respective coverage of adaptation related reports whose preparation has been supported by the Secretariat



A. Brief history of the WIM and the role of its ExCom

Box 1

Evolution of the WIM

- Parties agreed to address loss and damage under the Convention in line with mandates and three functions of the WIM, most notably through the adoption of decisions 3/CP.18 (2012) and 2/CP.19 (2013). Moreover, the Paris Agreement (2015), in Article 8, paragraph 1, enshrines the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.
- The institutional arrangements of the WIM currently comprise a) an ExCom, which guides overall implementation and serves as a bridge with Parties and five thematic expert groups that help execute its work and engage a wide range of experts and bodies under and outside of the UNFCCC process, b) the Santiago network, which catalyses technical assistance, and c) the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer, which serves as a repository of information and as an interface with the risk finance community.

3. COP 16 (2010) recognized the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise in order to understand and reduce loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events.² Therefore, it decided to establish a work programme under the SBI in order to consider approaches to addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.³ In line with this mandate, the SBI undertook technical work in the following three areas:

- (a) Assessing the risk of loss and damage;
- (b) A range of approaches to addressing loss and damage;
- (c) The role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to addressing loss and damage.⁴

4. Under the SBI work programme, Parties scoped the collection of current knowledge on methodologies, lessons learned, good practices and gaps at different levels, including gaps in existing institutional arrangements within and outside of the Convention, with regard to approaches to assessing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. This was achieved through, inter alia, a literature review and a series of expert meetings, and with inputs from Parties, relevant organizations and other stakeholders.

5. As a result of the SBI work programme on loss and damage, COP 18 (2012) decided to establish, at COP 19, institutional arrangements, such as an international mechanism, to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, with the following functions:⁵

- (a) Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
- (b) Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders;

² Including sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.

³ Decision 1/CP.16, paras. 25–26.

⁴ Decision 7/CP.17. An overview of the technical documents produced by the SBI with respect to the three work areas can be found at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/loss_and_damage_online_guide.pdf (p.35).

⁵ Decisions 3/CP.18, para. 9, and 2/CP.19, paras. 1–2.

(c) Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, so as to enable countries to undertake actions pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, paragraph 6.⁶

6. The decision was followed by further scoping work, such as the preparation of a technical paper on gaps in existing institutional arrangements within and outside of the Convention to address loss and damage, which took stock of available support to vulnerable countries for managing climate risks, highlighting related gaps and challenges, including those related to slow onset events.⁷

7. At COP 19 (2013), these efforts culminated in the establishment of the WIM under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, along with an acknowledgement that loss and damage includes, and in some cases involves more than, that which can be reduced by adaptation.⁸ Since then, the WIM has served as the main vehicle in the UNFCCC process for addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

8. In 2015, Parties adopted the Paris Agreement, Article 8 of which recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage. At the same time, Parties agreed that Article 8 does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation.⁹

9. Parties reviewed the structure, mandate and effectiveness of the WIM at COP 22 (2016).¹⁰ The COP 22 review (first WIM review) recommended, inter alia, that the periodic review process take place no more than five years apart, with the second review to be held in 2019.¹¹ The first WIM review triggered, among other things, a discussion on the sources of, and modalities for accessing, financial support for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. The second review strengthened the WIM, particularly by increasing collaboration and coordination to scale up the mobilization of resources, action and support.¹² Furthermore, it established, as part of the WIM, the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.¹³ The next (third) review of the WIM is scheduled to be held in 2024, and every five years thereafter.

10. The ExCom, also established at COP 19, is mandated to guide the implementation of the functions of the WIM.¹⁴ In 2014, it developed an initial two-year workplan, taking into account inputs from Parties, observers and other organizations.¹⁵ As part of the implementation of its initial two-year workplan, and building on the results thereof, the ExCom developed a five-year rolling workplan to continue guiding the implementation of the functions of the WIM, which was welcomed by COP 23 in 2017¹⁶. The ExCom reports annually to Parties through the subsidiary bodies and makes recommendations based on the

⁶ Decision 2/CP.19, para. 5.

⁷ See document FCCC/TP/2013/12. See also annex VI.1 of this report for an excerpt from the paper on general trends identified.

⁸ Decision 2/CP.19, para. 1, and preamble.

⁹ Decision 1/CP.21, para. 51

¹⁰ In accordance with decision 2/CP.19, para. 15.

¹¹ Decision 4/CP.22, paras. 2(a–b).

¹² Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 35.

¹³ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 43.

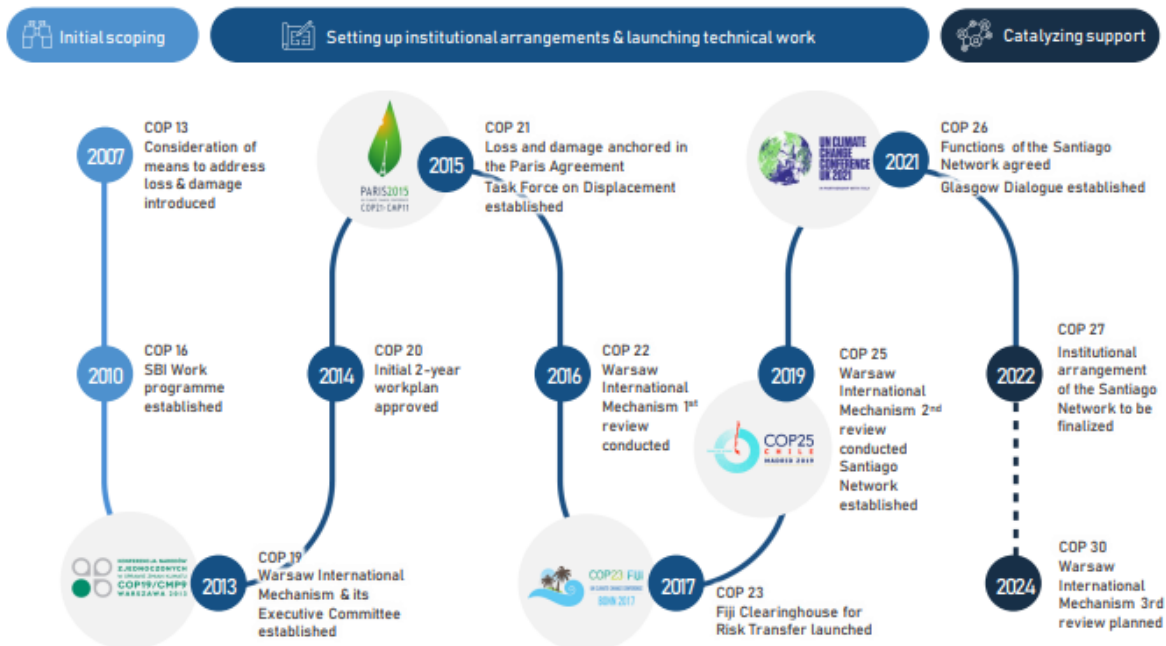
¹⁴ Decision 2/CP.19, para. 2.

¹⁵ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/loss_and_damage_online_guide.pdf. In its 2016 report, the ExCom also provided an overview of the specific actions undertaken in the nine action areas of its initial two-year workplan; see document FCCC/SB/2016/3, annex III.

¹⁶ Decision 5/CP.23, para 4.

progress of implementation of its workplan, as appropriate.¹⁷ Figure 2 provides an overview of policy milestones.¹⁸

Figure 2: Overview of policy milestones related to loss and damage



B. Five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom

11. The ExCom guides the implementation of the functions of the WIM through a workplan. When establishing the WIM at COP 19, Parties made interim arrangements to fast-track its operationalization by inviting five constituted bodies (the AC, the Consultative Group of Experts, the LEG, the SCF and the TEC) to nominate two representatives to develop an initial two-year workplan for the ExCom, while the subsidiary bodies were to consider the composition of and procedures for the ExCom over the following year. This arrangement also ensured the coherence of collective efforts across the constituted bodies and facilitated synergies in undertaking activities relevant to the loss and damage context.

12. Currently, the ExCom conducts its work on the basis of a five-year rolling workplan that encompasses five strategic workstreams, which have built on and streamlined the nine action areas previously contained in its initial two-year workplan.¹⁹ ‘Action and support’ was added as a new strategic workstream in the five-year rolling workplan, specifically to respond to an urgent call for such an enhancement.

13. The strategic workstreams of the five-year rolling workplan are aimed at enhancing cooperation and facilitation in relation to: slow onset events; non-economic losses; comprehensive risk management approaches; human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation; and action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The rolling workplan takes into account, in a cross-cutting manner:

- (a) Actions to complement and draw on the work of and involve other bodies under and outside the Convention;
- (b) Developing countries that are particularly vulnerable; segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihood,

¹⁷ Decision 2/CP.19, para. 3. All reports are available at <https://unfccc.int/node/180449>.

¹⁸ The loss and damage decisions and conclusions web page, as well as the chronology web page, of the UNFCCC website contains further details.

¹⁹ Contained in document FCCC/SB/2014/4, annex II.

gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability; and the ecosystems that they depend on;

(c) The role of sustainable development, including policy and regulatory enabling environments;

(d) Events that may involve irreversible and permanent loss and damage.

14. Parties empowered the ExCom to establish expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups (hereinafter referred to as expert groups) to help execute its work in guiding the implementation of the WIM, as appropriate. The expert groups work in an advisory role and report to the ExCom.²⁰

15. With the launch of three expert groups in 2021, the ExCom has a foundation of expertise corresponding to all five strategic workstreams of its five-year rolling workplan. Each expert group, composed of members with a range of technical, regional and transdisciplinary expertise and ensuring fair, equitable and balanced representation, has a plan of action and provides recommendations to the ExCom as appropriate. Further information on the areas of work and membership of the respective expert groups is provided in chapter II below on thematic areas. As of January 2022, the ExCom engages a total of 65 technical experts and representatives of the constituted bodies, in addition to four members of the ExCom per group.²¹ Given the resilience continuum from a perspective of pre-emptive actions, contingency plans or post-impact measures, the ExCom engages representatives of the AC and the LEG as members of thematic expert groups (e.g. non-economic losses, and displacement). Similarly, representatives of the PCCB, the TEC, the CTCN and the SCF are duly engaged in the expert group that spearheads activities on catalysing support for loss and damage.

16. In addition to assisting the ExCom in carrying out activities in the respective thematic areas, the expert groups, together with the ExCom, are also tasked with developing technical guides within their work on their respective thematic areas, covering:

(a) Risk assessments, including long-term risk assessments, of climate change impacts;

(b) Approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with such risk assessments;

(c) Resources available for supporting such approaches;

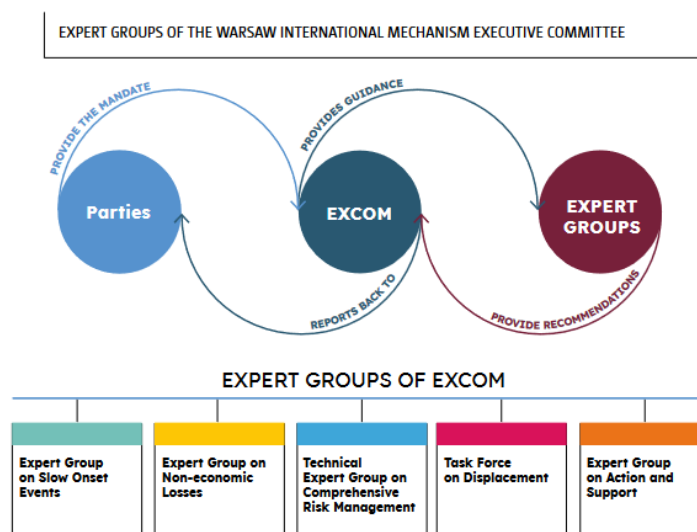
(d) Monitoring systems for assessing the effectiveness of these approaches.²²

²⁰ Decision 2/CP.20, para. 8.

²¹ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4, para. 17. The number of experts varies among groups and is not fixed. Technical experts are nominated by relevant organizations or invited by the ExCom on the basis of their thematic, regional or transdisciplinary expertise. Additional selection criteria relate to gender, geographic distribution and diversity in organization type. The ExCom also actively seeks the youth perspective in undertaking its technical work (FCCC/SB/2021/4, para. 18).

²² Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 26. Further information is available at <https://unfccc.int/node/267234>.

Figure 3: Expert groups of the WIM ExCom



C. Mandate for the ExCom to prepare a synthesis report as an input to the global stocktake

17. In line with Article 14, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) periodically takes stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals, and does so in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.

18. For the technical assessment of the global stocktake, the CMA invited, among others, the relevant constituted bodies serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention to prepare, with the assistance of the secretariat, synthesis reports in their areas of expertise²³ on the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1, including information at a collective level on efforts to enhance understanding, action and support, on a cooperative and facilitative basis, related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.²⁴

Box 2

Questions by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies which directly refer to loss and damage

For the technical assessment component of the first global stocktake, the SBSTA and SBI Chairs provided draft guiding questions, including the following that specifically refer to the issue of loss and damage:²⁵

Pursuant to Article 8 of the Paris Agreement and decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 6(b)(ii), what is the collective progress of efforts made in enhancing understanding, action and support towards averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, in the light of equity and the best available science?

To achieve the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement (mitigation, adaptation, and finance flows and means of implementation, as well as loss and

²³ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

²⁴ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 36(e).

²⁵ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/REV_Non-paper_on_Preparing_for_GST1_forSBs_15Sept.pdf and https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Draft%20GST1_TA%20Guiding%20Questions.pdf.

damage, and response measures), in the light of equity and the best available science, taking into account the contextual matters in the preambular paragraphs of the Paris Agreement:

- a) What are the good practices, barriers and challenges for enhanced action?
- b) What is needed to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low GHG emissions and climate-resilient development?
- c) What are the needs of developing countries related to the ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement?

D. Approach of the ExCom in the preparation of the synthesis report

19. In response to the invitation of the CMA outlined in paragraph 18 above, the ExCom began considering its role and contribution to the global stocktake at its 11th meeting, and established at its 12th meeting an intersessional group of members to prepare a draft table of contents for the synthesis report for consideration by the ExCom.²⁶ At the 14th meeting (October 2021), the ExCom endorsed the draft annotated table of contents²⁷ to proceed with the preparation of a draft report with the assistance of the secretariat,²⁸ with a view to finalizing the work in March 2022.

20. At the same time, the ExCom decided to organize an outreach event in December 2021 as part of the process of preparing its synthesis report. The event “Preparing WIM ExCom inputs for the global stocktake” involved more than 100 participants, including representatives of other constituted bodies, Parties and non-Party stakeholders. The event facilitated coordination and the identification of synergies across the contributions of the constituted bodies, and provided opportunities for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to share their reflections. In line with the approach agreed by the ExCom, the event consisted of three parts (see annex I for further details):

- (a) Sharing information on the progress of the ExCom’s work in preparing its input to the global stocktake;
- (b) Sharing information from other interested constituted bodies on their work in preparing their inputs to the global stocktake, and identifying areas for cooperation, coherence and synergy;
- (c) Round of reflections by Parties and non-Party stakeholders on their efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including lessons learned and remaining gaps.

21. The present report is structured following the annotated table of contents adopted at the 14th meeting of the ExCom and using the set of resources identified by the ExCom (see box 3). The level of description for individual products, activities and outcomes of work undertaken to date, as well as insights drawn from them, is aimed at facilitating Parties’ consideration in response to the questions by the SBSTA and SBI Chairs (see box 1).

Box 3

Resources for consideration as agreed at the 14th meeting of the ExCom

- Documents from WIM review;
- Paris Agreement, Article 14;
- Decision 19/CMA.1;
- SB Chairs’ non-paper in preparation for the first global stocktake;
- Co-chairs notes from the 12th meeting of the ExCom;

²⁶ A summary of decision points is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom%202012_Summary%20of%20Decision%20Points.pdf.

²⁷ As contained in the annex of the note by the Co-Chairs prepared for the agenda item on the role and contribution of the ExCom in the global stocktake as contained in decision 19/CMA.1, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ExCom_14_GST_draft_annotated_TOC.pdf.

²⁸ The following members served in the intersessional group of champions: Alpha Kaloga, Dawn Pierre-Nathaniel, Farhan Akhtar, Jerome Ilagan, Kajsa Fernström Natby, Le-Anne Roper and Russell Miles.

- Future decisions by the ExCom;
- Decisions by Parties;
- Summary report of the event entitled “Preparing WIM ExCom inputs for the global stocktake”.²⁹

II. Thematic areas

22. This chapter outlines the strategic approaches and key results for each of the thematic areas (slow onset events, non-economic losses, comprehensive risk management, human mobility, and action and support) in terms of how they contribute to the implementation of the three functions of the WIM: enhancing understanding, coordination, and action and support related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

A. Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to slow onset events

Box 4

An overview of efforts concerning slow onset events

- Decision 1/CP.16 introduces the following slow onset events in the context of understanding and reducing loss and damage: sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.. Parties started scoping work in 2012, which fed into a dedicated workstream under the WIM. The ExCom currently works to enhance cooperation and facilitation in relation to slow onset events by both strengthening the state of knowledge and enhancing capacity to address associated impacts, particularly at the regional and national level.
- The workstream on slow onset events has produced a number of key results in terms of enhancing understanding of the impacts and risks associated with major slow onset or incremental climate processes on livelihoods, society and ecosystems. Work was conducted, inter alia, through a special issue of the journal *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* on slow onset events related to climate change, a review of the scope of work being undertaken on slow onset events by organizations in the slow onset event database, and a technical paper on slow onset events.
- Stocktaking by organizations working on slow onset events and the scoping of their current efforts, as well as the launch of the expert group on slow onset events, enabled the ExCom to further strengthen coordination and improve synergies across a range of communities and practices.
- With the endorsement of the plan of action of the expert group on slow onset events in late 2021, the ExCom is well positioned to start addressing the capacity gaps and needs initially identified under the WIM and provide policy guidance on applicable solutions. The initial implementation phase of the plan of action focuses on three water-related slow onset events (glacial retreat, sea level rise and desertification).

23. In line with decision 1/CP.16, collective efforts on slow onset events have been directed at sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification. A technical paper on slow onset events,³⁰ mandated by COP 17 under the SBI work programme on loss and damage, gave prominence to the extent of risks and impacts associated with these events, and analysed potential approaches for addressing them, which

²⁹ Information on the event is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/WIMExcom-inputs-GST>.

³⁰ FCCC/TP/2012/7. The technical paper was also synthesized as part of the synopses series, available at https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/soe_synopsis.pdf. Key findings of the technical paper are outlined in annex II.

were identified by countries during the regional and SIDS expert meetings.³¹ An expert meeting was subsequently held and resulted in general agreement that more focused discussion was called for on possible approaches to addressing slow onset events according to the specific needs and concerns of countries, as well as the different types of impact of slow onset events, with greater engagement on the respective issues from technical experts from wider stakeholder groups (see annex II.2 for information from the report outlining broad agreement around the need to further the deliberations on loss and damage).³² These early activities affirmed the need to assist, under the UNFCCC, developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the risks and impacts associated with these gradual or incremental changes.

24. Accordingly, the ExCom has had a dedicated workstream on slow onset events since its work began.³³ It has conducted a number of activities since 2015, including under strategic workstream (a) of the current five-year rolling workplan, *to improve the state of knowledge to understand, and the capacity to address, slow onset events and their impacts*.³⁴ These activities resulted in various key outcomes and milestones, as outlined below. Detailed information on the outcomes is contained in a repository of information on the thematic area of slow onset events (annex II).

25. As part of its efforts to enhance understanding of the impacts and risks associated with major slow onset or incremental climate processes on livelihoods, society and ecosystems, the ExCom began collaborating with the publisher Elsevier in 2019 to improve the state of knowledge on slow onset events and their impacts. As a result, a special issue of the journal *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* on slow onset events related to climate change was published in 2021.³⁵ It contains 27 open-access peer-reviewed research articles, which examine literature concerning the nexus between specific slow onset events and land degradation, non-economic losses, biodiversity, ecosystem services and human mobility, as well as related policy responses and financing options.³⁶

26. The ExCom has also conducted awareness-raising activities with regard to slow onset events, such as a photo campaign in the lead-up to COP 23 and a side event entitled “Breaking new ground: Risk financing for slow onset events” at the same conference. The latter encouraged insightful thinking and sharing of information on features of financial instruments and innovative ways to engage in collaboration and partnerships for enhancing action and support for addressing the risks of slow onset events.³⁷ Other activities and products organized by the ExCom aimed at furthering the link between science and the policy process with regard to the issue of slow onset events are outlined in annex II.4.

27. A database of organizations that are working on one or more of the eight types of slow onset event,³⁸ created in 2014 and since maintained on a rolling basis, serves as an information basis for the ExCom’s work to further *strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies* among stakeholders on the issue of slow onset events. As of December 2021, the database contained information on 161 organizations and the scope of their current efforts. A review of the scope of work being undertaken on slow onset events as reported by partners in

³¹ The regional expert meetings were held in 2012 for Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the SIDS, and examined a range of approaches to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events.

³² More information is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/expert-meeting-to-consider-future-needs-including-capacity-needs-associated-with-possible-approaches-0>. The meeting was organized by the secretariat under the SBI work programme on loss and damage in 2013.

³³ Action Area 3 of the initial two-year workplan and strategic workstream (a) of the five-year rolling workplan.

³⁴ An overview of related activities are available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/slow_onset_events.pdf.

³⁵ Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/current-opinion-in-environmental-sustainability/vol/50/suppl/C>.

³⁶ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, para. 16.

³⁷ More information, including a summary of the event, is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/unfccc-breaking-new-ground-risk-financing-for-slow-onset-events-0>.

³⁸ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/soesearch.aspx>.

the database provides a synopsis, by geographic region, of efforts concerning the three functions of the WIM: enhancing knowledge, strengthening coordination, and enhancing action and support (see annex II.3 for an overview).³⁹

28. In response to an outcome of the second review of the WIM (December 2019), which, *inter alia*, stressed the importance of enhancing work on slow onset events, the ExCom developed the terms of reference for an expert group on slow onset events in 2020 and agreed on the group's rolling plan of action⁴⁰ in 2021 to assist in implementing this strategic workstream and other mandates related to slow onset events. Recognizing the urgent need to raise awareness of the far-reaching impacts of interrelated processes (e.g. salinization) on livelihoods and economies and of the cascading impacts of these slow onset events on key systems leading to loss or damage (e.g. loss of biodiversity, land degradation, urban water scarcity and losses from human mobility), the initial phase of the plan of action focuses on glacier retreat, sea level rise and salinization, and desertification. The first set of activities are aimed at unpacking the impacts and implications of these compound risks and producing key messages, guidance and strategy material in relation to steps necessary to understand and plan for practical action and policy responses to these risks in a timely manner, taking into account regional particularities, traditional knowledge and local practices.

29. To initiate its activities and identify ideas for innovative and impactful policies linked to slow onset events, including existing solutions that hold promise for wider application or may lead to significant outcomes if implemented at scale, the expert group issued a global call for innovative policy solutions in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage due to slow onset events.⁴¹ The expert group is reviewing the input received and intends to showcase a selection of the ideas in future. The upcoming action items of the expert group for 2022 onward involve providing advice and support for integrating the policy ideas and solutions into work under the WIM and into national planning and policymaking processes.⁴²

B. Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to non-economic losses

Box 5

An overview of efforts concerning non-economic losses

- Before the WIM was established, technical work systematized a broad range of losses that are not financially quantifiable or commonly traded in markets and may impact individuals, society or the environment, identifying key types of non-economic losses under these three clusters. This initial work introduced conceptual clarity with regard to non-economic risks and their contribution to the total cost of climate change, and propagated an emerging climate action area.
- The strategic workstream on non-economic losses enhances cooperation and facilitation by enhancing data collection on, and improving knowledge and awareness of, non-economic losses, facilitating their mainstreaming in measures at the national level.
- To date, the ExCom has focused on raising awareness of the nature and extent of non-economic losses, and of the challenges and risks that such losses pose to developing countries. The workstream has duly triggered a far-reaching stimulus

³⁹ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/activity_b_so_e_assesment_feb_2018.pdf. An overview of the scope of work on slow onset events is available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/poster_for_the_so_e_-_feb_2018\(1\).pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/poster_for_the_so_e_-_feb_2018(1).pdf). In 2015, ExCom, as part of its synopses series, issued a stocktake of organizations working on slow onset events and the scope of their efforts, providing a snapshot as of December 2015 of the information contained in the online database (available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/stocktaking_synopsis.pdf).

⁴⁰ Contained in document FCCC/SB/2021/4, annex II.

⁴¹ See <https://unfccc.int/node/300223>. The deadline for submission was 31 August 2021, and 13 sets of information had been received as at 14 September 2021 (see document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, para. 15).

⁴² See the plan of action of the expert group for the timeline for activities in 2021–2022, available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/draft_SOE_PoA_23042021.pdf.

to the research community for analysing the main types of non-economic losses, including how they may materialize and various assessment techniques for estimating them.

- The ExCom has convened key organizations working on the following principal aspects of non-economic losses in order to form an expert group: biodiversity, gender, cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge, health, youth, and territory in relation to sea level rise.
- With the endorsement of the plan of action of the expert group on non-economic losses in 2021, the ExCom is well positioned to catalyse relevant action and support and further foster partnerships and synergies.

30. Non-economic losses refer to a broad range of losses that are not financially quantifiable or commonly traded in markets and may impact individuals, society or the environment.⁴³ Parties mandated in 2012 a technical paper on non-economic losses,⁴⁴ which describes the concept and brought into view eight types of such losses, which were emerging in three areas: loss of life, health or mobility (incidence of direct loss on individuals); loss of territory, cultural heritage, indigenous or local knowledge, or societal or cultural identity (society); and loss of biodiversity or ecosystem services (environment).

31. The technical paper gave critical impetus to mobilizing a broad range of stakeholders to undertake heightened interdisciplinary research into the nexus of the escalating adverse effects of climate change and emerging losses that are not readily financially quantifiable, but for which developing countries need to find solutions. The early work led to greater recognition of the need for systematic assessment and ensuing risk management for non-economic loss, including through mainstreaming at policy level (see annex III.1 for an overview of the types of non-economic losses and related recommendations, as contained in the synopsis of the technical paper).

32. Accordingly, the ExCom has had a dedicated workstream on this thematic area since its work began.⁴⁵ It has conducted a number of activities since 2015, including under strategic workstream (b) of the current five-year rolling workplan, to enhance cooperation and facilitation in relation to non-economic losses.⁴⁶

33. One of the overall approaches of the ExCom to this theme has been to focus on *raising awareness and laying the groundwork for catalysing action*. This included, for example, a side event entitled “Shining the light on non-economic losses: Challenges, risks and lessons learned for addressing them” during the forty-fourth session of the subsidiary bodies, and a photo booth campaign showcasing the nature and extent of non-economic losses, and the challenges and risks posed by such losses to developing countries.⁴⁷ In response to an outcome of the second review of the WIM (December 2019), the ExCom re-established an expert group on non-economic losses under strategic workstream (b) of the current five-year rolling workplan and endorsed the group’s plan of action⁴⁸ in 2021.⁴⁹ Annex III provides a repository of information on the thematic area of non-economic losses.

⁴³ See document FCCC/TP/2013/2, table 2. While the non-economic aspect of climate change impacts in relation to human mobility is one of the focus areas of strategic workstream (b) of the ExCom’s five-year rolling workplan, broader issues relating to human mobility are addressed under its strategic workstream (d) (see chap. II.D below for further information).

⁴⁴ FCCC/TP/2013/2.

⁴⁵ More information is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/non_economic_losses.pdf.

⁴⁶ General information is available at <https://unfccc.int/wim-excom/areas-of-work/non-economic-losses>.

⁴⁷ The summary note is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/nels_side_event_summary_note.pdf.

⁴⁸ Contained in document FCCC/SB/2021/4, annex IV.

⁴⁹ All information related to the expert group is available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/NELs>, with its terms of reference and information on membership available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/NELs/membership>.

34. Results from this thematic area to date have underlined the importance of: 1) *clarifying existing approaches to addressing different types of non-economic losses*, including associated reporting and knowledge-sharing processes; 2) profiling the *target audience* of the technical outputs of the group in order to scope further needs and ensure that the group will add value in this space; and 3) identifying networks and partnerships to *co-produce knowledge products* for dissemination through established outreach channels and to collaborate in *capacity-building*. All of this informs the approach of the ExCom to guiding the work of the experts and organizations convened under the expert group, enabling it to focus collective efforts on collecting and synthesizing, then disseminating, information on available tools for assessing non-economic losses; developing an awareness-raising strategy and related knowledge products, outreach materials and key messages; and fostering existing and/or building new partnerships and otherwise cooperating with relevant stakeholders.⁵⁰ Furthermore, the expert group collaborates with the task force on displacement, another technical expert body under the WIM, to develop guidelines on averting, minimizing and addressing non-economic losses in the context of human mobility.⁵¹

35. The expert group's contribution enables the ExCom to structure its efforts on enhancing data and improving knowledge in relation to reducing the risk of non-economic losses, including with regard to how to factor risk into planning, with a particular focus on impacts within regions, and to catalysing associated support to enhance countries' technical capacity to elaborate measures for addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

C. Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to comprehensive risk management

Box 6

An overview of efforts concerning comprehensive risk management

- Comprehensive risk management in the context of the WIM refers to risk assessment, reduction, transfer and retention, aiming to build long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities to loss and damage, including in relation to extreme and slow onset events. Relevant approaches identified include emergency preparedness, including early warning systems; measures for enhancing recovery and rehabilitation and building back/forward better; social protection instruments, including social safety nets; and transformational approaches.
- The work on comprehensive risk management has brought into view the full spectrum of climate impacts in terms of their magnitude and the spatial and temporal scales involved, which countries need to anticipate managing. Further, the work has highlighted existing approaches and the related support required to implement the relevant solutions.
- Outputs such as the compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches and the policy brief on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones present a number of good practices and case studies focusing on different approaches across the risk management continuum and specific regional or geographical contexts.
- The Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer, established by the ExCom, serves as a repository for information on risk transfer schemes such as insurance, and is equipped with a user-friendly interactive online tool that enables Parties to connect with the global insurance community with the aim of facilitating efforts on developing and implementing risk transfer solutions as part of Parties' comprehensive risk management strategies at all levels.

⁵⁰ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4, para. 30.

⁵¹ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, paras. 20–21.

- The ExCom has successfully mobilized expert organizations and networks from adaptation, disaster risk reduction, climate science, risk finance and humanitarian communities, and established a technical expert group that functions as a multidisciplinary team of experts and assists developing countries.
- A technical expert group on comprehensive risk management, operational since October 2019, has been spearheading efforts under the WIM to enhance knowledge and improve understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches, including for issues related to finance, data, technology, regulatory environments and capacity-building.
- So far, the results from its first (current) phase have identified capacity-building gaps and needs for systematic observation and risk assessment in the context of loss and damage, and possible ways to address them, especially at the global level.

36. One of the first activities of the ExCom in this thematic area involved gathering information on arrangements at the country level for analysing and managing climate risk, with the aim of informing its future work. The ExCom invited, on two occasions (August 2016 and April 2017), focal points of non-Annex I Parties under the UNFCCC to complete a questionnaire regarding their country's approaches to climate risk analysis for extreme and slow onset events; impacts on development sectors and vulnerable groups; institutional arrangements; and related challenges.⁵² The ExCom received information from a total of 43 Parties. A summary of responses to the questionnaire was included in the 2017 report of the ExCom.⁵³

37. Strategic workstream (c) of the five-year workplan of the ExCom is dedicated to enhancing cooperation and facilitation in relation to comprehensive risk management approaches. Through the workstream, the ExCom enhances *knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches*, including for issues related to finance, data, technology, regulatory environments and capacity-building. The workstream is aimed at addressing and building long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities to loss and damage, including in relation to extreme and slow onset events, through, inter alia, emergency preparedness, including early warning systems; measures for enhancing recovery and rehabilitation and building back/forward better; social protection instruments, including social safety nets; and transformational approaches.⁵⁴

38. The ExCom has conducted a number of activities, which resulted in various key outcomes and milestones, as outlined below. More detailed information on those outcomes is contained in a repository of information on the thematic area of comprehensive risk management (annex IV). The ExCom, in 2016, initiated the development of a paper-based compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches with the aim of enhancing understanding of possible solutions that can be applied to manage a range of climate risks in terms of magnitude and timescales. Following expert review and further updates throughout 2018, the compendium was finalized in 2019.⁵⁵ Based on over 340 approaches identified from across five geographical regions, the compendium provides an overview of approaches to risk

⁵² The questionnaire on climate risk analysis/management is available at https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document/questionnaire.docx. Focal points of accredited international, regional, bilateral and non-governmental organizations were also invited to provide information via a separate set of questionnaires. Summaries of the responses under Action Area 5 from organizations and non-Annex I Parties are available at https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/aa5_summary_organizations.pdf and https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/aa5_summary_parties.pdf, respectively.

⁵³ See document FCCC/SB/2017/1, annex III.

⁵⁴ More information on this topic is available at <https://unfccc.int/wim-excom/areas-of-work/crm-approaches>.

⁵⁵ The compendium is available at <https://unfccc.int/node/10730>.

assessment, risk reduction, financial risk transfer and risk retention, as well as transformational approaches, along with information on enabling environments for those approaches. It also contains 37 case studies from across all geographic regions as examples of current practices and lessons learned. The compendium also enables country stakeholders to explore six types of risk management approaches, from the local to the global scale, and examine the continuum, including adaptation planning, disaster risk reduction, residual impacts and transformational approaches, and the interactions between these elements, on the basis of the latest insights from ongoing scientific and practical work. A synopsis of the compendium was also prepared to showcase key findings at a glance.⁵⁶ The compendium contains various key findings, including that, over the last decade, the ability to model and assess risks has improved significantly, which allows for rigorous analysis of the costs and benefits of decision-making for risk reduction, transfer and retention. The compendium also identified a number of recommendations with regard to the five areas outlined above (see annex IV.1, which provides an overview of the recommendations and key findings).

39. Another milestone in the ExCom's efforts in this thematic area was the publication of the Policy Brief on Technologies for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones, in collaboration with the TEC.⁵⁷ This project included the organization of an expert dialogue on the same topic, and also in collaboration with the TEC, in June 2019.⁵⁸ The policy brief findings included that the intensity of extreme events and slow onset events, including tropical cyclones, severe storm surges, sea level rise and ocean warming and acidification, has been increasing, and that these hazards threaten countries with a substantial population living along coastal plains and deltas, and in particular, SIDS and coastal LDCs. It highlighted the fact that improved observational networks and early warning systems are invaluable in terms of planning and risk management, the potential of comprehensive climate risk management in coastal zones for addressing sudden onset and slow onset hazards, and the necessity for responsive governance by local institutions, which are often constrained by limited technical and financial capacity. More detailed information on the issues identified with regard to technologies for coastal risk assessments, coastal zone risk retention, and recovery and rehabilitation of coastal zones is contained in annex IV.2.

40. With the aim of highlighting *capacity-building gaps and needs and identifying possible ways to address them at the global level*, the ExCom, in collaboration with WMO, UNDRR and the member organizations of the technical expert group for this thematic area, organized a stakeholder engagement workshop on strengthening capacities for observation and risk assessment in the context of loss and damage associated with climate change.⁵⁹

41. In addition, the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer,⁶⁰ launched at COP 23, serves as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer that facilitates Parties' efforts in developing and implementing comprehensive risk management strategies. It contains, inter alia, information on institutions, case studies and tutorials. The ExCom, in partnership with the secretariat of the InsuResilience Global Partnership, also maintains RISK TALK, an interactive feature developed by the Partnership that uses artificial intelligence to connect those looking for tailored solutions with risk transfer experts, thereby enabling policymakers to connect with the global insurance community.

42. Nine months after its launch, by September 2019, 137 questions had been posted and 179 responses provided. Those transactions have been viewed 5,962 times in total, showing that while an insurance product must be designed for specific needs and the context of each case, there are also common elements which cater to a large number of demand-side practitioners. By November 2020, the user statistics were as follows: 153 questions had been posted and 190 responses provided via the RISK TALK platform (see chap. II.G below for

⁵⁶ The synopsis is available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Synopsis%20of%20the%20compendium.pdf>.

⁵⁷ Available at https://unfccc.int/tclear/misc_/StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/2020_coastalzones/b9e88f6ea374d8aa5cb44115d201160/3863c9fabdf74ea49710189acbf6907a.pdf.

⁵⁸ More information is available at <https://unfccc.int/node/195386>.

⁵⁹ Information on the event, including the report, is available at <https://unfccc.int/node/200542>. The key summary points by the ExCom are contained in annex IV.3.

⁶⁰ <http://unfccc-clearinghouse.org/>.

more information). While the algorithm of RISK TALK is continuously being improved, and the service has since become available in multiple languages in addition to English, interaction on the platform has fallen.

43. The technical expert group on comprehensive risk management⁶¹ of the ExCom started its work in 2019.⁶² Its composition, which reflects the three overarching themes of comprehensive risk management approaches, observation and risk assessment, and risk profile, constitutes a multidisciplinary team of experts.⁶³ In line with its current plan of action⁶⁴ and to directly assist developing countries, the technical expert group in 2021 catalysed the delivery of technical products relevant to methodologies for enhancing knowledge on and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches. Additionally, it enhanced understanding of tools and instruments for addressing the limitations of the current comprehensive risk management approaches and actions with a view to facilitating transformational approaches. Furthermore, two events were convened virtually by the members of the technical expert group during the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2021 and the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2021 to promote the development of comprehensive risk profiles for designing and implementing country-driven risk assessments at the national level.

44. Going forward, and with the implementation of its current (2019–2021) plan of action nearing completion, the technical expert group is planning for the next phase of its work, which will include advancing the work related to the development of technical guides and developing technical products under its ownership.⁶⁵

D. Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility

Box 7

An overview of efforts in relation to human mobility

- Early work contributed to the gathering of data and scientific information on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of internal and cross-border migration, displacement and other forms of human mobility. The application of such understanding and expertise became the basis for strategic workstream (d) of the ExCom’s five-year rolling workplan.
- Undertaking activities under the workstream on human mobility has strengthened dialogue and synergies among interdisciplinary stakeholders across levels and regions, enabling them to, among other things, mainstream climate change aspects into human mobility strategies, policies and action.
- COP 21 mandated focused efforts specifically from a perspective of loss, which, in this context, includes climate change induced displacement⁶⁶. Accordingly, the ExCom established a task force on displacement, which has been operational since June 2017.
- The task force on displacement produced a number of key products for enhancing the understanding of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, and recommended

⁶¹ Information on the technical expert group, including membership, is available at <https://unfccc.int/node/228567>.

⁶² The ExCom adopted the terms of reference of the group in 2018. The group held its first meeting in August 2019 to develop its plan of action.

⁶³ More information on the membership of the technical expert group and its terms of reference are available at <https://unfccc.int/node/198183>.

⁶⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/TEG-CRM%20Plan%20of%20Action%20Approved%20version.pdf>. A status update of the plan of action as at 31 August 2021 is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/teg_crm_plan_of_action.pdf.

⁶⁵ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, paras. 24–26.

⁶⁶ 1/CP.21, para 49

catalysing the actions needed to support the implementation of such approaches in the context of developing countries.

- As it transitions to its next phase with its third plan of action, planned for development in 2022, the task force on displacement has become a time-tested, reliable leading mechanism for bringing together resources and expertise from the development, migration, humanitarian and climate change domains to converge their efforts on the loss and damage aspects of human mobility challenges.

45. Strategic workstream (d) of the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom focuses on enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation. The activities are currently carried out by its task force on displacement, which convenes resources and expertise from 13 organizations and networks that collectively represent perspectives related to development, adaptation, human mobility, human welfare, civil society, the LDCs, and loss and damage.⁶⁷

46. Recognizing that large-scale movements of people, with climate change as one of the drivers, since its work began, the ExCom has conducted activities jointly with key organizations and implementing agencies in the human mobility domain. Not only did this practice result in insightful knowledge products being co-created without duplicating efforts, it also facilitated the mainstreaming of loss and damage concerns in a consistent manner in the institutions working in the broader human mobility community, including under other international processes such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees. Key outcomes and milestones aimed at enhancing understanding of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, and actions needed to support implementation in the context of developing countries, are contained in a repository of information on the thematic area of human mobility (annex V).

47. With the aim of *enhancing the overall understanding* of the nexus between climate change and human mobility, the ExCom invited relevant organizations and experts to share knowledge, data and scientific information on internal and cross-border migration, displacement and other forms of human mobility caused by factors related to climate change impacts, including in combination with other factors.⁶⁸ Relevant information, good practices and lessons learned, gathered from 69 inputs received from more than 30 experts and organizations, were synthesized around the three functions of the WIM (enhancing understanding, strengthening coordination, and enhancing action and support). The wealth of information synthesized also informed a technical meeting on migration, displacement and human mobility, held in 2016 in the context of the ExCom's initial two-year workplan.⁶⁹ The initial technical scoping work informed the decision by Parties to establish a task force on displacement and guided the formulation of a strategic workstream for human mobility in the five-year rolling workplan and associated activities.

48. Since 2017, the technical work on this thematic area has been led by the task force on displacement. In its first phase, the work focused on comprehensive mapping and synthesising information on broader issues of displacement related to climate change, focusing on the themes of national/subnational policies and practices, international/regional policies and processes, data and assessment, and linkages. The resulting products contribute to a better understanding of the scale of the nexus between human mobility and climate change, and the landscape of relevant actors, resources, processes and efforts (see annex V.1).

⁶⁷ General information on the task force is available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TFD#eq-5>. Information on the membership of the taskforce and its terms of reference are available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/TFD/membership>.

⁶⁸ The submissions received are available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/submissions-on-internal-and-cross-border-migration--displacement-and-other-forms-of-human-mobility>.

⁶⁹ Information on the event is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/technical-meeting-on-migration-displacement-and-human-mobility>.

49. The wealth of work culminated in a set of recommendations on integrated approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, which the ExCom presented to the COP for adoption at COP 24 (2018). The recommendations are contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.24.⁷⁰

50. Having delivered the inputs to the recommendations to the ExCom, the task force on displacement launched its second (current) plan of action in 2019 to assist the ExCom in implementing its five-year rolling workplan and new mandates related to human mobility, including with regard to facilitating the uptake of the COP 24 recommendations.⁷¹ By doing so, the ExCom *facilitated stakeholder engagement for mainstreaming climate change aspects into human mobility strategies, policies and action at all levels* (see a brochure introducing the group⁷² and information on the second phase of its work,⁷³ disseminated at a side event).

51. Through the implementation of the second phase of the task force plan of action, the ExCom progressed in catalysing capacity-building and training activities of its member organizations, including the development of e-learning modules on disaster displacement guidelines for the Central American and Caribbean regions.⁷⁴ Examples of other key outputs include catalysing a user-friendly information product on the nexus of climate change–disaster and conflict–violence; a seminar on labour migration and climate resilience; and workshops and regional dialogues to assist countries in assessing the risk of displacement, including through sharing information on good practices and by providing associated technical support for conducting an assessment.⁷⁵ Key findings from some of the activities facilitated through the task force’s plan of action formed the basis of the human mobility related elements of the recommendations that the ExCom forwarded for Parties’ consideration in its 2021 annual report.⁷⁶

52. As the implementation of the current (second) plan of action concerning displacement is nearing completion, the ExCom will guide the next phase of the task force, including in relation to advancing the work related to developing technical guides and technical products under its ownership, while continuing to facilitate the uptake of recommendations forwarded from this workstream and catalyse further action and support.⁷⁷

E. Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to action and support

Box 8

An overview of efforts concerning action and support

- Enhancing action and support is one of the functions of the WIM envisioned by Parties when the international mechanism was established. While remaining an overarching function of the WIM, it also became a workstream of the ExCom’s work as a result of its initial two-year workplan owing to its critical importance in addressing loss and damage in developing country contexts.
- Under strategic workstream (e) of its current five-year rolling workplan, the ExCom aims to enhance cooperation and facilitation in relation to action and

⁷⁰ The ExCom and the task force also presented the recommendations in a user-friendly manner at a side event at COP 24; see <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/workshops-meetings/cop24-side-event-recommendations-of-the-task-force-on-displacement>.

⁷¹ A status update on its plan of action is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tfd_poa-update_2021_0.pdf.

⁷² Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/TFD_brochure_29102019.pdf.

⁷³ Information available at <https://unfccc.int/WIM/TFD/phase-II-SE-Madrid>.

⁷⁴ See document FCCC/SB/2020/3, para. 42. The task force will continue work by compiling case studies from Asia-Pacific under activity 6, and developing an issue brief on forecast-based financing under activity 15. See also the 2020 summary report of the task force on displacement, available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_TFD4_update%20for%20Excom%2012.pdf.

⁷⁵ For the status of implementation of the plan of action, see https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/tfd_poa-update_2021_0.pdf.

⁷⁶ Document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, para. 46(n)–(r).

⁷⁷ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, paras. 27–31.

support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

- Technical products produced informed policymakers of the current landscape of support available to vulnerable countries for addressing the adverse effects of climate change and managing climate-related risks and identified good practices, gaps in existing support systems and associated challenges.
- The ExCom has been instrumental in convening relevant stakeholders from the public and private domains at all levels and across regions for effective information-sharing in relation to the support needs of developing countries for managing climate and disaster risks, and to ways to use existing financial instruments to manage such risks.
- The ExCom launched an expert group as a result of the second review of the WIM, which gave impetus to this work area in line with the growing urgency for enhancing mobilization of action and support for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. With the endorsement of the plan of action of the expert group on action and support in 2021, the ExCom has paved a way for making available products that will help developing countries to access support opportunities more readily, including through the Financial Mechanism under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

53. One of the functions of the WIM is to enhance action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, so as to enable countries to undertake actions pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, paragraph 6, including by:

(a) Providing technical support and guidance on approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme events and slow onset events;

(b) Providing information and recommendations for consideration by the COP when providing guidance relevant to reducing the risks of loss and damage and, where necessary, addressing loss and damage, including to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;

(c) Facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to strengthen existing approaches and, where necessary, facilitate the development and implementation of additional approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.⁷⁸

54. The implementation of this function of the WIM was initially applied in a cross-cutting manner by the ExCom, along with the two other functions of the WIM (enhancing knowledge and strengthening coordination). While the results from the implementation of the latter two functions were palpable as the thematic activities progressed under the initial two-year workplan, the ExCom recognized that the operationalization of the WIM's function of enhancing action and support would require an additional approach. This led to the creation of a dedicated strategic workstream during the development of its five-year workplan, which is aimed at enhancing cooperation and facilitation in relation to action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.⁷⁹

55. Delivered products in this area have contributed to a better understanding of the landscape of support available. Key examples are highlighted below, with more detailed

⁷⁸ Decision 2/CP.19, para 5(c).

⁷⁹ An overview of ExCom activities in this area is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/action_and%20support.pdf. General information on this subject is available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/financial-instruments#eq-1>.

information contained in a repository of information on the thematic area of action and support (annex VI).

56. The initial technical work led to the recognition of several facts: challenges relating to loss and damage require a broad range of responses at different levels, including information and knowledge-building, the development of adequate policy and regulatory environments and practical actions; these responses extend to several domains, including disaster risk management, risk transfer and pooling, contingency and humanitarian measures, adaptation to climate change and climate-resilient development; and financing is needed for all these responses.⁸⁰

57. Specifically an information paper,⁸¹ produced in 2016 as a summary drawing on submissions received in the context of Action Area 7(d) of the initial two-year work plan of the ExCom,⁸² provided a landscape of existing financial instruments and tools that address the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The paper set out information on the key strengths of and challenges involved with existing financial instruments and tools at different levels, as well as lessons learned and good practices. The lessons learned refer to, inter alia, the need for enabling environments, rigorous risk assessment, ongoing capacity-building efforts, specific financial instruments and tools that address the full spectrum of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.⁸³ Subsequently, the ExCom conducted a preliminary stocktake of financial instruments and tools for addressing impacts of slow onset events in 2017.⁸⁴

58. To inform the second review of the WIM a technical paper on elaboration of the sources of and modalities for accessing financial support for addressing loss and damage⁸⁵ was prepared in 2019, as a response to a mandate from 2016. The ExCom, in collaboration with the SCF, contributed to the preparation of the paper by determining its scope.⁸⁶ To further inform the paper, the ExCom invited Parties and relevant organizations to provide information on the sources of financial support they are providing for the planning and implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change (see annex VI.3 for an excerpt of the initial findings).⁸⁷

59. The technical paper highlighted challenges, including around information gaps in analysing financial support for loss and damage; there are presently no standard methodologies or formats specifically for reporting on investment in reducing, preventing or

⁸⁰ See document FCCC/TP/2019/1, para. 9.

⁸¹ Available at https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/application/pdf/aa7_d_information_paper.pdf.

⁸² The information received in response to the call for submissions on best practices, challenges and lessons learned from existing financial instruments is available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/call-for-submissions-on-financial-instruments> and <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/areas-of-work/action-and-support/information-on-best-practices-challenges-and-lessons-learned-from-existing-financial>.

⁸³ Further information on the lessons learned identified in the information paper is available in annex VI.2.

⁸⁴ See Annex II, part 2, section D, of a working draft compendium and discussion points for assessing and developing recommendations to improve knowledge to understand, and capacity to address, slow onset events and their impacts, including the capacity of regional agencies, available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/reference-document-item-4.pdf>.

⁸⁵ Decision 4/CP.22.

⁸⁶ See document FCCC/TP/2019/1, paras. 11–12. In supporting the secretariat in determining the scope of the technical paper, the ExCom considered the information received through submissions on the type and nature of actions for addressing loss and damage for which finance may be required, available at <https://cop23.unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/groups-committees/loss-and-damage-executive-committee/submissions-on-the-type-and-nature-of-actions-to-address-loss-and-damage-for-which-finance-may-be>.

⁸⁷ More information on the call for submissions is available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/loss-and-damage-ld/collaboration-and-outreach/call-for-submissions-the-executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism>. Eight submissions were received, available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

avoiding loss or damage from interventions. The paper also brought into view the difficulties in tracking and reporting due, in part, to a lack of common understanding of what constitutes addressing loss and damage from a reporting perspective. Similarly, in some cases, funding sources, with their various thematic labels, overlap, as many financial instruments are not mutually exclusive in supporting different dimensions of climate risk management. The paper included the important conclusion that, although finance currently tagged as adaptation, disaster risk finance and development and humanitarian assistance supports relevant aspects of addressing loss and damage, financial flows are not yet tagged in a way that readily enables tracking of finance that may be considered relevant for addressing loss and damage, and there is only limited evidence of sources of finance and financial instruments that explicitly address loss and damage. The paper also highlighted the fact that further analysis of the varying functions of financial instruments for supporting ongoing climate risk management projects, programmes and approaches would improve understanding of the complex landscape of finance that may contribute to addressing loss or damage, and would help to identify potential areas where further action to facilitate the mobilization of finance is needed.

60. For information on the technology and capacity-building aspects of support, see chapter III.C above, which outlines the ExCom’s collaboration with the TEC and describes the organization of an expert workshop for identifying ways to address capacity gaps related to climate risk observation and assessment. Through these efforts, the ExCom has highlighted the landscape of existing support and support gaps. More information is provided on the ExCom’s activities in relation to capacity-building and its convening role in annex VI.4, and annex VI.7 gives an overview of needs highlighted during a half-day event on loss and damage at the second Capacity-building Hub at COP 25.⁸⁸

61. The ExCom has also been focusing its efforts on *facilitating effective information-sharing* with regard to support needs and ways to use financial instruments to manage climate and disaster risks. Key results emerged from two events which the ExCom convened with relevant stakeholders from both the public and private domains at all levels and across regions.

62. One example is the 2016 forum on financial instruments, which addressed the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change,⁸⁹ which was also an early example of the ExCom’s collaboration with the SCF. The forum broadly addressed the four types of finance: risk transfer schemes, catastrophe and resilience bonds, social protection schemes, and contingency finance.⁹⁰ The Suva expert dialogue, as per a request by COP 23⁹¹, explored a wide range of information, inputs and views on ways for facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancing support for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. The dialogue focused on each of the six aspects – risk assessment, risk transfer, risk reduction, risk retention and comprehensive risk management (for both extreme weather events and slow onset climatic processes).⁹² A notable key takeaway from the dialogue was that further clarity and specificity on what it means to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts could help to mobilize the most relevant and appropriate information, data, knowledge, expertise, technology, capacity-building and finance to respond to the emerging needs of developing countries in managing residual climate impacts in the future.⁹³

63. In 2020, the ExCom started a biannual dialogue with the GCF secretariat to clarify how developing country Parties may access funding from the GCF, as a result of the second review of the WIM. While it is premature for the two bodies to identify good practices in financing activities for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, the GCF in 2021 noted the importance of countries accessing the resources available through its

⁸⁸ More information is available at <https://unfccc.int/2nd-capacity-building-hub/Loss-and-Damage>.

⁸⁹ More information is available at <https://cop23.unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/scf-forum/2016-forum-of-the-standing-committee-on-finance>.

⁹⁰ The forum was informed, inter alia, by the information paper on best practices, challenges and lessons learned from existing financial instruments at all levels (see para. 58 above). An excerpt of the conclusions from the forum is contained in annex VI.6.

⁹¹ Decision 5/CP.23, para 9.

⁹² See document FCCC/SB/2018/1, paras. 23–24; key takeaways are included in annex III of the same document.

⁹³ Key takeaways from the dialogue as identified by the ExCom are contained in annex VI.5.

Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for work on comprehensive risk management.⁹⁴

64. The ExCom adopted the terms of reference of the expert group on action and support in 2020,⁹⁵ and endorsed its plan of action⁹⁶ in 2021. Before the plan was finalized, an inventory of relevant ongoing or planned work by technical expert members' affiliated organizations was compiled to ensure that the design of the plan minimized shortcomings, closed gaps in existing action and support, and avoided duplication of effort, and with a view to synergizing the products to be developed across relevant processes.⁹⁷ The expert group began preliminary work on producing accessible products on enabling conditions for effective implementation of risk transfer and social protection schemes, and provided written inputs to the ExCom on the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, which were subsequently adopted by the ExCom for submission to the SCF.⁹⁸ The group will continue to further engage and strengthen its dialogue with the SCF and, in collaboration with the GCF, clarify how developing country Parties may access funding from the GCF for the development of related funding proposals.

65. The scope of upcoming work also encompasses, inter alia, the development of technical guides, the continued collection, compilation and dissemination of information on the available sources of support, and the sharing of information and experience relating to accessing available sources of support for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.⁹⁹

F. Cross-cutting issues

66. This section provides information on how cross-cutting issues, such as the use of best available science and gender responsiveness, have been integrated into the work of the ExCom as it fulfils its mandate of implementing the functions of the WIM.

1. Use of best available science

67. COP 22 recommended that the work of the ExCom may be advanced by improving access to, and interaction with, relevant scientific and technical panels, bodies and expertise available to the WIM, its ExCom and substructures over time, including by inviting relevant organizations at all levels and scientific research organizations with expertise in science relevant to loss and damage to ensure that the best available science is highlighted in the work of the WIM.¹⁰⁰

68. In response to guidance from the COP¹⁰¹ and acknowledging the importance of continuing to consider scientific information needs and knowledge gaps along with the IPCC and other scientific organizations, the ExCom informed IPCC representatives during the SBSTA–IPCC Joint Working Group meeting, held on 7 December 2018, of its work in this area and made the following suggestions for strengthening cooperation between the two bodies:

- (a) Joint IPCC–ExCom awareness-raising events at all levels;

⁹⁴ See document FCCC/SB/2020/3, paras. 49–51.

⁹⁵ More information on the expert group is available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/Action-Support>. Information on the group's membership and its terms of reference are available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/Action-Support/membership>.

⁹⁶ Contained in document FCCC/SB/2021/4, annex III.

⁹⁷ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4, paras. 34–35.

⁹⁸ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, paras. 34–38.

⁹⁹ For more information, see https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ASEG1_draft%20PoA_08062021.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ Decision 4/CP.22, para. 4(c).

¹⁰¹ Decision 4/CP.22, para. 4(c), and decision 5/CP.23, paras. 15–16.

(b) Regular, open channels of communication between the IPCC and the ExCom, including with IPCC authors, to guide the activities of the ExCom and inform experts of knowledge needs;

(c) Use of IPCC reports to inform the rolling workplan and activities of the ExCom.¹⁰²

69. Furthermore, various knowledge products and activities of the ExCom are based on or make reference to information from the IPCC. This includes the Policy Brief on Technologies for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones, which includes a reference (p.9) to the findings of the 2019 IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, which highlights the escalating impact and projected risks of climate change for coastal and marine ecosystems, pointing to the importance of protecting coastal and marine zones. As a further example, when preparing the compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches, the ExCom reviewed material such as relevant chapters of IPCC reports.¹⁰³

70. In 2019, the ExCom reported that, while deliberations under the Convention have been steadily progressing since the establishment of the WIM, the loss and damage discipline remains an emerging subject area requiring further understanding, demystification and conceptualization in multiple thematic areas in order to further facilitate cooperation for action and support.¹⁰⁴

71. In 2021, the ExCom decided, in planning its future meetings, to explore including an item on the agenda on consideration of the best available science and how it might be used to assist Parties in policymaking relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.¹⁰⁵ As a first step, the ExCom helped countries in improving their access to and interaction with relevant scientific and technical panels, bodies and expertise, using an outreach event held in the same year aimed primarily at national-level stakeholders. The ExCom invited multiple IPCC coordinating lead authors, who presented on key findings from the recently published contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.¹⁰⁶ The ExCom also invited the IPCC coordinating lead authors and representatives of WMO to share during its 14th meeting the key findings from their latest reports that are relevant to the loss and damage context.¹⁰⁷

2. Gender responsiveness

72. In implementing its workplan, the ExCom takes into account, in a cross-cutting manner, inter alia, particularly vulnerable developing countries; segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihood, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability; and the ecosystems that they depend on.¹⁰⁸ With a view to identifying ways to better integrate and mainstream gender considerations into the implementation of its five-year rolling workplan, the ExCom held a training session with gender experts in the context of the gender action plan.¹⁰⁹ Using fora such as the gender dialogue,¹¹⁰ the ExCom raises awareness of the importance of gender- or sex-disaggregated data and the sharing of case studies that involve gender-sensitive or gender-responsive risk management approaches.¹¹¹

¹⁰² See document FCCC/SB/2019/5, paras. 41–42.

¹⁰³ See

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/FINAL_AA3_Compendium_September_2019%28revise%29.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ See document FCCC/SB/2019/5, para. 41.

¹⁰⁵ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, para. 7.

¹⁰⁶ For information on engagement and outreach, see document FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, paras. 42–45.

¹⁰⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/AR6-WG1-WIM-ExCom14-presentation-Sep2021-Richard-Jones.pdf>.

¹⁰⁸ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/5yr_rolling_workplan.pdf.

¹⁰⁹ The three-hour training session was held in conjunction with the 9th meeting of the ExCom. For more information on the event, see document FCCC/SB/2019/5, para. 20.

¹¹⁰ The ExCom has participated in the gender dialogue since 2018.

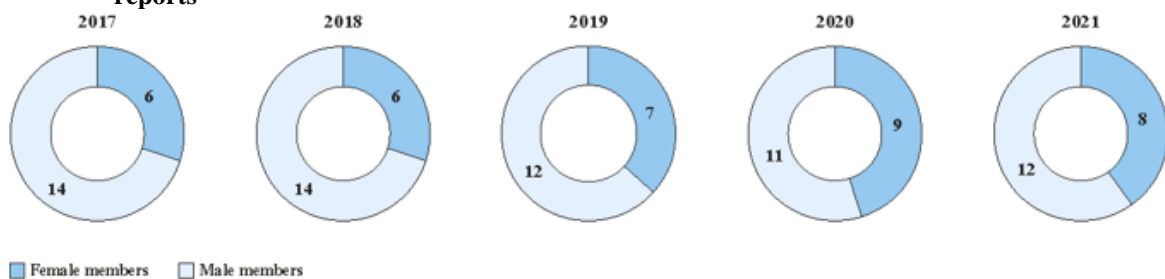
¹¹¹ See document FCCC/SB/2018/1, para. 49

73. In terms of the involvement of female experts and practitioners in the work of the ExCom and its expert groups, COP 20 decided, on the organizational matters of the ExCom, that with regard to the composition of the ExCom, Parties are to take into account the goal of gender balance pursuant to decision 23/CP.18 in nominating members.¹¹²

74. Similarly, in selecting experts for its expert groups, the ExCom takes into account the same decision and considers diverse experience and knowledge relevant to loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. For example, to ensure that gender dimensions are reflected in its work on non-economic losses associated with climate change impacts, the ExCom has engaged the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women as a member of the expert group on non-economic losses.¹¹³

75. COP 22 requested all constituted bodies under the Convention to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes,¹¹⁴ and the ExCom has complied. The below provides a historic overview of the gender composition of the ExCom:

Figure 4: Gender composition of the ExCom over time, as reported in its annual reports¹¹⁵



76. Most recently, in its 2021 report, the ExCom provided information on its gender composition, reporting that its members currently consisted of 8 women (4 each from Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties) and 12 men. One of the Co-Chairs of the ExCom at the time of reporting was a woman, achieving gender parity in its leadership. It also reported the following gender composition of the five expert groups of the ExCom:¹¹⁶

Figure 5: The latest gender composition of expert groups of the ExCom, as reported in its 2021 annual report



77. The ExCom also reported continuing to make progress in relation to gender considerations, including in terms of ensuring equal representation of women at its events (e.g. by including women as speakers and moderators).¹¹⁷

¹¹² Decision 2/CP.20, para. 5.

¹¹³ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4, paras. 15–16.

¹¹⁴ Decision 21/CP.22, para. 14.

¹¹⁵ See documents FCCC/SB/2020/3, para. 12; FCCC/SB/2019/5, annex I; FCCC/SB/2018/1, annex I; and FCCC/SB/2017/1, annex I.

¹¹⁶ Document FCCC/SB/2021/4, paras. 13–14 and figure 2.

¹¹⁷ See document FCCC/SB/2020/3, para. 21.

3. Additional information not addressed in the thematic chapter

78. The Paris Agreement contains a number of references to the principle of equity, most prominently by stating that the Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.¹¹⁸

79. Similarly, in the context of the WIM, Parties have acknowledged that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.¹¹⁹ In line with these provisions, some members raised the need to include equity considerations in the ExCom's work at recent meetings of the ExCom. It should be noted that reference to equity has been introduced through a session at the Suva expert dialogue, where smart premium support was mentioned as an example of international equity in the loss and damage context.¹²⁰

G. Cooperation, stakeholder involvement and partnerships

80. All strategic workstreams contain activities that specifically foster engagement¹²¹ or activities that are undertaken on the basis of collaboration with relevant communities of practice to co-develop products or implement work to advance specific topic areas under the WIM.¹²² For example, in the context of enhancing cooperation and facilitation in relation to action and support,¹²³ the ExCom's activities are aimed at, inter alia, engaging stakeholders with relevant expertise in disaster risk reduction, development aid, humanitarian aid and risk management in order to 1) develop knowledge and support the dissemination of best practices to enable effective planning for, preparation for and response to loss and damage; and 2) continue developing insurance mechanisms embedded in an integrated risk management approach.¹²⁴ Having reviewed the effectiveness and efficiency of the WIM in 2019, Parties explicitly acknowledged its catalytic role in mobilizing and connecting relevant stakeholders.¹²⁵

81. Through its expert groups, the ExCom is able to access a wide range of expertise and resources from technical entities. In general, experts contribute thought leadership to the ExCom on ways of providing developing countries with the technical support they need for averting, minimizing and addressing the risks that arise from climate change impacts. External expert members of the groups have wide-ranging expertise covering adaptation; agriculture and land management; cultural heritage conservation; development; disaster risk management (including insurance); education; environment and biodiversity conservation; finance; food security; gender mainstreaming; humanitarian affairs; human mobility; indigenous peoples' matters; and systematic observation and climate services.¹²⁶

82. In implementing their plans of action, the expert groups enable the ExCom to leverage the wealth of existing data, information and knowledge accumulated by the communities of

¹¹⁸ The Paris Agreement, Article 2.2.

¹¹⁹ Decision 2/CMA.2, preamble.

¹²⁰ See, for example, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/SUVA%20Report_ver_13_Nov.pdf, p.13

¹²¹ Workstream (c), activity 4; workstream (d), activities 3 and 5; workstream (e), activities 2 and 3.

¹²² Workstream (a), activity 1; workstream (b), activity 5. Information on the engagement of organizations and experts in the expert groups of the ExCom can be found under the weblinks provided in chap. II above under the respective thematic area sections pertaining to the membership of the expert groups, as well as in the annual reports of the ExCom.

¹²³ Strategic workstream (e) of the five-year rolling workplan.

¹²⁴ For more information, see <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/areas-of-work/collaboration-and-outreach>.

¹²⁵ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 4.

¹²⁶ The terms of reference for the expert groups are available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/66477>.

practice associated with the expert members, in addition to the modalities and procedures already in place for providing relevant technical support, to assist developing countries in managing risks in specific sectors, systems and regions. Similarly, technical expert members act within their communities to catalyse the integration of loss and damage perspectives into knowledge management and other activities.

83. The booklet *Face to Face with the Warsaw International Mechanism: Showcasing the expertise mobilized by the Executive Committee and its thematic expert groups*,¹²⁷ published in 2021, showcases the expertise mobilized by the ExCom. It collates the expert profiles of all ExCom members and the ExCom’s five thematic expert groups to highlight the wealth of knowledge and expertise catalysed by the ExCom to respond to the complex challenge of loss and damage.

84. The Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer¹²⁸ is another example of how the ExCom has mobilized partnerships to implement its mandate and facilitate Parties’ efforts on loss and damage (see chap. II.C above for more information). Specifically, its interactive function RISK TALK enables Parties to engage directly with experts who can provide tailored information concerning risk transfer schemes such as insurance. This service was made possible through a collaboration with the InsuResilience Global Partnership.

Figure 6: Trend in use of RISK TALK

	September 2019	January 2021	January 2022
Activated users	–	469	535
Questions posed	137	153	156
Responses received	179	192	218
Questions viewed	5 962	7 239	7 946

Statistics for 2022 are as as at 14 January 2022.

85. The ExCom also engages representatives of relevant constituted bodies to take part in the expert groups as full members. This direct engagement modality improves the coherence of support provided under the Convention and the Paris Agreement for actions relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. Involving representatives from other constituted bodies in the WIM expert groups opens direct channels of communication that enable a timely flow of information to advance specific areas of work. This collaboration modality also increases the accessibility of information on loss and damage synthesized by the ExCom to other constituted bodies – information that can inform and ultimately enhance synergies in their work.¹²⁹ Additionally, constituted bodies are invited to integrate into their work efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, vulnerable populations and the ecosystems that they depend on.¹³⁰

86. Another important tool is the WIM roster of experts.¹³¹ The experts included in the roster, and their networks, help bring to the WIM a wealth of knowledge, expertise and resources to help avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. As of 14 January 2022, the roster contained information on 286 experts.¹³² The ExCom has used the WIM roster of experts to ensure that the development of its products is built on the latest science and best available knowledge. Specifically, the ExCom has reached out to the experts with a call for solutions in preparing the policy brief on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones and with a call for abstracts in the preparation of the special issue of the journal *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* on slow onset events. The WIM roster of experts has also proved an invaluable tool for the identification of members of the three newer expert groups,

¹²⁷ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WIM_Experts_booklet.pdf.

¹²⁸ <http://unfccc-clearinghouse.org/>.

¹²⁹ See document FCCC/SB/2021/4, paras. 19–22.

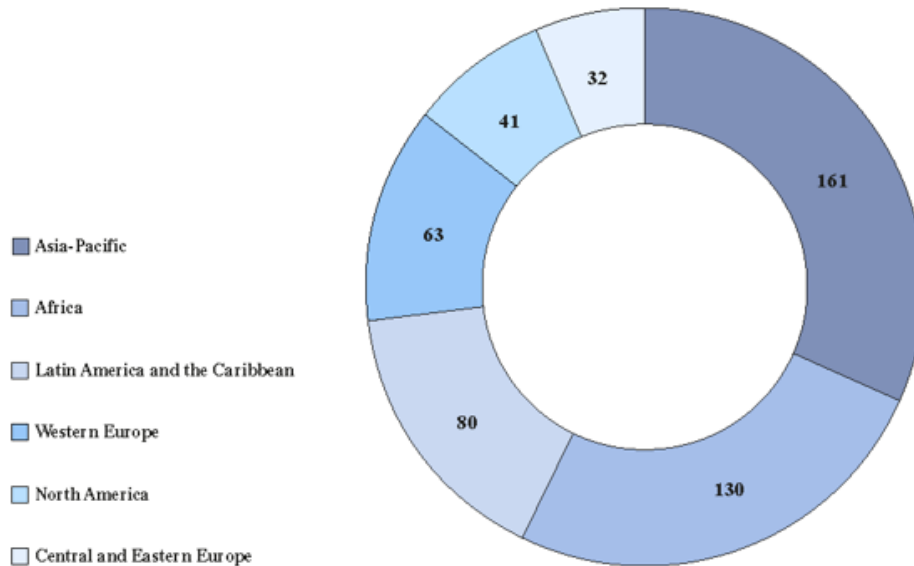
¹³⁰ Decision 5/CP.23, para. 14.

¹³¹ Available at <http://unfccc-clearinghouse.org/form/expert-roster>.

¹³² See document FCCC/SB/2020/3, figure 3.

providing the ExCom with an extensive pool of expertise that has enabled it to identify suitable profiles while ensuring a multidisciplinary composition.

Figure 7: Overview of the WIM roster of experts as at 14 January 2022 (regional expertise)¹³³



87. Following a request from Parties to identify modalities for fostering the sharing of knowledge and experience among practitioners and vulnerable countries in an interactive and practical manner, while also strengthening awareness-raising efforts at the regional, national and local level, the ExCom endorsed its draft communication strategy in 2018.¹³⁴ The strategy is aimed at enhancing the visibility of ExCom’s output with respect to Parties, relevant stakeholders and a broader audience, thereby strengthening its impact.

88. Furthermore, the ExCom decided in 2021 to organize outreach events annually to facilitate greater visibility and application of the outcomes and outputs of the work of the ExCom and its expert groups, and receive and engage with feedback from loss and damage contact points and the UNFCCC national focal points.¹³⁵ The ExCom held the first outreach event on 14 September 2021. Through the event, it engaged with loss and damage contact points and country representatives nominated by UNFCCC national focal points in showcasing selected technical products under the ExCom’s three priority themes for that year: regional impacts of slow onset events; risk assessment in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage; and action and support through partnerships.

89. Furthermore, and in line with the invitation of COP 22,¹³⁶ interested Parties have established loss and damage contact points through their respective UNFCCC national focal points with a view to enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change at the national level enhancing the implementation.

¹³³ The number of experts who indicated regional expertise is 277

¹³⁴ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom_8_summary_decisions-FINAL.pdf, annex I.

¹³⁵ See

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/WIM_ExCom_Outreach_Event_Summary_Report.pdf.

¹³⁶ Decision 4/CP.22, para. 4(d). Information on nominated loss and damage contact points is available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/loss-and-damage-ld/collaboration-and-outreach/loss-and-damage-contact-points>.

Santiago network

90. The Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change was established under the WIM as a result of the second review of the WIM (December 2019) with a view to catalysing the provision of technical assistance from relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.¹³⁷

91. As at January 2022, 24 developing country Parties had communicated, through an open questionnaire, their technical assistance needs related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.¹³⁸ An initial analysis of the first 14 responses, conducted for information-sharing purposes at the COP Presidencies' event during the Climate Dialogues in November/December 2020,¹³⁹ identified eight broad areas of technical assistance needs that, together with future communications of needs for technical assistance, can serve as a useful basis for guiding relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts in providing demand-driven technical assistance.

92. In the same decision which established the Santiago network, Parties requested the ExCom to include in its annual reports relevant information received from organizations, bodies, networks and experts on their progress in providing technical assistance to developing countries.¹⁴⁰

93. Organizations submitted such information for the first time in 2021. These initial respondent organizations provided information under a wide range of thematic areas on planned and implemented initiatives and activities aimed at providing technical assistance to developing countries for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The technical assistance described or implied in the submissions broadly fell under the following four areas: 1) risk assessment and analysis; 2) early warning systems; 3) risk insurance facilities, climate risk pooling and other insurance solutions; and 4) ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction.¹⁴¹

94. Relevant information contained in the submissions received by 31 August 2021 was reported as part of ExCom's 2021 annual report.¹⁴² Having considered the progress, Parties, while expressing their appreciation to those who had submitted the first set of information and acknowledging the efforts of the COP 25 and COP 26 Presidencies between those sessions concerning the Santiago network,¹⁴³ recognized the need to further operationalize the Santiago network. Accordingly, Parties agreed at COP 26/CMA 3 (November 2021) on six distinct functions of the Santiago network and a process for further developing the corresponding institutional arrangements that would enable it to fulfil those functions.¹⁴⁴

95. At the same time, Parties decided that the Santiago network will be provided with funds to support technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change

¹³⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/santiago-network>.

¹³⁸ Information available at <https://unfccc.int/santiago-network/countries>.

¹³⁹ Available at

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Santiago%20Network%20Survey%20summary.pdf>.

¹⁴⁰ FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.2, paras. 42–43.

¹⁴¹ FCCC/SB/2021/4/Add.1, paras. 6–11.

¹⁴² Four organizations responded to the call for inputs: FAO, UNDRR, UNEP and WFP. The submissions are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

¹⁴³ x/CMA.3, preamble and para. 5(b). For information on meetings and events organized by the Presidencies of COP 25 and COP 26 and related efforts, see <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop/presidency-consultations-and-other-presidency-meetings/informal-consultations-by-the-cop-25-presidency-and-the-cop-26-incoming-presidency>.

¹⁴⁴ Leading up to COP 26/CMA 3, the COP 25 Presidency (Chile) and the incoming COP 26 Presidency (United Kingdom) held a joint event on the Santiago network during the 2020 Climate Dialogues, offering an opportunity for Parties and other stakeholders to exchange ideas on how the network could be further developed. For more information, see <https://unfccc.int/event/developing-the-santiago-network-for-loss-and-damage>.

in developing countries¹⁴⁵. This provision can enhance the effectiveness of the Santiago network in catalysing demand-driven technical assistance, including by assisting in identifying, prioritizing and communicating technical assistance needs and priorities, and actively connecting those seeking technical assistance with the most suitable organizations, bodies, networks and experts.¹⁴⁶

III. Best practices, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities

96. The ExCom has been effective in creating a space for collaboration, and its strong convening power has been recognized repeatedly. This chapter begins by outlining best practices and lessons learned that have emerged from work carried out to date. It also outlines challenges encountered that may have hindered or created barriers to effective implementation of the functions of the WIM. Descriptions of the challenges are followed by corresponding opportunities, including major areas of upcoming work, which may provide avenues for addressing some of the challenges identified. The chapter also contains relevant information highlighted by the participants of the event “Preparing WIM ExCom inputs for the global stocktake” in relation to their efforts with regard to loss and damage (see para. x above and annex I for more information).

Box 9

Key takeaways from best practices, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities

- The ExCom has displayed a strong convening power, and its work modalities have been effective in coordinating the implementation of the functions of the WIM.
- Through the establishment of thematic expert groups, a task force and technical expert group, and the use of instruments such as the roster of experts, the ExCom has been able to mobilize a diverse range of technical expertise and resources.
- ExCom’s work to date points to the paramount importance of stronger engagement at the national-level in order to ensure the responsiveness of its activities and products to the evolving and emerging needs of developing countries.
- The continuous encouragement of the nomination of loss and damage contact points by the national focal points, and the ExCom’s decision in 2021 to hold outreach events annually thereafter with national-level stakeholders as the primary audience, present an opportunity to foster work in a need-based, country-driven manner and increase the user-friendliness and accessibility of the technical products of the ExCom.
- The activities of the ExCom increased knowledge on many aspects of loss and damage. Nevertheless, there continue to be varying understanding of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, which partly hinders mobilizing and documenting relevant action and support, including finance. The standing mandate on the development of technical guides under the ExCom and one of the functions of the Santiago network, identifying, prioritizing and communicating technical assistance needs and priorities, provide a possible means to address this challenge.
- The technical work of the ExCom to date has contributed significantly to enhancing understanding of effective actions that can be undertaken pre-emptively before a loss or damage from the adverse effects of climate change are experienced. Good practices, approaches and support opportunities for

¹⁴⁵ Decision 1/CMA.3, para 68.

¹⁴⁶ For the full functions of the Santiago network, see decision x/CMA.3, para. 9.

assisting developing countries once loss or damage has occurred have been more limited.

- The workload of the ExCom in fully implementing the functions of the WIM has been a challenge. With fully operational thematic expert groups, a task force and a technical expert group covering all five of its workstreams, the ExCom is better positioned to further strengthen its modalities of work and broaden topic areas of focused activities that will enable it to maximize its contribution to the successful implementation of the functions of the WIM.
- Against the growing recognition of the existential dimension of the risks of loss and damage linked with insufficient level of mitigation ambition, the ExCom's central role in mobilizing international cooperation to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, present an opportunity for making available a toolbox of solutions for the full spectrum of loss and damage situations under the WIM.

97. The expert groups have served as an effective work modality that allows Parties, through the ExCom, to access a diverse range of technical expertise and resources that are not traditionally available in the climate change domain. As detailed in chapter II.G above, technical members of the five expert groups make significant contributions to the implementation of the workplan of the ExCom through their wide-ranging expertise and act as entry points enabling the ExCom to access existing data, information and knowledge gathered in members' affiliated organizations, networks and communities of practice. This working modality has also enabled the ExCom to permeate loss and damage perspectives in technical agencies that are represented in the expert groups. As multiple expert groups each concurrently undertake a robust plan of action, ensuring continuous oversight of the work of each group and tracking the timely delivery of a diverse range of products and actions has become increasingly demanding.

98. While catalysing the production of manifold technical and information products and the provision of technical support is a significant strength of the WIM,¹⁴⁷ it is challenging to bring back the resulting wealth of knowledge in a synergistic manner such that it can inform the ensuing work of the ExCom and its expert groups.

99. Moreover, Parties have encouraged the ExCom to increase the user-friendliness and accessibility of the technical products under the WIM.¹⁴⁸ In this regard, the ExCom needs to facilitate further understanding of or provide clarification on the potential beneficiaries of and the target audience for each activity and the ways in which the multitude of products of the expert groups contribute to the overall efforts in implementing the WIM. The ExCom has started to address this by engaging national-level stakeholders through national focal points and loss and damage contact points,¹⁴⁹ to showcase how specific products made available under the WIM assist developing countries in this regard.

100. Furthermore, the WIM roster of experts¹⁵⁰ has been a helpful tool for information dissemination channels and for outreach-related efforts of the ExCom by enabling multidisciplinary engagement and inputs. As outlined in chapter II.G above, the roster has helped the ExCom to develop its products on the basis of sound science and the best available knowledge by making use of the wealth of expertise and contributions available through the networks of experts contained in the roster. It also serves as a source of a diverse range of expertise, which the ExCom taps into to ensure the diverse composition of its expert groups.

¹⁴⁷ For example, the member organizations of the technical expert group on comprehensive risk management and the task force on displacement reported, at their respective meetings, on the implementation status of numerous individual efforts aimed at contributing to the delivery of the expected results of their respective 2019–2021 plans of action. These efforts are to contribute to the activities of workstreams (c) and (d) of the ExCom's five-year rolling workplan, respectively.

¹⁴⁸ Decisions 5/CP.23, paras. 19(b)–(c), and 2/CMA.2, para. 11.

¹⁴⁹ For example, the outreach events in September 2021 and the ExCom 14 decision to hold outreach events annually with national-level stakeholders as the main audience.

¹⁵⁰ See chap. II.G above for further details of the WIM Roster of Experts.

Overarching challenges

101. With intensifying and unprecedented impacts, as signalled, most recently, by the first chapter of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the IPCC, which confirmed, among other things, that sea levels would rise even under the lowest emission scenarios, various overarching challenges exist in achieving the objectives of the WIM, most prominently around the increasing urgency and scale of action required.

102. The existential dimension of the issue of loss and damage highlights the fundamental importance of international solidarity, as manifested in the growing mandates and work of the WIM and its institutional arrangements. The central role of the WIM for channelling international cooperation to avert, minimize and address loss and damage has been well recognized. In this regard, the mandated periodic review of the WIM (every five years) provides an opportunity for highlighting the evolving needs of developing countries in relation to implementing approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

103. Similarly, the recognition that the adverse effects of climate change have already caused and will increasingly leading to the risks of loss and damage, posing an ever-greater social, economic and environmental threat,¹⁵¹ continues to serve as a beacon for accelerating action and relevance of the WIM.

The linkage between loss and damage and mitigation ambition

104. There is general recognition that the increasing scale and urgency of the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change is linked to the insufficient level of mitigation to date¹⁵². Climate change has caused widespread adverse impacts and related loss and damage to nature and people. The magnitude and rate of climate change and associated risks depend strongly on near-term mitigation and adaptation actions, and projected adverse impacts and related losses and damages escalate with every increment of global warming¹⁵³. Increased mitigation ambition and effective action for limiting GHG emissions remain fundamental factors in reducing the risk of experiencing climate change impacts or avoiding loss or damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. In addition, the awareness of this linkage is an opportunity for countries to use their NDCs to commit to more ambitious mitigation goals.

Communication and information-sharing challenges

105. While the work of the ExCom has resulted in numerous knowledge products that have demystified many aspects of loss and damage, there is still a need for further clarity and specificity on what it means to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. This lack of clarity has been identified as a possible hindering factor in facilitating, among other things, the mobilization of support, including finance, to respond to the emerging needs of developing countries in managing residual climate impacts.¹⁵⁴ Parties encouraged the ExCom and other relevant actors to facilitate or enhance research on and share good practices for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, including long-term risk assessment and risk communication,¹⁵⁵ and share information on, for instance,

¹⁵¹ As most recently recognized by CMA 3, which noted the increasing urgency of enhancing efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in the light of continued global warming and its significant impacts on vulnerable populations and the ecosystems on which they depend (decisions - /CMA3, preamble, -/CMA.3, para. 37, and -/CP.16, para. 61, etc.).

¹⁵² Decision 2/CMA.2, preamble.

¹⁵³ IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, M. Tignor, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem (eds.)]. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. In Press, B1 and B4

¹⁵⁴ Suva expert dialogue, report available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/010818%20REPORT%20OF%20THE%20SUVA%20EXPERT%20DIALOGUE.pdf>.

¹⁵⁵ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 28.

methodologies available for integrating long-term assessment, including those associated with the quantification of risks, into comprehensive climate risk management approaches, including national and subnational assessment and planning processes.¹⁵⁶

106. Since the acknowledgement that loss and damage includes, and in some cases involves more than, that which can be reduced by adaptation at the time of the establishment of the WIM at COP 19,¹⁵⁷ no further differentiation of the term ‘averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage’ has been commonly understood. Accordingly, the ExCom has taken broad and inclusive views without delineating disaster risk management for extreme weather events, adaptation to climate change or humanitarian or development efforts.¹⁵⁸ In some cases, the absence of a commonly shared understanding of the central aspects of the discourse counteracts the articulation of information concerning averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage, including in the context of communicating specific needs for relevant technical assistance¹⁵⁹ or reporting on associated support provided.¹⁶⁰ This potentially poses a challenge to furthering the work in a needs-based and country-driven manner. In this regard, one of the functions of the Santiago network, catalysing demand-driven technical assistance in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change for identifying, prioritizing and communicating technical assistance needs and priorities, provides a possible means to address this particular challenge.

107. Similarly, a standing mandate emanating from the second review of the WIM for the ExCom and its thematic expert groups to develop technical guides¹⁶¹ also provides facilitative opportunities in this regard. As agreed by the ExCom, the technical guides are to provide practical advice to countries to assist them in implementing various approaches and covering all thematic areas of loss and damage by complementing existing resources and filling any gaps (see also chap. I.B above).¹⁶²

108. Giving due consideration of the issue of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including related existing mandates and collective efforts undertaken to address this issue in the context of the global stocktake, serves as an opportunity to reflect on the current state affairs and possible ways forward. In addition, the CMA and COP have recently taken various decisions that, through their implementation, provide further opportunities to address existing challenges:

(a) The Glasgow Climate Pact, acknowledging the importance of coherent action to respond to the scale of needs caused by the adverse impacts of climate change, established the Glasgow Dialogue between Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change¹⁶³. The CMA also resolved to strengthen partnerships between developing and developed countries, funds, technical agencies and civil society;

(b) Agreed functions and envisaged further operationalization of the Santiago network, as outlined in chapter II.G.1. above, and the CMA resolved that the Santiago network will be provided with funds to support technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries;¹⁶⁴

(c) CMA 3 and COP 26 encouraged the ExCom to continue engaging and strengthening its dialogue with the SCF, including by providing input to the SCF regarding draft guidance relating to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, and to

¹⁵⁶ Decision 2/CMA.2, paras. 23 and 28.

¹⁵⁷ Decision 2/CP.19, preamble.

¹⁵⁸ See document FCCC/TP/2019/1, para. 25.

¹⁵⁹ In response to the question, “Were the needs for addressing loss and damage communicated in the past to the UNFCCC and if so, through what channels?” during the Santiago network survey, the majority of respondent countries answered in a negative way.

¹⁶⁰ See document FCCC/TP/2019/1, section II-C.

¹⁶¹ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 26.

¹⁶² See document FCCC/SB/2020/3, para. 57.

¹⁶³ Glasgow Climate Pact, para 71 and 73.

¹⁶⁴ Decisions -/CMA.3, para. 38, and -/CP.26, para. 62.

commence and/or continue exploring potential ways to enhance, as appropriate, collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to inform the work of the ExCom and its expert group on action and support.¹⁶⁵

Engagement at the national level

109. Challenges remain in fully engaging national stakeholders, while many countries continue to nominate loss and damage contact points to enhance the implementation of approaches to avert, minimise and address loss and damage at the national level. As referred to in chapter II.G above, as an outcome of the first review of the WIM,¹⁶⁶ interested Parties were invited to make a nomination, then were further encouraged to do so in two subsequent COP/CMA decisions.¹⁶⁷ Forty-six Parties have nominated one or more loss and damage contact point as of January 2022. The loss and damage contact points can facilitate information flow between countries and the ExCom, which, in turn, can improve the relevance and effectiveness of the work under the WIM.

110. At the same time, there is scope for the ExCom to improve information collection, including by diversifying its means for reaching out to or engaging with national-level stakeholders, since responsiveness to modalities used in the past (e.g. questionnaires or surveys) has been low in some cases.¹⁶⁸

111. During its 12th meeting, the ExCom discussed opportunities and modalities for engaging regional- and national-level stakeholders, including the UNFCCC national focal points and the loss and damage contact points; modalities for fostering the sharing of relevant knowledge and experience among practitioners and vulnerable countries interactively and practically; and fostering public education and awareness-raising efforts, including efforts with a capacity-building component, at the regional, national and local level. The discussions resulted in a decision, at its 14th meeting, to hold outreach events annually with national stakeholders, as the target audience will also serve as entry points for working closely with national-level stakeholders.¹⁶⁹

112. Ensuring that products produced or catalysed by the WIM respond to the specific needs of vulnerable developing countries is a key challenge across thematic areas. A number of pieces of COP/CMA guidance allude to improving the usability of its products. This can be tackled by clearly identifying the target audiences of each of the ExCom's products at the planning stage, with the upcoming update of the five-year rolling workplan and the annual outreach event providing clear entry points.

Ex-ante and ex-post approaches, solutions and support

113. The work of the ExCom over the years has resulted in a significant amount of information collated and synthesized on the approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in vulnerable countries. The majority of this information, such as that contained in the compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches¹⁷⁰ or showcased at the forum on financial instruments and the Suva expert dialogue (see chap. II.E above), contributes to enhancing understanding of effective actions that can be undertaken pre-emptively before a country or community experiences loss or damage from the adverse effects of climate change.

114. A comparatively limited amount of good practices have been identified for assisting developing countries once loss or damage has occurred, and fewer technical products developed to date under the WIM focus on enhancing the understanding of approaches or associated support for the post-impact phase. The limited understanding of effective actions

¹⁶⁵ Decision -/CMA.3, para. 12.

¹⁶⁶ Held at COP 22 in 2016.

¹⁶⁷ Decisions 2/CMA2, para. 13, and 5/CP.23, para. 13(a).

¹⁶⁸ As exemplified in the work on climate risk analysis, the Santiago network open-ended survey and the interactive platform of the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer (see chap. II above).

¹⁶⁹ See

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom%202012_Summary%20of%20Decision%20Points.pdf.

¹⁷⁰ Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/compendium-on-comprehensive-risk-management-approaches>.

and approaches for post-impact and loss situations has also been a hindrance for fully clarifying the support landscape for loss and damage, and, in some cases, has made it more difficult for the ExCom to catalyse resources from or provide authoritative advice, inputs or guidance to other bodies on the full spectrum of support needed for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, resulting in existing support channels being underused or preventing available sources from being fully tapped into.

115. The strategic workstreams and associated activities of the workplans of the ExCom have proved to be an effective entry point under the WIM to set an agenda, convene stakeholders and mobilize expertise to enhance support systems. For example, topics such as displacement, risk transfer, insurance and social protection schemes, disaster risk assessment, prevention and reduction, and early warning systems have gained a broad and firm traction in the loss and damage discourse since the ExCom was launched.

116. Comparatively, of the areas of cooperation and facilitation to enhance understanding, action and support identified under Article 8, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, *events that may involve irreversible and permanent loss and damage and resilience of communities, livelihoods and ecosystems* have not been addressed by the ExCom as extensively or explicitly as others. The workstream on slow onset events covers a broad concept, and has only partially addressed the former until now, but which warrants further consideration in terms of how it can be best addressed by the ExCom, its expert groups and other institutional arrangements of the WIM.

Challenges pertaining to the work of the ExCom

117. As the WIM encompasses an extensive range of topics and institutional arrangements, a key challenge unique to the ExCom is linked to the heavy workload pertaining to the implementation of the five-year rolling workplan, pointing to a need for careful consideration of the roles and responsibilities of the ExCom and its expert groups. With five fully operational expert groups covering all five workstreams of its workplan, the ExCom is now well positioned to reflect on the modalities and topic areas, enabling it to focus its own efforts in a way that maximizes its value-addition in the overall scheme of the WIM.

118. In this context, the ExCom is also well positioned to respond to the guidance by Parties that the ExCom is to take into account areas of work that may require short-, medium- and long-term consideration and efforts, including in relation to sustainable development and transformative change, in the context of the work of each of its thematic expert groups.¹⁷¹

119. Finally, the limited in-person engagement of the members of the ExCom and expert groups in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with IT constraints that have hindered effective virtual participation in some cases, has posed a significant challenge to the efficiency and progress of work since March 2020 (11th meeting of the ExCom), which was also the incipient period of the three new expert groups. At the same time, the additional use of virtual engagement modalities has allowed for broader participation of observers, including from Parties. Virtual work modality has also offered vast opportunities for enhancing intersessional progress, and in this context, has contributed to the increased efficiency of the work of the ExCom.

IV. Reference to inputs other than the synthesis report by the ExCom relevant for loss and damage considerations in the global stocktake

120. This section makes reference to activities and products developed by relevant constituted bodies, work programmes or other processes not covered in any of the chapters above, but which *may be* considered as relevant inputs to the loss and damage considerations under the global stocktake, including in the context of decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 6(b)(ii).

¹⁷¹ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 16.

Box 10

Inputs to be prepared by others which may contain relevant information on relevant efforts on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage

- Synthesis reports of other constituted bodies, such as the AC, LEG, PCCB, SCF and TEC;
- Synthesis reports of the secretariat, developed in response to decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 23;
- Latest reports of the IPCC and relevant reports from United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

Annex I

Reflections by Parties and non-Party stakeholders on their efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including lessons learned and remaining gaps, provided during the event “Preparing WIM ExCom inputs for the global stocktake”, held on 14 December 2021

During the event “Preparing WIM ExCom inputs for the global stocktake”,¹⁷² organized by the ExCom on 14 December 2021, representatives of five constituted bodies (the AC, the LCIPP, the LEG, the PCCB and the TEC), six groups of Parties, one Party, and three non-Party stakeholders provided various reflections and views regarding the work of the ExCom on its input to the global stocktake and their efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including lessons learned and remaining gaps. The opportunity to share reflections was highly welcomed and appreciated by participants, who thanked the ExCom for organizing the event. The event was moderated by ExCom member Mr. Jerome Ilagan, and included remarks delivered by Ms. Kajsa Fernström Nåtby, ExCom member, during the first part of the event. During the second part of the event⁽⁶⁶⁾, five constituted body representatives shared and in some cases reflected on possible areas for cooperation, coherence and synergy with the work of the ExCom. ⁽⁶⁶⁾Information was provided by Ms. Alice Gaustad on behalf of the AC, Ms. Andrea Carmen on behalf of the Facilitative Working Group of the LCIPP, Ms. Jennifer Hobbs on behalf of the LEG, Ms. Yongxiang Zhang on behalf of the PCCB and Mr. Stephen Minas on behalf of the TEC. The reflections shared by participants during the event regarding their efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including lessons learned and remaining gaps, are summarized below. One written submission was provided by a group of Parties after the event, as announced during the event, and incorporated in this summary.

Country experiences: current state of and impacts related to loss and damage

Various Parties provided information on the current state of and the impacts related to loss and damage in their respective regions and countries. A general increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events and the number of related significant impacts was noted by various Parties, equating to real existential threats, and participants also highlighted the particular vulnerability of specific regions and countries such as the Philippines with regard to such events and hazards. Another issue highlighted was the impact of sea level rise and the significant changes in and direct impact on coastal resources, particularly in the light of the dependency of island states on such resources. Participants also referenced the issue of ocean acidification and all multiplier effects of climate change.

Furthermore, the effects of increasing temperatures were pointed out, with, on the one hand, material impacts on, for example, infrastructure, and on the other, impacts on human health and natural resources. In this context, AOSIS referred to the urban heat island effect becoming an issue of increasing concern in the region.

The impact on food security was also raised as a growing area of concern, as was the issue of displacement linked to extreme and slow onset events.

Observed and potential impacts (of extreme events and slow onset events) – examples provided by AOSIS:

- As island states, there is a dependence on coastal and ocean resources, including small-scale agriculture, beaches and fisheries. Already, our members are seeing significant changes in fisheries that have affected and will continue to affect our small economies. One example is the viability of the Pacific tuna fisheries. In addition, there are losses of land, cays, atolls and other coastal resources due to sea level rise, resulting in more uninhabitable locales and loss of livelihoods, culture and heritage.
- With rising sea levels, many countries have experienced salinization of their underground aquifers. This has had serious implications for water availability, often made worse during drought events.
- There is a marked increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme events, including tropical storms and cyclones, floods and droughts. Storms (including hurricanes and cyclones) have affected many islands and left significant damage and loss in their wake; Pacific countries such as Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu, and Caribbean countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas and Dominica, are among them. Many, if not most, countries are experiencing more instances of intense (and record) rainfall, resulting in flash flooding. This affects infrastructure (particularly as many designs predate the more recent intense climate change impacts), agricultural production, and many other socioeconomic sectors. On the flip side, extended periods of drought have led to similar consequences, in some instances resulting in states of emergency, as was the case in the Marshall Islands in 2015–2016. The impact of tropical storms and cyclones is very well known.

¹⁷² Information related to the event is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/WIMExcom-inputs-GST>.

The loss of lives and the protracted impact on economies and people's lives are the unfortunate and heart-wrenching tales that are our reality, year after year.

- The issue of displacement has been a growing concern, linked directly to the above-noted hazards. Whether in coastal cays or atolls, or inland communities, the effects of climate change are displacing households and communities, some temporarily, some more permanently. Jamaica, for example, has been struggling with this issue, with communities being displaced by rising sea levels (e.g. St Margaret's Bay in Portland) or extreme rainfall events, which cause significant amounts of debris and siltation (such as the case of Bull Bay, St Andrew) to collect in houses and temporarily displace residents. Permanent loss of territory leading to displacement has already begun to manifest in low-lying atoll nations such as Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu in the Pacific.
- Increased temperatures are also of great concern. Among other things, this has implications for infrastructure, human health and natural resources (such as the viability of coral reefs and the complex ecosystems they support). The quality and health of coral reefs have also declined as sea surface temperatures increase. The urban heat island effect has been observed in some countries, Singapore being one example.
- Food security in our islands is also being challenged by climate change, including in countries that rely on external sources for a significant portion of their food. Adding to this are countries whose agriculture (and fisheries) sectors are reeling from the compound effects of extreme and slow onset events; for example, where higher temperatures, coupled with drought, or followed by heavy rainfall, cause damage to crops and livestock.
- Much more could be said, with reference to, for example, ocean acidification and the multiplier effects of hazards occurring concurrently. The point has been made that the risk of impacts ending in irreversible and permanent loss and damage is great and becoming greater.

Efforts under way to avert, minimize and address loss and damage

Parties also provided information on efforts already under way to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. However, it was pointed out by various Parties that many countries are still in the early stages of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, and that they face significant and ever-growing needs. For example, AILAC pointed out that in the light of this, many countries are focusing their efforts on developing adaptation instruments as a first step, and others see loss and damage as a collateral issue of adaptation efforts. AOSIS pointed out that many countries are taking proactive measures, but there is a lack of available resources for addressing their existing and emerging needs.

Efforts under way to avert, minimize and address loss and damage that were described by Parties included conducting capacity needs assessments and exploring comprehensive risk management options, including insurance (e.g. parametric insurance at regional scale), risk transfer schemes and other innovative financing options.

With regard to data collection and storage, various Parties indicated that work on building up data repositories and improving baseline information for sectors, as well as ongoing research and model creation, was under way.

Other areas of work included the expansion of early warning systems to reduce loss of lives and injuries, and the design of flood mitigation systems, through policy and institutional changes and through on-the-ground programmes. The exploration of options for improving the resilience of infrastructure and housing (e.g. cyclone-proof houses and evacuation centres) was also referred to.

Furthermore, it was noted that migration, a growing area of concern, was being addressed, including through policy and legislative instruments, and, for example, through the identification of suitable locations for safe and orderly migration of persons away from hazard-prone areas.

In general, it was pointed out that efforts are under way to identify and implement strategies relating to various elements of loss and damage, including the impacts of rising temperatures on water resources and food security, using models and localized assessments to understand changes and influence measures pursued. Further existing efforts relate to creating partnerships with research organizations and strengthening scientific institutions or programmes to provide the evidence base for action and appropriate responses. Overall, countries already use policy and legislative instruments to incentivize and implement the existing efforts outlined above, as well as other initiatives.

Efforts to establish a strong link to the disaster risk reduction agenda in countries' efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including by applying an ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approach, were also highlighted.

Remaining gaps

In their reflections, participants also identified various remaining gaps regarding the issue of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

In the light of the need to increase clarity on and awareness of climate change and its impacts, including in relation to data collection and storage, building up early warning systems, etc., and to fully integrate the issue of loss and damage into their national and subnational planning, as well as into the various reports under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, a number of Parties pointed out that they still need a significant amount of work, guidance and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer.

Inter alia, it was stressed that loss and damage is still an emerging area with respect to understanding the true nature of the impacts and their risk of leading to loss and damage, and that, in general, clarity on and awareness of climate change and its impacts, especially where these lead to loss and damage, including through public awareness and training with targeted communication, is needed. A general lack of knowledge of different approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, both before and after they occur, was identified, as was a lack of monitoring and evaluation systems for determining the effectiveness of adaptation efforts and disaster risk reduction measures over time. For example, a representative of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community indicated that there is a lack of understanding of the differentiation between climate change that can be adapted to with technical and financial support on the one side, and loss and damage that cannot be avoided under any circumstances on the other, highlighting the need for further work on this distinction, including through public awareness-raising measures and training, underpinned by targeted communication.

For example, AOSIS pointed to the need for ongoing research to understand the current and future impacts of climate change at the local/community and national level, including those that lead to non-economic losses, referring to, for example, a lack of understanding and exploration of loss of intangible cultural heritage.

In this context, participants highlighted challenges related to the assessment and monitoring of risks as a result of data gaps, insufficient data and information collection and management, and limited access to relevant technologies. Significant gaps were also reported with regard to the collection and storage of baseline data on the impact of loss and damage.

However, various Parties, including AILAC and AOSIS, pointed to significant gaps with regard to the provision of and timely access to finance in the light of the extensive needs in order to enable Parties to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. In this context, participants pointed out, in particular, the lack of adequacy, financial sustainability, accessibility and predictability of the provision of support, for the implementation of both adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures over time. For example, the need to revisit existing public finance mechanisms in order to enhance the management of climate risks and the anticipation of and reaction to extreme and slow onset events was highlighted in this context. A need for more early warning systems, and more efficient and far-reaching ones where appropriate, was also highlighted.

Key messages from the 2021 report of WMO on the State of Global Climate pertaining to Latin America and the Caribbean

AILAC pointed to the key messages contained in the 2021 report of WMO on the State of Global Climate pertaining to Latin America and the Caribbean, including that adaptation measures and multi-hazard early warning systems are underdeveloped in these regions; that support from government, as well as the science and technology community, is critical to strengthening their development; and that improvements in data collection and storage, the integration of related risks into development planning, and the strengthening of financial support are fundamentally important (available at <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/state-of-climate-2021-extreme-events-and-major-impacts>).

A lack of a formal, structured process for clearly tracking and reporting finance specific to loss and damage was pointed out, as was a lack of systematic collection, recording and reporting of loss and damage finance needs. Furthermore, it was noted that there is a lack of methodologies for assessing the economic cost of loss and damage related to ecosystem services, and a lack of guidelines for technical assessments at the national level of current and potential risks related to loss and damage, support provided and received and the relevant actions taken at the national level, particularly in the LDCs.

Gaps related to information on efforts to enhance the understanding of action and support, particularly with regard to action and support on the ground, were also highlighted by AGN and the Arab Group. Similarly, it was pointed out by AGN that information gaps remain with regard to how actions by Parties take into account equity and common but differentiated responsibilities in the context of sustainable development, poverty eradication and just transition.

Reflections provided by the LCIPP:

“The seasons we have always known are changing, and the weather is more extreme and unpredictable. Due to the changing climate, we are seeing new animals, insects, fish, plants and birds coming into our territories. Some are invasive, push out the Indigenous species, destroy original biodiversity and forests, and carry disease. At the same time, many of those we have always depended upon are disappearing. We are experiencing droughts, flooding, forest fires, rising sea levels and melting ice, threatening the productivity and life cycles of our lands, waters and food sources. Our rivers and lakes are drying up, and we cannot drink the water anymore.

The loss and damage we have suffered from the impacts of climate change is already extreme and is both economic and non-economic and directly affects knowledge systems and ways of life. While no price can be put upon what we have already lost and all that is threatened, adequate, direct financial resources would greatly assist Indigenous communities to adapt to these losses, restore what we can and protect and strengthen the resiliency of what remains.”

Excerpt from the co-leads’ summary from Roundtable 1: Impacts of climate change on the livelihoods, knowledge systems and cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples, held in the context of the first annual gathering of knowledge holders organized by LCIPP during COP 26.

Lessons learned and opportunities

Participants also referred to lessons learned and opportunities to further enhance efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage.

This included, for example, the need for systems to be dynamic in order to increase effectiveness and to enable the latest scientific developments to be reflected in planning. The reliance on capacity-building for research and development with regard to the nascent/emerging aspects of climate change, especially in order to have solutions tailored to national contexts, was also highlighted. It was further pointed out that there is a need to identify solutions for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage that are easily executable, no-regret, cost-effective and participatory.

Another issue identified was the need for a more proactive approach towards ex-ante risk management, including the need for a probabilistic approach, rather than a reactive, deterministic, analytical approach, to risk assessment, and the need to ensure that long-term climate projections can be better translated into short-term adaptation and disaster risk reduction action, while looking at the long-term adaptation and mitigation trajectories.

Yet another intervention referred to the need for quantitative risk management frameworks, comprising the three phases of risk avoidance or risk prevention, risk mitigation, and addressing residual impacts in such a way that recovery and rebuilding efforts address residual impacts and risks in the affected area.

Regarding the three agendas of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage; adaptation; and disaster risk reduction, reference was made to the need for more guidance on the linkages between and integration of these three areas, as well as for enhanced collaboration and cooperation at the global, regional and national level. It was noted that this could lead to co-benefits and cross-fertilization of these efforts, although challenges remain, particularly with regard to integrating the agendas of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage on the one side, and disaster risk reduction on the other, mainly owing to institutional aspects. In this context, reference was made by the representative of UNDRR to the ongoing midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the monitoring mechanism established under the Sendai Framework for reporting on progress in disaster risk reduction, including progress related to the reduction of disaster-related losses and damages, as possible areas for enhancing co-benefits of efforts being undertaken under the two agendas of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage and disaster risk reduction.

In terms of other opportunities, the LCIPP representative outlined the importance of recognizing and enhancing synergies between diverse knowledge systems and scientific systems, with special consideration of the importance of indigenous science and the added value it has to offer, including with regard to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage. The representative of the LEG highlighted the benefits of using a systems approach, such as the NAP-SDG integrative framework developed by the LEG, in order to better support countries in understanding climate change adaptation and other frameworks, as well as potential opportunities for NAPs to also feature information on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

The fourth volume of the best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs that are commonly addressed across countries as provided by the LEG identifies the following ten core systems: agriculture, food security, energy security, water resources and management, life and safety, health and human well-being, coastal zones, economic planning and activities, human settlements and housing, general ecosystems, unique biodiversity and infrastructure, with cross-cutting issues such as gender considered under each of these systems.