

Eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, Bonn, Germany, 10–12 March 2020

Reference document for item 5(b)

Development of technical guides*About this document*

This document provides information on the mandate for the Executive Committee and its expert groups to develop technical guides and offers key considerations for an approach to respond to this mandate.

The Excom will be invited to consider and agree on the process, approach and timeframe for the development of the technical guides, including any guidance to its thematic expert groups on next steps.

I. Mandate

1. As part of the outcomes of the second review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM) in 2019, Parties requested the WIM Executive Committee (Excom) and its thematic expert groups to develop technical guides within their work on their respective thematic areas, avoiding duplication of work across workstreams, which include sections on the following:¹

- a) Risk assessments, including long-term risk assessments, of climate change impacts;
- b) Approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the risk assessments;
- c) Resources available for supporting such approaches;
- d) Monitoring systems for assessing the effectiveness of these approaches.

II. Key considerations for the approach in developing the technical guides

2. In developing the guides, there are a number of issues that may be considered to inform next steps on scope; roles and responsibilities of each expert group; process; modalities of work and key milestones. Considering these aspects of the work and capturing them in a format such as a terms of reference (ToR) or concept note at Excom 11 will provide the Excom and its thematic expert groups a common framing for the approach, process and timeframe in fulfilling this mandate.

A. The scope of the technical guides

3. The Excom has five workstreams, (a) through (e), namely: slow onset events (SOEs), non-economic losses (NELs), comprehensive risk management (CRM), human mobility, and action and support (A&S). Among the five workstreams, three workstreams deal with broad thematic aspects of loss and damage, namely SOEs, NELs and human mobility, while CRM and A&S are cross-cutting to each of the other three themes.

4. The CRM workstream covers the technical aspects of sections (a) ‘risk assessments’ and (b) ‘approaches’ of the proposed sections of the technical guides while the SOEs, NELs and human mobility² workstreams specify the thematic areas for assessments and a range of approaches.

¹ Decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 26.

² Human mobility in the context of Workstream (d) comprises migration, displacement and planned

5. The CRM workstream disaggregates approaches into, inter alia, emergency preparedness, including early warning systems; measures to enhance recovery and rehabilitation and build back/forward better; social protection instruments, including social safety nets; and transformational approaches.
6. The expert groups on SOEs, NELs and A&S are yet to be fully launched, although a database of organizations working on SOEs is available and work is already underway to publish a peer-reviewed journal special issue on SOEs. Collaboration between the new group on A&S and the Standing Committee on Finance and the Green Climate Fund is expected to start this year.
7. There are several ways in which the guides could be developed – one per workstream, or a joint guide that covers the relevant aspects of each workstream and addresses each of the elements in paragraph 1 above. The decision could depend on the target audience, as discussed below.
8. Another key consideration is the format of the guides. Assuming the guides will help navigate users toward relevant materials and guidelines in the domain of each of the workstreams, a user-friendly and facilitative format should be adopted. If the guides are interactive and online-based, then a flexible mapping of links to different knowledge resources could also be implemented.
9. In the case of printed guides, consideration would need to be given to how to package the information while avoiding duplication of work.
10. Target audience. Understanding the needs of users of the technical guides is crucial for defining the scope of the contents as well as the format of final product(s). The WIM is geared towards developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. In this regard, the technical guides should potentially be aimed at practitioners in those countries.
11. Further scoping and clarification of the specific sections of the guides, including those listed in paragraph 1 above, could be conducted through an iterative process between the Excom and its thematic expert groups, where an initial outline is proposed followed by reviews and updates, taking into account feedback from in-country end-users. Flexibility in the production of the guides will maximize their utility and responsiveness to the needs of countries.

B. Roles and responsibilities of the Excom and its thematic expert groups

12. As of February 2020, the Task Force on Displacement (TFD) and the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management (TEG-CRM) are in operation with their own plans of action. At Excom 11, the terms of reference of the expert groups on SOEs and NELs will be revised with a view to launching the groups.³ In addition, a new expert group to enhance action and support will also be established by the end of 2020.⁴ This expert group is mandated to collaborate with the other thematic expert groups to undertake the work on the technical guides.⁵
13. In distributing the roles between the thematic expert groups, the information above should be taken into account in respect to milestones for delivery, since three of the groups will only start their work in earnest mid to end of 2020.

C. Modalities of work

14. Given the availability of resources and considering the variety of operational arrangements available to different thematic expert groups, a certain level of flexibility should be provided to each group in deciding how they organize and undertake their responsibilities for specific thematic parts of the technical guides. Adequate opportunities should also be created for the different groups to work together, through the Excom, to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of work.

relocation related to the adverse impacts of climate change.

³ Decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 25.

⁴ Decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 40.

⁵ Decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 41(c).

D. Process and milestones

15. Broad participation and buy-in from practitioners in developing countries should be the guiding principle for developing the guides. Establishing a consultative process in the development of the technical guides, allowing for feedback and input at the country level should help lead to the required buy-in.

16. Within each thematic area, the relevant expert group could kick-off the work by identifying specific potential users/user-groups of the technical guides, and potentially develop questions that would help shape the final product to cater to country needs. This kind of scoping exercise should help distil information gap and needs, e.g., what types of activities/initiatives developing countries implement in managing climate risks, what types of resources/capacity/tools are required for implementation, etc.

17. Adequate time should be allocated for the full development of the guides. The process could potentially be carried out in incremental stages, including through: 1) development of a concept note/terms of reference for the delivery of the technical guides; 2) determination of an outline, specific milestones and indicative timeframe for delivery; 3) the preparation of draft technical guides; 4) conducting pilot exercise(s) to assess effectiveness/usefulness of the guides; 5) finalization, publication and dissemination.

18. The Excom may wish to consider establishing an ad-hoc joint working group with, or facilitate the establishment across, the thematic expert groups, who will oversee, coordinate and work collaboratively in developing the technical guides.

19. In making a decision about how to prepare these technical guides, the Excom should draw upon the work of other bodies and organizations that prepare analogous guides, whether inside or outside the Convention process (see e.g. Technology Executive Committee Briefs, UNDRR Fact Sheets, FAO Technical Guides, etc).

III. Action at Excom 11

20. The Excom will be invited to consider and agree on the process, approach and timeframe for the development of the technical guides, including any guidance to its thematic expert groups on next steps.
