

Ninth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, Bonn, Germany, 09–11 April 2019

Background paper

Item 5 Collaboration and interlinkages with other bodies and work programmes under the UNFCCC: Collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee on the development of a joint policy brief on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones

About this document

This document provides background and previous consideration on the development of the joint policy brief of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and the Technology Executive Committee (section I), information on the intersessional work (section II), next steps (section III), and a draft outline of the policy paper and an initial note for an expert dialogue (annexes).

I. Background

1. In the context of activity 3(a) of the strategic workstream (c) of the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM Excom),¹ the WIM Excom and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) held a joint session on 16 March 2018 in conjunction with Excom 7 and the sixteenth meeting of the TEC, to discuss specific actions for collaboration between the two bodies.
2. The two committees agreed to jointly develop a policy brief on technologies for coastal zones with the aim of releasing it at or by COP25 (December 2019), and established a joint working group to continue the work intersessionally, including the development of a concept note.
3. Excom 8 (September 2018) endorsed the concept note which includes the scope of the policy brief, modality of work, roles and responsibilities of different actors and indicative milestones, including an organization of an expert dialogue. Excom 8 also requested the secretariat to start engaging relevant organizations for scoping and drafting of the policy brief.

II. Information on the intersessional work

4. In line with the concept note, the intersessional working group,² with the assistance of the secretariat, has advanced the technical work, including developing a high-level outline of the policy brief based on the concept note endorsed at Excom 8, and preparing for the expert dialogues. See a draft outline contained in annex 1.

Engagement of relevant organizations and experts

¹ See: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2017/sb/eng/01a01e.pdf>

² The joint working group includes two Executive Committee liaison members (Mr. Nedal Kathebbader and Mr. Kimio Takeya) and two representatives of the TEC task force on emerging and cross-cutting issues (Ms. Adelle Thomas and Mr. Mareer Mohamed Husny).

5. According to the concept note for the joint policy brief, relevant experts in the field of technologies for coastal zone and loss and damage will be engaged, on a voluntary basis, in the work of the joint working group, as appropriate.

6. The secretariat, under the guidance of the joint working group, has started reaching out to relevant organizations and experts to seek their interest, using various channels such as the Nairobi work programme partners network³ and the consortium partners and network members of the CTCN. A call for expressions of interest has also been advertised through the loss and damage parts of the UNFCCC website.

7. As at the publication of this note, several organizations and experts have submitted their interest to be involved in providing substantive contributions in the drafting of the joint policy brief as well as participating as resource persons in the expert dialogue.

Expert dialogue

8. Through the outreaching work, (potential) partner organizations engaged, to date, include the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) who has offered to convene an expert dialogue, which is one of the milestones as contains in the concept note. The joint working group subsequently agreed to partner with the IAI.⁴

9. As of the publication of this note, the indicative time of the expert dialogue, pending confirmation, is spring 2019. As part of the preparation for the expert dialogue, the joint working group developed an initial note (see annex 2).

III. Next steps

10. The WIM Excom may wish to take note of the progress made by the joint working group intersessionally, consider the information contained in annex I and II of this document and discuss any further guidance, as necessary.

11. The WIM Excom may further wish to consider a way in which they contribute to the expert dialogue on the development of the joint policy brief, e.g. through the liaison members, participation, written input, etc., as well as to the drafting process of the policy brief. It may also wish to consider a potential communication plan to disseminate the final product prior or at COP25.

³ See:
<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/Search.aspx?k=&tags={%22informationtype%22:%22nwppartnerprofile%22}>

⁴ IAI is a scientific organization with expertise in the field of marine/ocean ecosystems. For more information about IAI, please visit <http://www.iai.int/>

Annex I

Draft outline of the policy brief

Draft title of the policy brief: Technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones

Indicative Audience: Policymakers and practitioners at sub-national, national, regional and international scales

1. Introduction⁵

- Brief overview of types of loss and damage experienced in coastal zones i.e. economic and non-economic;
- Brief overview of approaches and options for recovery and rehabilitation in coastal zones;
- Brief overview of comprehensive risk management. i.e. risk assessment, risk reduction, risk transfer and risk retention;⁶
- Brief overview of categorisation of technology options. i.e. hardware, software, orgware.

2. Technologies for Coastal Zone Risk Assessment

- Overview of types (hardware, software, orgware) of technologies available to observe and assess climate impacts on the coastal sector, including those associated with slow onset events (perhaps pull from CTCN);
- Opportunities and challenges;
- Case studies of use of select technologies.

3. Technologies for Coastal Zone Risk Retention

- Overview of types of available technologies that can be used to both manage and accommodate climate impacts (perhaps pull from CTCN) including hardware, software, orgware;
- Opportunities and challenges;
- Case studies of use of select technologies.

4. Technologies for Recovery and Rehabilitation in Coastal Zone

- Overview of types of technologies available (perhaps pull from CTCN) including hardware, software, orgware;
- Opportunities and challenges;
- Case studies of use of select technologies.

⁵ Technical terms used in this policy brief should be described and accessible to non-technical audiences.

⁶ From the scope of the policy brief, as detailed in Paragraph 8 of the concept note for a joint policy brief between the ExCom and the TEC, the brief should focus on technology options to “observe and assess” and to “manage and accommodate”. These two areas follow under risk assessment and risk retention in the comprehensive risk management framework. Thus, the policy brief should focus on technology options for these two areas. This is useful to provide a focus for the brief and to allow for in-depth discussion of these two areas as it relates to technology options.

Annex II

Initial note for the expert dialogue on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones

Location: TBC

Date: TBC

1. Coastal zones are sensitive to climate change risks. Coastal areas face a range of issues like inundation and erosion of coastlines, salinization of freshwater reserves, damage and loss of physical infrastructure and degradation of marine ecosystem as well as non-economic losses to coastal communities and ecosystems.

2. Impacts of such risks are unevenly distributed within and across different communities, countries and regions due to climate-related disruptions, exposure and vulnerability. Some climate change risks may be unforeseeable at the time of planning, foreseen but accepted due to resource constraints or socioeconomic impact tradeoffs, or foreseen but unavoidable because response actions are unfeasible. Despite these challenges, the accessibility and availability of appropriate and adequate technologies (i.e. hardware, software, and orgware) may be able to avert, minimize, and address some of these risks in coastal areas.

3. This event will be co-organized by the UNFCCC Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change (WIM ExCom)⁷ and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC)⁸ in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI),⁹ in conjunction with the regional communication workshop organized by IAI.

Participants:

4. Leading International experts and practitioners on the themes described above will participate. Those experts who have expressed interest in contributing towards the development of a WIM ExCom-TEC joint policy brief on the topic of technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones will take part in the discussions, including:

- (a) Contributors and reviewers of the joint policy brief;
- (b) Representatives of the WIM ExCom and the TEC;
- (c) Participants in the IAI regional communication workshop;
- (d) Other relevant experts and practitioners.

Background:

5. To enhance the coherence of the efforts by the WIM ExCom and the TEC, the WIM ExCom invited the TEC¹⁰ to discuss specific actions for collaboration, including the **development of a joint policy brief** on the area of technologies for coastal zones.

6. The two committees have since prepared and adopted a concept note for the joint policy brief as well as indicative milestones for the collaboration. The organization of an expert dialogue is one of the milestones that is planned to be held in spring 2019.

7. This expert dialogue will convene leading experts, practitioners and policy makers to discuss and share information on technologies for coastal zone risk assessment (observe and assess), risk retention (manage and accommodate), and recovery and rehabilitation, including case studies from different geophysical environmental settings. The results of this dialogue will facilitate and feed into the **development of a joint policy brief** on technologies for

⁷ For more information about the WIM Excom, please visit <https://unfccc.int/7543>.

⁸ For more information about the TEC, please visit <http://unfccc.int/tclear/tec>.

⁹ For more information about IAI, please visit <http://www.iai.int/>.

¹⁰ Strategic workstream (c) of its five-year rolling workplan. For more information about WIM ExCom's five-year rolling workplan, please visit <https://unfccc.int/documents/28319#beg>.

averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, including recovery and rehabilitation in coastal zones.

Objectives of the event:

8. The dialogue aims to

(a) Facilitate the development of the joint policy brief on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones;

(b) Enhance the understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches¹¹ in the context of coastal zones;

(c) Identify available technologies, including local and indigenous technologies, that can be used for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones, and share information on good practices, opportunities, challenges and lessons learned in implementing these technologies;

(d) Stimulate actions to understand and bridge knowledge and relevant public policy gaps;

(e) Identify further actions, including policy actions, that could be taken by various stakeholders to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in coastal zones.

Indicative agenda:

Time	Agenda item
09:30 – 09:50	Opening remarks (<i>WIM Excom, TEC, IAI</i>)
09:50 – 10:15	Setting the scene: Climate change impacts on coastal zones (a scientific perspective)
10:15 – 10:40	Setting the scene: Climate change impacts on coastal zones (a public policy perspective)
10:40 – 11:10	Brief overview of comprehensive risk management and types of loss and damage experienced in the context of coastal zones
11:10 – 11:25	Coffee break
11:25 – 12:25	Technologies for coastal zone risk assessments <i>Possible format: Overview presentation of available technologies, case studies, opportunities and challenges, knowledge and public policy gaps, followed by discussion</i>
12:25 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:30	Technologies for coastal zone risk retention <i>Possible format: Overview presentation of available technologies, case studies, opportunities and challenges, knowledge and public policy gaps, followed by discussion</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Technologies for recovery and rehabilitation in coastal zones <i>Possible format: Overview presentation of available technologies, case studies, opportunities and challenges, knowledge and public policy gaps, followed by discussion</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:45	Discussion on potential further actions by various stakeholders <i>Possible format: break out groups (if enough participants)</i>
16:45 – 17:15	Wrap up and closing

¹¹ For more information about comprehensive risk management approaches, please visit: <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/areas-of-work/comprehensive-risk-management-approaches>.