



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK INTERVENTION

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

October, 2020

Climate Action Network (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1300 members in over 120 countries.

www.climatenetwork.org

Climate extremes are already causing significant losses and damages impacting people around the world. Despite the COVID-19 crisis dominating the global media, irreversible climate impacts are still taking place around the world. We see loss and damage in Sudan where unprecedented flooding has claimed at least 100 lives and damaged or destroyed more than 110,000 homes¹. We see loss and damage in Bangladesh where people have struggled with 3 months of flooding, with 1/3rd of the country underwater and 1.5 million people affected². Between June to September, Nepal, recorded extreme rainfall triggered landslides that killed 359 people³, and initial assessment shows that more than 20 thousand families from 400 villages need to be permanently shifted to safer places. Many of these people are from marginalized and indigenous communities. But it's not just the developing world which are facing these extreme weather events. Wildfires have been raging in Siberia, Australia, and Brazil. In the US, huge swathes of the West Coast have burned, killing more than 30 people and forcing tens of thousands from their homes, driven by warm temperatures and unusually dry conditions⁴.

Given the global importance of Loss and Damage (L&D) and the critical role that the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) Executive Committee plays, we are hoping that this meeting of the Executive Committee makes the necessary decisions and takes the actions appropriate to the scale of the problem we are all facing worldwide, and considering differentiated vulnerabilities and impacts on the lives, livelihoods, ecosystems and economies.

At this meeting, we are expecting to see expert groups set up on non-economic loss and damage, slow onset events and action and support. In the establishment of these expert groups, we expect their membership to represent the broad diversity of stakeholders necessary for informed debate and action. This diversity must be aligned with the guidance contained in

¹ <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/147288/record-flooding-in-sudan>

² <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/7/14/a-third-of-bangladesh-underwater-after-heavy-rains-floods>

³ <https://gorkhapatraonline.com/national/2020-10-07-24236?fbclid=IwAR2McOsNoVNt7T08cKXo5Pc5ZQtOTryLtg2ntsz44Aw3Z-nFT0PSGm5l1yk>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-54180049>

the UNFCCC gender action plan, and this must include representation from civil society so that we can effectively contribute to support this important work.

The expert group on action and support needs to think 'outside the box'. It is important that the work of this group not only engages with internal UNFCCC processes such as the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF); The expert group should also explore alternative sources outside the convention, alongside public finance from the developed countries, to generate the level of financing necessary to adequately respond to the escalating needs. It must be recognised that any further delay in mobilising resources to address loss and damage has devastating impacts on the vulnerable communities and countries already battling the climate crisis.

It would be important that the ExCom sets aside time during this meeting to also update on the next steps for operationalizing the Santiago Network. This has been passed to the SB's in accordance with Decision 1.C.P. 25, but it remains vital that their actions are guided by the knowledge and expertise of the ExCom members. It is only with your active engagement that the Santiago network can be established with due consideration of its role, mandate and the urgency to start work and to make sure that it serves the needs of most vulnerable people in developing countries.

At this meeting, we are also expecting the ExCom to consider its role with regard to the inclusion of L&D in the Global Stocktake including status of access to early warning systems and early actions to prevent losses and damages. Moreover, for the 2020 Report of the ExCom we are expecting a balanced report that covers both activities that have been conducted but also gaps and challenges for the work of the ExCom. A standardized template for the ExCom report could ensure such comprehensive reporting that allows for gaps being addressed in the next working period.

The stocktake and monitoring mechanism should include access to climate services including early warning systems and forecast based early action mechanisms to save lives and properties at risk. Loss and damage action must align with the Sendai Framework and ensure no one is left behind.

Finally, we recognise that a lot of effort went into convening the WIM review session prior to COP25 in Madrid. Sadly, because of the COVID-19 pandemic we haven't had the opportunity to meet face to face since then, but the findings of that review remain relevant and must shape and inform the future actions of the ExCom. The review clearly identified action, support, and financing for loss and damage as the priorities. It is the responsibility of the ExCom to see that progress is made on these issues and this week is a great opportunity to do just that.