

Station Note

World Café at TD 1.3

Station 10: How can domestic policies facilitated by international cooperation address slow-onset events, which may result in loss and damage?

Facilitator: Animesh Kumar (UNDRR)

Expert: Anna Pirani (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change)

Scenario

[Guiding questions to be used to steer the discussion, and not as Q&A]

This is a World Café station on a topic that has not yet received sufficient attention during the GST Technical Dialogue and serve as a starting point for broader discussions. In the context of loss and damage, extreme events are often the focus, while here we will orient the discussion on how slow onset events are addressed through policy development and implementation in the context of international cooperation. Hence, this World Café will initiate discussions within the larger context of loss and damage, but with a specific focus on slow onset events. The discussion also focuses particularly on addressing L&D, recognising the minimising and averting are also important parts of the overall approach to comprehensively managing risks from slow onset events. The specificity in the question does not mean that broader issues cannot be raised by participants.

Some background information is provided in Appendix 1.

Question for Scene-setting:

- a. What is the level of progress in addressing loss and damage related to slow onset events?
 - b. What are the gaps and challenges?
 - c. What further action is required to strengthen these efforts?
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Question for Slow onset events:

- 1) Domestic policies:
 - a) What domestic policies are in place to address slow onset events?
 - b) How are these policies implemented and improved and how is progress monitored?
 - c) What are the successes, lessons learned and knowledge gaps?
- 2) Knowledge gaps
 - a) What is the role of climate information and services?
 - b) How to confront these issues when people are naturally more responsive to shorter term interests?
- 3) International cooperation
 - a) How can international cooperation support progress and capacity development?
 - b) How can financing, both public and international, be scaled-up and better use to support action on slow onset events?

Appendix 1

Background

Climate change has already caused widespread impacts and related losses and damages on human systems and altered terrestrial, freshwater and ocean ecosystems worldwide. Risks and projected adverse impacts escalate with every increment of global warming, with regional changes in mean climate and extremes becoming more widespread and pronounced. There are limits to adaptation and adaptive capacity for some human and natural systems at global warming of 1.5°C, and with every increment of warming, losses and damages will increase.

Slow onset events refer to the risks and impacts associated with, for example:

- Sea level rise
- Increasing global mean temperatures
- Ocean acidification
- Glacial retreat
- Salinization
- Land and forest degradation
- Loss of biodiversity
- Desertification

Slow onset events evolve gradually from incremental changes occurring over many years or from an increased frequency or intensity of recurring events and lead to cascading and long-lasting impacts on people and ecosystems. The most recent IPCC reports (AR6) highlight climate-resilient development and that adaptation options that are feasible and effective today will become constrained and less effective with increasing global warming.

With increasing global warming, losses and damages will increase and additional human and natural systems will reach adaptation limits. Comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with slow onset impacts may be distinct, or interconnected, or also complementary, and with different time horizons to those needed for immediate disaster response to and recovery from fast onset events. Technical guidelines for assessing climate change impacts and adaptation, the integration of climate services and information, including systematic observations, scenarios and enhanced capacity to assess vulnerability, support the development, implementation and monitoring of domestic policies, as well as international cooperation.

Article 8 of the Paris Agreement identifies slow onset events as an area of cooperation and facilitation to enhance understanding, action and support with regarding loss and damage. It also affirms the importance of support for and international cooperation on adaptation efforts. A Transitional Committee established through the COP27 decision is focusing on new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, including to address loss and damage.