

# Summary of activities and report from the second meeting of the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management

October 2020

## I. Introduction and background

1. The TEG-CRM developed a Plan of Action (PoA) at its first meeting (August 2019), which was subsequently endorsed by the Excom at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting (October 2019).<sup>1</sup>
2. The second meeting of the TEG-CRM (TEG-CRM 2)<sup>2</sup> took place via MS Teams on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The objective of TEG-CRM 2 was to share updates on the implementation status of the PoA by leads/co-leads of activities and assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on ongoing or planned actions.
3. Preceding Excom 12 (12-16<sup>th</sup> October 2020), the technical members provided an additional round of updates that demonstrate progress and advancement in implementation of activities in spite of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
4. This document presents a report on progress based on the TEG-CRM 2 meeting and subsequent updates provided by members.

## II. Recent relevant developments from the broader UNFCCC context (Excom updates)

5. 2019 Review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM): As part of the modalities for the review of the WIM at COP 25/CMA 2, a one-day event was held where the TEG-CRM, represented by Excom TEG-CRM champions- Christoph von Stechow and Linda Siegele, presented its work and shared perspectives on synergies, coherence and collaboration.<sup>3</sup>
6. The newly emerged mandates at CMA 2 provide opportunities for the TEG-CRM to collaborate with and plan for joint activities with other thematic expert groups of the Excom. These include- the endorsement and launch of the Terms of Reference for the Slow Onset Events; Non-Economic Losses; and the Action & Support Excom expert groups. Further, the development of technical guides containing sections, inter alia, on risk assessments of climate change impacts, is expected to enable TEG-CRM to establish collaborations with other expert groups under the Excom.
7. Excom 11 reporting (March 2020): Excom TEG-CRM champion, Le-Anne Roper, reported to the Excom on the progress of the implementation of the TEG-CRM PoA. The updates were following submissions from experts ahead of the meeting.
8. The Excom will inform the TEG-CRM of ways forward upon the conclusion of their ongoing intersessional consideration.
9. Members were encouraged to coordinate the implementation of the activities of the PoA which concern mandates of other constituted bodies of the Convention, with the respective constituted body(ies), via the Excom, to ensure the overall coherence of action under the UNFCCC process.

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<sup>1</sup>The Plan of Action of the TEG-CRM is available at < <https://unfccc.int/documents/230513> >.

<sup>2</sup> For further information on TEG-CRM 2, see <<https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/groups-committees/loss-and-damage-executive-committee/2nd-meeting-of-the-excom-technical-expert-group-on-comprehensive-risk-management>>.

<sup>3</sup> For further information on the 2019 WIM review event, 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/2019-wim-review-event#eq-1>>.

### III. Updates on the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action

10. At TEG-CRM 2, eight lead/co-lead members provided oral reports on the implementation status of their respective activities from the PoA and any changes in their planning since the adoption of the PoA. Two technical members – World Food Programme<sup>4</sup> (WFP) and Climate Analytics<sup>5</sup> provided written PoA updates. In the lead up to Excom 12, technical members United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), ActionAid International, and, Mohammed VI Polytechnic provided written updates.

The following are the highlights from TEG-CRM 2:

11. Activities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: Some of the planned actions for 2020 had been impacted, most notably those intended to have been undertaken in conjunction with in-person conferences. Yet, the updates also demonstrated the interest amongst the technical members to find other channels to continue implementation. In particular:

(a) UNDRR and International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) technical members updated on the COVID-19 disrupted activities which had been anchored in the NAP Expo, the Adaptation Futures and 52<sup>nd</sup> sessions of the subsidiary bodies (SB 52) in 2020 (activities A.1 and 5a A.1);

(b) WFP technical member informed that the activity on the preparation of a paper on risk layering had been delayed (5b B.4);

(c) The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) technical member reported that the paper on risk governance (activity 5b B.4) is delayed but expected to resume work in the fall of 2020;

(d) Technical member, Linda Siegele, reported that the work on the use of artificial intelligence in further developing CRM approaches (activity 2d D.4) had been delayed due to the closure of the university from the impacts of COVID-19;

(e) Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) technical member updated on activity 5a A.1 in collaboration with UNDRR on a workshop on “Unifying climate risk data at the country level” which had been planned to take place at SB 52. Though SB 52 is postponed, the concept note had been prepared, and MCII was keen on implementing the activity through another relevant conference.

12. Activities on track and/or implemented in spite of COVID-19 pandemic: The development of technical and knowledge products are mostly still on track. In particular:

(a) UNDRR technical member informed that activities 2a A.3 (expert meeting on risk assessment) and 5b B.3 (regional expert workshops) are still on track though the exact dates were still to be determined;

(b) WFP technical member reported that four activities had been implemented in 2019 (activities 2a iv; 2d,D.3; 5b, B.2; 5c, C.2);

(c) IIASA technical member reported that activity D.1 on a book project on incremental and transformational approaches is progressing well. The book would contain 24 chapters, and was expected to be completed by May 2021;

(d) IISD technical member informed that activity 2a A.4 pertaining to the development of a NAP database would be completed by 2021;

(e) Climate Analytics updated on activity 2d D.1 that a journal article related to the TEG-CRM’s work on slow onset hazard, had been submitted;

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<sup>4</sup> For written update by WFP, see <<https://unfccc.int/documents/231533>>.

<sup>5</sup> For written update by Climate Analytics, see <<https://unfccc.int/documents/231677>>.

(f) UNDRR technical member informed of the outcomes of the workshop on observations and risk assessment (activity 4a A.2), organized by the secretariat jointly with the World Meteorological Organization and UNDRR on 29–30 October 2019, Bonn.<sup>6</sup>

13. The updates helped the TEG-CRM assess the extent (e.g., the implementation time frame) to which the PoA may need to be modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

14. The group noted the importance of a coherent and coordinated approach to implementing the individual elements of the PoA. In particular, WFP has reached out to IFRC to contribute to the paper on forecast-based approaches (activity 2c C.1).

15. The participants discussed the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the interaction and the interconnectedness of multiple risks (health, climate change, natural disasters) as manifested in cascading impacts on vulnerable communities and countries.

16. Several members highlighted that additional challenges due to compound risks are necessitating adjustments of disaster management practices and that it is important to capture lessons learned and insights gathered through their respective organizations into the TEG-CRM PoA.

17. The following are updates provided by members after the TEG-CRM 2 meeting:

(a) ActionAid International (Activity C.1): ActionAid, DIE, IFRC and WFP are developing a technical paper on Social Protection and will be submitted mid-November 2020. IFRC and WFP are in the process of collaborating to adapt their knowledge and experiences on Forecast Based financing approaches to feed into the WIM agenda;

(b) UNDRR (Activities 2a I, 5a A.1, and, 4a A2): UNDRR is currently working with GIZ to draft a Technical Guide on “Action-Oriented Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Planning in the Context of Climate Change.” The joint project aims to support risk assessments by reviewing existing methodologies and approaches and how to use this information for planning processes. The project is motivated by decision 2/CMA.2 to develop technical guides on “risk assessments, including long-term risk assessments, of climate change impacts” Several TEG-CRM experts are providing input and advice for the development of this guide. The guide is also of relevance to ongoing work related to NAPs (linkages with activity 5b), both benefiting from and feeding into those discussions. UNDRR had initially committed to hold a workshop on risk profiles (A.1) but given COVID-19 pandemic, the focus is now on developing an action-oriented and practical guide. The involvement of knowledge from stakeholders from different sectors is envisioned and strongly encouraged. Subsequently, UNDRR has requested to reach out to WIM Excom members for their inputs;

(c) UNDRR is planning to hold two regional workshops over the next six months . The regional workshops will identify regional stakeholders and needs related to climate risk management (building on activity A.2 above) and to support the development of national and subnational DRR plans, inclusive of ecosystem-based solutions, informed by climate risk;

(d) Mohammed VI Polytechnic: Technical member Fatima Driouech provided update on finalizing an open online course (MOOC) on the “Importance of climate information in risk assessment and adaptation”, with a focus on Africa by end of November. Second, it is also developing a Guide to integrate the effect of climate change into water management in the Maghreb region with a great risk of drought.

(e) International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD): The IISD on behalf of the NAP Global Network conducted a regional peer learning summit for 12 countries in the Pacific(15 and 23 November) to discuss, among others,how the community assessments – in particular, the Integrated Vulnerability Assessments (IVA) being rolled out across the region – can play a role in monitoring and evaluation. With respect to tagging CRM approaches in the NAP database, the beta version will be available in the first quarter of 2021.

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<sup>6</sup> The report of the workshop is available at:  
<<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Report%20of%20the%20Stakeholder%20Workshop.pdf>> .

#### **IV. Agreed next steps at TEG-CRM 2**

18. The TEG-CRM 2 agreed that lead or co-lead of activities submit to the secretariat by 7 August 2020 the following:

(a) Written updates of the implementation status of their respective activities; and

(b) Any textual changes, if needed, including on indicative timeframe, to the current PoA due to the impacts from Covid-19. Such changes are to be kept at a minimum.

19. In the case where the PoA is modified, the Excom members of the TEG-CRM will liaise with the Excom for the endorsement of the revised PoA.

20. The TEG-CRM requested the secretariat to capture online resources shared via MS Teams during the meeting and make the compilation available online.<sup>7</sup>

21. The TEG-CRM, at its first meeting, planned to organize one meeting per year, to be held in conjunction with other relevant conference/meetings. Given the uncertainty of the Covid-19, the TEG-CRM deferred its consideration of the date(s) of its next meeting.

22. Members are encouraged to use the TEG-CRM mailing list to stay in touch with each other and to coordinate, as appropriate, the implementation of the activities, including those which may concern mandates of other constituted bodies of the UNFCCC, to increase overall coherence. The secretariat will advise the TEC-CRM on upcoming opportunities, if any, for virtual engagement(s) under the UNFCCC.

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<sup>7</sup> See the meeting webpage for the compilation <<https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/groups-committees/loss-and-damage-executive-committee/2nd-meeting-of-the-excom-technical-expert-group-on-comprehensive-risk-management>> .