

Summary of the second meeting of the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management Monday 6 July 2020, 15:30–17:00 (CEST)



I. Introduction and background

1. The Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) is the main vehicle under the UNFCCC to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner. The Executive Committee (Excom) guides the implementation of the functions of the WIM through a five-year rolling workplan.

2. The Excom launched the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management (TEG-CRM) at its 9th meeting (April 2019)¹ to help execute the work of the Excom, in particular its strategic workstream (c).² The TEG-CRM developed a Plan of Action (PoA) at its first meeting (August 2019),³ which was subsequently endorsed by the Excom at its 10th meeting (October 2019), followed by Parties at COP 25/CMA 2 (December 2019).⁴

3. The 2nd meeting of the TEG-CRM (TEG-CRM 2) took place on 6 July 2020 via MS Teams.⁵ This report provides a summary of proceedings, an overview of the implementation updates verbally reported by leads and co-leads of activities, and the next steps agreed at the meeting.

4. Two members of the Excom who served in the TEG-CRM, Christoph Stechow and Erling Kvernevi from the Annex I Party constituency, ended their Excom membership terms in March 2020. They were succeeded by Jelena Milos and Viktoriia Shtets in the TEG-CRM, who were elected as Excom member at COP 25 (December 2019).

¹ For the TEG-CRM membership, see [here](#).

² Strategic workstream (c): Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to comprehensive risk management approaches (including assessment, reduction, transfer and retention) to address and build long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities to loss and damage, including in relation to extreme and slow onset events, inter alia, through: 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.

³ For further information on TEG-CRM 1, see [here](#).

⁴ For the Plan of Action of the TEG-CRM, see [here](#).

⁵ For further information on TEG-CRM 2, see [here](#).

II. Proceedings

5. The objective of TEG-CRM 2 was to share updates on the implementation status of the Plan of Action (PoA) by leads/co-leads of activities and assess the impacts of COVID-19 on ongoing or planned actions.
6. Le-Anne Roper and Viktoriia co-chaired the 1.5-hour meeting. It brought together 17 members of the TEG-CRM together with four Excom members facilitating the TEG-CRM. See Annex 1 for the list of participants. Two members, Maarten, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Ekhosuehi, Insurance Development Forum, sent regrets.
7. TEG-CRM 2 comprised four sessions: adoption of the agenda and introduction of the new members (session 1); updates on the recent relevant developments from the broader context of the UNFCCC (session 2); updates on the progress in the implementation of the PoA (session 3); and next steps (session 4). The agenda of the meeting is contained in Annex II.
8. Updates by the members leading/co-leading activities revealed that some of the planned actions for 2020 had been impacted by COVID-19, most notably those intended to have been undertaken in conjunction with in-person conferences, such as COP 26, the 2020 NAP Expo, the 2020 Adaptation Futures. However, the group confirmed that the development of technical and knowledge products are mostly still on track. The group also noted the importance of a coherent and coordinated approach to implementing the individual elements of the PoA.
9. The ensuing discussions centred around 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. 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.

III. Next steps

10. The TEG-CRM 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.
11. 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.
12. The TEG-CRM requested the secretariat to capture online resources shared via MS Teams during the meeting and make the compilation available online.⁶
13. 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.
14. 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.

⁶ See the meeting [webpage](#) for the compilation.

IV. Recent relevant developments from the broader UNFCCC context

15. The Excom members shared relevant outcomes of the review of the WIM at COP 25/CMA 2 (December 2019) and the 11th meeting of the Excom (Excom 11, March 2020).

16. As part of the modalities for the review of the WIM, a one-day event was held where the TEG-CRM, represented by Christoph and Linda Siegele, presented its work and shared perspectives on synergies, coherence, collaboration, and value-added of the TEG-CRM.⁷ At Excom 11, Le-Anne on behalf of the TEG-CRM reported back to the Excom on the progress of the implementation of the PoA, based on the written updates submitted by members from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and IFRC prior to the meeting.

17. The 2019 review of the WIM resulted in provisions to enhance cooperation and facilitation with respect to action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts. The newly emerged mandates at CMA 2 which are directly relevant to TEG-CRM include:

(a) The launching of expert groups for three other strategic workstreams of the Excom, namely on slow onset events, non-economic losses, and action and support; and

(b) The development of technical guides, containing sections, *inter alia*, on risk assessments of climate change impacts, associated approaches to averting, averting, minimizing and addressing them, available resources and monitoring systems for these approaches.⁸

18. These mandates provide opportunities for the TEG-CRM to collaborate with and plan for joint activities with other thematic expert groups of the Excom. Excom 11 kick-started work on these mandates and the Excom will inform the TEG-CRM of ways forward upon the conclusion of their ongoing intersessional consideration.

V. Updates on the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action

19. Eight lead/co-lead members provided oral reports consisted of the implementation status on their respective activities from the PoA and any changes in their planning since the adoption of the PoA. Annex III provides the information on the leads and co-leads of activities of the PoA. 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.

20. Harjeet Singh, ActionAid International, reported that ActionAid International is working closely with IFRC and the German Development Institute on social protection tools relating to slow onset events and climate finance. The first round of mapping was completed, and ActionAid International is finalizing the countries for case studies.

21. Donna Mitzi Lagdameo, UNDRR, reported that four out of eight activities of the PoA which they co-lead had been completed in 2019 (activities 4a A.1, A.2, 4a B.1, 4c). Of the remaining four activities:

- COVID-19 had disrupted activities which had been anchored in the NAP Expo, the Adaptation Futures and SB 52 in 2020 (activities A.1 and 5a A.1). 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. Updates on their status to be reported in due course; and
- The development of a technical guide on comprehensive risk management, in collaboration with other members of CRM (Climate Analytics, IIASA and IFRC) and

⁷ For further information on the 2019 WIM review event, see [here](#).

⁸ See Decision 2/CMA.2 for the full details.

supported by GIZ, will be the focus in 2020. The guide would contain case studies, including lessons that can be scaled up (Activity 2a i).

22. Giorgia Pergolini, World Food Programme (WFP),⁹ reported that four activities had been implemented in 2019 (activities 2a iv; 2d,D.3; 5b, B.2; 5c, C.2) and that activity on the preparation of a paper on risk layering had been delayed (5b B.4). WFP has reached out to IFRC to contribute to the paper on forecast-based approaches (2c C.1). See the [written update](#) submitted for the full updates.

23. Reinhard Mechler, IIASA updated as follows.

- 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;
- The paper on risk governance (activity 5b B.4) is delayed but expected to resume work in the fall of 2020.

24. Sonke Kreft, Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) updated on activity 5a A.1 on organizing, in collaboration with UNDRR, a workshop on “Unifying climate risk data at the country level” which had been planned to take place at the 52nd sessions of the subsidiary bodies (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.

25. Adelle Thomas, 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. See the [written update](#) submitted for the full updates.

26. Anne Hammill, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), reported that:

- The majority of the activities IISD leads are linked with events either at the NAP Expo or the Adaptation Futures conference, which had been postponed. IISD plans to provide updates of its activities of the TEG-CRM PoA when it received further information on these conferences; and
- Activity 2a A.4 pertaining to the development of a NAP database would be completed by 2021.

27. 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, and the timing of its continuation depends on the reopening of the university in the fall.

28. Lastly, the members were informed of 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.¹⁰

29. 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.

⁹ WFP co-leads on activities 2A1, 2C1, 2D3, 5B2 & 4 and 5C2.

¹⁰ The report of the workshop is available [here](#).

Annex I

List of participants

1. Aleksandrova, Mariya- The German Development Institute
2. Cardenas, Victor- Independent
3. Djalante, Riyanti- United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
4. James, Doris- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
5. Driouech, Fatima- Mohammed VI Polytechnic
6. Hammill, Anne- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
7. Kreft, Sonke- Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII)
8. Lagdameo, Donna Mitzi- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
9. Mechler, Reinhard- The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
10. Nadin, Rebecca- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
11. Pergolini, Giorgia- World Food Programme (WFP)
12. Rösner, Stefan- Deutscher Wetterdienst (DW)
13. Shrivastava, Aparna- Mercy Corps /Start Network
14. Siegele, Linda- Independent
15. Singh, Harjeet- ActionAid International
16. Stevens, David- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
17. Thomas, Adelle- Climate Analytics

Excom members of the TEG-CRM

Katbehbader, Nedal
Milos, Jelena
Roper, Le-Anne
Shtets, Viktoriia

UNFCCC Secretariat

Desanker, Paul
Kato, Miwa
Randhawa, Jasdeep
Chandra, Alvin

Annex II

Agenda of the 2nd meeting of the Technical Expert Group of Comprehensive Risk Management

AGENDA	
15:30–15:40	<p>1. Opening of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Introduction of the objective and agenda of the meetingb. Introduction of the new membersc. Adoption of the agenda
15:40 –15:50	<p>2. Updates from the TEG-CRM Champions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 2019 WIM Review event at COP 25/CMA.2b. 11th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (Excom 11)
15:50 – 16:30	<p>3. Updates from TEG-CRM leads and co-leads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Sharing of progress in implementation of the Plan of Action (since October 2019) around the following points:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status of work• Any changes in their planning since the adoption of the plan of action (time frame, approaches for implementation, the impact of COVID-19 on workplans, etc.)b. General discussion including on any potential synergy between activities
16:30–17:00	<p>4. Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The way forward, including any required revisions to the PoAb. Plans for working together and communicating until the next meetingc. Timeline for the next TEG-CRM meetingd. Any other business

Annex III

Leads and co-leads of activities of the Plan of Action¹¹

CRM Approaches

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Corresponding PoA Activities</i>
Victor Cardenas	Independent	2D3, 5A1, 5B4
Riyanti Djalante	United Nations University	2D1, 2D3, 5A2, 5B1, 5D1
Anne Hammill	IISD	2A1, 2A4, 2A5
Gernot Laganda	WFP	2A1, 2C1, 2D3, 5B2, 5C2
Ekhosuehi Iyahan	Insurance Development Forum	
Reinhard Mechler	IIASA	2A1, 2A3, 2D1, 2D4, 5B1, 5B4
Rebecca Nadin	ODI	2C1
Linda Ann Siegele	Independent	2D4, 5B4

Observation and Risk Assessment

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Corresponding PoA Activities</i>
James Doris	WMO	4A1, 4A2, 4B1, 4B2, 4C1
Fatima Driouech	University Mohamed VI Polytechnic	
Stefan Rösner	DW	
David Stevens	UNDRR	2A1, 2A3, 4A1, 4A2, 4B1, 4C1, 5A1, 5B3
Maarten van Aalst	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	2A1, 2A3, 2C1, 2D1, 2D3, 5B1, 5B2, 5B4
Harjeet Singh	ActionAid International	2C1, 5A3, 5C2

Risk profile

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Corresponding PoA Activities</i>
Litea Biukoto	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	
Soenke Kreft	MCII	5A1, 5A2, 5C1, 5C3
Aparna Shrivastava	Mercy Corps/Start Network	5A2, 5C2
Adelle Thomas	Climate Analytics	2A1, 2A3, 2A5, 2D1

Adhoc Member

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Corresponding PoA Activities</i>
Mariya Aleksandrova	The German Development Institute	2C1, 2D4

¹¹ For the Plan of Action of the TEG-CRM, see [here](#).