

Annex II

Terms of reference of the expert group on slow onset events of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism

I. Background

1. The WIM was established at COP 19 to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change; and its Executive Committee was also established to guide implementation of the functions of the WIM.¹
2. COP 20 decided that the Executive Committee may establish expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups to help execute its work in guiding implementation of the WIM, as appropriate, in an advisory role, which report to the Executive Committee.²
3. COP 22 recognized that the Executive Committee may enhance its effectiveness by prioritizing activities in thematic areas for further work.³
4. COP 23 welcomed the annual report of the Executive Committee for 2017,⁴ which includes its five-year rolling workplan.⁵
5. CMA 2 noted that the Executive Committee will evaluate progress in implementing its five-year rolling workplan in 2020 and at regular intervals at subsequent meetings.⁶

II. Mandate

6. Strategic workstream (a) of the first five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee concerns enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to slow onset events. Activity 2 of the workstream is to establish a technical expert panel or group on slow onset events.
7. CMA 2 requested the Executive Committee to revise the terms of reference for and launch the expert group on slow onset events taking into account the broad range of issues covered by the relevant strategic workstreams, which may need to be addressed using a sequential approach.⁷
8. Following the second review of the WIM, in 2019, CMA 2 also requested the Executive Committee and its thematic expert groups to develop technical guides within their work in their respective thematic areas, avoiding duplication of work across workstreams, covering:
 - (a) Risk assessment, including long-term risk assessment, of climate change impacts;
 - (b) Approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with such risk assessment;

¹ Decision 2/CP.19, paras. 1–2.

² Decision 2/CP.20, para. 8.

³ Decision 4/CP.22, para. 3.

⁴ Decision 5/CP.23, para. 1.

⁵ FCCC/SB/2017/1/Add.1, annex.

⁶ Decision 2/CMA.2, preamble.

⁷ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 25.

- (c) Resources available for supporting such approaches;
- (d) Monitoring systems for assessing the effectiveness of the approaches.

III. Scope of work

9. Slow onset events include sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.⁸

10. The scope of work of the expert groups of the Executive Committee covers the activities contained in its five-year rolling workplan that refer to the respective expert group, as well as addressing relevant mandates arising from COP and CMA decisions that may not yet have been taken into account in the workplan.

11. The expert group on slow onset events will assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling relevant mandates from Parties, including those outlined in paragraphs 6–8 above, and undertaking activities in its five-year rolling workplan relating to slow onset events, including but not limited to activities under strategic workstream (a).

12. The following activities relate to strategic workstream (a) of the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee:

(a) Continuing the ongoing work in action area 3(d–e) of the initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee to assess and develop recommendations for improving the state of knowledge to understand, and capacity to address, slow onset events and their impacts, including the capacity of regional agencies, and identifying follow-up actions, as appropriate. In addition, through collaboration with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate:

- (i) Continuously updating the database of organizations working on slow onset events and their current efforts, including institutional arrangements for comprehensive risk management;
- (ii) Assessing the scope of work being undertaken on slow onset events as reported by partners in the slow onset events database;
- (iii) Assessing regional impacts of slow onset events and identifying how to address potential gaps in the capacity of regional agencies to assist countries in addressing the impacts of slow onset events;
- (iv) Identifying relevant approaches to bridging those gaps and developing a catalogue of those approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing slow onset events;

(b) Establishing a technical expert panel or group to improve the knowledge base on and develop recommendations for approaches to addressing slow onset events with a view to converting this knowledge base into products that support efforts at the regional and national level;

(c) Organizing a technical meeting, in coordination with the TEG-CRM, with a focus on approaches in relation to recovery and rehabilitation and permanent loss;

(d) Facilitating the development and accessibility of tools for integrating information on potential loss and damage associated with slow onset events into national planning and policymaking processes.

13. The expert group on slow onset events will, to the extent possible, collaborate with expert groups, constituted bodies, networks and work programmes under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement in carrying out its work. This

⁸ Decision 1/CP.16, footnote 3.

includes, but is not limited to, the expert group referred to in paragraph 40 of decision 2/CMA.2, previously established expert groups and the Santiago network.

IV. Membership

14. The expert group on slow onset events should consist of:

- (a) Balanced numbers of Executive Committee members representing Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties;
- (b) Technical experts;
- (c) Representatives of relevant constituted bodies under the Convention and/or the Paris Agreement.

15. The total number of members referred to in paragraph 14(a) above shall not exceed four at any time. The total number of members referred to in paragraph 14(b–c) above will range between 10 and 18. These numbers may be reviewed and revised by the Executive Committee, as appropriate.

16. The Executive Committee members referred to in paragraph 14(a) above will identify the technical experts referred to in paragraph 14(b) above from, inter alia, the WIM roster of experts, and propose the list of potential members of the expert group, including the representatives of relevant constituted bodies referred to in paragraph 14(c) above, as appropriate, for endorsement by the Executive Committee, following which the Executive Committee Co-Chairs will liaise with the technical experts and constituted body(ies).

17. The selection of the technical experts referred to in paragraph 14(b) above will take into account the needs for expertise from multiple regions and for regional balance, and will be based on the following requirements:

- (a) Demonstrable and internationally or regionally recognized expertise, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the need for transdisciplinary expertise;
- (b) Practical international, regional or national experience in addressing issues related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change corresponding to the expert group's mandate, including in priority thematic areas of work, as determined by the Executive Committee.

18. On the recommendation of the expert group, the Executive Committee can invite additional technical experts, including those listed on the WIM roster of experts and those from relevant organizations, to contribute to specific activities of the expert group, on an ad hoc basis, as needed:

- (a) Ad hoc members with the requisite expertise may be invited to contribute to specific activities in keeping with the plan of action of the expert group;
- (b) To the extent possible, a regional balance among members of the group will be pursued.

19. Technical experts in the expert group will serve for two years and their terms can be renewed or the experts replaced, as needed, in accordance with the prioritized topics under strategic workstream (a) of the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee. For members representing constituted bodies, their term in the expert group will not exceed their term in the body they represent.

V. Mode of work and outputs

20. The modalities of work of the expert group on slow onset events will comprise:

(a) Electronic means, for example email, videoconferencing and teleconferencing;

(b) In-person meetings, as necessary, held back-to-back or in parallel with Executive Committee meetings, sessions of the subsidiary bodies or relevant external events, as far as possible, with a view to maximizing overall efficiency and effectiveness;⁹

(c) Engagement with organizations, bodies, experts and networks, including the Santiago network,¹⁰ engaged in providing technical advice, support and assistance to developing countries, through, inter alia, electronic means; workshops, including at the national and regional level; and outreach through other organizations, as appropriate.

21. The expert group will be co-facilitated by Executive Committee members.

22. The expert group will develop a rolling plan of action at its 1st meeting¹¹ in line with the mandate and scope of work defined in chapters II–III of these terms of reference and taking into account the respective strategic workstream of the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee. The plan of action should include specific activities with associated deliverables, indicative time frames and the names of leads and co-leads, and will be subject to endorsement by the Executive Committee before implementation.

23. The plan of action may be updated, as appropriate, on the basis of advice from the Executive Committee, guided by priorities identified in its five-year rolling workplan and, if applicable, by further guidance from the Executive Committee on the thematic areas of work.

24. In developing or updating its plan of action, the expert group will take into account information from the Santiago network, as appropriate, and the plans of action of the other expert groups of the Executive Committee to enhance coherence, collaboration and synergies, where relevant.

25. The outputs of the expert group will be presented for consideration by the Executive Committee.

26. Members of the expert group, including ad hoc members, who are not Executive Committee members may not act as representatives of the Executive Committee.

27. Keeping within the mandate and scope of work defined in chapters II–III of these terms of reference, the expert group may prepare knowledge products, outputs and other deliverables. The appropriate branding and disclaimers must be applied, as appropriate, on the basis of guidance from the Executive Committee and within the broader guidelines of the UNFCCC process.

⁹ Support for the participation of eligible members of its expert groups applies only to in-person meetings that the Executive Committee has approved in advance.

¹⁰ The Santiago network was established by decision 2/CMA.2, para. 43, to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The Executive Committee has been requested to include in its annual reports information from organizations, bodies, networks and experts that have reported on their progress under the Santiago network.

¹¹ The standard time frame for the rolling plans of action of the Executive Committee's expert groups is two years.

VI. Reporting

28. The expert group will report to the Executive Committee on a regular basis, at the meetings of the Executive Committee and via written reports, which include, to the extent possible, detailed information on progress in implementing the plan of action of the group.

29. The Executive Committee will determine the contribution of the expert group's reports to relevant synthesis reports for the technical assessment component of the global stocktake.¹²

30. The progress of work of the expert group will be captured in the annual reports of the Executive Committee.

VII. Confidentiality and conflict of interest

31. The conflict of interest and confidentiality guidelines of the Executive Committee will apply *mutatis mutandis* to all members of the expert group.

¹² Per decision 19/CMA.1, para. 36(e).