

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

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 1/CP.23, decided to convene a stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at COP 24. As part of this decision, the COP noted that all Parties share the view that pre-2020 implementation and ambition are of utmost importance, and that enhanced pre-2020 ambition can lay a solid foundation for enhanced post-2020 ambition. The COP decided that the stocktake will consider, inter alia, inputs of the constituted bodies, with a view to bringing visibility to and creating a more coherent understanding of the pre-2020 work of the UNFCCC bodies.
2. In this context, this document provides input on pre-2020 work of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Warsaw International Mechanism). The Warsaw International Mechanism and its Executive Committee were established in 2013 to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, in particularly vulnerable developing countries.
3. The three functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism are: (i) enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change, including slow onset impacts; (ii) strengthening dialogue, coordination and synergies among relevant stakeholders; and (iii) enhancing action and support, including finance technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
4. The Executive Committee implements the three functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism through the implementation of its five-year rolling workplan,¹ which was formulated in 2017, and builds on the completion of the initial two-year work-plan in 2016. This workplan has strategic workstreams that focus on slow onset events, non-economic losses, comprehensive risk management approaches, human mobility related to the adverse impacts of climate change and facilitating action and support. The Executive Committee contributes to raising awareness of the need for higher ambition to address the impacts and risks related to climate change.
5. The five-year rolling workplan takes a forward-looking approach, reflecting the provisions on loss and damage in the Paris Agreement. For example, in Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Paris Agreement, Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage. Areas of cooperation and facilitation to enhance understanding, action and support in relation to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change include: early warning systems; emergency preparedness; slow onset events; events that may involve irreversible and permanent loss and damage; comprehensive risk assessment and management; risk insurance facilities, climate risk pooling and other insurance solutions; non-economic losses; and resilience of communities, livelihoods and ecosystems (Article 8 , paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement).
6. In relation to finance, technology and capacity-building support, the Executive Committee has undertaken, and plans to undertake, numerous activities, including as part of its strategic workstream on “enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to action and support including finance,

¹ See: <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/workplan>

technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change”.² Detailed information on the implementation of such activities is available in the annual reports of the Executive Committee.³

7. In implementing its initial two-year workplan (2015–2016) and the current five-year rolling workplan (2017–present), the Executive Committee has undertaken **activities related to enhancing action and support, including finance technology and capacity-building**, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. Some examples of activities undertaken to date are provided below.

8. In relation to finance, the Executive Committee has implemented the following activities:

- a) The Executive Committee invited the Standing Committee on Finance to dedicate its 2016 forum to the theme of **financial instruments that address the risks of loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change.⁴ The forum contributed to raising awareness of and opening a dialogue on the opportunities for addressing loss and damage through existing financial instruments, as well as on the current support gaps and challenges.
- b) In preparing for this forum, the Executive Committee developed an *Information paper on best practices, challenges and lessons learned from existing financial instruments at all levels that address the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change* (August 2016).⁵ The paper was drafted on the basis of information shared by Parties and organizations, and helped inform the understanding of Parties on the range of financial instruments that could be mobilized to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
- c) In 2017, the Executive Committee produced a **Compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches**,⁶ which further enhanced the understanding of the complementary approaches and financial tools that could be mobilized to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change in an integrated manner.
- d) At COP 23 (November 2017), the Executive Committee launched the **Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer**,⁷ which bridges a world-wide supply of expertise and knowledge on risk transfer with the demands of those, including vulnerable countries and communities, who seek risk transfer solutions in the context of implementing comprehensive risk management approaches to avert, minimise and address loss and damage. The Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer also serves as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer, through its “knowledge centre”.
- e) The **Suva expert dialogue** took place on 2-3 May, 2018. The dialogue explored a wide range of information, inputs and views on ways for facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events. The report of

² See: <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/workplan>

³ To access the annual reports of the Executive Committee: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/reports-of-the-executive-committee>

⁴ See: <https://unfccc.int/topics/climate-finance/events-meetings/scf-forum/2016-forum-of-the-standing-committee-on-finance>

⁵ See: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/aa7_d_information_paper.pdf

⁶ See: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/compendium_march_2017.pdf

⁷ See: <http://unfccc-clearinghouse.org/>

the Suva expert dialogue highlights that a better understanding of future climate impacts and risks can help mobilize actions to reduce, transfer and retain risks in a way that addresses the spectrum and timescale of climate risks. Understanding the context-specific nature of the risks and challenges across different time horizons fosters averting, minimizing and addressing residual loss and damage not avoided through mitigation or planned adaptation efforts. The dialogue revealed the benefits of using a range of approaches in the context of comprehensive risk management. With a comprehensive view, resources can be better distributed across both pre-emptive efforts and contingency arrangements.⁸

- f) In 2018, the Executive Committee, in collaboration with members of the Standing Committee on Finance, also undertook the scoping of a technical paper. This technical paper will elaborate the sources of financial support provided through the Financial Mechanism for addressing loss and damage as described in relevant decisions, as well as modalities for accessing such support. The technical paper will also elaborate finance available for addressing loss and damage outside the Financial Mechanism, as well as the modalities for accessing it. The technical paper will be made available prior to SB 50 (June 2019), and will inform the 2019 review of the Warsaw international Mechanism.

9. Concerning technology, the Executive Committee is collaborating with the Technology Executive Committee to prepare a **policy brief on the area of technologies for coastal zones**, which aims at enhancing understanding on existing approaches that could assist developing countries in the context of comprehensive risk management. The policy brief will be made available to Parties and organizations by COP 25 (December 2019).

10. The Executive Committee has also undertaken work on synthesizing and dissemination of technical information on research findings relevant to the workstreams of its five-year rolling workplan which, in turn, supports capacity-building efforts.

11. As part of its initial two-year workplan (2015–2016) and the current five-year rolling workplan (2017– present), the Executive Committee has taken steps to enhance cooperation and facilitation on slow onset events, non-economic losses, comprehensive risk management approaches and human mobility.

- a) With respect to slow onset event, the Executive Committee has been contributing to improving the state of knowledge on, and capacity to address **slow onset events** and their impacts. An example is the establishment of an online database which provides information on 164 organizations (as at 24 September 2018) working on slow onset events.⁹
- b) The Executive Committee has been the driving force in raising awareness and catalysing further understanding on emerging issues related to **non-economic losses**. By convening experts and organizations working on the nexus between climate change, indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage and health, among others, at a side event in 2016, the Executive Committee showcased some of the challenges, risks and lessons learned related to addressing non-economic losses associated with climate change impacts.¹⁰
- c) In relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation, the Task Force on Displacement, established by the Executive Committee as requested by the COP in decision 1/CP.21, recently completed a major body of technical work on **displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change**. Seven reports prepared by the Task Force on Displacement contribute to enhancing awareness and understanding on

⁸ See: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/loss-and-damage-ld/workshops-meetings/suva-expert-dialogue>

⁹ See: <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/soe.aspx>

¹⁰ See: <https://unfccc.int/event/side-event-shining-light-non-economic-losses-challenges-risks-and-lessons-learned-addressing>

areas such as: data on displacement associated with the adverse impacts of climate change; relevant policies and institutional frameworks that deal with the climate and displacement interaction at the national level, including national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions, and national communications; displacement related to slow onset events; institutional frameworks and mandates within the United Nation system to avert, minimize and address displacement; and existing international and regional guidance and tools on averting, minimizing and addressing displacement.¹¹

12. In addition, the Executive Committee established three new **expert groups** in 2018, which focus respectively on slow onset events, non-economic losses, and comprehensive risk management approaches. These expert groups will contribute to the implementation of the three functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism by enhancing understanding, strengthening coordination and coherence in the actions of relevant stakeholders, and enhancing action and support to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

13. Detailed information on all relevant activities undertaken under the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism is available on the UNFCCC website.¹²

¹¹ See: <https://unfccc.int/wim-excom/sub-groups/TFD#eq->

¹² See: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/approaches-to-address-loss-and-damage-associated-with-climate-change-impacts-in-developing-countries>