

Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Executive Committee Outreach: Moving forward in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage

Summary report



Background

On 14 September 2021, the event “Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Executive Committee Outreach: Moving forward in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage” was held as agreed at the [13th meeting](#) of the Executive Committee (ExCom) and based on the communications strategy adopted at ExCom 8.

The event aimed to (i) engage with loss and damage contact and country representatives nominated by the national focal points on the role of the ExCom and (ii) present selected work around three priority themes for 2021 of the ExCom to increase awareness on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage at the national level.

To accommodate participants from different time zones, the event was organized in sessions with identical content – the first at 05:00 CEST, the second at 15:00 CEST. This summary report reflects on both sessions. Agenda and material will remain available [on the event website](#).

The event was structured around the ExCom’s priority themes for 2021: regional impacts of slow onset events, risk assessment in averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage, and action and support through partnerships.

ExCom members facilitated the events: the first session by Jerome Ilagan and Russell Miles and the second session by Le-Anne Ropers and Alfonso Pino Maeso.

Key points

In the introduction, the facilitators provided an overview of loss and damage associated with climate change, highlighting the functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom and expert groups.

Theme I: Exploring regional impacts of slow onset events

IPCC lead authors Maisa Rojas and Richard Jones presented key findings of relevance for the work on loss and damage from the recently-published [first chapter of the Sixth Assessment Report](#) (AR6) of the IPCC. They emphasized that recent changes in the climate are widespread, many of which are intensifying and unprecedented in up to hundreds of thousands of years, and that it “is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change, making extreme climate events, including heatwaves, heavy rainfall and droughts, more frequent and severe”. It was also stressed that climate impacts would worsen even if emissions are reduced, e.g., sea levels will continue to rise even under the lowest emission scenarios.

A novelty of AR6 is the [interactive atlas](#) which allows users to explore data and models at a regional level. The speakers stressed furthermore that the working groups in AR6 adopted a common risk framework. They introduced a new concept of climate impact drivers, physical climate system conditions, which affect elements of society or ecosystems. The climate impact drivers being assessed in the regional sections of the chapter directly focus on risks. The impact of these drivers will be assessed by working group 2.

To improve information on uncertainties, the report clearly shows how findings are built up, using multiple lines of evidence. However, the report also shows gaps (of observational data), thus indicating where countries and scientists need to further develop monitoring systems. The interactive atlas’ regional information component – allowing users to choose the variable of interest, season and region, and different climate impact drivers – is accessible to anyone. The regional synthesis component will be released at the end of September 2021.

Theme II: Risk assessment in averting minimizing and addressing loss and damage

With a focus on technical and policy solutions on the ground, ExCom facilitators presented the [CRM compendium](#). This tool allows country stakeholders to explore six types of risk management approaches from the local to the global scale and on the continuum from adaptation planning through DRR to residual impacts and transformational approaches and their interactions, based on latest insights from ongoing scientific and practical work, including 37 case studies from across all geographic regions. The ExCom encouraged the audience to use this resource and share other solutions that the ExCom could promote and for whose implementation in developing countries it could catalyze support.

Facilitators then informed the audience about the SOEs expert group’s ongoing [call for policy-related ideas](#) to advance efforts in addressing loss and damage associated with sea level rise, desertification and glacial retreat.

Complementing the presentation on the CRM compendium, Donna Lagdameo from UNDRR, a member of the TEG-CRM, stressed that the work of the TEG-CRM helps strengthen comprehensive risk management approaches in the DRR community. Resources and risk assessment information from their community relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage include (1) a disaster loss and damage database which includes subnational data and helps understand extreme events and high-frequency low-impact events; (2) Risk assessments, including the global risk assessment framework which is being scaled up; (3) monitoring under the Sendai framework

with specific targets to understand disaster drivers, losses and damages and improve disaster management and reduction; (4) risk-informed development covering, inter alia, infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches; (5) inclusiveness and stakeholder engagement, including a community of non-State stakeholders.

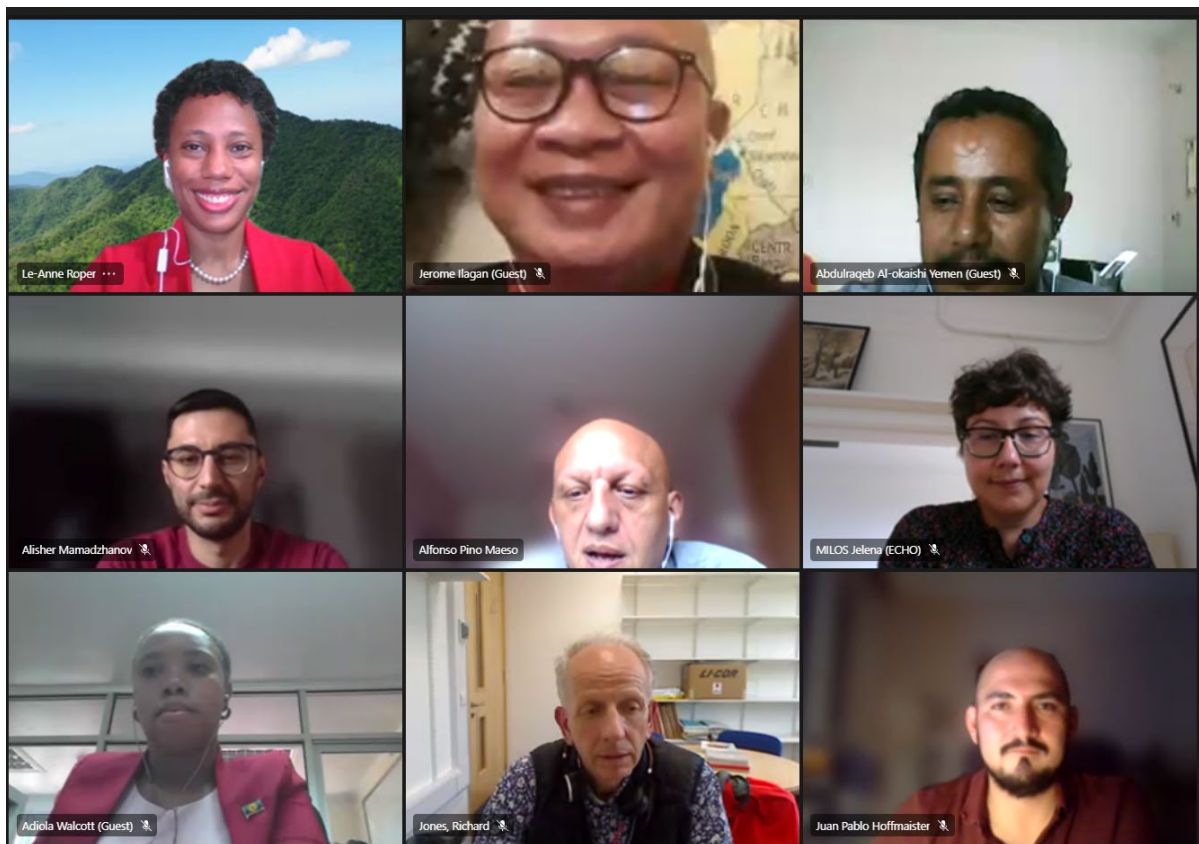


Photo 1: Some of the facilitators, presenters and participants of the ExCom outreach event (from top left: Le-Anne Ropers, Jerome Ilagan, Abdurraqeb Al-Okaishi, Alisher Mamadzhonov, Alphonso Pino Maeso, Jelena Milos, Adiola Walcott, Richard Jones and Juan Hoffmaister).

Theme III: Advancing action and support through partnerships

Juan Hoffmaister from the GCF secretariat shared current programming developments, in particular the GCF's responses to the CMA2/COP 25 mandate to facilitate efficient access to finance relevant to loss and damage, including for non-economic losses, averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with slow onset events and human mobility, implementation of approaches to manage risks comprehensively, and to enhance action and support. He highlighted that in 2020, the GCF had adopted a strategic plan for the current replenishment period (2020–2023) with pledges of around 10 million USD, which explicitly recognizes the support expected within the GCF's existing modalities and financing tools for loss and damage.

While many projects are crosscutting, the GCF aims to ensure that at least 50% of the resources available for adaptation focus on SIDS, LDCs and African countries, and ensuring allocation of much of the resources through national direct access entities. The GCF identified different projects that are aligned with countries' loss and damage related priorities, such as ecosystem-based adaptation in the Pacific, or projects comprising comprehensive risk management approaches and touching on areas including ecosystem restoration. It was emphasized that the GCF responds to countries' requests, thus applying a bottom-up approach. In response to queries from participants,

the GCF clarified that various organizations, including civil society organizations, can be accredited for accessing resources.

The GCF is re-focusing its country programming process to translate countries' priorities identified in their NDCs, adaptation communication, NAPs and national climate strategies into country programmes, funding proposals and country-driven investments. To track investments and to understand the volume of the portfolio directed to addressing or reducing losses both from slow onset and extreme events, the GCF has, in its integrated results management framework which the board approved at its 29th meeting, included two (non-mandatory) indicators that explicitly address issues related to loss and damage, both in terms of losses of life and economic losses, using definitions from UNDRR.

ExCom members Farhan Akhtar and Jelena Milos provided information on the expert group on action and support (ASEG), which assists the ExCom in implementing its workplan as well as relevant COP and CMA decisions regarding action and support. ASEG's eight activity areas and related technical products include clarifying how developing country Parties can access funding from the GCF to develop funding proposals related to the ExCom's rolling workplan. ASEG will also collect and disseminate information on sources of support under and beyond the Convention and the Paris Agreement for activities relevant to loss and damage in developing country Parties. As part of ongoing work, ASEG is strengthening the dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance and supporting the ExCom with respect to inputs regarding guidance to the operating entities of the Financing Mechanism.

Finally, the ExCom presented the [RISK TALK](#) of the Fiji Clearinghouse for Risk Transfer, a product developed through a partnership. Participants were invited to explore this interactive feature to seek tailored expert advice on risk transfer and comprehensive risk management.

Follow up

The participants provided their feedback on the event through a survey. The ExCom considered the experience of organizing the event and the feedback from the participants at the second part of the 14th meeting of the ExCom (ExCom 14), held from 20 to 24 September.

ExCom 14 decided to organize outreach events annually to 1) facilitate greater visibility and application of the outcomes and outputs of the work of the ExCom and its Expert Groups, and 2) engage with and receive feedback from loss and damage contact points and the UNFCCC national focal points.

The ExCom plans to hold these events in a way which accommodates various time zones across the regions to ensure that country participants are not unduly disadvantaged.

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