

Eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, Bonn, Germany, 10–12 March 2020

Reference document for item 5c(i)

Establishment of an expert group pursuant to decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c)*About this document*

This document provides information on the mandate to establish an expert group pursuant to decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c), which focuses on enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and offers key considerations for the approach to establishing the expert group.

The Excom will be invited to develop the terms of reference for this expert group with a view to launching the nomination process shortly after Excom 11.

I. Background

1. COP 20 decided that the Excom may establish expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups to help execute the work of the Excom in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM), as appropriate, in an advisory role, and that report to the Excom.¹
2. As part of the outcomes of the first review of the WIM in 2016, Parties recommended that the Excom may consider the establishment of, as appropriate, additional expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or focused working groups to assist it in conducting its work and supporting its efforts to enhance action and support for loss and damage as provided for in decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c) (see Box 1).²
3. Subsequently, as part of the outcomes of the second review of the WIM in 2019, Parties requested the Excom **to establish, by the end of 2020, in accordance with its procedures and mandate, an expert group** pursuant to decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c), drawing on the work of and involving, as appropriate, existing bodies, organizations, networks and experts under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, ensuring a fair, equitable and balanced representation within the group.³
4. Accordingly, the Excom needs to agree on the terms of reference (TOR) of the expert group, constitute the group as per the TOR, and subsequently, set a date for the first meeting.
5. The following sections provide potential headers of the TOR and associated key issues for consideration for the development of each component, without prejudging the final format of the TOR. For the purpose of this note, the expert group under consideration of this item is referred to the Expert Group on Action and Support (Action & Support expert group).

Box 1: Decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c)

The COP, at its nineteenth session, decided

5...that the the WIM shall fulfil the role under the Convention of promoting the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner by...

¹ Decision 2/CP.20, paragraph 8.

² Decision 4/CP.22, para 4(b).

³ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 40.

(c) Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, so as to enable countries to undertake actions pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, paragraph 6, including by:

- i. Providing technical support and guidance on approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme events and slow onset events;
- ii. Providing information and recommendations for consideration by the COP when providing guidance relevant to reducing the risks of loss and damage and, where necessary, addressing loss and damage, including to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;
- iii. Facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to strengthen existing approaches and, where necessary, facilitate the development and implementation of additional approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events;”

II. Potential sections of the TOR

A. Mandate

6. Parties requested the Excom to establish, by the end of 2020, in accordance with its procedures and mandate, an expert group pursuant to decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c), drawing on the work of and involving, as appropriate, existing bodies, organizations, networks and experts under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, ensuring a fair, equitable and balanced representation within the group.⁴

B. Scope of work

7. The overall scope and propose of the action and support expert group (Action & Support expert group) will be guided by decisions 2/CP.19, para. 5(c) and 2/CMA.2, para. 41. The Action & Support expert group’s scope of work would involve efforts to assist the Excom on enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

8. The expert group shall develop a focused plan of action, while avoiding duplication of existing efforts, at its first meeting to take place in 2020, on the following:⁵

(a) The activities to further engage and strengthen its dialogue with the Standing Committee on Finance as referred to in paragraph 37 of decision 2/CMA.2;

(b) The activities to further the collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to clarify how developing country Parties may access funding from the GCF as referred to in paragraph 39 of decision 2/CMA.2;

(c) The collection, compilation and dissemination of information on the available sources of support under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement for activities relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in developing country Parties;

(d) Collaboration with the thematic expert groups of the Executive Committee to undertake the work referred to in paragraph 26 of 2/CMA.2;⁶

(e) Collaboration with relevant bodies and organizations under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement pursuant to decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c)(iii);

⁴ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 40.

⁵ Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 41.

⁶ Paragraph 26 of decision 2/CMA.2 requests the Excom and its thematic expert groups to develop technical guides within their work on their respective thematic areas, avoiding duplication of work across workstreams. See the decision for the full details.

(f) The organization of events in conjunction with relevant meetings and conferences, including the NAP Expo and regional events, to share information and experience relating to accessing available sources of support for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, in collaboration with relevant constituted bodies and organizations under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate;

(g) The analysis and identification of enabling conditions for effective implementation of risk transfer facilities and social protection schemes in the context of comprehensive risk management, as appropriate.

C. Size and composition of expert group

9. Based on the TOR of the thematic expert groups which the Excom has adopted in the past, a decision on the size and composition of the Action & Support expert group should be based on the following elements:

(a) The Excom's representation in the group (e.g. numbers, balance between country groupings);

(b) External experts, including those from delivery partners of the operating entities of the financial mechanism and private sector, and how they are identified, including possibility for organizations to nominate members;

(c) Relevant constituted bodies of the UNFCCC;

(d) Total number of individuals to be engaged;

(e) In consideration of the membership, guidance from Parties requests that the Excom involve, as appropriate, existing bodies, organizations, networks and experts under and outside the Convention and Paris Agreement. The membership of the group should aim for fair, equitable and balanced representation taking into account gender, regions and expertise.

10. In addition, the TORs of previously established thematic expert groups also include generic procedural information for the nomination of experts. For the Action & Support expert group, the Excom may wish to include similar information or provide more detailed guidance.

11. Modalities for identifying relevant experts can include nominations by the Excom and by pre-determined relevant expert institutions; placing a call for expressions of interest WIM roster of experts among others.

D. Mode of work of expert groups

12. In line with the TORs previously adopted for other thematic expert groups, the mode of work of the Action & Support expert group can span both electronic and in-person modalities.

13. The scope of the Action & Support expert group and linkages to other workstream expert groups, relevant constituted bodies and operating entities of the Financial Mechanism under the Convention and the Paris Agreement warrants a flexible working modality where the Action & Support expert group could collaborate with other thematic expert groups of the Excom for coherency of overall efforts under the WIM, and for liaising with relevant bodies under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement through the Excom.

14. The Excom has been invited to annual meetings of the Board of the GCF with the bodies under the UNFCCC, held in the margins of the COPs. With the exception of annual meetings, the Excom has had no direct contact with the GCF to date. The Excom has also engaged with the SCF in the past (see background paper under provisional item 5(c)(ii)), inclusive of the Excom's initial two-year workplan. Activities with the SCF have focused on an exchange of information, knowledge and good practices on financial instruments related to addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

E. Required qualifications and expertise of technical experts

15. The information included in this section of the TORs for previously established groups is generic and limited to ensuring regional and gender balance and to demonstrating professional recognition.

16. Action and support is cross-cutting with workstreams (a) to (d). In light of the extensive nature of the scope of work of this group, the Excom may wish to expand this section to facilitate the nominations of relevant technical experts.

17. In addition, the Excom's current work on action and support, as contained in workstream (e), indicates that capacity-building, stakeholder engagement and finance for loss and damage are priority issues for particularly vulnerable developing countries and these need to be enhanced. In this regard, the facilitation of the mobilization of action and support in developing countries should be the driver for the expert group activities. A broad membership with representation, networks and support in developing countries should be a key consideration for the expert group.

F. Reporting of expert groups

18. As per decision 2/CP.20 the thematic expert groups of the Excom help the Excom execute its work in an advisory role, and report to the Excom (see para 1 above). Progress in the work of expert groups will be captured in the report of the Excom (see figure below).



G. Time frame (of the group, and the membership)

19. The term of work of the group should be bound by the mandate, scope and modality highlighted in sections A, B and C above, respectively, and the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee.
