

**Seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for
Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts
Bonn, Germany, 13–16 March 2018**

Reference document for item 7:

Establishment of expert groups of the Executive Committee

About this document

This reference document aims to facilitate the Excom's deliberations on the establishment of the three expert groups to be established in the context of Strategic workstreams (a), (b) and (c) of the five-year rolling workplan. It contains an overview of a scope of expertise required for the work of these expert groups, challenges and opportunities identified from the previous similar mandates.



I. Introduction

1. The five-year rolling workplan of the Excom contains the following activities concerning establishing expert groups¹ of the Excom:

- (i) Establish a **technical expert group/panel** to improve the knowledge base on and develop recommendations for approaches to addressing SOEs, with a view to converting this knowledge base into products that support efforts at the regional and national levels;

(Activity 2 of the “Strategic workstream (a): enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to **slow onset events**”);

- (ii) Establish an **expert group** to develop inputs and recommendations to enhance data on and knowledge of reducing the risk of and addressing NELs, including how to factor these into the planning and elaboration of measures to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

(Activity 1 of the “Strategic workstream (b): enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to **non-economic losses**”);

- (iii) Establish a **technical expert group** to enhance knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches, including issues related to finance, data, technology, regulatory environments and capacity-building.

(Activity 1 of the “Strategic workstream (c): enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to **comprehensive risk management approaches** (including assessment, reduction, transfer, 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).

2. The scope of primary expertise required for each of the expert groups for each thematic area is as follows:

- (i) **Slow onset events:**² Loss of biodiversity; Land and forest degradation; Rising temperatures; Salinization; Sea level rise; Ocean acidification; Desertification; Glacial retreat and related impacts;

- (ii) **Non-economic losses:**³

- Individuals loss: life, health, human mobility;
- Societal loss: territory, cultural heritage, indigenous/local knowledge, societal/cultural heritage;
- Environment loss: biodiversity, ecosystem services.

- (iii) **Comprehensive risk management approaches:**⁴

- Risk assessment; reduction; transfer; retention
- Finance, Data, Technology, Capacity-building, Regulatory environments.

¹ In this document, expert groups refer to expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups.

² Decision 1/CP.16, para 25

³ UNFCCC [Technical paper](#) on Non-economic losses in the context of the work programme of loss and damage, contained in FCCC/TP/2013/2.

⁴ Activity (1), Strategic workstream (c), five-yr rolling workplan.

II. Challenges identified from previous similar mandates

3. The Excom has experience of developing terms of reference for three expert groups to date: an expert group of non-economic losses and a technical expert group on comprehensive risk management under the initial two-year workplan; and a task force on displacement.
4. Although work by some of the expert groups has been progressing, there are also challenges. The number of technical experts serving in these expert groups are limited to 8 to 10. In some cases, it is difficult for a fixed group of limited number of technical experts to cover a broad range of areas of expertise, for instance as indicated in paragraph 2 above, in a coherent manner.
5. In addition to a set of relevant expertise, allocation of fixed number of member seats needs to take into account regional balance and, in some cases, types of organizations from which experts are nominated (e.g. those with global reach such as UN/IGOs, those with regional focus, research focused institutions, implementing agencies, etc.). In previous experience, commitment to the implementation of activities over a period of time posed difficulties for technical members who serve in their personal capacities in doing the work of expert groups.

III. Opportunities

6. At the same time, these challenges may present opportunities for the Excom to further enhance its effectiveness and performance: The Excom could take a flexible approach for engaging experts in the implementation of the five-year rolling workplan. Excom could find ways to involve those experts who could offer most relevant expertise and support in an appropriate timeframe for undertaking the varying nature of tasks.
7. The type, number and timeframe of tasks to which each expert group is envisioned to contribute may require tapping into a larger pool of experts/expertise. In contrast to the initial approach which “locked in” the entire member slots for technical experts at the outset, the Excom may wish to consider **flexible approaches/options for identifying and engaging relevant experts**.
8. Some of flexible approaches include, for instance, **creating a roster/database of experts** from which appropriate experts can be selected/invited to undertake specific task(s), **issuing task-based targeted online calls for experts**. These modalities may offer the Excom carry out various activities through tailored modalities – e.g. mobilizing a large working group of experts to engaging a few or single expert, depending on the nature of the tasks at hand.

IV. Next steps

9. The Excom may wish to consider opportunities to take flexible approaches to engaging experts in its expert groups to be established, with a view to agreeing on a possible modality and process forward for the three expert groups referred to in paragraph 1 above.
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