

# Expert Group on slow-onset events of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

## Approach to developing the first draft rolling plan of action

### Background note

## INTRODUCTION

As per its terms of reference, the Expert Group on slow onset events (SOEs EG) is to develop a rolling plan of action (PoA) at its first meeting. This background note serves to establish a common information basis among the members of the group in view of their first meeting which will take place virtually during the week of **12 April 2021**. This note complements the information package previously shared.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The rolling PoA serves to operationalize the strategic workstream on slow onset events under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage and the SOEs EG's role in assisting the Executive Committee of the Mechanism (ExCom) in fulfilling relevant mandates from Parties relating to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with slow onset events.

As part of its responsibility to guide the work of the SOEs EG the ExCom will endorse the draft PoA to ensure it is in line with the mandates from the Parties.



For the timely information sharing, the SOEs EG, along with all other expert groups of the ExCom, will inform on its progress at the regular meetings of the ExCom, held twice a year, via written updates which can be complemented with an oral summary during the meetings.

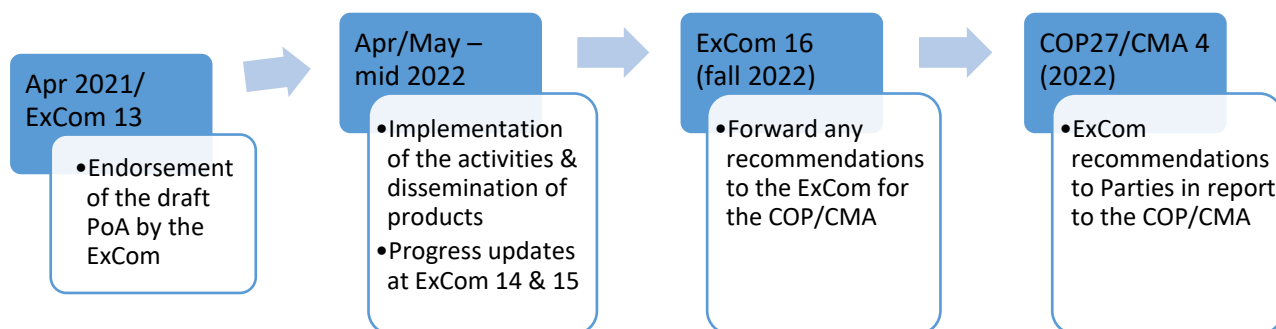
The ExCom will consider the inputs and recommendations provided by the groups and include them in its reporting to Parties at COPs/CMAs.

The members of the SOEs EG act as important catalysers of the activities the group will undertake and of the knowledge it will produce, collate or synthesize, within their broader communities.

The group may request the secretariat to facilitate production of draft materials for subsequent consideration and finalization by the group.

## TIMEFRAME OF THE FIRST ROLLING PLAN OF ACTION

The first rolling plan of action of the SOEs EG will be developed for the 2021–2022 implementation timeframe. When elaborating the indicative timeline for its deliverables, the SOEs EG should take into account a possible flow as follows:



## BROAD VISION FOR THE ROLLING PLAN OF ACTION

As per its terms of reference the SOEs EG is entrusted to undertake, among others, the following activities relating to strategic workstream (a) Slow onset events, of the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom:

- 1) 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:
  - a. Continuously updating the [database](#) of organizations working on slow onset events and their current efforts, including institutional arrangements for comprehensive risk management (*a synopsis of the organizations is available [here](#)*);
  - b. Assessing the scope of work being undertaken on slow onset events as reported by partners in the slow onset events database (*an initial scoping paper has been developed in 2018 and is available [here](#)*);
  - c. 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 (*information shared during the [expert meeting](#) on future needs, including capacity needs associated with possible approaches to address slow onset events organized under the work programme on loss and damage in 2013 could serve as a useful starting point*);
  - d. Identifying relevant approaches to bridging those gaps and developing a catalogue of those approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing slow onset events (*the [technical paper](#) on slow onset events developed under the work programme on loss and damage in 2012 and forthcoming articles in the*

context of the [special journal edition](#) on slow onset events due for publication in June 2021 could serve as a useful basis);

- 2) Organizing a technical meeting, in coordination with the TEG-CRM, with a focus on approaches in relation to recovery and rehabilitation and permanent loss;
- 3) 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 (*the information shared during the [side event](#) on risk financing for slow onset events organized by the ExCom in 2017 could serve as a useful basis*);
- 4) Developing technical guides as per decision 2/CMA.2, paragraph 26 and according to the initial guidance provided by the ExCom.

The planned activities and products under the PoA should focus on how 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 levels.

To this end, while providing inputs and recommendations to the ExCom in fulfilling relevant mandates on slow onset events, the SOEs EG will strive to produce materials that can be directly used by countries in their efforts to address the impacts associated with these events.

In advancing from the terms of reference towards the draft PoA, the activities of the terms of reference could be structured under the following broad areas of work:

Stocktaking / current landscape	Regionalization of impacts, needs and capacities	Enhancing technical capacity/catalyzing support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping existing approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing slow onset events</li> <li>• Mapping potential organizations/partnerships for collaboration with the SOEs EG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing regional impacts of SOEs</li> <li>• Identifying needs of countries in addressing SOEs</li> <li>• Identifying potential gaps in the capacity of regional agencies to assist countries in addressing the impacts of SOEs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying approaches to bridging technical and capacity gaps at regional levels to address SOEs in countries</li> <li>• Promoting approaches in relation to recovery and rehabilitation and permanent loss associated with SOEs</li> <li>• Facilitating the development and access to tools for integrating information on L&amp;D from SOE into national planning and policy process</li> <li>• Developing technical guides</li> </ul>

## SCHEDULE

The first meeting will be conducted virtually. The following means will be supported by the secretariat:

- A SOEs EG mailing list <SOE@lists.unfccc.int>
- Video/teleconferencing via MS Teams
- Collaborative space for document sharing and joint work (MS Teams space)

The following supporting materials will be used:

- Member profiles;
- Information package;
- Background document.

<b>Date/time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
12 April, 13:00–15:00 CET	Member introductions; Overview of SOEs; Approach to development of the plan of action (PoA); Broad discussion of the broad areas of the PoA, and formation of breakout groups, as appropriate
14 April, <b>time TBD</b>	Continued discussion on the broad areas of work (in breakout groups, as needed)
16 April, <b>time TBD</b>	Development of the draft PoA and a road map; Assignment of leads and co-leads
19–23 April	Further inputs and comments to the draft PoA before a final draft is prepared for further processing with the ExCom