



# Third World Network

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## **Input for the interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (1 July 2014)**

Third World Network welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the 2-year work plan for the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage.

The work plan should be designed to operationalize a mechanism. Its scope must capture the breadth of the functions of the Mechanism (decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5), and must include a comprehensive set of activities and actions that begin to create a functional mechanism. The work ahead for the Mechanism should be addressed systematically; decisions 3/CP.18 and 2/CP.19 taken together create the guide for the systematic sequencing of activities under the work plan.

The work plan cannot be just a work plan for a committee, but a work plan to enable executive actions for the operationalization of the Mechanism, ranging from technical issues to financial and implementation-related matters related to loss and damage, in accordance with decision 2/CP.19. The work plan must set the vision for a functional mechanism, a systematic response bigger than the members sitting in the committee. Expectations for the mechanism are high; the work plan to be delivered in Lima must begin to fulfil these expectations.

The three sets of functions from decision 2/CP.19 should guide the work of the interim Executive Committee in crafting the work plan. We outline below some essential elements for the work plan under each of these functions. However, it must be stressed that these functions cannot be addressed or implemented in isolation from each other:

- Enhancing understanding of approaches to address loss and damage is of little use if countries do not have the technical capacity and tools to assess impacts, or if countries do not have the financial support to implement approaches to address loss and damage;
- Enhanced understanding of impacts and approaches will be impossible without input from experts located outside of the UNFCCC regime, and without coordination and coherence among the range of UN and other relevant organizations working on various aspects of loss and damage.

To address functions under decision 2/CP.19 *paragraph 5(a)*, with regard to enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches, the work plan should at a minimum contain elements to:

- Enhance understanding of how loss and damage affects populations that are already vulnerable owing to geography, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability, and how the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage can benefit those segments of the population [decision 3/CP.18 paragraph 7(a)(iii)];
- Enhance understanding of the risk of slow onset events, including sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest

degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification and approaches to address them [decision 3/CP.18 paragraph 7(a)(i)];

- Enable assessment of loss and damage at the national level, including for identification of thresholds and indicators in a manner that is context-specific [decision 3/CP.18 paragraph 6(a)];
- Develop methodologies for national use for loss and damage assessments, to enable comparability at the international level [decision 3/CP.18 paragraph 6(a)].

To address functions under decision 2/CP.19 **paragraph 5(b)**, with regard to strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders:

- The work plan should include an examination of modalities and procedures used by other intergovernmental organizations for involving relevant experts and organizations in the work of the Mechanism. Effectively carrying out the broad range of functions established in decision 2/CP.19 will require novel means of working, and thinking outside of the UNFCCC box to develop the structure of the mechanism while complying with the UNFCCC principles and commitments.
- The Mechanism needs to set structured arrangements to engage organizations with relevant expertise and mandate, such as OCHA, WFP, etc. As neither the Convention nor the mechanism can replace the work these organizations do, it is important to put in the place the arrangements in accordance with decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5b and 6.
- Identify or develop methodologies for assessing losses and country needs, including finance, technology and capacity building, for the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage.

The issues of means of implementation is key, in accordance with decision 2/CP.19 paragraph 5(c) and paragraph 14. The Mechanism needs to identify appropriate options to address the needs of particularly vulnerable developing countries. To address functions under decision 2/CP.19 **paragraph 5(c)**, with regard to “enhancing action and support ... to address loss and damage ... so as to enable countries to undertake actions pursuant to decision 3/CP.18 paragraph 6”, the work plan should at a minimum contain elements to:

- Examine the whole range of climate finance options, including the potential contribution and limitations of climate risk finance approaches, to addressing loss and damage. A broad range of options should be considered, from traditional risk transfer mechanisms, to social protection systems, to innovative financial protection instruments. With regard to social protection systems, there is a need to understand their potential as an element of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage in the context of both extreme events and slow onset events, and countries’ needs related to enhancing existing social protection systems or putting in place social protection systems. There is also a need to consider options to relieve financial pressure brought upon countries due to loss and damage – options such debt swaps, debt relief (including debt cancellation), and contingency funds.
- Consider the application of compulsory licensing and other tools necessary for expediting the application of technologies.

The implementation of approaches are urgent to help developing countries, in a country-driven and country-owned manner, integrate loss and damage as part of a growing reality, in a manner that does not jeopardize the right to development and survival of particularly vulnerable developing countries.