



Technology Executive Committee

11 March 2019

Eighteenth meeting

Copenhagen, Denmark, 25–27 March 2019

Development of the joint policy brief of the Technology Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

Background note

I. Introduction

A. Background

1. As per activity 18.2 of its workplan for 2016–2018, the TEC in 2018 was to engage with the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Executive Committee) to identify potential collaboration between the two bodies.
2. The TEC and the Executive Committee held a joint session on 16 March 2018, in conjunction with TEC 16, to discuss specific actions for collaboration between the two bodies and agreed to jointly develop a policy brief as an activity of the long-term collaboration between the two bodies.
3. At TEC 17 (September 2018), the TEC endorsed a concept note for the development of the joint policy brief on technologies for coastal zones which contained scope of the policy brief, roles, responsibilities and modality of work, and indicative milestones.¹ The TEC requested the task force on emerging and cross-cutting issues to further consider, in coordination with the Executive Committee liaison members, the outline of the joint policy brief, taking into account the comments provided at TEC 17, with the aim of making the joint policy brief available at COP 25.
4. The taskforce also worked intersessionally in preparing the organization of an expert dialogue referred to in the concept note to support the development of the joint policy brief, which is planned to be held in spring 2019.

B. Scope of the note

5. This note provides an update on the progress of the joint work with the Executive Committee, including the outline of the joint policy brief, the preparation of the expert dialogues and engagement of relevant organizations and experts.

C. Possible action by the Technology Executive Committee

6. The TEC will be invited to take note of and consider the update of this joint work and provide guidance to finalise the outline of the policy brief.

¹ See TEC 17 meeting report, annex V, available at http://unfccc.int/tclear/misc/_StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/tn_meetings/b314d0041b4d4ede802d1f4bf42265c8/b3e23f5127a5409989b416fcaba3b3f3.pdf#page=14.

II. Progress of the joint work with the Executive Committee

A. Outline of the policy brief

7. At TEC 17, the TEC considered initial ideas on outline of the joint policy brief presented by the task force on emerging and cross-cutting issues. After TEC 17, the task force revised the initial ideas on the outline, taking into account the comments provided at TEC 17 and shared it with the Executive Committee liaison members for consideration in the joint working group of the TEC and the Executive Committee.²

8. The joint working group agreed to a draft title of the policy brief, indicative audience and draft outline of the policy brief as contained in the annex 1 of this note.

B. Preparation of the expert dialogue

9. The organization of an expert dialogue to be held in spring 2019 is one of the milestones set in the concept note for the development of the joint policy brief. The concept note also noted that if an external organization expresses interest in collaborating with the Executive Committee and the TEC by hosting an expert dialogue, this will be pursued and taken into consideration.

10. In this regard, expression of interest was solicited to relevant organisations and experts to engage in this work. The Inter-American institute for Global Change Research (IAI), a scientific organization with expertise in the field of marine/ocean ecosystems, expressed its interest to engage in the development of the joint policy brief and host the expert dialogue referred to in paragraph 4 above. The joint working group agreed to proceed with the IAI in the preparation of the expert dialogue.

11. As of the publication of this note, the indicative time and venue of the expert dialogue, pending confirmation, is in May in Latin-America, and to be held in conjunction with a regional communication workshop organized by the IAI.

12. For the preparation of the expert dialogue, the joint working group prepared a concept note of the expert dialogue, of which the task force contributed to drafting. The concept note of the expert dialogue is contained in annex 2 of this note.

C. Engagement of relevant organizations and experts

13. According to the concept note for the joint policy brief, relevant experts in the field of technologies for coastal zone and loss and damage will be engaged, on a voluntary basis, in the work of the joint working group, as appropriate. The secretariat, under the guidance of the joint working group, has started to contact relevant organizations and experts to seek their interest to contribute to the development of the joint policy brief, using various networks including the consortium partners and network members of the CTCN, and the Nairobi work programme partners.

14. As of the publication of this note, several organizations and experts have submitted their interest to provide substantive contributions in the drafting of the joint policy brief as well as participating as resource persons in the expert dialogue.

² The joint working group of the TEC and Executive Committee includes two Executive Committee liaison members (Mr. Nedal Katbehbader and Mr. Kimio Takeya) and two representatives of the TEC task force on emerging and cross-cutting issues (Ms. Adelle Thomas and Mr. Mareer Mohamed Husny).

Annex I

Initial outline for the joint policy brief between the Executive Committee and the Technology Executive Committee

I. Draft Title of the policy brief

Technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones.

II. Indicative Audience

Policymakers and practitioners at sub-national, national, regional and international scales.

III. Draft outline of the policy brief

1. Introduction³

- Brief overview of types of loss and damage experienced in coastal zones i.e. economic and non-economic;
- Brief overview of approaches and options for recovery and rehabilitation in coastal zones;
- Brief overview of comprehensive risk management. i.e. risk assessment, risk reduction, risk transfer and risk retention;⁴
- Brief overview of categorisation of technology options. i.e. hardware, software, orgware.

2. Technologies for Coastal Zone Risk Assessment

- Overview of types (hardware, software, orgware) of technologies available to observe and assess climate impacts on the coastal sector, including those associated with slow onset events (perhaps pull from CTCN);
- Opportunities and challenges;
- Case studies of use of select technologies.

3. Technologies for Coastal Zone Risk Retention

- Overview of types of available technologies that can be used to both manage and accommodate climate impacts (perhaps pull from CTCN) including hardware, software, orgware;
- Opportunities and challenges;
- Case studies of use of select technologies.

4. Technologies for Recovery and Rehabilitation in Coastal Zone

- Overview of types of technologies available (perhaps pull from CTCN) including hardware, software, orgware;
- Opportunities and challenges;
- Case studies of use of select technologies.

³ Technical terms used in this policy brief should be described and accessible to non-technical audiences.

⁴ From the scope of the policy brief, as detailed in Paragraph 8 of the concept note for a joint policy brief between the ExCom and the TEC, the brief should focus on technology options to “observe and assess” and to “manage and accommodate”. These two areas follow under risk assessment and risk retention in the comprehensive risk management framework. Thus, the policy brief should focus on technology options for these two areas. This is useful to provide a focus for the brief and to allow for in-depth discussion of these two areas as it relates to technology options.

Annex II

Concept note of the expert dialogue

Event title: Expert Dialogue on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones

Location: TBC

Date: TBC

1. Coastal zones are sensitive to climate change risks. Coastal areas face a range of issues like inundation and erosion of coastlines, salinization of freshwater reserves, damage and loss of physical infrastructure and degradation of marine ecosystem as well as non-economic losses to coastal communities and ecosystems.

2. Impacts of such risks are unevenly distributed within and across different communities, countries and regions due to climate-related disruptions, exposure and vulnerability. Some climate change risks may be unforeseeable at the time of planning, foreseen but accepted due to resource constraints or socioeconomic impact tradeoffs, or foreseen but unavoidable because response actions are unfeasible. Despite these challenges, the accessibility and availability of appropriate and adequate technologies (i.e. hardware, software, and orgware) may be able to avert, minimize, and address some of these risks in coastal areas.

3. This event will be co-organized by the UNFCCC Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change (WIM ExCom)⁵ and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC)⁶ in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI),⁷ in conjunction with the regional communication workshop organized by IAI.

Participants:

4. Leading International experts and practitioners on the themes described above will participate. Those experts who have expressed interest in contributing towards the development of a WIM ExCom-TEC joint policy brief on the topic of technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones will take part in the discussions, including:

- (a) Contributors and reviewers of the joint policy brief;
- (b) Representatives of the WIM ExCom and the TEC;
- (c) Participants in the IAI regional communication workshop;
- (d) Other relevant experts and practitioners.

Background:

5. To enhance the coherence of the efforts by the WIM ExCom and the TEC, the WIM ExCom invited the TEC⁸ to discuss specific actions for collaboration, including the **development of a joint policy brief** on the area of technologies for coastal zones.

6. The two committees have since prepared and adopted a concept note for the joint policy brief as well as indicative milestones for the collaboration. The organization of an expert dialogue is one of the milestones that is planned to be held in spring 2019.

7. This expert dialogue will convene leading experts, practitioners and policy makers to discuss and share information on technologies for coastal zone risk assessment (observe and assess), risk retention (manage and accommodate), and recovery and rehabilitation, including case studies from different geophysical environmental settings. The results of this dialogue will facilitate and feed into

⁵ For more information about the WIM Excom, please visit <https://unfccc.int/7543>.

⁶ For more information about the TEC, please visit <http://unfccc.int/tteclear/tec>.

⁷ For more information about IAI, please visit <http://www.iai.int/>.

⁸ Strategic workstream (c) of its five-year rolling workplan. For more information about WIM ExCom's five-year rolling workplan, please visit <https://unfccc.int/documents/28319#beg>.

the **development of a joint policy brief** on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, including recovery and rehabilitation in coastal zones.

Objectives of the event:

8. The dialogue aims to
 - (a) Facilitate the development of the joint policy brief on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones;
 - (b) Enhance the understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches⁹ in the context of coastal zones;
 - (c) Identify available technologies, including local and indigenous technologies, that can be used for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones, and share information on good practices, opportunities, challenges and lessons learned in implementing these technologies;
 - (d) Stimulate actions to understand and bridge knowledge and relevant public policy gaps;
 - (e) Identify further actions, including policy actions, that could be taken by various stakeholders to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in coastal zones.

Indicative agenda:

Time	Agenda item
09:30 – 09:50	Opening remarks (<i>WIM ExCom, TEC, IAI</i>)
09:50 – 10:15	Setting the scene: Climate change impacts on coastal zones (a scientific perspective)
10:15 – 10:40	Setting the scene: Climate change impacts on coastal zones (a public policy perspective)
10:40 – 11:10	Brief overview of comprehensive risk management and types of loss and damage experienced in the context of coastal zones
11:10 – 11:25	Coffee break
11:25 – 12:25	Technologies for coastal zone risk assessments <i>Possible format: Overview presentation of available technologies, case studies, opportunities and challenges, knowledge and public policy gaps, followed by discussion</i>
12:25 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:30	Technologies for coastal zone risk retention <i>Possible format: Overview presentation of available technologies, case studies, opportunities and challenges, knowledge and public policy gaps, followed by discussion</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Technologies for recovery and rehabilitation in coastal zones <i>Possible format: Overview presentation of available technologies, case studies, opportunities and challenges, knowledge and public policy gaps, followed by discussion</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:45	Discussion on potential further actions by various stakeholders <i>Possible format: break out groups (if enough participants)</i>
16:45 – 17:15	Wrap up and closing

⁹ For more information about comprehensive risk management approaches, please visit: <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/areas-of-work/comprehensive-risk-management-approaches>.