

BRIEFING NOTE

ExCom meeting #6 – A new work plan under construction

1 The rolling 5-year-work plan at COP23

While still implementing its initial 2-year work plan, decided upon at COP20 in Lima 2014, the ExCom is now working on its next 5-year rolling work plan. Its indicative framework already got approved at COP22 in Marrakesh 2016¹, but without encompassing respective activities for the action areas. The ExCom was tasked to develop activities in 2017 and the finalized work plan is to be endorsed by COP23 under Fiji presidency in Bonn.

1.1 Process

In its 5th meeting in March 2017, the ExCom started the process of developing the activities for the 5-year rolling work plan in a very inclusive mode of work.

As a first step, a workshop moderated by Leon Charles aimed to identify "desired results" of the work plan regarding the different functions of the WIM. It was conducted in a good and transparent approach, fully involving observers in the workshop activities and discussions, providing possibilities for them to develop and present their input.

At ExCom #6, specific activities will be discussed and decided upon which to integrate in the final work plan. The mode of work will again encompass a moderated workshop, but this time without the involvement of observers. To uphold the transparency of the process started in ExCom #5, possibilities for observer-input needs to be safeguarded, even without direct participation in the workshop. The input provided through the respective submissions² on views and relevant inputs on possible activities under each work stream, that were submitted by 28 February 2017, should be taken into account by the ExCom. Additionally, the outcomes of the workshop should be open for discussion, also for observers participating in the upcoming meeting, and not finally decided upon in the workshop already.

1.2 Action Areas

The ExCom defined the action areas the 5-year-work plan will encompass, these are:

A) Slow onset events

Slow onset events (SOE) are one main challenge regarding emerging Loss & Damage (L&D) that needs be worked on more effectively. The initial 2-year-work plan took up the issue and focused on data collection

¹ FCCC/SB/2016/3

² www.unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/items/10064.php

and access as well as enhancing knowledge; the identification of ways to address SOE. The ExCom also took stock of organizations and their efforts within a SOE database and invited other organizations to collaborate on the issue. These first steps need to be taken further in the new 5-year-workplan. SOE and specific vulnerabilities not only need to be better understood but efficient ways to address the related impacts (like sea level rise) on different levels are crucial as they will extend in scope in the future.

Specifically, issues like comprehensive risk management approaches for L&D related to SOE, financial contributions to the work on SOE as well as a better understanding of displacement in the context of SOE should be addressed by the new work plan.

B) Non-economic losses

In 2/CP 19³, non-economic losses are listed as one area of cooperation and facilitation to "enhance understanding, action and support". In its 5-year work plan, the ExCom needs to include activities that contribute to developing tools to assess non-economic losses. Moreover, risk management approaches that deal with non-economic losses should be developed. The overall objective should be to implement or develop approaches that minimize the risk of non-economic losses and damages occurring or that effectively respond to losses.

C) Comprehensive Risk Management Approaches

Risk transfer solutions as part of risk management

Climate risk insurance can support countries in concrete ways in finding climate-resilient development pathways. However, research shows a strong need for guidance and careful planning and implementation in order for this to be successful – especially when approaches should target poor and vulnerable segments of the population. Moreover, to harness the potential of insurance, countries need technical guidance on when best to apply insurance as an instrument. The ExCom's future work in this area should therefore aim at providing evidence-based, technical guidance on the role of insurance in comprehensive climate risk management. It should also provide technical guidance and standards on climate risk insurance approaches, especially how to reach and benefit the poor and vulnerable with climate risk insurance. It would furthermore be beneficial, if the WIM would initiate and facilitate a discussion on the operationalization of a global risk insurance facility to address loss and damage.

D) Migration, displacement and human mobility, including the task force on displacement

Climate change impacts can severely put human life at risk, make living environments uninhabitable, e.g. through affecting the availability of fresh water, polluting arable land and making agriculture impossible.

The Cancun Adaptation Framework (para 14f, 2010⁴) was the first entry point for the issue of climate-induced migration and displacement under the UNFCCC. It laid the foundation for action by various UN agencies, such as the UNHCR and the IOM as well as for the Nansen Initiative. At COP19, migration and displacement became an action area of the WIM and got enclosed in their first 2-year-work plan. The next 5-year-work plan will also address this issue.

³ www.unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a01.pdf

⁴ www.unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf

Additionally, in 2015, COP21 requested the ExCom to establish "a task force to complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention including the AC and the LEG, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention, to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change" (1/CP/21⁵). The Task Force came into force in 2017, held its first meeting in May 2017 and endorsed a work plan to be conducted until end of 2018 by COP24. The ExCom should aim for an extension of the mandate after 2018 to ensure the recommendations of the task force are taken forward. Otherwise the work plan needs to involve activities to take up the task force's recommendations.

The 5-year work plan needs to further focus on a better understanding of the different characteristics of migration and displacement – e. g. after sudden onset events and especially focus on human mobility in the context of slow onset events, as this topic is currently not understood enough. A further close collaboration with other international processes (e. g. Global Compact on Migration, Platform on Displacement) and agencies is crucial in order to raise awareness of the defining role of climate change for recent and future scales of migration and to avoid duplication. Addressing the "protection gap" for affected people and communities, when crossing international borders, is of specific importance to enhance human security. Existing best practices that showcase related policies could help to further develop solutions.

E) Finance-related topics

Decision 2/CP 19 clearly states that the WIM shall enhance action and support by "facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building". At COP21 in Paris, it was reinforced that "Parties should enhance understanding, action and support, including through the Warsaw International Mechanism, as appropriate, on a cooperative and facilitative basis with respect to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change" (1/CP 21).

Therefore, the ExCom, in its 5-year-work plan, should contribute with concrete activities to improve the understanding of the scale of finance necessary for L&D. In parallel, the institutional architecture providing L&D finance needs to be developed and established. The ExCom has a key role to play in this process.

F) Additional results from the initial 2-year-work plan

G) Placeholder for emerging needs

2 Implementing the Paris Outcomes

In decision 1/CP.21 (para 48 and 49)⁶, COP21 mandated the WIM – additionally to the respective work plan – to establish a clearing house on risk transfer as well as a task force on displacement. Relevant work to advance the operationalization of the mandates needs to be done.

⁵ www.unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10.pdf

⁶ www.unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf

2.1 Clearinghouse on Risk Transfer

As defined in 1/CP.21, the clearinghouse for risk transfer should "serve as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer, in order to facilitate the efforts of parties to develop and implement comprehensive risk management strategies".

This clearinghouse will be established as an online platform. As presented at ExCom #5 and based on the results of a user needs assessment, the additional value mainly lies in a) connecting the needs of vulnerable countries and communities with the expertise that could serve these needs and b) bridging ongoing and emerging insurance work/initiatives worldwide and the UNFCCC.

The proposed structure is organized in three parts:

1. Find solutions: Dialogue space – seekers of information get support by experts help them to find solutions
2. Who is doing what?: Information on experts, institutions and relevant events
3. Knowledge center: Tutorials, guidance, case studies, types of funding, research and literature on addressing permanent losses.

The clearinghouse shall be launched at COP23 in Bonn. To meet this goal, a group of champions was tasked during ExCom #5 with the development of a mock-up version of the clearinghouse by using the "Look and Feel" (a pre-mock up version presented during the meeting) as a basis. This mock-up version shall be discussed during ExCom #6. Additionally, it was decided that the group should identify and engage with potential partners and agree on their role in development and maintenance of the clearinghouse with UNFCCC as a gateway.

For the clearinghouse to become a successful tool, it will be crucial that the online platform not only allows for effective knowledge management, but enables networking and collaboration on the topic. Thereby, it could connect policy makers, practitioners, researchers and private sector as well as other relevant actors to advance policy coherence in the area. Moreover, advisory services for developing countries could help structure early-stage questions and thinking about how to design risk transfer. It will be crucial that organizations/experts are committed to feed their knowledge into the platform and take part in the dialogues. The ExCom will need to come up with an effective strategy of how to get the dialogue started and keep it running.

2.2 Task force on displacement

(see above – Action Area D)

3 Complementing and learning lessons from the 2-year-work plan

Even though COP22 identified significant progress in the implementation of the 2-year work plan, it also revealed that some of the promised activities were not tackled or completed yet. During the upcoming meeting, the ExCom should therefore use some time to review the status quo. If incomplete activities can still be identified, the Committee should develop a strategy, how to advance the completion of the 2-year-work plan as soon as possible.

In a second step, the fulfilment and the way the work plan was implemented should be evaluated by the ExCom. This would enable to learn lessons for the implementation of the new 5-year-work plan regarding the mode of action, mode of implementation as well as cooperation with other actors, etc.

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