

REPORT AND BRIEFING PAPER

ExCom Meeting#11

Next steps after the WIM review at COP25 in Madrid

Report of the 11th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage and Background Brief on open items and the way forward

1 COP25 Outcomes on Loss and Damage and key tasks for ExCom#11

The review of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) was an important issue at COP25. It should ensure, that the WIM is able and in a position to support vulnerable countries in dealing with unavoidable Loss and Damage and to fulfil all of its three functions. The general recognition of the need for (more) reliable financial support for the poor and most affected countries was therefore an important result, but lagged far behind expectation – especially considering that COP25 was framed as an “emergency-summit”.

COP25 brought forth two new bodies – the “Santiago network” as well as the “Expert Group on action and support” – the quality of which depends largely on their concrete design, implementation and financial resources. Both have the potential to leverage concrete solutions and financial support for countries affected in dealing with climate impacts.

The Santiago Network for Loss and Damage under the WIM

The network was established under the WIM and has therefore the potential to evolve into an operational arm parallel to the political arm of the ExCom. It focuses on the implementation of relevant approaches to deal with unavoidable climate impacts and aims to support actors – especially from developing countries. To assess the ability of the network to fulfil this function, the **concrete tasks** as well as **financial and technical resources** available will provide more clarity. The next ExCom meeting needs to focus further on these details.

ExCom Expert group on action and support in dealing with Loss and Damage

Anchored within the ExCom and parallel to its other expert groups, it offers scope for discussions on means and ways to leverage (additional) financial support for developing countries in dealing with unavoidable losses and damages. The COP25 decision asks for constituting the group in 2020 and developing a work plan.

Main task of ExCom#11 was to start up the processes to establish the new bodies. The issue of additional financial resources, including the cooperation with bodies and funds of the UNFCCC financial mechanism

– like Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) – was also to be discussed at ExCom#11.

2 Report on ExCom#11

2.1 Context of the meeting and challenges for participation

The 11th meeting of the ExCom, that took place 10-12 March 2020, was one of the first meetings of an UN-FCCC body since the COVID-19-crisis intensified – a situation that required a set of restrictions, including restrictions of movement. It was therefore held virtually, not without serious concerns – especially from developing country members – about ensuring inclusiveness of the process; e.g. internet connectivity challenges.

Due to a short notice decision regarding the format, many uncertainties accompanied the meeting preparation. Especially for observers, the virtual format led to severe limitations in actively participating in the meeting. Of the three days of meeting, observers were only allowed to participate in the first day, without the ability to speak up. Alternatively, they got the possibility to email specific input, but without knowing how those points would be taken up in the process and discussions. Additionally, a short de-briefing for observers was held at the end of the meeting. The Co-Chairs provided a short oral report and the audio recording was published on the UNFCCC-website. As it turned out to be not very comprehensive, it could not at all replace own participation in the meeting.

For a potential next virtual meeting, meaningful participation of all members of the ExCom as well as observers should be enabled and transparency of the results should be enhanced; e.g. a transparent process how observer inputs are taken up and a swift as well as comprehensive report on the meeting results. The ExCom/the Secretariat may draw from other bodies experiences here.

Moreover, the “summary of next steps and ways forward”¹, published on the ExCom website gave an overview over the outcomes of the meeting, but could not deliver specific details.

2.2 Outcomes of the session

The outcomes of the meeting according to the agenda points discussed were as follows²:

Co-chairs

Monika Antosik (Poland) and Dawn Pierre-Nathoniël (St.Lucia) (remain in office until their successors elected)

Collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee on the joint policy brief

The draft policy brief³ on technologies for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones, jointly developed by the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) was approved.

Follow-up activities to the WIM review

Intersessional work:

¹ See: ExCom 11 Summary of next steps/way forward:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom11_summary_next_steps.pdf (retrieved 16.04.2020)

² ibid

³ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Joint%20Policy%20Brief.pdf> (retrieved 16.04.2020)

- Process for launching expert groups on slow onset events and non-economic losses, advancing the Terms of References (TORs; assisted by Secretariat)
- Facilitation of mobilization of and access to resources, including launching the work for the establishment of an Expert group on action and support, advancing the TORs (assisted by Secretariat) and launching work regarding the SCF and the GCF

Cycle of modalities:

- Champions to share the progress of their work with the ExCom at the end of each month through eDelphi⁴, email or other electronic means
- ExCom members to provide feedback and inputs as needed during the first week of the following month
- Champions and ExCom members at large to organize virtual live discussions or other virtual meeting modalities such as teleconferences, as needed

Date of the next meeting

Decision was postponed, due to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 situation.

Further questions

The document leaves open questions, especially regarding the concrete decisions/steps to further develop e.g. the Santiago network.

ExCom Champions to the Expert Groups⁵

Excom champion	Non-Annex I	Annex I
Slow Onset Events expert group	Mr. Alpha Kaloga	Mr. Farhan Akhtar
	Mr. Antonio Canas	Mr. Malcolm Ridout
Non-Economic Losses expert group	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	Mr. Valeriy Sedyakin
	Mr. Muhammad Imran Khan	Mr. Louis Loubriat
Technical Expert Group-Comprehensive Risk Management	Ms. Le-Anne Roper	Ms. Jelena Milos
	Mr. Nedal Katbeh-Bader (tbc)	Ms. Viktoriia Shtets
Task Force on Displacement	Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi	Mr. Russel Miles
	Ms. Sumaya Zakieldeem	Ms. Cornelia Jäger
Action & support expert group (SCF, GCF, ASEG)	Mr. Alpha Kaloga	Mr. Farhan Akhtar
	Ms. Dawn Pierre-Nathoniell	To be filled
	Mr. Nedal Katbeh-Bader	To be filled

⁴ Shared online platform of ExCom members

⁵ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom11_summary_next_steps.pdf (retrieved 16.04.2020)

Liaison persons to other constituted bodies⁶

Constituted Bodies	Non-Annex I Liaison Members	Annex I Liaison Members
Adaptation Committee	Ms. Sumaya Zakieldeen	To be filled
Consultative Group of Experts	Mr. Muhammad Imran Khan	To be filled
Green Climate Fund	Ms. Le-Anne Roper	To be filled
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	Ms. Dawn Pierre-Nathoniël	Mr. Farhan Akhtar
Least Developed Countries Expert Group	Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa	To be filled
Paris committee on Capacity Building	Mr. Antonio Canas	To be filled
Standing Committee on Finance	Mr. Alpha Kaloga	Mr. Farhan Akhtar
Technology Executive Committee	Mr. Nedal Katbeh-Bader	To be filled
Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform	Mr. Antonio Canas	Mr. Russel Miles

3 Way forward and necessary next steps

Mode of work

In the light of the COVID-19 crisis, the Secretariat and the ExCom had to react very fast to enable the 11th meeting to take place. Even if this is appreciated, the ExCom and the Secretariat should ensure inclusion and transparency in order to enable meaningful participation of members as well as of observers in the future. Especially considering further virtual meetings, the modes of communication needs to be improved.

Santiago Network

At the next ExCom meeting, a discussion on the tasks of the Santiago Network and the process for its establishment should also be on the agenda. Concrete tasks should encompass:

- Technical assistance and capacity building
- Research around climate related Loss and Damage (L&D)
- Exchange and facilitating South-South learning on L&D
- Facilitate financing of L&D actions

ExCom expert group on action and support

However, in cooperation with the Green Climate Fund and the Standing Committee on Finance, the group of experts should first clarify how developing countries' access to existing GCF funds and financial resources for loss and damage can be facilitated. If it is to do justice to its task, the group of experts must in future also consider ways of mobilising additional financial resources and the role of innovative financial resources.

⁶ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Excom11_summary_next_steps.pdf (retrieved 16.04.2020)

The expert group should deal with the following issues:

- Annual stocktake of national L&D finance needs and the funding available through a L&D finance gap report – at best contributing to the SCF needs determination report
- Analysis of potential financing approaches for L&D, including innovative sources of finance that may generate additional resources
- Testing financing approaches and implementation methodologies against a human-rights-based approach
- Analysis of possibilities for a finance facility for L&D within existing institutions or the need for new institutions

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