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# The Warsaw International Mechanism – What has happened until now and what are the next big steps?

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## Key outcomes and important next steps

The second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impact (Excom) took place from 2 to 5 February 2016 in Bonn, Germany. The meeting was conducted in an efficient and productive manner. Critical issues discussed relate in particular to the suitability of available instruments, in particular disaster risk management and reduction, to address the impacts resulting from anthropogenic climate change. An important background to keep in mind in this context is that disaster risk management, as captured in the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, is explicitly a matter of national responsibility<sup>1</sup>. The extent to which loss and damage associated with anthropogenic climate change will be responded to internationally is an open question.

The Excom identified the development of the five-year rolling workplan<sup>2</sup> as an issue that needed special consideration. [Modalities](#) for developing the workplan were drafted and a group of champions is to propose a way forward. The last day of Excom3, which is scheduled for 26-30 April, will be solely dedicated to the five year workplan. The five-year workplan will likely shape how loss and damage will be addressed under the UNFCCC, including finance, technology and capacity building support, also in the more distant future and it is advisable for countries to have a strategic understanding of their interests and how these can materialize in the workplan.

A [call for submissions](#) to provide information on best practices, challenges and lessons learnt from existing financial instruments was finalized and issued by the Secretariat after the meeting, with a deadline of one month. It was further decided to

- hold a side-event on non-economic losses during SBs44, May session at Bonn and
- support slow onset events as a possible topic for the next Research Dialogue under SBSTA

Two additional Excom meetings will be held this year, tentative dates for the next meetings are 26 – 30 April 2016 and 19 – 23 September 2016.

The WIM Review at COP22 in Marrakesh will present an opportunity to assess work under the WIM in the past and to strategically guide its future.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

<sup>2</sup> for consideration at COP 22 [...] to continue guiding the implementation of the functions of the WIM

# Detailed Summary of meeting outcomes

## 1. Addressing COP decisions

In addition to Action Areas of the workplan, the COP21 mandated ExCom to “establish a clearing house for risk transfer that serves as a repository for information on insurance and risk transfer” (Dec 1/CP.21 para 49) and to “establish [...] a task force [...] to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change” (Dec 1/CP.21 para 50). Work on these tasks was initiated through a hearing of experts and subsequent working groups.

### Clearing house

The role of the clearing house was discussed in a working group, alongside questions of possible stakeholders that should be engaged and the process that is needed for establishing a clearing house. It was particularly stressed that it should be more than a passive repository of information but rather enable developing countries to develop the data needed for the implementation of insurance and risk transfer. A group of Champions have agreed to work on the task intersessionally and discuss the outcomes of the working group. A summary of the working group outcomes can be found [here](#).

### Task force on displacement

Following input by experts, a working group worked on draft TORs and a [roadmap](#) for establishing the task force on displacement. The following table (Table 1) summarizes the outcomes and next steps for working on the COP decisions.

Table 1: Summary of outcomes on COP21 decisions and next steps

	Task	Progress during ExCom2	Status / Comment
COP 21	Establish clearing house for insurance and risk transfer	Role and modalities of a CH were <a href="#">discussed</a>	It will need to be defined how the CH can best serve the needs of vulnerable countries.
COP 21	Establish displacement task force	A <a href="#">draft road map</a> was developed. Draft TOR, a letter of invitation and a list of potential recipients will be prepared intersessionally and presented at Excom3.	It will be important to maintain the link to climate change in the work of the task force. Together with identifying and serving the needs of the most vulnerable countries this also constitutes the added value of the task force.

## 2. Addressing Action Areas of the two-year workplan

The following table (Table 2) presents an overview over the progress made on individual Action Areas of the WIM two-years workplan. The workplan was developed by the interim Executive Committee in accordance with decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 9. It contains nine Action Areas, which the ExCom is tasked with fulfilling by the end of 2016. For a list of ExCom members please see [here](#).

Table 2: Outcomes of work on Action Areas and next steps

	Selection of sub-tasks worked on during ExCom2	Progress during ExCom2	Status / Comment
AA1	Vulnerable populations	(addressed in overlap with other AAs, not explicitly worked on)	Recommendations for actions and next steps, as requested per the workplan, remain to be developed.
AA2	Comprehensive risk management approaches  d) establish technical expert panel or group	Discussion how expert group under 2d links with technical panel for COP clearing house on risk transfer (CH). Convergence: 2d can inform CH but is broader  Initial <a href="#">input for draft TOR</a> prepared	The TOR will be presented at Excom3. It will likely need to be clarified to what extent or whether to systematically link the expert panel or group with the clearing house on risk transfer. Linkages between AA2d and other AAs also need to be clarified, for example whether the expert group is to be tasked with identifying tools and gaps for CRM approaches as outlined in AA2a and 2b.
AA3	Slow Onset Events a) take stock of organizations	A <a href="#">database</a> created by the Secretariat was introduced, input received from observers; a <a href="#">template</a> for extending the database was developed and finalized	The Secretariat will send the template to organizations that have already been identified in the initial mapping exercise.  It is as yet not clear how the database will be used. It might be linked to AA3d, which calls for an assessment and development of recommendations to improve the state of knowledge on slow onset events.
	b) establish collaborative	Potential channels for collaboration	A letter of support in slow onset

	channels	were explored; submission to SBSTA on possible topics for next Research Dialogue was agreed	events as the topic for the next research dialogue will be sent to the Chair of SBSTA. Involvement of Excom members in the research dialogue and further steps have not been discussed.
AA4	Non-economic Losses a) raise awareness	Side event on NELs during SB44 was agreed	<p>Registration for the side event was scheduled for no later than 29 February.</p> <p>Participation of Excom members at the side event has not been clarified.</p> <p>A systematic understanding of the overall goal of raising awareness, as well as the target group, has not yet been developed. This has been suggested throughout the process and might help in defining next steps. The expert group on NELs (see AA4b) might also provide input to this question.</p>
	b) establish expert group	Draft TOR developed as discussed in <a href="#">working group</a>	<p>The selection process of experts for the NELs expert groups needs to be clarified.</p> <p>Important next steps will be to define the key questions to experts and evolve an understanding of the information that will be needed, and for which goal and target audience.</p>
AA5	Resilience, recovery and rehabilitation  a) invite DRM to develop risk profiles and identify institutional requirements	A draft questionnaire for national entities was developed (notes are available <a href="#">here</a> )	<p>Steps will need to be defined on how to work with the questionnaires once they have been received back.</p> <p>The task is linked with AA5c, which calls for the preparation of a paper on methods for analysis and stress testing for preparedness and response. This task is non-trivial and has not been discussed.</p>

<p><b>AA6</b></p>	<p>Migration, displacement and human mobility</p> <p>a) invite organizations to provide information</p>	<p>A letter of invitation was drafted with help from observers</p>	<p>It is not clear how the information received in response to the invitation will be used.</p> <p>AA6b calls for relevant information on good practices and lessons learnt to be distilled in collaboration with experts and relevant bodies. It might be helpful to clearly outline the added value of this exercise, perhaps based on a needs assessment for vulnerable countries.</p>
<p><b>AA7</b></p>	<p>Financial instruments and tools</p> <p>d) invite Parties and organizations to provide information</p>	<p><a href="#">Call for submissions</a> was developed and finalized</p> <p>An <a href="#">Excom submission</a> in response to earlier call by Standing Committee on Finance in response to AA7c was agreed</p>	<p>AA7 on financial instruments is crucial. Importantly, work on financial instruments should be based on a basic understanding of the needs of vulnerable countries specifically in the context of loss and damage. Otherwise it will not be able to map available instruments against needs. Such a gap analysis will be an important step in thinking about new financial instruments.</p>
<p><b>AA8</b></p>	<p>Involve other bodies</p>	<p>(progressing in parallel to other AAs)</p>	
<p><b>AA9</b></p>	<p>5 yr workplan</p>	<p><a href="#">Modalities</a> to develop the 5yr workplan were developed</p> <p>An extra day at Excom3 dedicated to the 5yr workplan was decided (30 April)</p>	<p>There is a clear need to develop a strategy for how to best take forward the issue of L&amp;D under the UNFCCC and how to reflect this in the 5 year rolling workplan.</p>

## Developing a Five-year rolling workplan

The Excom is tasked with developing “a five-year rolling workplan for consideration at COP 22 [...] to continue guiding the implementation of the functions of the WIM.”<sup>3</sup> At Excom2 modalities for developing this workplan were briefly discussed. A workgroup discussed a roadmap for developing the five-year rolling workplan and suggested to develop a five-year vision, while concrete tasks should be limited to the next 2-3 years.

The proposition to issue a call for submissions on possible topics for the five-year workplan was made during plenary discussions. While this was met with concern regarding the number and length of submissions received in response to the call for input into the existing two-year workplan, the proposition will be further considered.

Another proposition was to focus the five-year rolling workplan on those areas in the existing two-year workplan that could not be fully met. This was not further discussed, as understanding converged towards the fact that more time and in-depth discussion would be needed to decide on content.

## Timeline of what is next

Date	Event
26 – 30 April	Excom3  30 April dedicated to 5 year rolling workplan
16 - 26 May (exact date not yet available)	Side Event on Non-economic Losses
19 – 23 September	Excom4
7 – 18 November (COP-22)	Review of the WIM two year workplan  Consideration of 5 year rolling workplan to continue guiding the implementation of the functions of the WIM

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SB/2014/4 Annex II

### **5 year rolling workplan**

The five-year rolling workplan will be a decisive next step in the institutionalization of measures to address loss and damage under the UNFCCC. It will guide the work of the WIM, which may be enhanced and strengthened as per the Paris Agreement, Article 8. It is therefore of high importance to develop a clear understanding of the interests and risks of vulnerable countries that are associated with the workplan. Developing a vision for the next five years and beyond, as well as identifying key areas of importance and potential red lines, is needed for outlining the workplan and driving its adoption to a successful end.

### **WIM Review**

The review of the WIM at COP22 will provide an opportunity to direct future developments based on an assessment of what has been achieved to date. The modalities of the review have not yet been clarified. However, a strategic discussion on the needs of vulnerable countries with regards to loss and damage under the UNFCCC could be an important first step in identifying the benefits and shortcomings, as well as realistic improvements of work under the WIM in the past and future.