RINGO report[1] of the
10th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanisms for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts ('ExCom 10')
UN Campus, Bonn, Germany
23-25 October 2019

Participants

Nineteen (19) members of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage ('WIM ExCom') attended the meeting. These include: Adao Soares Barbosa (Timor Leste), Malcom Ridout (UK), Christoph von Stechow (Germany), Pepetua Election Latasi (Tuvalu), Valeriy Sedyakin (Russia), Narcis Jeler (EU), Farhan Akhtar (USA), Cornelia Jäger (Austria), Le-Anne Roper (Jamaica), Erling Kvernevik (Norway), Nurul Quadir (Bangladesh), Antonio Canas (El Salvador), Nedal Katbehbader (Palestine), Russell Miles (Australia), Yuichi Ono (new member, Japan), Sumaya Zakieldeen (Sudan), Alpha Oumar Kaloga (Guinea), Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel (Saint Lucia -- co-chair), and Monika Antosik (Poland -- co-chair).

Many observers took part in the meeting including parties, NGOs and IGOs. RINGO members in attendance included Lindsey Fielder Cook (QUNO), Inga Menke (Climate Analytics), Angelica Johansson (UCL), and Mariya Aleksandrova (German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)).

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting

The meeting started with the welcoming of Mr. Yuichi Ono - a new ExCom member representing Japan, who has replaced Kimio Takeya. He is a scientist at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, with an academic background in climatology and disaster risk management. His contributions have been an improvement to his predecessor, who rarely spoke in the ExCom. In addition, it was highlighted that one non-Annex I spot is currently vacant following a resignation (Gerogia). Recorded audio of the meeting will be soon available online.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the agenda & Agenda Item 3: Organization of work

All related documents, including summary of decisions, can be found here.

Agenda Item 4: Collaboration and interlinkages with other bodies and work programmes under the UNFCCC

ExCom members reported back from different meetings[2]:

[1] This report summarizes the collaborative notes of RINGO members including Lindsey Fielder Cook (QUNO), Inga Menke (Climate Analytics), Angelica Johansson (UCL), and Mariya Aleksandrova (DIE).
[2] Further details on collaboration with other bodies can be found in the latest WIM report available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2019_05_adv.pdf.

- The EU member had participated in the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) meeting.
- The member from Australia had participated in the workshop "The impact of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan" during SB50 in Bonn. He highlighted that there are a lot of synergies between the workplan of WIM and the work on gender and climate change under the UNFCCC (especially the Gender Action Plan), which should be explored.
- The US member had participated in the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and in the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). He intends further engagement with SCF to advance the work on L&D finance (e.g. SCF contributed to the technical paper "Elaboration of the sources of and modalities for accessing financial support for addressing loss and damage"[3]).
- The member from Guinea had participated in the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.
- The member from Japan had participated in the Technology ExCom and called for establishing closer linkages between the two bodies in future.

Observers (QUNO, Action Aid and CARE International) asked if there may be time during the meeting to discuss the implications of recent scientific knowledge (IPCC Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere) for the future WIM agenda, in particular these concerning adaptation limits and impacts of sea level rise on SIDs.

Agenda Item 5: Work of the expert groups of the Executive Committee

Workstream on human mobility (Task Force on Displacement (TFD))

The 3rd meeting of the TFD was held in July 2019 in Geneva with the objective of developing a plan of action. The adoption of the plan during the ExCom 10 prompted debate on several issues: (i) concern expressed by some members from non-Annex I countries for the reference made to National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), who recommended the use of different terms and broader climate governance frameworks that would allow for distinguishing L&D from adaptation such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and 'retreat strategy'; (ii) uncertainty over projections for climate-induced migration/displacement and the need to plan for 'worst case' scenarios; (iii) effective knowledge and information sharing taking into consideration that impacts are experienced locally or at a regional level; and (iv) the need of a more ambitious agenda to address displacement (point made by several observers). The TFD Plan of Action (2019-2021)[4] was adopted on the last day of the meeting.

Workstream on slow onset events (SOEs)

[3] Available at: https://unfccc.int/documents/196468.
[4] Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Draft%20PoA%20TFD.pdf.

A special journal edition on SOEs of *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* (Elsevier) is planned to be published in June 2021. The content is meant to be open access (discussed in WIM ExCom 9), but this has not been specified in the call for abstracts. Due to the insufficient number of received papers so far, the call has been extended to 30 November 2019. Please share the call within your network.

Workstream on non-economic losses (NELs)

The EU delegate provided an overview of the work done to date. The most pressing issue at the moment is to define the terms of reference (TOR) for establishing a technical expert group on NELs of up to 4 members, not part of the ExCom. The way forward seems less clear - next year they will most likely prioritize one or two topics (health was mentioned several times) and put up a call for research contributions and collaboration. For example, including NEL into the agenda of upcoming scientific conferences.

A separate group discussion on NELs (breakout session), which engaged ExCom members and observers, helped the Champions create a list of potential experts (UNESCO, WHO, ILO, and HRC Special Rapporteurs were among the proposed organizations), and draw a way forward to address NELs. Observers provided several recommendations such as: (i) engaging experts working on biodiversity and cultural issues; (ii) contacting IPCC authors with relevant expertise; (iii) ensuring that the critical role of local communities and 'change agents' in addressing NELs is recognized; and (iv) establishing linkages to the work of the other three workstreams, e.g. inclusion of NELs in risk assessments (under the workstream on comprehensive risk management (CRM)). Participants also discussed unexpected issues like the term NELs, which, as many noted, describes what NEL is 'not', rather than what 'it is'. Suggestions for changing the term were made. The Champions leading the discussion highlighted that the number of participants in this break-out session was higher compared to previous sessions.

Workstream on CRM approaches

Most significant advance has been made in this thematic area. First, the Compendium on Comprehensive Risk Management Approaches has been revised[5]. Some ExCom members argued that the document should be kept open for revisions, so it could evolve over time. A call for strengthening the knowledge on innovative finance instruments was made by representatives from non-Annex I countries.

Second, the First meeting of the Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management (TEG-CRM)[6] took place in August 2019 in Bonn. Eighteen invited experts drafted a plan of

[5] Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/FINAL_AA3_Compendium_September_2019%28revised%29.pdf.
[6] More information is available here: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/first-meeting-of-the-technical-expert-group-on-comprehensive-risk-management.

action. In line with the CRM workplan, a stakeholder workshop[7] also took place recently (28-29 October 2019). ExCom members and observers discussed emerging issues related to the adoption of the TEG-CRM Plan of Action in panel and in a breakout session. Key recommendations made by ExCom members, include:

- L&D should be discussed separately from adaptation, e.g. instead of reference to the NAPs, the language can be changed to 'relevant planning processes';
- The workplan should have stronger focus on innovative sources of finance and on helping countries define L&D governance principles;
- National and local stakeholders should be engaged in the work on CRM;
- Activities should be informed by the latest IPCC reports;
- There is a need to establish efficient coordination between the different workstreams.

Further debates between participants related to: (i) the challenges in engaging experts (e.g. the lack of funding, unbalanced geographic representation), and the need of clear procedures for selection of ad-hoc members; (ii) the recognition that there are gaps in the workplan (e.g. technology); and (iii) discussion around the need of a stronger emphasis on nature-based solutions in the language of planned activities. In addition, during the briefing, the German representative encouraged more people to register as experts to enable a larger spread. As well, it was suggested by an ExCom member that CRM could potentially link up with other risk initiatives, such as the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) initiative hosted by IFRC (launched at the Climate Summit this year). The TEG-CRM Plan of Action[8] was adopted on the last day of the meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Emerging needs and cross-cutting issues

Various issues were discussed including, among others: (i) potential participation in the Capacity Building Hub/UNFCCC at COP25; (ii) the need to provide guidance to countries on developing TOR for national focal points to the WIM; (iii) improved effectiveness of dissemination of products delivered by the ExCom and TEGs through national focal points, including standardization of knowledge products; and (iv) the need to make progress on finance. There has been a long debate on finance and the mandate of the ExCom in this area, with Alpha Kaloga (Guinea) even suggesting that the lack of progress on finance, and difficulties to move forward in this policy area under the work programme of the WIM ExCom should be communicated to the COP (e.g. adding this issue in the WIM report /Agenda item 6 below). At the end, it was decided that the last two issues (points iii and iv) will be added to the agenda of the next ExCom meeting. Alpha Kaloga (Guinea) requested written confirmation for the inclusion of the topic on finance.

Agenda Item 6: 2019 Report of the Executive Committee

[7] Details can be found here: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/executive-committee-of-the-warsaw-international-mechanism-for-loss-and-damage-wim-excom/stakeholder-engagement-workshop-on-strengthening-the-capacities-for-observation-and-risk-assessment.
[8] Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/TEG-CRM%20PoA-edited%20Excom10%20update%20clean_251019_1400.pdf.

Due to limited time, the co-chair restricted the discussion to focus on the recommendations section[9]. Key concerns overlapped with previous discussions described above. Particularly, many of the issues debated under the agenda items 5 and 7 are reflected in the recommendations. The report was adopted at the end of the meeting.

Observers called for: (i) adding a section on gaps and how to address them (Germanwatch); (ii) better reflection on the importance of designing innovative and effective L&D finance mechanisms to ensure that support reaches those most in need (Action Aid); (iii) strengthening the work of the ExCom in the area of L&D governance including through establishing linkages between WIM and broader climate and development processes to address slow onset events (e.g. in the area of biodiversity and land degradation neutrality); and supporting countries to create national L&D governance mechanisms (DIE/RINGO); and (iv) strengthening the role of WIM in the global discussions on innovative finance (e.g. carbon taxes to fund climate action) by bringing 'innovative finance' as a critical issue in the report and the work of the ExCom (QUNO/RINGO).

Agenda Item 8: Dates of the future meetings

The committee decided to schedule the next ExCom meeting for the week 9-13 March 2020, whereas the duration of the meeting (3 or 5 days) is still to be decided.

Agenda Item 9: Organization of intersessional work

Information can be found in the ExCom 10 Summary of Decisions[10].

Agenda Item 10: Any other matters & Agenda Item 11: Closure of the meeting

On Friday, the ExCom member from Tuvalu noted that some members were leaving the meeting 'early' as they had to travel back. Nevertheless, the meeting closed with the adoption of the TFD Action Agenda, TEG-CRM Plan of Action, and 2019 WIM ExCom Report (including the recommendations).

[9] Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/elements%20paper%20for%20item%206_1630hr.pdf.
[10] Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary%20of%20Decision%20Points.pdf.