12th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanisms for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts ("ExCom 12")

VIRTUAL MEETING

12-16 March 2020

Participants

The current members of the ExCom as listed on their website are:[1]

Non-Annex I: Mr. Adao Soares Barbosa (Timor Leste), Mr. Antonia Canas (El Salvador), Mr. Muhammad Imran Khan (Pakistan), Mr. Alpha Kaloga (Guinea), Mr. Nedal Katbeh-Bader (State of Palestine), Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi (Tuvalu), Mr. Jerome Ilagan (Philippines), Ms. Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel (St. Lucia and co-chair), Ms. Le-Anne Roper (Jamaica) and Ms. Sumaya Zakieldeen (Sudan).

Annex I: Mr. Farhan Akhtar (USA), Ms. Monika Antosik (Poland) (unable to be present], Ms. Cornelia Jaeger (Austria), Ms. Kajsa Fernstrom Natby (Sweden), Mr. Russel Miles (Australia), Ms. Jelena Milos (EU), Mr. Malcolm Ridout (UK [and temporary co-chair]), Mr. Nathan Ross, (New Zealand), Mr. Valeriy Sedyakin (Russian Federation), and Ms. Viktoriia Shtets (Ukraine).

Many observers took part in the meeting including parties, NGOs, and IGOs. Eight RINGO members attended including Angelica Johansson (UCL), Melanie Pill (Australian National University), Zoha Shawoo (Stockholm Environment Institute) Maya Prabhu, MD, LLB (Yale University), Lindsey Fielder Cook (Quaker UN Office), Lisa Vanhala (UCL) , Doreen Stabinsky (College of the Atlantic), and Laura Kempa (Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre).

Agenda Item – 1 – Opening of the meeting.

Malcolm Ridot (UK) and Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel (St. Lucia) co-chaired the meeting.

Agenda Item – 2 – Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without any amendments.

See I. Provisional agenda II. Annotations

Agenda Item - 3 - Launching of the expert groups on slow onset events, non-economic losses, and an expert group pursuant to decision 2/CP.19, paragraph 5(c).

Background to the agenda item can be found here and here.

Three new expert groups have been established:

1. Slow onset events (SOEs)

   Antonio (El Salvador), Imran (Pakistan), Malcolm (UK), and Farhan (US) are Champions for this expert group.

2. Non-Economic Losses (NELs)

[1] It was difficult to gain a full overview of who attended as the internet connection was unstable at times, resulting in people being bumped out of the meeting, both ExCom members and Observers. Additionally, the sound occasionally lagged which resulted in difficulties hearing some people's interventions and comments.

Adao (Timor Leste), Jerome (Philippines), Kajsa (Sweden), and Valeriy (Russia) are Champions for this expert group

3. Action and Support (ASEG)

Alpha (Guinea), Dawn (St. Lucia), Farhan (US), and Jelena (EU) are Champions for this expert group.

The next steps for the expert groups involve nominating the experts that should sit in each group. The ExCom suggested drawing on the expertise found in the Roster of Experts of the Warsaw International Mechanism - Clearing House for Risk Transfer.

4. Development of technical guides.

Background to the agenda item can be found here and here.

Parties have requested the ExCom to develop technical guidelines for each work stream in order to avoid duplication of work. In the discussion, ExCom members discussed how to best develop these guidelines. The US suggested that the broad topics for the technical guides needed to be decided before agreeing on individual outlines, then the themes could be discussed at the next meeting. Guinea suggested that the guides need to be tailored towards a non-academic audience so that actions could be implemented on the ground. The delegate from Australia suggested that the guides should not only be tailored to practitioners in developing countries, but also to policy and decision-makers in developed countries, so that the guides would be accessible for everyone working on averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage.

Observer interventions emphasised the importance of usability and applicability for practitioners on the ground.

5. The role and contribution of the ExCom in the global stocktake as contained in decision 19/CMA.1.

Background to the agenda item can be found here and here.

Under this item, the ExCom discussed what role they will have and which information should be provided to the Global Stocktake (GST).

First, co-chair Dawn invited ExCom members to provide input on the scope of information, indicative timeframe and milestones. Jamaica suggested that the ExCom should provide inputs to the GST, on all its work programmes as the GST also monitors progress of the Paris Agreement. The US suggested a more cautious approach, where the ExCom does not enter the technical discussion of the GST but rather provides information about the ExCom's work programme to the GST process. Regarding the indicative timeframe, El Salvador suggested that the ExCom should start gathering information as soon as possible, so that they will be ready once they need to present it to the GST. Jamaica suggests that the ExCom generate an outline to a synthesis report of things to include to better understand the work of other bodies and their position in this.

Secondly, co-chair Dawn invited ExCom members to discuss how they should liaise with other constitutive bodies and how they could promote collaboration and synergies. Jamaica suggested that the Committee should draw on the table of contents to better understand which bodies would be suited for them to collaborate with.

Once the floor opened to observers, the Climate Action Network suggested that the ExCom should work with the Adaptation Committee to deliver inputs, as well as provide guidance to developing countries on how to best do the GST reporting.

This work will continue intersessionally and El Salvador, Jamaica, Sweden and the US will lead this work.

6. 2020 Report of the Executive Committee.

Under this item, the ExCom discussed how they should present their work to COP26. As COP26 has been postponed to 2021, the options were to present two reports which would highlight the work carried out by the ExCom per year, or to have one report covering both years. The US and Sweden suggested that there be two reports and that recommendations be listed in the 2021 report to follow the model of the Adaptation Committee. St. Lucia suggested that the recommendations be included in both reports, so that the COP would be able to track which recommendations came from which year as well as to ensure that the recommendations from the 2020 report could be further developed in the 2021 report.

The Committee decided to draft some factual recommendations showcasing the ExCom's work over 2021 such as welcoming the launch of the new expert groups, welcoming the work carried out by their already existing expert groups, and encouraging bodies to report on their progress in the Santiago Network. Co-chair Malcolm suggested that the ExCom members send their recommendations to the Secretariat for the drafting process and so that recommendations could be decided before the meeting closed.

[During the last day of the meeting, the Secretariat had drafted the decision-points for this agenda item. While there were several attempts to share the document in the Microsoft Teams application it seems like the document was inaccessible for Observers to review the document prior to the ExCom agreeing on the decision points. This caused frustration amongst the different Observer groups. The Summary of Decision Points as of 16 October 2020 was uploaded to ExCom's website 12:44 CET.]

7. Emerging needs and cross-cutting issues:

(a) A summary of the Excom's 2020 evaluation;

Co-chair Malcolm referred to the background document and aske the Secretariat to put the main point of the document on the shared screen. He invited members to comment on the evaluation. No interventions were made.

(b) Fostering public education and awareness-raising efforts at the regional, national and local level, including efforts with a capacity-building component;

Background of this item can be found here and here.

Co-chair Malcolm suggested that the ExCom open the floor to inputs from Observers in order to gain a better understanding of how other organisations raise awareness about loss and damage and how the ExCom can draw on their expertise. CAN shared their views on the Santiago Network and suggested it can play a role in sharing knowledge and spreading awareness amongst different actors. Additionally, CAN suggested that the ExCom needs to facilitate and encourage broader participation for Observers. Other observers such as IFRC, FAO, WMO and the Women and Gender Constituency conveyed their inputs would be shared over email.

(c) Modalities for fostering the sharing of relevant knowledge and experience among practitioners and vulnerable countries in an interactive and practical manner;

Background of this item can be found here and here.

Co-chair Dawn invited Observers to provide suggestions on how to best share knowledge with practitioners and vulnerable communities. She stated that the ExCom aimed to develop a communication strategy that could be attached to the ExCom work plan for improved knowledge dissemination. Sudan suggested that ExCom should further engage with national focal points for knowledge dissemination. CAN suggest that knowledge could be disseminated through the Santiago Network upon which the co-chair clarified that the ExCom currently cannot give mandates to the Santiago Network but could only receive their reports.

El Salvador suggested that universities hold a lot of knowledge that the ExCom currently has not tapped into upon which the US encouraged RINGO to take the floor to share if any research collaborations were currently taking place. Zooha from SEI spoke on behalf of RINGO and re-emphasised its research commitment and conveyed that the RINGO constituency studies not only climate-related impacts but also social science policy research related to Loss and Damage.

(d) Overarching and cross-cutting elements from the Madrid mandates;

This item was not discussed.

(e) Opportunities and modalities to engage regional and national level stakeholders, including the UNFCCC National Focal Points and Loss and Damage Contact Points.

Background of this item can be found here and here.

Under this agenda item, the ExCom discussed how to further the engagement with the national loss and damage focal points. While the ExCom recognised that National Governments decide their focal points, many ExCom members such as Jamaica, Timor Leste and El Salvador suggested a need to better define what is expected from a focal point. The US stated that they were in support of the work carried out so far, the delegate recognized that many countries still were to decide a focal point. Thus, the US ExCom member suggested that they should focus on facilitating the work for the focal points rather than further defining their roles. The EU, supported by St. Lucia, suggested that the background document could be used to better clarify the roles of the contact and focal points.

As the floor was opened to Observers, CAN emphasised the need to take different national contexts into consideration and that different countries might deal with Loss and Damage differently.

When co-chair Malcolm summarised the item he emphasised the need to recruit further contact points and facilitate capacity enhancement. He proposed that the ExCom keep working on this intersessionally.

8. Election of co-chairs.

Malcolm Ridout from the UK and LeAnne Ropers from Jamaica were elected.

9. Organization of intersessional work.

Background of this agenda item can be found here.

Co-chair Dawn outlined the work the ExCom will continue intersessionally. She highlighted that the Champions of each expert group will meet once a month and share their work progress with the ExCom.

10. Any other matters.

In CAN's intervention, they appreciated the more inclusive format and emphasised that they are willing to contribute to the discussion, and if advance notice is given, observers can provide substantive inputs when required. CAN also recognized that while we are still adjusting to this new

meeting format, they would appreciate if Observers can access and observe the decisions taken. To finish, CAN urged the ExCom to be more active as CAN expects the ExCom to work towards meaningful outcomes for the people who are already facing loss and damage.

YOUNGO emphasised the need for greater youth inclusion in discussions and consultation.

11. Closure of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 13:30 (GMT+1).

Annex 1 – RINGO Submission

Subject: Submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat of Loss and Damage of behalf of the RINGO constituency

21 October 2020

Dear UNFCCC Loss and Damage Secretariat,

During the 12th Executive Committee meeting held virtually from 12-16 October 2020, the Excom welcomed input from constituencies and observers under agenda item 7, in particular points b) and c).

On behalf of RINGO, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to engage with the Excom on such important work and appreciate the collaborative approach of the Excom.

We would like to stress our intervention made during the meeting and re-iterate that the research community is supportive of the Excom's work in gathering, disseminating and drawing on relevant knowledge and the best available science.

As such, we provide a brief overview of the work that the researchers who were present at the meeting are working on in relation to each work stream.

Zoha Shawoo, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute: Loss and damage finance, particularly on designing a theoretical loss and damage fund to sit within the UNFCCC (work stream E)

Melanie Pill, Australian National University, Fenner School of Environment and Society: Finance for loss and damage (economic and non-economic), governance, financial mechanisms, human mobility including planned and ad-hoc relocation.

Maya Prabhu, Associate Professor Yale University/Center for International Sustainable Development Law: Understanding/anticipating health and mental health impacts of climate-induced displacement; international legal analysis into economic, human rights and environmental aspects of WIMs; international legal challenges of climate-induced displacement (workstream B and D).

Lindsey Fielder-Cook, Quaker UN Office: development of education materials for citizen engagement on loss and damage / sufficient mitigation action; cross-section work at the Human Rights Council and IPCC to highlight human impact research relating to loss and damage; and research on innovative finance approaches (workstream B, D and E).

Professor Lisa Vanhala, Angelica Johansson, University College London: The politics and governance of loss and damage in the UNFCCC; national-level loss and damage-relevant policy-making practices; the relationship between knowledge, expertise and policy-making in loss and damage governance.

Doreen Stabinsky, College of the Atlantic: Policy and governance of loss and damage under the UNFCCC.

Laura Kempa, Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre: Finance for L&D (incl. a GCF portfolio analysis on the extent they take action on L&D, and financing options for the GCF; conceptualising the financial instruments that could address L&D).

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly for further information on each area of research. We believe that sharing of information is of utmost importance and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

With kind regards

RINGO representative of the 12th Executive Committee meeting of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

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