13th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanisms for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts ('ExCom 13')

VIRTUAL MEETING

27–30 April 2021

Participants

ExCom Members: Annex 1: Farhan Akhtar (USA), Alfonso Pino Maeso (Spain), Cornelia Jäger (Austria), Kajsa Fernström Nåtby (Sweden), Russel Miles (Australia), Malcolm Ridout (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Co-Chair), Jelena Milos (EU), Penehuro Lefale (New Zealand)

Non-Annex 1: Adao Soares Barbosa (Timor-Leste), Jerome Ilagan (Philippines), LeAnne Roper (Jamaica, Co-Chair), Antonio Canas (El Salvador), Alpha Kaloga (Guinea), Sumaya Zakieldeen (Sudan), Nedal Katbeh-Bader (State of Palestine), Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel (Saint Lucia)

There were nine RINGO members attending including Angelica Johansson (UCL), Inga Menke (Climate Analytics), Lindsey Fielder Cook (Quaker UN Office), Melanie Pill (Australian National University), Guy Jackson (Lund University), Ritu Bharadwaj (International Institute for Environment and Development), Michael Weisberg (University of Pennsylvania / Perry World House), Sarah Louise Nash (University of Vienna), Lisa Vanhala (UCL).

All relevant documents can be accessed at: https://unfccc.int/event/WIMexcom13

Day 1, 27 April 2021, 13th meeting of the Excom of the WIM

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.

Opening by co-chairs: Ms. Le-Anne Roper (Jamaica) and Mr. Malcolm Ridout (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Introduction of two new Annex 1 members:

- Mr. Penehuru Lefale (NZL)
- Mr Alfonso Pino Maeso (ESP)

2. Adoption of the agenda.

Agenda adopted without amendments.

3. Organizational matters.

Participants were asked to write their name in the chat if they wanted to have to floor.

The Chairs asked permission to broadcast the meeting live by the Secretariat. No objections.

4. Work of the expert groups of the Executive Committee.

LeAnne introduced the five expert groups, advising that three of them are new since Excom 12. At ExCom12 the ToR for the expert groups on non-economic losses (NEL), slow onset events (SOE) and

action and support (ASEG) were adopted. Since then, SOE and NEL have had their first meeting (15-19 March and 12-19 April respectively) and ASEG will hold its first meeting in the week of 17-24 May. The already established expert groups, TEG-CRM had their 3rd meeting on 24 March and TFD had their 5th meeting on 13th April 2021.

Information on the expert groups, their membership and their current progress can be found here.

Malcom: Update on the work of the expert group on SOE:

During the meeting, water was headline issue, together with glacial retreat, salination, land degradation and how these had devastating "knock-on" effects for agricultural production and disasters. The expert meeting saw the need for practical policy solutions rather than just technical discussions and that technical work always needs to be put into context as part of a coherent policy package. A special issue on slow-onset events was commissioned and will be published soon, mostly containing review paper on the sate of knowledge of SOE.

Antonio (Champion)

Recognises that problems not coming as single issue but are a compound of many such as displacement due to sea level rise, salinisation or desertification

Kajsa: Update on the work of the expert group on NELs:

The first meeting with all experts was held on 12-19 April 2021 in which a plan of action was developed, including action areas on stocktaking of data/ state of knowledge around NELs, awareness raising, outreach and support and enhancement of technical guidance and support.

Currently the plan of action suggested is quite a high-level approach but it is envisaged to add the implementation approach to each item later on.

The expert group has launched a survey to assess views on where knowledge currently is and what technical guides that are a result of the plan of action should look like.

Jelena: Update on expert group on TEC-CRM:

The TEC-CRM is currently in a transition phase to start to prepare their second plan of actions. They are currently in the process of developing technical guidance on comprehensive risk management and are being guided by the new mandate from COP25 in 2019, held in Madrid, Spain. They will have a new meeting in June.

Russell: Update on the work of the Task Force on Displacement (TFD):

The 5th meeting of TFD was held on 13 April 2021. The report and action plan will be made available online.

Russell provided a quick summary of TFD activities to date:

- Establishment of TFD at COP21 in 2015, in Paris
- The first recommendations were put together and presented at COP24 in 2018 in Katowice, Poland

- The TFD have now moved into the second phase of implementation of the work plan which will run until the end of this year. In the middle of thinking about work after that.

Russell advised that thoughts have been put forward on what comes beyond 2021. These evolved around three key areas:

1) Strategic aims of the taskforce: how to tie work in with the Excon but also how to continue to engage with other groups
2) Development e-learning modules and making materials accessible for developing country partners
3) Evaluation of how well the last mandate from the COP, the development of technical guides, was addressed.

The TFD has seen new input from civil society and UN into the work from Kayly Ober (Refugees International, taking over from IDMC) and Amanda Kron (OHCHR). Russell noted greater engagement with human rights in the work of the TFD.

The next steps are to work intersessionally on a strategic aim for 2021 and beyond. Going forward, the TFD will look at recommendations of COP24 and assess where the expert group, countries and UNFCCC stand to identify gaps and successes.

The next meeting is planned in September/ October before the 14th WIM meeting as to be able to feed material into the report of the Excom for the CMA sessions at COP26 in 2021 in Glasgow.

Farhan update on expert group on AS-EG:

In order to recruit members for the expert group on AS-EG, an extensive stakeholder identification process was followed by holding nine meetings since ExCom 12. Potential candidates were assessed against criteria developed by the champions of the expert group. The criteria included the type of organisation and their thematic focus area (e.g. insurance) to have comprehensive representation for the establishment of a financial mechanism. Secondly, the AS-EG had a regional focus to identify regional priorities/needs. A third criterion was the experience in a variety of functional aspects (e.g., communication, social protection mechanisms). Names of many individuals and organisations were obtained which can be found on the Excom's website. Farhan stressed and reminded that the work is multidisciplinary and crosses over. Therefore, "Cross-fertilisation" of ideas, identify cross-overs and creation of synergies is important.

Comments by Excom members

Farhan Akhter

Farhan, welcomes focus of the SOE expert group on thematic areas in its plan of action, especially on the compounding issues. It seems, however, that there is a lot of focus on topics and very little on outputs. He finds that the plan of action by the expert group on NELs is almost the reverse, with emphasis on the outputs but not topics they would like to bring into that. There is opportunity for cross group work, in areas such as water and water management.

Le-Anne-

A meeting on synergies with the different expert groups and what collaboration could look like between the expert groups was scheduled for day two of the 13th meeting of the Excom of the WIM as a closed session.

Dawn

Notes and appreciates the regional focus by the SOE expert group regional focus is appreciated, so Parties can see themselves in the problems being discussed. Proposes mapping of cross cutting issues in the existing plans of action – synergies and areas of action e.g. SOE and NELs expert groups.

Observer intervention

Andrea Carmen

Look forward to these discussions. The difference between non-economic or economic is not so distinct for Indigenous people. She is interested to talk about the cross-cutting issues especially for NELs.

Michael Weisberg (University of Pennsylvania)

Expresses admiration for the work of the expert group on NEL. Offers services of his team at University of Pennsylvania to expert group on NELs to do a literature mapping to help bridge academia and policy.

Colin McQuistan (Practical Action, ENGO)

Appreciates the upload of documents before the groups. The UNFCCC work on loss and damage needs to move from information sharing to action on the ground. There needs to be more emphasis at the country level and less so on the technical guides that are being produced.

Le-Anne Roper

No objections, Endorses the plans of actions of the expert groups as there are no objections and is looking forward to the successful completion of future meetings.

Jelena is stepping down from her membership in the TEG-CRM group. Le-Anne opens the floor and asks for volunteers for annex 1 countries to fill spaces in the expert group TEG-CRM. Alfonso accepts the position.

Asks for volunteers from Annex I to join the expert group on SOE. No takers just yet.

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

Background note for item 5:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/excom13_5_gst_bckgr.pdf

Malcom Ridout introduces item 5. As one of the constituted bodies of the UNFCCC, ExCom is invited to provide some information for the GST. This needs to be provided in relation to adaptation. ExCom members have worked interesessionally and developed a table of contents. A decision needs to be made on how to progress this work further. Suggests consulting with other constituted bodies to get an idea about how they include their work on the GST so that reports are consistent and complementary.

Le-Anne

Speaking on behalf of GST Champions (Antonio, Farhan, Kajsa, LeAnne). The group met earlier in the year and had the opportunity to discuss how to progress on the table of contents. Resources such as documents from the WIM review and other reports were considered. The overarching theme was the progress on the work under the WIM including various reports by the ExCom.

Recommended table of contents

- Introduction and mandates to set the tone, brief history of the WIM including introduction to the 5-year rolling work plan.
- Section on thematic chapters, activities that have been undertaken
- Cross-cutting issues (Gender, best available science, etc)
- Cooperation and stakeholder engagement and partnerships
- Challenges, opportunities, best practices and lessons learned

An important issue that came up is the overall timeline for the process of finalising the report. The idea is to have the Secretariat start working on the report between now and the next meeting, with the opportunity to comment on an annotated outline or early draft at the next meeting (ExCom 14) and endorse the final draft at ExCom15.

Comments by ExCom members

Dawn

Stresses that it is important that the report is grounded in the best available science, encompassing both, reviews and being seen as a benchmark for the Excom's work.

Alpha

Points out that action and support is missing from the table of content and suggest it should be a priority. The Excom's contribution to the GST is very important work and Information needs to be as comprehensive as possible.

There is guidance from the COP as to what the GST should include. Information needs to come from various sources and feed into the GST. The Excom is well-positioned to gather comprehensive information and draw on finance, research needs and research that is already available.

The Excom need to outline the areas that we could report on such as the work that has been done under the WIM on L&D. It needs to be ensured that it is as possible.

Sumaya

Stresses that the Excom has responsibility to report on L&D and that L&D information can be gathered from many sources. Also stresses the importance of science and IPCC input (AR6 may be ready in time) to feed in their scientific findings relating to L&D. Sees the ExCom well placed to synthesise the information available.

Kajsa

Points out that the scope of the report is only to report on the work of the Excom, not broader. It should be kept by that. There will also be lots of other inputs in the GST on loss and damage

including from the IPCC and the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF). It is the purpose of the GST to have a wider scope but not that of the Excom report.

Russell

Reflect on Kajsa's comment, and points out that the IPCC will be doing their own reports, etc, to feed into the GST. The Excom does not have to summarise this. Agrees with Dawn on how the WIM has used the science and engaged with academics and research, institutions. It is important to consider how the Excom used this engagement in their thinking and further work. However the GST should be about what has been done in the WIM.

Recalls useful chart from the Secretariat about the milestones of the WIM over the last 5 years used in the review process. Question about how to bring out intangible benefits from the WIM and ExCom (things that are not really measurable) - for example, in Paris displacement was hardly talked about but now displacement is talked about more in the UNFCCC. It would be important to point out where we would be now if we didn't have the WIM and our expert groups. Taking the displacement example again, we would be in a very different place to talk about displacement if we didn't have the TFD.

Nadal

Stresses that what Alpha has explained is very important. The more information we have and the more knowledge, the better. We should be looking for as much information as we can. Very much supports the scope of the report to be beyond the ExCom work.

Alfonso

Supports developed country colleagues in that contribution of ExCom has to be limited to exactly what WIM is doing.

Alpha

Stresses again that this issue needs time for discussion and expresses concern. Welcomes issue on science, it is the minimum and at the heart of what we are doing here at the Excom. We need to have a frank discussion about what we are doing, in relation to what science is telling us about Loss and Damage. Looking back at COP decisions, concludes that to his understanding, we need to speak to the decisions referring to understanding action and support, and science is critical to evaluating action and support, but science is rarely discussed here in the ExCom.

Jerome Ilagen

Finds that the benchmark of progress of the WIM has supported governments by providing technical guides. I agree with Alpha that science is the heart of the work in WIM.

Observer interventions

AILAC

Share the views expressed by Alpha and will provide inputs to the Secretariat in writing. Believes that it is important the the Excom reports to the GST and does not limit the report to a summary of the work of the Excom, but providing inputs for understanding the state of loss and damage and making use of the best available science.

Harjeet Singh (Action Aid)

Appreciates the efforts that have gone into this report. The GST will provide the first baseline. We strongly feel that the Excom should not just work at the international level, we need to make sure that actions on the ground within nations occur. There does not seem to be explicit reference to the explicit risks to climate change impacts and we would to see this being referred to. How is the information being collected? There needs to be action on this suggestion.

Malcom (Co-Chair Summary):

Two viewpoints: 1) the ExCom should be very wide ranging, consider how that could be resourced? 2) results from the ExCom, how would that feed into the GST.

Action resulting: Get together and redirect this discussion outside of the meeting. Find out the resources that are available from Secretariat. It would be useful before Friday that people can put some inputs in. That would help us be able to think through this.

Co-Chair – decides to come back to the issue of the what to include on the report on Friday and asks for inputs in the meantime.

Notes time and capacity as constraining factors to include more in the GST than the work that has been undertaken by the Excom as the report is due in March 2022.

[Continuation of agenda item 5 on Friday 30th April

LeAnne (co-chair) summarised the discussion from earlier in the week.

Farhan

Supports the proposal from the Co-Chairs. Table of contents provides a good structure. However, feels there has been a misconception and members are talking past one another. ExCom role is to provide a synthesis report as an input into an assessment, the role is not to complete that assessment. Not for us to pre-adjudicate that assessment through our work. We have to be very clear about that mandate as if we were to get ahead of ourselves it could be a problem for the body and the process.

Sumaya

Still sees the proposal as limiting. Sources of information are really important for informing the GST. If the subject is loss and damage we need to consider the relevant information and time is not an excuse. GST will benefit from information related to what the ExCom is doing but also very important to look at the state of loss and damage in order to inform the Parties.

Kajsa

Proposal very good and broadening rather than limiting in scope in comparison to draft paper. GST is a unique opportunity for us to collectively assess our work on implementing Paris Agreement. Key to remember that the ExCom synthesis report will not be the only contribution on loss and damage.

LeAnne as co-chair

Asks members to identify gaps.

Adao

Asks for recognition of national and grassroots loss and damage activities - suggestions language of 'national level activities'.

Farhan

Notes the need for Action and Support, but not clear what to do with this - understanding the concerns that have been raised. He does not reject the finance issue.

Dawn

As a member I feel that we can have the experts with us to discuss the matter, and the third one can benefit from the expert discussions.

Le Anne

Notes there will be work on social protection.

Adao

Considers not only finance but also capacity building an issue. Country level needs to address risk assessment. And need technical assistance from experts. There are core issues for decision.

Alpha

Supports 3 thematic areas as having value.

LeAnne as co-chair

To agree intersessionally on #1, and #2 where there is a gap and need specific recommendations. No objections.

The item is concluded and it is decided that the ExCom members will carry out work intersessionally.

Day 2, 28 April 2021, 13th meeting of the Excom of the WIM

6. Updating of the ExCom 5 year-rolling workplan.

Summary: *During the Item 6 discussion, it became clear that there was a division between Developed and Developing countries in regards to how to structure the work of designing the new 5-year rolling work plan. Developing countries wanted a broad engagement with submissions from a diverse group of stakeholders, and developed countries wanted a more targeted approach. In the end they reached, a compromise where they will start with a core group to draft guidelines for how to do the submissions, and who can identify which stakeholders they would like input from. More about this on Friday.*

Malcom

In 2017 Excom decided to look at the future and in 2020 they took note of those and started thinking about the next five-year plan. There have been discussions with various groups. They are not coming up with a five-year plan, however, they want feedback to update the plan. We need to think about how we will create a new plan and consider that at Excom 14. Opens the floor for this discussion.

Dawn

Wants to reference a few points:

At this stage most of the activities are from the plans of action from the expert groups; most of the current plans have been completed; more work needs to be done to tie the work of the ExCom across strategic workstream; analyzing outcomes; time and effort was high, need a more holistic approach, in particular it must respond to developing countries and perhaps priorities should come from the parties.

Farhan

It needs to be ensured that all groups work together and share everything to the broader community. It could be beneficial to think about how the five-year rolling work plan could be used to disseminate the findings and other outreach activities. He is cognisant that the previous 5-year plan was very complex and long and but not very coherent. Foresees a challenge of managing this and other tasks. Suggests a more insular approach with internal members each having a few people as representatives to work together. They need to identify how the work plan can be shaped into a coherent program.

Antonio

Notes that the two interventions that preceded had value. Things are evolving in the world, changes are taking place. Information of these needs do not always reach the Excom quick enough. Thinks the idea put forward by Dawn might be a good approach by asking Parties what their needs are.

Russel

Understands Dawn's and Antonio's comments as stakeholder engagement is key but thinks it is important to recognise how long it took to do the last plan due to the large number of submissions. A balance needs to be found from what the Excom has done in the previous work plan. It needs to be considered how submissions are received, how to consolidate those and fulfil the mandate of the Excom and the WIM to take the work forward. The next work plan should be treated as an update and build into the existing system as work progresses which included feedback from Parties and other actors.

Alpha

Notes that it is important to take a step back and take stock of how much has been achieved and what else needs to be done. This should guide the Excom in a streamlined manner to enhance the work moving forward. There are a number of challenges and shortcomings that the Excom faces when implementing the work plan. This includes its strategic nature. Consultation with people is needed (e.g. the secretariat). The Excom has not been consistent in their dissemination approach. L&D still plays a marginalized role which may be due to some missing elements of the work plan. Liaison seems to be failing out from a lack of strategic approach to work with other institutions. Supports broader consultation and collaboration.

Adao

Countries like Timor Leste Countries are already experiencing loss and damage. Timor Lester for example was affected by a cyclone and climate change displacement is occurring right now. Emphasis the urgency. It needs to be clearly understood and be addressed as a key issue. Nots that delivery on the ground is important and aligned with country needs. Expert groups (e.g., NELs), need to focus on how to address L&D at the national level. We need to More consultation with parties is needed so that the work plan is aligned with the current situations in countries. The work plan needs to be updated consultation.

Sumaya

It has been a long time since the last 5-year plan and it needs to be update with emerging issues and needs. It is important to receive feedback from Parties on how the Excom is performing and receive input that can help to protect the most vulnerable which is ultimately the mandate of the Excom and the WIM. five-year plan should include a suggestion on how the five expert groups can work more harmoniously. Previous decisions need to be looked at and ensured that they are being implemented/addressed.

Dawn

Appreciates the concern that having a lot of input and consultation will lead to a lot of work. However, a lot of the work is now happening within the expert groups. A “refresher” is needed. Even though the work plan is to be finalised by Excom meeting 14, there is possibly more time needed to make sure gaps are able to be seen. Developing a set of criteria to guide submissions and filer the external input could make it easier for the Excom.

Cornelia

Expresses hesitation to duplicate previous work. The expert groups have detailed plans. We need to think differently to make sure we address the needs that Excom is supposed to focus on. We were meant to reflect on the successes and failures in Excom 12 and we kind of did this, albeit not perfect. Looking with all the submission from parties will be too much work and may not be a great use of time. We need to think of a way to get submissions, maybe some people sit down and think about it and not rush this process.

Penehuro

Supports the idea of a small group working through how to organise submissions.

Nedal

Inputs needed from the five working groups. We need to make sure we are responding to the Parties’ real needs on the ground. Small team initially to plan how to approach this task. Notes that it is important to ensure no to overlook important things that may have slipped through the gaps.

Le-Anne

Recognises divergent views. Asks the question whether there should be small groups working on criteria that mediate and guide external inputs so that submission do not become too broad. These criteria can be used within small group to help work through Party views.

Farhan

I was not trying to imply we were not going to get any input. Criteria will be effective to solicit views from parties.

Alpha

We need to make sure we seek inputs from all stakeholders as there are many diverse people working on the frontlines of L&D. This will make our work plan more impactful. He is In favour of a small group to develop the conditions and a plan for submission, but this should not be a substitute for seeking wide inputs from stakeholders.

Observer interventions

Sven (CARE international)

Notes that it is a crucial time to develop a five-year work plan with input from stakeholders, including observers. Gathering the views of parties and particularly developing countries is critical. Notes that this hasn't been done sufficiently as yet.

Michael Weisberg

Notes that some of the themes from the NEL expert group could be used to assist the other groups. A lot of work coming in from ongoing projects one of which is on adaptation (mentions example in Galápagos). Notes that the research community should be engaged.

Nasser Alshareef

Notes that is needs to be ensure that Need to make sure that developing countries actually see a benefit in collaborating with the Excom.

Malcom

Notes that the Excom need to be, firstly, should be mindful of what they have achieved already. Secondly, it is important that the work plan is connected to real needs on the ground and is practically useful and balanced by the need to get a large number of submissions, but with a streamlined approach (i.e. criteria). Notes that the Excom is now in a better place as through the expert groups many key contacts have been established.

Need to get the small group set up to plan for how we do this five-year rolling plan.

Agenda item 7. Engagement and outreach.

Background information here:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/background_note_item_7_Outreach.pdf

ExCom had invited representatives from GCF and SCF to update ExCom about how they can link their work to finance-related issues. The ExCom members asked about how L&D could be incorporated into the finance structures. Questions were asked by ExCom members: Dawn, Jerome, Alpha. Observers such as Nasser and UNEP also asked questions.

[The discussion continues on Day 3 of the meeting – Thursday 29th April:]

Day 3, 29 April 2021, 13th meeting of the Excom of the WIM

7. Engagement and outreach (continuation)

The co-chairs introduced the topic and ExCom members added their ideas around outreach and use of national focal points. The members suggested further interaction with the national focal points and proposed engagement with regions. Suggestions included further engagement with national focal points, regional outreach sessions, national fact sheets.

Sumaya (Sudan), emphasised the need to not only reach out to others but also the importance to listen and learn from actors on the ground.

Lindsey Cook QUNO/RINGO encouraged using these meetings to also collect human stories/photos of loss and damage experiences, stories that can be brought to the COP in a photo display (etc) to stress urgency and the human impact of insufficient action.

The ExCom and Observers noted that while some sessions could be held in person, some meetings might be more suited to be held online.

The atmosphere during this session was collaborative and supportive.

8. Emerging needs and cross-cutting issues.

LeAnne (as co-chair) introduced this topic. She briefed the participants about the closed session that took place the day before between the ExCom members and the experts from the ExCom's expert groups. LeAnne gave the floor to Dr. Adelle Thomas to summarise the discussions.

Adelle

The joint expert meeting was held on the 28th April and 65 members form 4 expert groups (from ASEG, the ExCom Champions joined). This was a chance to identify complementary areas of work based on plans of action and key terms of references. First, the participants discussed the potential or collaboration around key messages and outreach awareness. Suggestions included organisation of regional workshops, mapping of L&D stakeholders, creating a joint depository of case studies, technical guides, and to build on already delivered outputs. They also discussed how social protection could be elevated and the need to identify finance solutions.

Secondly, the meeting identified themes the expert-groups could put forward to the ExCom. Suggestions included finance, technology, capacity building, sea level rise, other water related hazards and how they connect to other sectors such as agriculture, forestry and tourism. They also discussed how to link L&D to other global trends and frameworks such as SGDs and Sendai.

Thirdly, the meeting discussed the organisation of future collaboration. They suggested a periodic organisation of joint expert-meetings with cross-participation of expert members.

LeAnne

Opened the floor to interventions.

Alpha

Highlighted the issue that outputs often are very academic and hard to understand/contextualise. This what supported by the **US**.

The ExCom members also discussed the possibility to have 'Water' as a specific theme form which all the expert-groups would focus on water relevant knowledge. **Dawn** suggested that the theme could be broad enough to also include other water-related issues, such as drought. Another topic suggested by the ExCom was risk assessments and finance and support.

Observers from civil society, **CAN,** suggest that focus should be on actions that can be carried out on the ground, such as social protection, L&D assessments, and how they can be scaled up in other countries.

The co-chairs decide to prepare a proposal on how to move forward.

Day 4, 30 April 2021, 13th meeting of the Excom of the WIM

Continuation of Item 8: thematic areas.

Le-Anne

Notes the thematic areas to be considered in each expert group: 1) exploring regional impacts of SOE; 2) role of risk assessments 3) supporting countries to avert, minimize, and address L&D (action and support and e.g. social protection). Putting this on the table to react.

Nedal

We need to understand that these thematic areas do not limit us to these, it is more to focus us. Either we keep it general for SoE e.g., SLR, drought, among others. Drought is one of the biggest concerns around the world now. Other point, 3) it is not exclusively finance e.g. technology transfer and capacity building.

Farhan

Notes that it is important for expert groups to encourage this main theme but it doesn't mean it is the only thing. Things should be suggested, not forced. Regarding finance, there is a group focusing on this and one group should not be prioritised over the other. There needs to be a longer-term vision for these themes in going forward and they need to be flexible as future issues arise. Suggests to talk to the different expert groups how the thematic areas have been incorporated.

Sumaya

Notes that water is framed as SOE but misses floods. Would like to see flood included as it is very important around the world. On the issue of action and support: notes that it is about operationalising the work of the Excom.

Alpha

Supports Sumaya's points and points out the overarching theme 3 is a real attempt to operationalise the Excom's work, especially in regards to implementing risk reduction measures and assessing losses and damages. Notes that currently work is undertaken in a reactive mode, but the approach that the Excom should take is proactive. Questions whether these themes will be treated equally, or will be focusing more on one.

Le-Anne

Notes that all three themes are on the table, equal treatment of all.

Russel

Supports Farhan and Sumaya. Supportive of exploring regional impacts, different impacts in different regions, possibly through workshops and events in regions. Australia is affected by drought and sea-level rise. Different regions could then focus on the issue regarding water, for example, but in relation to their specific concerns. The Excom could embrace this. Believes that the focus should lie on areas 1 and 2 as they are nicely balanced themes.

Adao

Appreciates the three points. Drought is critically important. Countries are having problems with L&D data. Excom needs to support the L&D needs assessment at the country level. Timor Leste is facing L&D right now, it is actually occurring, this emphasises the urgency.

Nedal

Notes that there is already a standing group for area 3, but this is the same for 1 and 2. Action and support is not really covered by any other groups.

Le-Anne

Notes that there is not much consensus on thematic are 3. Flooding was raised as important, but not sure how to proceed there due to it not being a slow-onset event. Notes that there is consensus on area 1 and 2.

Notes that the meeting is running over time.

Dawn

Notes that, as a member of ASEG, it would be helpful to have experts of other groups present.

Adao

Supports Dawn's views with the importance of thematic area 3 and agrees that it is more than finance; It's also capacity building. Countries require technical assistance from experts. Proposes to maintain the three thematic areas together.

Le-Anne

Notes again that the meeting is running over time.

Alpha

Supports Adao. The three thematic areas have value. Other themes are well taken care of by the other expert groups

Jelena

It might be a bit premature to put A&S already as a thematic area. in Not sure how feasible it is practically.

Le-Anne

Notes that there are already activities in the other expert groups that also address A&S as part of their work (cross-cutting).

Russel:

The TFD only had one theme. Mentions that it is difficult to work on all three themes across all three teams at once. There is currently no ASEG on the TFD agenda. The focus is much more on other issues but the agreement is firmly on the first two. Suggests a staged approached where themes are addressed over time. For example, theme 1 this year, theme 2 next etc. Asks for each of the groups to work on the themes one at a time. This would give ASEG time to work on support and action and then report and support the other groups.

Le-Anne:

Earlier it was agreed that not only one would be accepted. All three were supposed to be moved forward. Suggests that all three should be included but not all of them need to be focused on in detail in the expert groups.

Notes that the meeting is running over time. If there is not consensus reached then it has to be taken up intersessionally. If there is also no consensus reached at an intersessional, the item will move to Excom 15 as the thematic areas are only on the agenda in the first Excom meeting each year.

Farhan

Notes that the issue in thematic area 3 is not lost in the other items. Support could be emphasised in the other 2 themes.

Russell

Clarifies that he doesn't meant to prioritise the themes but just have different timing for each. Staging should be in order as they currently are. Theme 3 is one of the three goals of the WIM. The way this subject tis dealt with It's not really in the spirit of what the themes were trying to do.

Le-Anne

There was no consensus reached yet on agenda 8 (conferring with co-chair in separate virtual room". Decision is made that this will have to be dealt with intersessionally.

9. Organisation of intersessional work.

Asking for champions to update the 5-year work plan, ideally 4. Volunteers are Farhan, Cornelia, Alpha and waiting for a fourth volunteer

10. Dates of the next meeting.

Suggesting September, the Secretariat will do a doodle poll.

11. Any other matters.

Reminder: - at the intersessionals, there will not be any side events.

Alpha

The UNDRR from 2020-21 - report on Loss and Damage and the Santiago Network being provided to the WIM.

Need liaison member for the Paris Committee of Capacity Building.

Antonio (El Salvador) volunteers for non-Annex countries and Cornelia volunteered for Annex-I countries. Co-chair asks the Secretariat to circulate this and Malcolm encouraged people to fill it out.

YOUNGO intervention

Speaking from the Philippines.

Malcom

Due to time constraints this intervention needs to be sent in writing.

Alpha - concern that the Santiago Network has not been engaged as promised - request that it be priority in the next agenda item. Now we have a report, this needs to be discussed.

Malcolm - call for decision making through email - good docs - finalize remotely.

Notes that there is not consensus on all decision points. A summary of decision points will be on the web. Is going through each point to confer with members. Asks for an intervention only if there is an objection and to put their name in the chat.

- Decision 2: decided
- Decision 5: decided
- Decision 6: decided
- Decision 7: decided
- Decision 13: not agreed, Farhan interjected, to take intersessionally

- Decision 14: decided

There will be more discussion on items online and intersessionally which will be communicated to Excom members. (not sure whether communication is also being distributed to observers)

Le-Anne

Recognises the difficulty of the working mode, appreciates that people stayed. Expresses appreciation of the work that the Secretariat does. Email contact will follow on how to proceed intersessionally

12. Closure of the meeting, 1 May 2021, 0:33 (GMT+1)