To: RINGOS

From: Jean-Marc Akakpo, International Lawyers.org/Geneva.

Re: Notes from the Fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

Date and Place: April 5-8, 2022; Bonn, Germany (ExCOM15)

On Day 1 (Tuesday, April 5, 2022), the Co-Chairs of the ExCom of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (ExCom) opened the 15th meeting at 9am in Bonn, Germany at the UN Bonn.

After the opening, the agenda was adopted and the meeting proceeded with the election of the Co-Chairs in accordance with the organization rules of procedure, to serve a one-year term commencing at the start of ExCom 15.

Some specificities that need to be highlighted are that ExCom15 is held in a hybrid format; therefore, most participants were not in the face-to-face meetings. However, this does not affect, in my view, the efficiency of the ExCom discussions. One thing I have noticed is that developing countries, which are the ones more affected by the impacts of climate change, were not represented enough in this high-level meeting.

At the opening ceremony, the war in Ukraine brought forth many emotions and tears out of people with all participants expressing their feeling vis-à-vis the horrible situation between Ukraine and Russia.

Throughout the entire week of ExCom 15, the following experts groups are at the center of the conference with each being tasked to report on their different activities:

1. Expert Group on Slow Onset Event.
2. Expert Group on Non-Economic Losses.
3. Technical Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management.
4. Task Force on Displacement Expert Group; and
5. Action & Support Expert Group

In the afternoon of the first day of ExCom15, the discussion intensified with the new report of climate change—The Working Group III report—which provides an updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges and examines the sources of global emissions. This report also explains developments in emission reduction and mitigation efforts, assessing the impact of national climate pledges in relation to long-term emissions goals. You can read the entire report here: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/.

The question of how the latest climate science can inform policymaking relevant to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage proved to be one of the main subjects that has grabbed the attention of the ExCom 15 participants. There will be more discussions during the next meetings on this exact topic. The decision for now is that the ExCom be invited to explore the link between climate science and policymaking process based on the new finding. A lengthy discussion

between the participants on the topic does not necessary lead to a clear decision so more conversation is impending.

There was also the presentation by the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on its work on the enhanced transparency framework as it relates to loss and damage, with a view of exploring potential collaboration with the CGE.

The Paris Agreement established an Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) designed to build trust and confidence that all countries are contributing their share to the global effort. Decision 18/CMA.1 contains a detailed set of modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) that make it operational. Its Annex IV–G states that each interested Party may provide, as appropriate, information related to enhancing understanding, action and support, on a cooperative and facilitative basis, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, taking into account projected changes in climate-related risks, vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities and exposure, as appropriate.

Capacity-building and support from developed country Parties will be crucial to facilitating improvement in reporting over time. Noting paragraph 15 of Decision 18/CMA.1, through which the CMA acknowledged that the CGE supported the implementation of the ETF, ExCom 14 decided to invite the CGE and/or CBIT to present at ExCom15 their work on the ETF as it relates to loss and damage, with a view to exploring potential collaboration with the CGE in this regard and agree on follow up steps, as appropriate. Accordingly, the CGE will further present, virtually, its relevant work under this agenda item. Please see decisions for more details.

Day 1 meeting concluded with a conversation on Annual Outreach events, and more importantly, the focus of WIM. The focus of the current four thematic expert groups is: slow onset events, non-economic losses, displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change, and comprehensive risk management and transformational approaches

On Day 2 (Wednesday, April 6, 2022), the discussion focused on the idea of Collaboration with the operating entities of Financial Mechanism. Here is when I constated that some of the discussion turn around. For instance, the meeting tackled the task of updating its 5-year rolling workplan and this discussion took all the morning.

On Day 3 (Thursday, April 7, 2002), the item no. 8—Cooperation with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in the organization of the Glasgow Dialogue—was at the focal point of the meeting.

To accomplish this initiative, working groups were created around the following themes:

- **Group 1**: Activity technical assistance on the Santiago Network: Operational Modalities/Structure, the role of the EXCOM and its experts' groups/Role of LD contact points.
- **Group 2**: Side Events. The decision on the side events is still not clear to me. I will be updating RINGOS as soon as the final report is out.

On Day 4 (Friday, April 8, 2022), the topic of the 5-year rolling work plan #2 was back on the agenda.

There are two more meetings tentatively planned: 1) ExCom16 will focus on rolling workplan (June/July 2022); and 2) ExCom 17 will focus on reports of 2022 (September 2022) in the Philippines. This information will be updated later for clarification and confirmation.

During the ExCom 14, the suggestion was to hold the meeting in developing world.

Co-Chairs' proposal: Establish an intersectional group of champions that will develop a draft updated 5-year rolling workplan

ExCom 15, Agreement on the template, champions group established

ExCom 16, Initial draft of the 5-year rolling workplan

ExCom 17, Latest Opportunity for Adoption of updated 5-year rolling workplan

The Intersessional group of champions are Hafij, Kajsa, Niedal, Sierra and Sumaya.

The entire Day 4 has been very heavy decision-making process on the report and future planning. **This last day of the ExCom 15, April 8, 2022, the meeting goes on without break until 17:55.**

Decisions of the ExCom15

1. Reports by the expert groups of the Executive Committee.

The ExCom has five expert groups in operation that support the ExCom in the implementation of the five strategic workstreams of the current 5-year rolling workplan. These groups, which are detailed and mentioned above, are as follows: 1) slow onset event; 2) non-economic losses; 3) comprehensive risk management; 4) human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation; and 5) action and support, respectively. Under this agenda item, all expert groups will update the ExCom on the status of their work, including areas where the ExCom's guidance at this meeting may facilitate the progress in implementing their respective plans of action. Coordination of approaches for the development of the technical guides will be considered under interlinked item no. 8(c) of the provisional agenda of ExCom 15.

Just like for any international organization, finance has been central to any discussion. As part of the guidance to the ExCom in Glasgow, Parties encouraged the ExCom to commence, continue and/or explore potential ways to enhance, as appropriate, collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism10 to inform the work of the ExCom and its expert group on action and support.

ExCom 15 has also decided on how to cooperate with Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) organizations of the Glasgow Dialogue. On this matter, The Glasgow Climate Pact established the Glasgow Dialogue to discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change and requested the SBI to organize it in cooperation with the Executive Committee. The first Dialogue will take place

at the SBI 56 (June 2022) between Parties, relevant organizations, and stakeholders and in the first sessional period of each year of the SBI, concluding at its sixtieth session (June 2024). To do so, the meeting has decided that the ExCom will be invited to consider ways in which it will cooperate with the SBI for the organization of the Dialogue and agree on the next steps. On other issues such as collaboration, the ExCom will be invited to endorse the topics and plans by its expert groups, discuss the development of technical guides this year and provide guidance on how different expert groups can collaborate.

I believe that the hardest decision of this 15th meeting is how to decide on the future meetings. After a long debate, the ExCom decided to hold two more meetings in 2022, ExCom 16 in early July and ExCom 17 in September, with a more focused agenda for ExCom 16.