The Warsaw International Mechanism ExCom 19
UN Campus, Bonn, 19-22 September 2023
Anna Aguto, QUNO

The current Members of the WIM ExCom: Rafik Aini (Tunisia), Faisal Al Swied (Saudi Arabia), Jawad Ali (Pakistan), Ashley Codner (Jamaica), Jerome Ilagan (Co-Chair, Philippines), Nedal Katbeh-Bader (Palestine), Mohammed Hafijul Islam Khan (Bangladesh), Igor Tola Kogadou (Central African Republic), Angela Rivera (Colombia), Camila Rodriguez (Dominican Republic), Stella Brozek-Everaert (EU), Maude Dufort-Labbe (Canada), Friederike Elisabeth Eppen (Germany), Kajsa Fernström Natby (Sweden), Meredith Ryder-Rude (USA), Frode Neergaard (Co-Chair, Denmark), Viktoriia Shtets (Ukraine), Evgeny Sokolov (Russian Federation), Gemma Tanner (UK and Northern Ireland)

A link to the agenda and documents can be found here.

The 5-year working plan can be found here.

Opening of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

The agenda was adopted (arrived after adoption, unsure if concerns were raised)

3. Organizational matters.

4. Issues related to the Santiago network.

Seeking a second nomination of the Committee, non-annex 1 meeting. The co-clerk (Philippines, Jerome), will provide a name by the end of this ExCom (Angela - Colombia and Stella - EU)

Kajsa (Sweden) noted that there were several paragraphs in the COP27 Decision on collaboration between ExCom and Santiago Network. Asked that upcoming meetings be held in conjunction with each other to discuss synergies, etc. Requests to the Santiago Network on requests for help and how the Secretariat would respond.

5. Engagement and outreach

(a) 10-year commemoration of the Warsaw International Mechanism.

Concerning the group of champions, support the creation of a photo exhibition with high-level speakers on Loss and Damage at COP28, to promote outreach.

Members discussed questions over messages and speakers, and asked observers to promote the event.

QUNO intervention – thank you champions for this work. To suggest a humble message – we are here because of decades of insufficient climate action – and our message should be clear on the call for urgent, rapid, mitigation now to reduce future losses and damages, as outlined in the IPCC 6th Assessment Report.

Observer (UNDDR) – reshare with stakeholder engagement, and solutions to loss and damage.

Members – ask for the Secretariat to extend the deadline. The 30 September is the deadline for ExCom to select the photos to be mounted and printed.

GIZ – supports QUNO statement – on Santiago Network, inspiring to see solutions to L+D – and in this regard, invites organizations that have experience.

ADPC – encourages countries to bring in submissions.

Champions will take note – and thank the Secretariat for doing all this work.

(b) Cooperation with other constituted bodies.

Stella (EU) gives an overall update and asks for a gender focal point – to which Kajsa (Sweden) agrees

PCCB – acknowledges there is much work still to do. Happy when the new webinar was announced. Allow us to speak to some of the work.

Background of the gender focal point – WIM ExCom used to have two people. Need to reappoint.

Co-Chair Frode (Denmark) reports from a meeting on adaptation related to loss and damage, to which he attended.

Freda (Germany) – on CGE training. Had a round of comments from ExCom members – clarify expert groups to gain information on the material we have available.

There is also a call for a person to connect with the NAPs. Co-chair stressing the importance of the collaboration. Asks what value has the WIM brought, what have we done. Urges for more reflections and to keep an eye on the developments of funding arrangement post COP 28.

6. Second five-year rolling workplan: cross-cutting activities, including emerging needs in the implementation of the work plan

7. Work related to strategic workstream (a) on slow onset events.

Update: TEC to produce products on risk analysis ‘early warning’. This is closely related to loss and damage and goes under Activity 21. Therefore, co-chair recommends that ExCom today gives its greenlight for the SOE group to collaborate with TEC on this knowledge product

Freda (Germany) - report back on the expert group of slow onset events (SOE) to enhance capacity and address SOE in terms of regional and national levels. ExCom 18 revitalized group (one spot open for champion). Group will present the product at COP28, which will be a Type A joint primer (annotated agenda/outline) for the upcoming work in 2024.

Ashley (Jamaica) - volunteered to be one of the non-annex members
Comments on SOE primer:

- calls for the primer to have examples of desertification in a wider array of regions and to have experts from these regions (Angela - Colombia & Rafik - Tunisia)
- offers to recruit more experts on desertification and regional expansion (Angela - Colombia, Rafik - Tunisia, Gemma - UK)
- offers to recruit more experts on glacial retreat (Camila - DR, Meredith - USA, Gemma -UK),
- Meaning of 'effective learning of successfully and failed implementation' (Kajsa - Sweden and Jawad -Pakistan)
- Jawad (Pakistan) - 'what is successful implementation/good practices' - how do we conceptualize and define this
- Jerome (Philippines) -what are the fundamental questions of the primer?

Responses (Frieda - Germany) :

- If there is a specific research focus, then it's the experts who have volunteered, happy to accept suggestions
- When referring to good practices - speak of successful implementation of solutions that lead to positive outcomes

Frieda (Germany) - new plan of action with respect to Activity 21 - collaboration with TEC 'early warning for all' initiative
Activity 22 - increase awareness of SOE - linked to update of plan of action

- Frode (Norway) - wants a greenlight for outline – Angela (Colombia)/Jawad (Pakistan) – wants more time.
- Ashley (Jamaica) - supports proposal

Observer remarks

- QUNO intervention - to answer, 'fundamental questions,' we need to ground communications in fundamental messages. These communications must be about how fast we act in mitigation, averting SOE. Actions must be grounded in urgent, successful, and fair implementation, as according to IPCC.
- IOM - important component on human mobility and SOE, need strong links

Frieda (Germany) - important points have been noted.

- Took note of including focal points on L&D.

Decision points: 1. Activity 21 - collaboration w TEC-ExCom agrees to develop by the end of 2024. 2. ExCom agrees to update the plan of action by the end of 2024.

8. Work related to strategic workstream (b) on non-economic losses.
Stella (EU) reports back on an expert group of non-economic losses, introduces primer technical guide on non-economic losses in terms of human mobility (activity 24).

IOM introduces outline of technical guide on non-economic losses associated with human mobility, planned Type A document

- Need human rights-based approach
- Approaches: what is important for governments? What is important for displaced community members?
- Objective - support parties/relevant stakeholders with a tool to avert, minimize, and address non-economic losses in the context of human mobility. Leverage existing humanitarian data, and go beyond lack of standardization and systematic evidence
- Work with the Government of Fiji, GIZ, and UNDRR – assessment framework (includes risk assessment) - what is the acceptable threshold for loss? How to include non-economic losses?

Comments: Hafij (Bangladesh) emphasizes community participation in every sphere of decision-making and highlights the challenge is to institutionalize with the correct legal instruments . Angela (Colombia) states that in developing countries (Colombia) these conversations are preliminary. Need the integration of linkages between human mobility, poverty, and climate change in the outline. What should governments be doing about cross-border movement? How can non-economic losses be monitored at a national level? Observer - YOUNGO emphasizes need for measures for trapped populations (agreement from IMO with intention to include this)

Presentation by the Facilitative Working Group (LCIPP) Gunn-Britt Retter

- Effects of human mobility on traditional and Indigenous knowledges
- Urge ExCom to consider experts from local and Indigenous peoples to expert groups
- Explore L&D beyond human-centered approach – ‘Nature not a resource but collaboration’

Survey on NELs webpage for stakeholder to show their expertise to engage in this work

9. Work related to strategic workstream (c) on comprehensive risk management approaches

Camila (Dominican Republic) reports back on CRM champions group (Colombia, Ukraine, open spot of A1 colleague), open floor for comments on work plan, promoting joint activities, TEC-CRM collaborations.

- Stella (EU) & Jerome (Philippines)- how we can mainstream gender, traditional knowledge, frontline communities
- Meredith (US) - volunteer to be the A1 champion to CRM
- UNDRR - guidance on CRM will be launched at COP28, scale down to different sectors and then scale up.
- Jerome (Philippines) comments that the section of governance must be grounded in CRM assessment localities, mainstream higher education institutions in CRM (in the context of L&D).
    - Met with agreement from Freda (Germany) and Meredith (US)

10. Work related to strategic workstream (d) on human mobility.

Kajsa (Sweden) reports back on TFD technical guides (non-economic losses and human mobility) and integrating human mobility and climate change linkages into national programs

- IOM presentation on technical guide - mainstreaming human mobility in adaptation plans and communications - aim for Type A product
    - Background on how migration and climate change are linked and how human mobility should be mainstreamed in adaptation
    - Bring people to the center
- Comments:
    - LEG (Least developed countries expert group) also writing technical guide on implementing NAPS (national adaptation plans)
    - Angela (Colombia) need to distinguish for national communications (often backward looking instruments) from NAPs (more forward looking) as each instrument has different purposes for national guidelines
    - Rafik (Tunisia) - Tunisia receiving climate refugees (from Sub-Saharan Africa) every day and unprepared to manage that.

PDD Presentation on technical guide of accessing financial resources in addressing human mobility (related to climate change) - Type A product

- Climate finance options, especially for Pacific states
- Report to understand what funds can be accessed, what has and hasn't worked
- Aim to have draft in Nov. and then present findings at COP

Members debate on endorsement of the outlines - what do we mean by endorsement/what do we mean by outline? Conclusion: No endorsement of the outlines as Hafij (Bangladesh) and Angela (Colombia) also want more time – discussion on reopening endorsement later today in the TFD briefing. Debate over procedure between Camila (DR) and Kajsa (Sweden)

TFD briefing - Task Force on Displacement (20/9/23) by IOM and PDD

- IOM and PDD expand upon the development of the two technical guides and hope to provide clarity.
- Technical guide on accessing finance
    - Guide will provide a tool for governments to develop programming around displacement (L&D) to access financial resources; map options and identify challenges; base past practices on concrete programs and examples that have been funded; will look at immobility and NELs.
- Technical guide on integrating human mobility in national planning processes
    - Emphasis that the guide is completely open to redesign
    - **At the center of this problem is climate justice**, encouraging discussion what needs to be done in advance of these processes so that states can protect their citizens and their rights can be upheld

Comments: Members discuss the technical guides. IOM emphasizes that the intent is to put humans and their right to choice (stay or go) at the center of the conversation. IOM acknowledges members' concerns between the gaps of NAPs and implementation (Kajsa-Sweden reminds Angela-Colombia that LEG is developing a technical guide on implementing NAPs). Hafij (Bangladesh) still emphasized the need to consult with stakeholders prior to moving these technical guides forward.

TFD updates on stakeholder presentations, some of the outputs to Santiago Network and GST, and highlights capacity-building workshops.

IOM emphasizes that the human dimension must be recognized in Dubai. **Without mitigation and adaptation, L&D will be worse**

11. Work related to strategic workstream (e) on action and support.

Camila (DR) updated progress on the ASEC committee and wants to have their plan of action endorsed by the ExCom today. Wants draft guidance for GCF endorsed today to be submitted to SCF. Kajsa (Sweden) notes that the draft was sent last night, with no time to read. Camila (DR) updated that committee working on a document (not technical guide) of selected case studies of the WIM (how L&D are implemented etc.) to be finalized by EOY.

Explanation that ASEC will wait on plan of action until after COP28 and champions will present POA at ExCom 20.

GCF update -Hansel Park from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) presents two main points. GCF provides financial funds for L&D within their existing mandate, taking into account the 5 year rolling work plan from WIM ExCom, waiting on COP guidance for the financial fund. GCF collaborating on UN early warning for all systems. He shares an analysis of GCF's portfolio to demonstrate how their projects align with the work streams of WIM. He breaks down the GCF-supported projects according to the four work streams, providing examples related to climate-resilient agriculture, disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and climate information systems. The findings of portfolio assessment: 58% of GCF proposals/portfolios align with L&D aligned with WIM ExCom, data still prototype

Members discuss this update.

- Key highlights include questions about locally-based knowledge and implementation (Freda - Germany). GCF has been expanding funding to this but it still goes through national governments. Maude (Canada) proposes that the PoA explore outside funding arrangements than just the GCF and GEF (Jerome-Philippines and Stella-EU agreed). Rafik (Tunisia) to GCF for consideration that any loss and damage decision cannot affect funding of the adaptation and mitigation. This is a redline.

12. **How the latest climate science can inform policy-making relevant to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage.**

Discussion on early warning for All – WMO on early warning systems. Note that a 24 hour advance notice can reduce damage by 30%.

Opens for questions: Angela (Colombia) -universal coverage by 2027 – supported by early warning systems. On the Global Stocktake – what are your expectations on this initiative? Camila (Dominican Republic) asks what kind of messaging works, is ‘heard’, noting a trip to the Ahr valley disaster yesterday, and this issue coming up.

Observer Gunn-Bret Rettert differentiates between risk transfer vs 7th generation principle – risk transfer focuses on the short term. 7th Generation focuses on the essential morality of action and long term needs. Risk transfer is mostly market based – and risk transfer reduces responsibility – while the 7th generation focuses on responsibility.

QUNO highlights what was just said by Gunn-Britt Retter and the co-facilitator of the LCIPP

13. Collaboration with the Adaptation Fund.

Presentation by Adaptation Fund, Mikko Olikainan, head of the adaptation fund (grant-based funding for developing countries).

- Mandate: finance concrete adaptation plans in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to adverse effects to climate change
- locally based, locally led adaptation. 20% of the 1B USD portfolio is dedicated to disaster risk reduction. Tangible results - 40 billion ppl supported by the fund, L&D - 525 early warning systems have been funded.
- Potential collaboration:
    - include enhancing knowledge on L&D, sharing portfolio data, engaging external audiences, and strengthening support for countries on loss and damage.
    - sharing case studies on slow-onset events and non-economic losses.
    - The Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) on readiness programs and potential collaboration with the Santiago Networks.

Conversation with members and AF. AF speaks about their funding on request from Frode (Denmark) - no replenishment and 85% from 20 governments. Angela (Colombia) voices concern about success in mobilizing funds (Angela-Colombia). AF emphasizes the work in complementarity with GCF and GEF (in response to Stella-EU question). Maude (Canada) asks if funds go to communities or national governments. AF answers that it cannot bypass formal government roll - signs off any project proposal, the Adaptation Fund not being an operating entity of the financial mechanism.

Observers - a question on what was keeping the Adaptation Fund from getting funds directly to local communities.

The co-chair from Denmark talked about a country providing development finance to communities, but it does not really answer the question.

The co-chair from the Philippines - also about this in the implementing team.

GNDR - most partners listed on the website are government/regional or intergovernmental organizations. Suggestion to broaden to more local level including civil society organizations

QUNO - to again highlight what was said, and to ask that in the Minutes we recognise observer recognition of the real frustration over bottlenecks in climate funding, either in the Adaptation Fund or the Green Climate Fund.

EXCOM decides to invite representatives from relevant funds contributing to the implementation of activities relevant to avoiding, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, to explore possible collaboration. This invitation will encompass various funds, sources, processes, and initiatives under and outside the convention and Paris Agreement.

14. 2023 Report of the Executive Committee.

- Reiteration of the purpose of the meeting and discussing the elements paper for endorsement.
- It appears that the suggestion is to align the language in the EXCOM document with the COP 27 decision.
- The proposed amendment is to revise the language in letter p to align more closely with the COP 27 decision, specifically referring to "the bodies associated with the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage" and "the fund."
- There's a debate about whether to include the phrase "loss and damage" or simply "the fund" in certain paragraphs, aiming for clarity and conciseness.
- The discussion explores different alternatives for language to be used in the specific paragraphs, emphasizing the role of the EXCOM and addressing the functions of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM).
- There's a suggestion to emphasize the third function of the WIM, which focuses on action and support, within the context of the funding arrangements and the fund
- Members agree to work on finding a compromise in the language and intend to send proposed text modifications for further discussion and agreement
- Members proceeded to discuss as before mentioned exceptions. A.1 - ExCom discussed how to better integrate what products ExCom has in their report - in a footnote/list/link etc.
- Members discussed Letter P. Settled on what was drafted.
- Tensions arise over Letter O Angela (Colombia) & Camila (DR) want particular emphasis on the third function (operationalizing the fund).Stella (EU) and Sweden does not want to highlight one. Camila (DR) will work with Kaysa (Sweden)
- Reopened Item 14 to discuss letter A.1 and Letter O on Day 4.

Further discussion of report occurred on Day 4

- The participants agreed to include a footnote to clarify the functions of the Working Group for the Interim Period (WIM) and its relevance to the fund and funding arrangements.
- Co-chair (Denmark) turns to Letter O. Tension arises over how to define the functions of WIM in the 2023 recommendations.The co-chairs have drafted a concise paragraph.
- There was a debate about the significance of different functions, particularly in the context of transitional committees and COP 28 outcomes. Angela (Colombia), Camila (DR), Hafij (Pakistan), and Ashley (Jamaica) want emphasis on the third function of the WIM - action and support for operationalizing the fund. Kajsa (Sweden), Stella (EU),and Maude (Canada) do not want one function cherry-picked. Meredith (USA) proposes to not call out any functions.

- After lengthy discussions, consensus is reached for Kajsa's (Sweden) proposal (as worked on with Camila-DR) rather than what it is now in the recommendations. This proposal lists all the functions
- Close to the entirety of the element's paper. Letter R will be deleted
- Angela (Colombia) - for the record, ExCom should review once again, one of the functions is the most important for the future work (third function).

Co-Chair turns toward decision points.

Discussion and tension arises when co-chair (Denmark) gavels too quickly for the adoption of decision points 1-5. Break requested by Kajsa (Sweden) and Camila (DR) to review the previously sent edits (that were sent the night before). Break commences.

Items are reviewed and agreed upon. Notable items: gender focal point: Frieda (Germany) and Jerome (Philippines) (Item 7). Discussion over communications and newsletter.

GNDR - consider accessibility options and target audience,mainly key donor states' audiences or broader global engagement

Item 26 / 27 - Discussion arises over wording on contribution to funding arrangement and how they can contribute to the work of the Adaptation Fund. Maude (Canada) wants it to be broad, citing Sharm. Angela (Colombia) wants more specific wording around the funding arrangement. Consensus on amendments.

15. Organization of intersessional work.
- Co-Chair (Denmark) asks for volunteers Annex 1 for Glasgow Dialogue- Sweden volunteers. Co-chair (Philippines) goes through non Annex 1 appointments. Meredith (USA) happy to take up all the positions that Sierra had - confirms via Teams.

16. Dates of the next meeting.
- Members discuss proposed meeting dates. Propose to lift brackets for March (Week of the 4th) for ExCom 20, and September (Week of the 9th) for ExCom 21

17. Any other matters
- Co-chair (Philippines) - wording document on clarifying expectations was published.

18. Closure of the meetings

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[1] IPCC, 2023: Sections. In: *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report.* p. 95, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_FullVolume.pdf.