

11 January 2019

SUBMISSION BY ROMANIA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Bucharest, 11 January 2019

Subject: Submission on views and inputs on possible elements to be included in the terms of reference for the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism

This submission is supported by Albania and Serbia.

I. Introduction:

1. In response to an invitation for submissions to Parties, relevant organizations and other stakeholders in relation to a mandate stemming from decision 5/CP.23 para 12, the EU appreciates the opportunity to submit its views and inputs on possible elements to be included in the terms of reference for the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism referred to in decision 4/CP.22, paragraph 2(d), taking into account the outcomes of the implementation of the work of the Executive Committee, for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their sessions to be held in June 2019.

II. Objective of the review:

2. The objective of the review is to take stock and assess progress of the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) and its Executive Committee (ExCom) in promoting the implementation of approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner by undertaking, inter alia, the following functions:
 - a) Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset impacts
 - b) Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders
 - c) Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change
3. The review should build on existing work already undertaken and planned by the ExCom in the implementation of the five year rolling workplan, including by the different expert groups as well as the Task Force displacement.
4. With the adoption of the Paris Agreement Workplan at COP 24/CMA 1 the transitional period of CMA has ended and the CMA will take up its regular business. Therefore at the next meeting of all Parties, the issue of governance in relation to the “authority and guidance of the WIM” shall be decided.

III. Scope of the review

5. The EU is of the view that the review should be carried out within the scope of the mandate of the WIM, and take into account the time available to the ExCom and the WIM in delivering on their mandate.
6. The EU believes that the scope of the review should cover, inter alia:
 - a) Decision on the governance of the WIM (COP/CMA);
 - b) Progress made to date in the implementation of the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom, including, inter alia, the results and impacts of its strategic workstreams, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of the ExCom in delivering on its workplan;
 - c) The role and the ability of the WIM to facilitate the implementation of Art 8 of the Paris Agreement.
 - d) Lessons learned from:
 - (i) The development and the dissemination of user-friendly information and communication products on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage issues of relevance to the regional and national context;
 - (ii) Activities related to improving state of knowledge and capacities—including better understanding of the sources of expertise and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, available for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage;
 - (iii) Activities related to enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage;
 - (iv) Activities undertaken to draw upon and contribute to relevant international processes;
 - (v) Methods used to plan and organize the Executive Committee's and secretariat's work;
 - (vi) The collaboration with existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention/ Paris Agreement, as well as relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention/ Paris Agreement;
 - (vii) Establishment and functioning of technical expert groups/panels.

IV. Expected outcome of the review

7. According to the EU, the review should result in clear and operational recommendations on how the WIM and its ExCom may be enhanced and strengthened, as well as on collaboration with other bodies, organizations and expert groups, in coherence with its catalytic role of promoting the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage.
8. We also expect that the review will conclude on the governance of the WIM. In this regard, the EU is of the view that the WIM shall be subject to the exclusive authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), as clearly indicated in Article 8.2, and may be enhanced and strengthened, as determined by the CMA.