

Norwegian submission on possible elements to be included in the terms of reference for the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

6th February 2019

In the decision 5/CP.23 Parties, relevant organizations and other stakeholders were invited to submit their views and inputs on possible elements to be included in the terms of reference for the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM) to be held in 2019.

Norway welcomes the opportunity to share its views and inputs on possible elements to be included in the terms of reference for the review.

Background

Decision 2/CP.19 establishes the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage, under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The same decision establishes an executive committee of the WIM (ExCom) and decides to review the WIM at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties.

In accordance with decision 2/CP.19 the WIM was reviewed at COP 22. In decision 4/CP. 22 on the review of WIM, it was recommended that future reviews of the WIM should consider, inter alia, progress on the implementation of the workplan of the ExCom as well as its long-term vision that guides ways in which the WIM may be enhanced and strengthened.

The review

The review of the WIM should assess how the WIM is fulfilling its mandate given in decision 2/CP.19 and other relevant decisions. The most relevant decisions include:

- 2/CP.19 paragraphs 5, 6 and 7; which provides the functions and mandate of the WIM
- 1/CP.21 paragraphs 48 and 49 which requests the ExCom to undertake certain actions regarding information on insurance and risk transfer as well as displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change
- 3/CP.22 paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 6 which gives guidance to the workplans of the ExCom
- 5/CP.23 paragraphs 6, 9, 17, 18, 19, 20 which refers to the annual reports of the ExCom, the expert dialogue during SB 48, the effectiveness and responsiveness of the ExCom as well as the development and dissemination of user-friendly products and information.

Decision 4/CP.22 on the review of WIM and its recommendations in paragraph 4 is also an important input to the review. We would also refer to 3/CP.18 that provides relevant background to understand loss and damage in the context of the UNFCCC.

With the mandate given to the WIM in the COP decisions as the starting point, the review should assess:

- How the mandate has been followed up;
 - i) To what extent the mandate is reflected in the five year rolling workplan of the ExCom
 - ii) Progress on the implementation of the five year rolling workplan of the ExCom

- iii) to what extent the objectives of the mandate have been achieved or are in the process towards achievement (effectiveness)
 - iv) the relevance of actions taken
- Impact; what are the effects (intended or unintended) of WIM's work according to its mandate

We would further suggest that the review includes:

- How the gender perspective has been addressed in the work of the WIM, and what the impact has been
- Whether special attention has been given to vulnerable groups including people with disabilities and what the impact has been
- To what extent the information generated from the work of the WIM has been converted into user-friendly products that are being used at the regional and national level
- Consideration of synergies and possible overlap between the work of the WIM and other bodies under the Convention as well as processes, institutions and bodies outside the Convention.

On the background of the assessment made, the review should recommend ways in which the work of the WIM may be further strengthened in the light of its mandate.

Norway wants to refer to the short time span the WIM has been functioning in relation to the comprehensive mandate it has been asked to fulfill. The review should take this into consideration in its deliberation. The review should thus assess if the WIM is moving in the right direction according to its mandate on the background of the work undertaken and what has been achieved to date.