



Submission by Finland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Helsinki, 16 October 2019

Subject: Views on the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

This submission is supported by Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and the Republic of Serbia.

Summary

- With what we know today about climate change and its potential impacts, the mandate of the WIM is even more relevant now than when it was established in 2013. The WIM provides a framework for all Parties, both developed and developing, to participate, contribute and cooperate to strengthen the national and global responses to avert, minimise and address loss and damage.
- Many other processes and institutions complement the work of the WIM, both within and outside the UNFCCC, in supporting countries and communities in implementing integrated and comprehensive approaches to avert, minimise and address loss and damage.
- The WIM is largely delivering well. It has succeeded in raising awareness, strengthening dialogue, enhancing knowledge and understanding, and catalysing efforts to facilitate the implementation of approaches to avert, minimise and address loss and damage, in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner.
- The structure and workplan of the Excom enable it to deliver on its core functions. The Excom delivered efficiently on the mandate stemming from Paris: it established a Task Force on Displacement, and launched the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer at COP23.
- Nonetheless, more must be done. In the EU's view, areas to further explore include, inter alia, how the work of the WIM can be put to use in national policy planning, and how to ensure the WIM can fulfil its catalytic role efficiently and effectively.
- The review of the WIM is an important opportunity for Parties to take stock of progress and, based on the assessment, consider if, when and

how the WIM's work may need to be enhanced to achieve maximum input into informing policy and action.

- It also presents an opportunity for Parties to see how to make the best of the WIM's outputs. In particular, how it can share information and gain insights as widely as possible, and not be confined to UNFCCC processes and climate practitioners only.

1. Introduction and objectives

The European Union and its Member States welcome the opportunity to respond to the invitation by the SBI and SBSTA to provide our views on the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), on the basis of the terms of reference¹, for consideration at SB51.

The EU believes that the mandate of the WIM, as set out in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, is even more relevant now than when it was established in 2013, allowing it to cover its role of promoting the implementation of approaches to avert, minimise and address loss and damage (L&D) associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

Our knowledge and understanding of climate change and its impacts has progressed. The IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C indicates that limiting global warming to below 1.5 degrees would greatly reduce the risk of catastrophic impacts of climate change. All economies, and in particular the world's largest emitters, must first and foremost continue to work together to accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The world also needs to prepare to manage climate change risks and impacts that cannot be avoided through mitigation action alone, as also confirmed by the IPCC Special Reports² and the report of the Global Commission on Adaptation³. There is an urgent need to move from 'business as usual' approaches to integrated, longer-term strategies for mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management.

The WIM is one way in which we can pool information and ideas to direct efforts. The review of the WIM is an important step both to draw attention to the need for action to avert, minimise and address L&D, particularly for vulnerable communities, and to identify practical and technical ways to enhance it, in line with Article 8 of the Paris Agreement.

This submission does not intend to provide a comprehensive assessment of the WIM to date, but rather a summary of the EU's views on progress, what has worked well, what less so. It is based on evidence collected by the EU on how the

¹ Contained in the Annex of FCCC/SB/2019/L.3

² IPCC Special Reports on: Global Warming of 1.5°C; The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate; and Climate Change and Land

³ Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience

work of the WIM has promoted the implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D.

The EU also wishes to recall its previous submissions^{4,5,6,7} which contain relevant examples and assessments that can also be useful for the review of the WIM.

2. Performance of WIM and its functions to date and how it continues to promote the implementation of approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D

a. Functions of the WIM

The functions of the WIM are clearly defined in 2/CP.19 and in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement and the accompanying decision 1/CP.21. In line with the Paris Agreement, the WIM provides a framework for all Parties to enhance action to avert, minimise and address L&D, and strengthen cooperation and collaboration in this regard.

The functions of the WIM, therefore, are:

1. Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches;
2. Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders;
3. Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building.

Article 8 of the Paris Agreement brings important additional dimensions to the functions and mandate of the WIM, notably its central role in bringing in the human dimension and focusing on the losses and damages suffered by communities and countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, in particular paragraph 8.3, points to the need for enhance[d] understanding, action and support [...] on a cooperative and facilitative basis with respect to L&D associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

b. Highlights of progress

Despite its young age, and considering the time and human resources available to it, the WIM has already proven useful in raising awareness on the need to avert, minimise and address L&D, and has produced tools, products and materials that

⁴ https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201901141205---RO-01-11%20EU%20submission_loss_damage_displacement.pdf

⁵ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/201901141206---RO-01-11%20EU%20submission%20WIM%20TOR.pdf>

⁶ https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/SubmissionsStaging/Documents/783_310_131322265505181580-MT-02-22-EU%20Submission%20on%20Loss%20and%20Damage.pdf

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/BG-02-15-EU%20Submission%20on%20Loss%20and%20damage.pdf>

can facilitate the implementation of integrated and comprehensive approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D.

The functions of the WIM, including Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, are set out in the rolling workplan of the Executive Committee of the WIM (Excom) (see also the relevant section of this submission).

At the outset, it is important to recognise that the functions of the WIM are closely related, and that strengthening and enhancing the WIM in one function will also result in enhancing the delivering on the other functions. For instance, efforts to raise awareness on approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D (Function 2) will contribute to increased attention and resources devoted to their implementation (Function 3). This is an important element to consider as we undertake the review of the WIM.

The WIM has helped in moving the conversation on L&D forward, raising awareness within and outside the UNFCCC, and opening up new spaces for technical discussion with concrete benefits for action on the ground. For instance:

- Through the Task Force on Displacement it has provided a dedicated and technical space for discussing difficult and sensitive issues related to L&D, including on sources of financial support available for planning and implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimise and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- It has helped raise awareness of the nature and extent of non-economic losses, by, inter alia, organising a side event during the 44th session of the subsidiary bodies, and preparing a technical paper and synopsis document on the types of non-economic losses, and methodologies to assess them. The expert group on non-economic losses is expected to further advance this area of work.

The work of the WIM has reinforced and deepened our cooperation and understanding that dealing with the threat of L&D requires comprehensive approaches, with action on mitigation, adaptation, disaster prevention, preparedness and response. For instance:

- The Excom work has improved knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches (CRM) so that countries can more readily address the full spectrum of climate risks, both slow onset and sudden onset events, through, inter alia, a compendium of CRM.
- It has gathered information on CRM in developing countries and international, regional, bilateral and non-governmental organisations, with a view to consolidate experiences and lessons learned and identify priority areas for increasing capacity and investment.

The WIM has had a catalytic role, supporting stronger coordination, coherence and synergies among stakeholders both within and outside the UNFCCC. For instance:

- Following an invitation by the Excom, the Standing Committee on Finance dedicated the 2016 SCF Forum to the theme of financial instruments that address the risks of L&D associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
- In collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the Excom hosted this year, in conjunction with SB50, an expert dialogue on technologies for averting, minimising and addressing L&D in coastal areas. The related policy brief is to be released at COP25.

The WIM has demonstrated its ability to enhance action and support, including by developing guidance, and catalyse information and facilitate mobilisation of expertise. It has facilitated the creation and dissemination of knowledge, tools and information on means of implementation that promote the implementation of approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D, in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner. For instance:

- Assisted by the Excom, the UNFCCC Secretariat (2019) published a paper on the Elaboration of the sources of and modalities for accessing financial support for addressing L&D.
- The Suva Expert Dialogue, mandated by COP 23 and held in Bonn in May 2018, provided an open and constructive space for dialogue amongst Parties and experts to explore a wide range of information, inputs and views on ways for facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, for averting, minimising and addressing L&D. It brought attention to the wealth of successful approaches and solutions already available that can be replicated and scaled up – both from Parties, NGOs, and expert organisations. The report of the Suva Expert Dialogue is a good example of how complex and rich information can be presented in a concise and useful manner.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) underlined the relevance of the Excom activities and products for its operations⁸. Approved project proposals (2016-2018 period) repeatedly refer to L&D associated with climate change either as targeted outputs, in the context of co-benefits, or as additional relevant aspects. For instance, through direct access modality, GCF is supporting Ethiopia to build resilience to increasing risk of drought⁹, it is helping three Caribbean islands¹⁰ to strengthen resilience to extreme

⁸ GCF (2016): Relationship with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change thematic bodies.

https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/226888/GCF_B.13_07_-_Relationship_with_United_Nations_Framework_Convention_on_Climate_Change_thematic_bodies.pdf/601c3ece-71a7-46b7-97fd-60d0b44ebd9f

⁹ https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/fp058?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fwhat-we-do%2Fprojects-programmes%3Fp_id%3D122_INSTANCE_VKj2s9qVF7MH%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3D_118_INSTANCE_4ZRnUzRWpEqO_column-2%26p_p_col_count%3D2%26p_r_p_564233524_resetCur%3Dtrue%26p_r_p_564233524_categoryId%3D849247

¹⁰ https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/fp061?inheritRedirect=true&redirect=%2Fwhat-we-do%2Fprojects-programmes%3Fp_id%3D122_INSTANCE_VKj2s9qVF7MH%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p

weather events; it is supporting the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative¹¹, which combines risk reduction activities and risk transfer mechanisms through weather index insurance programme and risk reserves to provide farmers with the ability to save for greater sustainability, and facilitating the use of surplus production as collateral for loans to unlock credit for investment.

- Driven by increasing understanding and awareness of climate impacts, as highlighted by the WIM and its members and stakeholders, a variety of support programmes and projects have been set up in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid that are targeting the areas of cooperation identified in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, and the number is steadily increasing. The number of initiatives with engagement from a variety of stakeholders, including UN organisations and NGOs, targeting slow onset events has also increased over time, in particular since 2017.

The above is a selection of examples of good practices and relevant activities. The EU will be happy to provide specific examples during the review, as appropriate.

c. Challenges and lessons learnt

The WIM and the Excom have taken significant steps towards fulfilling their core functions. Nonetheless, the work of the WIM can only be successful if Parties and other stakeholders take into account the WIM outputs, tools and guidance in planning for and implementing actions to avert, minimise and address LnD. The EU notes that, despite the importance of L&D for all Parties, very few to date have nominated a National Contact Point for L&D, in line with the recommendations from Decisions 4/CP.22 and 5/CP.23.

Furthermore, the EU is of the view that strong national ownership and national and sub-national plans of action are a necessary condition to step up action to avert, minimise and address L&D.

In this context, the review could usefully consider the extent to which Parties and other stakeholders have made use of the outputs of the WIM, and what more can be done to disseminate them. The review could also usefully identify practical ways in which the Excom and Parties can invite others with relevant information and skills to augment/improve the products of the Excom, and expand its influence and reach.

The review could also consider whether better understanding and knowledge of support, including finance, may be needed, that can help implement national integrated and coherent approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D.

Finally, the review could consider the Excom's success in engaging with Parties as well as with relevant bodies and institutions within and outside the UNFCCC and

[mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3D_118_INSTANCE_4ZRnUzRWpEqO_column-2%26p_p_col_count%3D2%26p_r_p_564233524_resetCur%3Dtrue%26p_r_p_564233524_categoryId%3D849247](https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/fp049)

¹¹ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/fp049>

how this could be built on to further promote the implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D.

3. WIM structure

a. Key elements of the WIM structure

The EU is of the view that the structure of the WIM is well captured in the poster¹², prepared for the 8th meeting of the Excom.

In line with Decision 2/CP.19, the Excom is the body established to guide the implementation of functions of the WIM stemming from 2/CP.19 paragraph 5, and Article 8 of the Paris Agreement. As such, the Excom is the main body of the WIM.

In line with Decision 2/CP.20, the Excom can establish expert groups, task forces or ad hoc working groups, in an advisory role, to support it in delivering on the functions and mandates of the WIM. As such, all existing expert groups are part of the WIM structure.

In line with decisions 3/CP.22, 5/CP.23, and 10/CP.24, liaison focal points of the Excom as well as of other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement have been nominated. They form also part of the WIM structure, with the very important role of ensuring synergies and cooperation in the work of the constituted bodies within their respective mandates.

Furthermore, the EU is of the view that the WIM in its broad sense encompasses all bodies, institutions and actors, within and outside the UNFCCC, that are actively engaging in supporting Parties in implementing integrated and comprehensive approaches to avert, minimise and address L&D, reflecting the catalytic and mobilising role of the WIM.

b. Highlights of progress

In the EU's view, the structure of the WIM has been adequate in delivering on its mandate and functions.

The Excom has been operational for six years, and is currently implementing its 5-year rolling workplan, which was adopted in 2017 (see relevant section for details), and substituted the initial 2 year workplan.

The WIM has been successful in involving experts from a wide range of organisations outside the Convention, which are already practically involved in work related to managing climate impacts and reducing vulnerability, and thus relevant to L&D. This is a good example of increasing coherence, coordination and synergies among existing organisations.

This has been achieved by setting up expert groups on slow onset events, non-economic losses, and comprehensive risk management approaches. In addition, the Task Force on Displacement (TFD), in line with Decision 1/CP.21, has been

¹² <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Poster%20WIM%20structure%20french.pdf>

established. The Excom has efficiently agreed on the terms of reference of such expert groups, which have started implementing their workplan and delivering on their tasks, and play a major role in carrying out the activities of the workplan.

The Expert Group on Slow onset events (SOE) is supporting the Excom in implementing strategic workstream (a) of the five-year workplan, to enhance cooperation and facilitation in relation to SOE, including desertification, glacial retreat and related impacts, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, ocean acidification, increasing temperatures and sea level rise (decision 1/CP.16). A beta version of an online database of organisations working on SOE is already available, including a synopsis of organisations and their work. In addition, a scoping paper SOE was produced, providing an overview of work by all partners, and constituting the basis of such online database. This is expected to facilitate access to expertise for averting, minimising and addressing SOE.

The Expert group on Non-economic losses (NOE) supports the Excom in implementing strategic workstream (b) of its five-year workplan, to enhance cooperation and facilitation in relation to non-economic losses. Work is under way for identifying and selecting the pool of experts to form the backbone of the Expert Group, and prepare its workplan.

The Expert Group on Comprehensive Risk Management (CRM) supports the Excom in implementing strategic workstream (c) of its five-year workplan, to enhance cooperation and facilitation in relation to comprehensive risk management (CRM) approaches. The Expert Group brings together senior experts from relevant organisations. It developed a Plan of Action to enhance knowledge and understanding of CRM approaches, capacity-building for enhanced observation and risk assessment, development and dissemination of user-friendly CRM tools.

The TFD delivered on its mandate to provide recommendations on integrated approaches to avert, minimise and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change and is currently in the process of supporting the implementation of those recommendations (see also Section 7).

c. Challenges and lessons learnt

The current structure of the WIM, and in particular the functioning of its Expert Groups, rely to a large degree on stakeholders outside Excom membership, feeding into the process and collaborating. The Excom has to date been instrumental in initiating the work, but human resources and time available to the Excom are limited. In this sense, the review may wish to consider how the expert groups could be encouraged to further drive the work while being guided by the Excom members.

Similarly, the review may wish to consider ways in which intersessional work could be encouraged as well as made more efficient and effective, including by making more use of video conferences rather than in-person meetings.

4. Usefulness and use of WIM's outputs

a. Key expected outputs of the WIM

The key expected outputs of the WIM are contained in the 5 year rolling workplan¹³ of the Excom (see also Section 6).

Decision 5/CP.23 recommends the Excom enhances its efforts in ensuring that information generated from its work is converted into user-friendly products, with a view to enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of relevant efforts undertaken at the regional and national level; and to consider, through collaboration and partnerships, the development and the dissemination at all levels of user-friendly information and communication products.

b. Highlights of progress

The WIM Excom has generated useful outputs that have enhanced knowledge and understanding, strengthened coordination, action and support with respect to L&D, including in areas listed in Article 8 of the Paris Agreement.

For instance, interest in Excom meetings and publications of the WIM reaches beyond the group of its members, and is gaining increasing attention from countries and civil society organisations. It is helping to keep focus on the importance of averting, minimising and addressing L&D.

The WIM has already reached a significant number of milestones¹⁴, as highlighted at the celebrations for the 5 year anniversary of the WIM, including:

- fostering more ambition to build resilience;
- forging important partnerships;
- opening a solution space for addressing the adverse impacts arising out of extreme weather events and slow onset events such as sea level rise, desertification and ocean acidification;
- introducing comprehensive risk management approaches so that countries can more readily address the full spectrum of climate risks;
- launching the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer; and
- establishing the Task force on Displacement.

Risk Talk, an interactive platform part of the Fiji Clearing House, is a tool that directs questions related to climate risk management from anywhere in the world to the most knowledgeable expert for the respective question (out of an expert pool). To date, Risk Talk counts almost 400 registered users, with a steady increasing trend. As of mid-August 2019, almost 140 questions have been put to

¹³ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2017/sb/eng/01a01e.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/loss-and-damage-ld/chronology-ld-workstream>

experts and answered, which have been read almost 6,000 times. In total, these users posed 137 questions and received more than 179 responses.

The compendium on comprehensive risk management approaches, prepared by the Excom as part of the implementation of its initial two-year workplan, provides useful insights on how CRM approaches can be understood and implemented, as well as case studies. The compendium will be finalised to integrate views expressed by Parties and other stakeholders.

The Task Force on Displacement produced a number of valuable contributions, including its report as well as the other products, such as a useful repository of information on how not only to deal with displacement but also with migration and planned relocation in the context of climate change. These have the potential to provide useful guidance and catalyse coherence among the international agendas and processes, including the Global Compact on Migration or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

c. Challenges and lessons learnt

We see a strong role for the Excom in the UNFCCC process, providing evidence and practical ideas to enable negotiations to be grounded in the best science and solutions. The WIM can amplify success by capturing lessons learnt, driving dissemination, as well as facilitating the scaling up of successful approaches.

The review could usefully consider the extent to which the Excom has integrated recommendations of Decision 5/CP.23 in its 5 year rolling workplan, with a view to enhancing the usefulness and outreach of its products.

The review could also consider other approaches that could help increase the impact and outreach of WIM's outputs and tools, including to a wider audience beyond the UNFCCC negotiations, and how a wider network of practitioners, researchers and policymakers could further contribute to the WIM outputs to support countries and communities in taking action to avert, minimise and address L&D. Furthermore, the review could consider how the network of practitioners gravitating around the WIM could be extended effectively, and experts encouraged to engage more proactively in its tools, such as Risk Talk. Further areas that could be covered by successful tools, such as Risk Talk, could also be considered.

5. Collaboration, coherence and partnerships with bodies, entities and work programmes, and with relevant stakeholders within and outside the Convention

a. Summary of relevant mandates

Decision 2/CP.19 establishing the WIM already highlights the need for the WIM to cooperate and collaborate with other bodies/expert groups inside and outside the Convention, in line with its catalytic role and mandate. Such role is reinforced in subsequent decisions: for instance, 1/CP.21 calls for the WIM to collaborate with bodies and expert groups under the Paris Agreement, as well as relevant

organisations and expert outside the Agreement. Decision 4/CP.22 recommends the Excom to enhance collaboration with other entities, and to improve access to scientific and technical panels, bodies and expertise; decision 10/CP.24 encourages the Excom to continue to draw upon the work, information and expertise of bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as international processes, when executing its work.

Decision 3/CP.22 invites constituted bodies under the Convention to continue or initiate the integration of efforts to avert, minimise and address L&D in their work. Such invitation is reiterated in decision 5/CP.23, which also encourages the Excom to collaborate with other bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and to continue considering ways of facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and the enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building. Decision 10/CP.24 invites bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well outside, to consider the recommendations adopted by Parties on displacement related to climate change.

b. Highlights of progress

Since the creation of the WIM, the awareness of L&D in international agendas has continuously increased. With the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, aspects relevant for averting, minimising and addressing L&D are included in main global development agendas and frameworks.

In line with the relevant decisions, Excom focal points have been designated to ensure coherence and collaboration with other UNFCCC bodies.

In a similar vein, representatives of other UNFCCC bodies attend Excom meetings and contribute to the work of the Excom, as relevant. For instance, the SCF provided valuable input to the preparation of the Technical Paper on sources of and modalities for accessing financial support for addressing L&D. The collaboration between the TEC and the Excom has already resulted in a joint expert meeting, and will produce a policy brief on technologies for averting, minimising and addressing L&D in coastal zones. The Paris Committee on Capacity Building has been invited to consider how it can contribute to capacity building for L&D, within its mandate.

A great number of international organisations engages in the progress of averting, minimising and addressing L&D associated with climate change. The United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and World Food Programme (WFP) only represent a selection of organisations that are acting as stakeholders to directly or indirectly support the WIM, with many of them regularly providing helpful inputs during Excom meetings.

In addition, the Excom, often in collaboration with key external partners, has organised a number of side events at UNFCCC negotiation sessions, as well as during the Climate and Development Days. Such events are useful outreach exercises to raise awareness of approaches and tools to avert, minimise and address L&D, as well as to strengthen partnerships with other organisations and forge new ones.

Within the broad UN context, a number of UN resolutions point to the need to avert, minimise and address L&D and explicitly mention the WIM as the main vehicle that supports diverse initiatives. Among these resolutions are the SAMOA Declaration on Climate Change in the Context of Sustainable Development for SIDS, and Resolution 73/242 on the “Follow-up to the Fourth Conference on the Least Developed Countries”.

The Resilience and Adaptation Call to Action, issued at the UN Secretary General Global Climate Summit and endorsed by 113 countries, is a powerful signal of the consensus to act to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change, to put climate risk at the centre of decision making, and to urgently mobilise transformative investment and scale up international support. The initiative on non-economic losses from climate change championed by Greece in the Global Climate Action Summit could help further understand challenges and opportunities to avert, minimise and address L&D.

In parallel to developments in the UN, there is increasing interest and attention to L&D in the academic literature: published articles increased by 65% between the 2013-2015 period and the 2016-2018 period. Similarly, explicit reference to the WIM has increased by almost 120% over the same periods¹⁵. In addition, a call for papers for a special issue on SOE in the journal *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* has been jointly issued by the Editors and the Excom to gather articles on emerging understanding about SOE, climate change impacts, and L&D.

This is a clear indication that the establishment and the work of the WIM have been successful in harnessing the potential of researchers and universities to generate new knowledge and understanding in support of L&D.

A variety of collaborations and activities have either been inspired by the WIM or follow similar objectives, and have mainstreamed relevant issues into their respective work plans and priorities. These include, for instance: the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF); the G20/V20's InsuResilience Global Partnership for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance; Flood Resilience Initiative; Munich Climate Insurance Initiative, Insurance Development Forum; START Network; the Group of Friends on climate and security; and the UN Climate and Security Mechanism.

¹⁵ Own analyses using Google Trends and Google Scholar.

c. Challenges and lessons learnt

In order to best use existing structures and in view of rising to the challenge posed by the threat of L&D, there is a need to examine how the WIM can best collaborate or continue cooperating with other mandated bodies, like the SCF, PCCB, TEC, LEG and AC. This is needed to ensure coherent and comprehensive work related to averting, minimising and addressing L&D, within their respective mandates. The review may be an opportunity to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of holding regular meetings and exchanges between Excom members and liaisons officers of other UNFCCC bodies.

The review could also consider how the WIM – including the Excom and Expert Groups – could get more involved into relevant processes outside the UNFCCC to disseminate further the importance of averting, minimising and addressing L&D, as well as successful tools and approaches in this regard. This could include engagement strategies at different levels.

6. Progress on the implementation of the workplan of the Executive Committee

a. Summary of the workplan

The key expected outputs of the WIM are contained in the 5 year rolling workplan of the Excom. In addition, the Excom further developed the workplan, identifying desired results and actions, in 2017.

Decision 3/CP.22 requests the Executive Committee to include in its five-year rolling workplan a strategic workstream to guide the implementation of the WIM's function of enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address L&D associated with the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in decision 2/CP.19. It also requested the Executive Committee to include in its five-year rolling workplan relevant work for advancing the operationalization of the mandates ensuing from decision 1/CP.21.

Decision 4/CP.22 recommended that the work of the Excom may be advanced by: (a) Enhancing collaboration, cooperation and partnerships, within and outside the Convention; (b) Considering the establishment of additional expert groups, subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or focused working groups; (c) Improving access to, and interaction with, relevant scientific and technical panels, bodies and expertise.

Decision 5/CP.23 reiterated the need for the Excom to further prioritise its work, and consider cross-cutting issues and current, urgent and emerging needs related to extreme weather events and SOE in updating its 5 year rolling workplan.

The Excom workplan is based on 5 workstreams:

- a) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to slow onset events.
- b) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to non-economic losses.

- c) Comprehensive risk management approaches (including assessment, reduction, transfer, retention), to address and build long term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities to L&D, including in relation to extreme and slow onset events.
- d) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation.
- e) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address L&D associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

It includes possible actions to support the Excom in implementing its workplan, including preparing technical documents, organising workshops and events, establishing expert groups.

b. Highlights of progress

The 5-year rolling workplan effectively reflects the mandates and functions of the WIM, including its role in supporting the implementation of Article 8 of the Paris Agreement. Its rolling structure provides a flexible framework for the Excom to adjust its work, and respond to emerging challenges and guidance from Parties.

Progress of the Excom in implementing its workplan is contained in the Excom annual reports.

Implementation of the workplan started slowly, but has picked up speed as the Excom has become more effective in its work. The Excom has done best when concentrating on technical matters. The EU would encourage the Excom to maintain this technical focus. For example, in line with activities planned under workstream 4, a joint stakeholder engagement workshop was organised by Excom, WMO and UNDRR on "Strengthening the capacities for observation and risk assessment in the context of L&D associated with climate change impacts". The Excom convened UNCCD, Forecast-based Financing, InsuResilience and WFP to discuss risk transfer tools.

Many more examples of successful activities by the Excom can be found in other parts of this submission, as Excom activities encompass all areas of the ToR. It is important also to note that the implementation of the 5 year rolling workplan only began in 2017. As such, many activities are yet to commence or be finalised, in line with the workplan itself, and with the prioritisation exercise that the Excom, with the guidance of Parties and non-Parties, has agreed to follow.

c. Challenges and lessons learnt

The review should consider which approaches, as contained in the 5 year rolling workplan, have proved cost effective and efficient, and have had an impact. Further, the review may wish to consider the outreach of the activities, i.e. have the results actually been used in practice. These include, for instance, technical papers and outputs, setting up expert groups, and organising workshops and

events. Assessing the usefulness of such approaches in achieving the foreseen outcomes could provide interesting insights on how to further improve the way in which the Excom delivers on its tasks, including possible new approaches.

In continuing the implementation of the five year rolling workplan, the review could usefully consider the potential benefits of gathering ideas on further technical work that may be needed, and of encouraging those with knowledge and expertise to work with the WIM to make it available to those who need it most.

In addition, the review should also consider how to further streamline and prioritise the work of the Excom, bearing in mind the constraints faced by Excom members in terms of time and availability.

7. The response of the WIM to relevant decisions and the Paris Agreement

a. Summary of relevant decisions and the Paris Agreement provisions

In the EU's view, the mandate and functions of the WIM are contained in, inter alia: Decision 2/CP.19; Decision 2/CP.20; Decision 1/CP.21; Paris Agreement; Decision 3/CP.22; Decision 4/CP.22; Decision 5/CP.23; Decision 10/CP.24; and Decision 19/CMA.1.

b. Highlights of progress

The response of the Excom to its mandate is described in previous sections of this submission. In this part, we will focus primarily on the new tasks stemming from 1/CP.21 and the Paris Agreement.

It is clear that the Excom has successfully delivered on the tasks contained in Decision 1/CP.21. It has established the Task Force on Displacement. The Task Force has generated seven extensive reports and a set of recommendations on climate related displacements. Parties welcomed the related recommendations at COP24, and their implementation has already begun. For instance, priorities developed in the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) Agenda for the protection of cross-border displaced persons in the context of natural disasters are in line with the recommendations.

The Task Force on Displacement is a good example of practical ways in which the WIM can increase coherence, coordination and synergies among existing organisations. It has successfully involved experts from a wide range of organisations outside the Convention as well as from relevant bodies of the Convention (AC and LEG), and helped to focus attention on the issues of L&D.

In view of the good performance of the Task Force and usefulness of its work, with decision 10/CP.24 Parties agreed to extend its mandate in view of implementing workstream (d) of the 5 year rolling workplan of the Excom, on "enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation". Furthermore, the Terms of Reference of the Task Force have been used when setting up other Expert groups, for instance the expert group on comprehensive risk management approaches.

The Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer was launched by the COP President at COP23. The Clearing House is designed to become a knowledge hub providing information on risk transfer and facilitating the development and implementation of comprehensive risk management strategies for UNFCCC Parties. It has been proven to be a useful tool and has had a catalytic role, supporting stronger coordination, coherence and synergies among stakeholders both within and outside the UNFCCC.

c. Challenges and lessons learnt

The review could usefully consider how to reflect action on L&D and the role of the WIM and the Excom in the Global Stocktake (19/CMA.1 para 24) – and the Excom mandate to collect, manage and use data and provide an overview of best practices, experiences and lessons learnt (2/CP.18 Para 5(a) (ii) and (iii)).

8. Conclusions

In concluding, the EU wishes to reiterate that the mandates of the WIM remain adequate and relevant. The WIM is largely delivering well.

Many other processes and institutions complement the work of the WIM, both within and outside the Convention. The catalytic role of the WIM and its value added have been demonstrated: the WIM has benefits in catalysing awareness of the rising climate risks for the most vulnerable and providing conceptual approaches to manage these risks, mobilising others who work on implementation and providing a platform for exchange between different overlapping but already existing communities of experts, processes and institutions.

We see the WIM as a way of focussing attention on L&D and encouraging and facilitating greater knowledge for action, through stimulating and disseminating practical ideas that help people on the ground to avert, minimise and address L&D in their specific situations.

Nonetheless, there are areas where challenges remain, some of which will be addressed by the ongoing and planned activities of the Excom, some of them inherent in nature of expert bodies with global reach.

The review of the WIM offers an opportunity for Parties to take stock of progress and, based on the assessment, consider if, when and how the WIM's work may need to be enhanced. It also presents an opportunity for Parties to see how to make the best use of the WIM's outputs – bringing them to the attention of practitioners and scholars alike, so that they do not remain confined within the UNFCCC and climate practitioners only. The EU is ready to engage in this.