

BRIEFING PAPER

# ExCom Meeting #17

## Report on the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage

### 1 Calls for Action on Loss and Damage in the run up to COP27

Between 20 and 24 September 2022, the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) was held in Bonn, Germany. During this meeting, the ExCom discussed topics such as the update of its 5-year rolling work plan, the 2022 ExCom Report, and the cooperation with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)-chair on the Glasgow Dialogue.<sup>1</sup>

Simultaneously to the ExCom meeting, the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) took place, including the Leaders' Roundtable on Climate Action and the New York Climate Week. During these events, different actors specifically called for funding Loss and Damage (L&D)<sup>2</sup>: At UNGA, UN Secretary General António Guterres opened a high-level segment by emphasising that it is “time for a serious discussion and meaningful action”<sup>3</sup> on L&D, and called for the development of financial mechanisms to address L&D. He even called on the Global North to tax the profits of fossil fuel companies to fund measures to deal with L&D.<sup>4</sup> Pakistan's foreign minister furthermore proposed that international financial institutions establish a separate L&D financing window.<sup>5</sup> Least Developed Countries (LDCs) published a statement emphasising the “critical importance of establishing a finance facility for addressing loss and damage.”<sup>6</sup>

These calls for actions appear in the context of intensifying extreme-weather-events and progressing slow onset events that cause human suffering and increase losses and damages. Whereas the consequences of climate change are often referred to as “challenges,” the new Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, Simon Stiell, highlights that “these aren't challenges, they're threatening emergencies.”<sup>7</sup> The recent monsoon-related floods in Pakistan or the heat wave in India clearly demonstrate the devastating impact these events have on people and their livelihoods. Scientific models suggest that climate change has increased rainfall intensity in Pakistan by up to 50%<sup>8</sup> and made the heat wave in India and Pakistan 30 times more

<sup>1</sup> ExCom, 2022, [Indicative schedule of work](#)

<sup>2</sup> Insider, 2022, [Live Updates: Climate Week NYC 2022](#); Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Pakistan, 2022, [High Level Side Event on Loss & Damage organized by Pakistan on sidelines of 77<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGA](#)

<sup>3</sup> António Guterres, 2022, [Full transcript of press encounter after Global Crisis Response Group Roundtable and Leaders' Roundtable on Climate Change](#)

<sup>4</sup> António Guterres, 2022, [Secretary-General's Address to the General Assembly](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Pakistan, 2022, [High Level Side Event on Loss & Damage organized by Pakistan on sidelines of 77<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGA](#)

<sup>6</sup> LDC Climate Change, 2022, [Dakar Least Developed Countries Group Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change 2022](#)

<sup>7</sup> Simon Stiell, 2022, [COP27 Must Demonstrate the Pivot to a New Era of Implementation](#)

<sup>8</sup> World Weather Attribution, 2022, [Climate change likely increased extreme monsoon rainfall, flooding highly vulnerable communities in Pakistan](#)

likely.<sup>9</sup> Against this backdrop it is not surprising that L&D finance was one of the key topics at COP27. It started with countries of the Global South advocating steadily for an agenda item on L&D financing. Their efforts resulted in an agreement to establish new funding arrangements, including a new L&D fund for developing countries, which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects on climate change.<sup>10</sup> Parties decided that the second Glasgow Dialogue should therefore focus on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements and the L&D fund and on maximizing support for existing funding arrangements. To get an idea about the next round of the Glasgow Dialogue, it is vital to look at the previous work and contributions of the ExCom to the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage Finance. Therefore, this report aims to give an overview about the ExComs 17<sup>th</sup> meetings work on the Glasgow Dialogue.

## **2 Agenda item 8b: Report back from the first round of the Glasgow Dialogue**

One of the main topics on the agenda of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ExCom was the report back from the first round of the Glasgow Dialogue. Established at COP26 as a compromise for a Glasgow Facility on Loss and Damage, the Glasgow Dialogue provides a framework for discussion on the financing of climate change induced L&D. According to Decision 1/CMA.3, paragraph 74, the ExCom, along with the SBI, is mandated to organise the Glasgow Dialogue.<sup>11</sup> The first Glasgow Dialogue was held at the Subsidiary Body (SB) 56 in three sessions. The participants of the second session as well as its four parallel breakout groups, included members of Parties, International (UN) organisations, and civil society.

### **2.1 Input from SBI chair Marianne Karlsen on the first Glasgow Dialogue**

SBI Chair Marianne Karlsen reported back from the first round of the Glasgow Dialogue, and ExCom members had the chance to share and discuss their own reflections on the past Dialogue. At first, Karlsen highlighted that the ExCom has added great value to the Glasgow Dialogue by working on guiding questions, suggesting a wide range of speakers, and setting up a Champions group. She even referred to the ExCom as the institutional memory of the Glasgow Dialogue, as written outcomes of the Dialogue do not exist, because some Parties refused her proposal to have an informal written report of the Glasgow Dialogue's first round. Karlsen pointed out that the Glasgow Decision mandated the ExCom not only to be responsive, but also to play a specific role within the Glasgow Dialogue. The ExCom should also think about how it will shape that role in the future.

Reflecting on the Glasgow Dialogue in general, Karlsen noted that the discussion helped to understand the different positions on L&D finance of the Parties better. According to her, openness and inclusivity were the key characteristics of the Glasgow Dialogue, with a strong emphasis on the urgency to act. Nevertheless, the Dialogue only allowed for limited progress toward the kind of resolutions that some countries desired, such as funding arrangements for Loss and Damage. With regard to the second Dialogue, Karlsen expressed confidence that the ExCom will help move the deliberations forward. Karlsen also assured to inform her

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<sup>9</sup> World Weather Attribution, 2022, [Climate Change made devastating early heat in India and Pakistan 30 times more likely](#)

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2022, [FCC/CP/2022/L.18-FCC/PA/CMA/2022/L.20](#)

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2021, [Draft Text on 1/CMA.3 Version 13/11/2021 8:00](#)

successor that if there is to be a written report on the second Glasgow Dialogue, it should be more in-depth, as requested by a member of the ExCom.

Karlsen identifies the following lessons learnt from the first Glasgow Dialogue:

- Breakout room discussions: The Glasgow Dialogue benefitted greatly from small breakout room discussions, which allowed for richer exchange among the participants. It is vital to ensure that the Glasgow Dialogue provides a space in which ExCom members as well as other experts can contribute.
- Elaboration on specific areas: Further elaboration on L&D topics is needed in areas such as non-economic losses and damages (NELDs) and slow-onset-events (SOE). Those should be included by the next SBI-chair.
- Methods and means: There is a need to move towards answering the question of “how” to address L&D, and how institutions need to be shaped among others.
- Role of the SBI chair: The next SBI chair could exercise their prerogative to hold (in)formal events.
- Stronger collaboration: Karlsen’s successor should engage with all Parties and non-party stakeholders for advice and input to ensure the Glasgow Dialogue delivers practical solutions based on needs.

## **2.2 Reflections of the ExCom on the conversation with SBI chair Marianne Karlsen**

Based on the discussion with Karlsen, the ExCom decided to establish a Group of Champions for collaborating with the SBI on the organisation of the second Glasgow Dialogue, which will take place at SB58. ExCom members wanted to ensure an open and inclusive participation and acknowledged the importance of consulting the SBI chair early on in the lead up to SB58.

In accordance with their Glasgow mandate, the ExCom encourages the Group of Champions to reflect on suggestions for speakers and guiding questions for the next Glasgow Dialogue and on how to cooperate with the new SBI chair in organising the next Glasgow Dialogue. Furthermore, the ExCom wants to ensure to incorporate all inputs from its expert groups and therefore encourages the Champions to engage with them, especially the ones on NELDs and SOEs. Since the next SBI chair has not been appointed yet, the ExCom did not decide on the second Glasgow Dialogue’s theme in its session. However, following the decision on L&D funding at COP27, it was decided that the second Glasgow Dialogue should focus on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, the L&D fund established at COP27 and the maximization of support from existing funding arrangements<sup>12</sup>. Additionally, to the Glasgow Dialogue’s theme, the ExCom, in line with Karlsen’s reflections, emphasised that more work on NELDs and SOEs should be conducted. They therefore decided to examine and evaluate how their expert groups can be more active in the next session of the Glasgow Dialogue. Some members specifically pointed to the need to focus on the gap of addressing L&D as one outcome of the Glasgow Dialogue. Others emphasised that the next Glasgow Dialogue should include further breakout groups, and that the ExCom should have the opportunity again to contribute to the concept note before the Glasgow Dialogue. Generally, the ExCom underlined that the second Dialogue should focus on the gaps that were identified within the first Dialogue.

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<sup>12</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2022, [FCCC/CP/2022/L.18-FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L.20](https://www.unfccc.int/documents/1365127/1365127/FCCC/CP/2022/L.18-FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/L.20)

## **2.3 The updated 5 year rolling work plan**

Within the ExCom's updated second work plan, reference is made to the Glasgow Dialogue in the context of the Expert Group on Action and Support. It includes a collaboration with the SBI on the organisation of the Glasgow Dialogue as well as the establishment of a Champions Group to provide input to the Glasgow Dialogue. The ExCom should furthermore invite the SBI Chair to share information on the progress of the Glasgow Dialogue preparation. The time frame of decisions is set until SBI 60 (2024). Within the second work plan, unfortunately, there is no specific link to the Glasgow Dialogue in the activities of the Expert Groups on NELDs and SOEs.

## **3 Next steps for the ExCom towards the second round of the Glasgow Dialogue**

Not having a formal report to build on is one of the key challenges heading towards the second round of the Glasgow Dialogue. It makes it harder to build on the results of the last Glasgow Dialogue and to avoid a duplication of effort. Therefore, despite the lack of a formal or even informal written report, the ExCom should ensure that it captures the important discussions that have taken place to advance the Glasgow Dialogue. In line with that, the ExCom should prepare guiding questions based on the last session of the Glasgow Dialogue and use them as a starting point for their preparations of the second Glasgow Dialogue focusing on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, the newly established L&D fund and the maximization of support for existing funding arrangements. The second Dialogue should close the gaps that have been identified in the first round, focusing on those funding arrangements and concrete solutions dealing with NELDs and SOEs. To guarantee inclusivity, the ExCom should ensure that observers will be consulted on the questions early on and should start the preparations for the second Glasgow Dialogue well in advance to give Parties and other stakeholders enough time to prepare.

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November 2022

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Financially supported by Bread for the World.  
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