

BRIEFING NOTE

# ExCom meeting #9 – extending the task force on displacement

Background brief in preparation for the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage in Bonn 09.04.-11.04.2019

This briefing note provides an outlook to the upcoming ExCom meeting #9. In addition to the regular agenda items, one main topic under discussion will be the mandate and the TORs defining the work of the task force on displacement in its next phase.

## 1 What happened at COP24 in terms of Loss and Damage?

### 1.1 Rulebook

COP24 in Katowice had a strong focus on the development of the rulebook, defining the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement.

Discussions revolved around how loss and damage would be taken up in the related processes. Loss and damage was not negotiated under a separate stream, but under finance (Art. 9), the transparency framework (Art. 13) and the global stocktake (GST) (Art. 14). During the process some draft text versions neglected the incorporation of the issue but in the end, loss and damage could successfully be anchored in both the global stocktake and the transparency framework:

**GST:** Parties agreed to take stock of how far their collective efforts got in achieving the three goals of the Paris Agreement (limiting increase in global average temperature, resilience building, redirecting financial flows) every 5 years, beginning in 2023. The global stocktake forms the basis to review whether existing NDCs are sufficient to achieve those goals or if they need to be more ambitious.

A space for information on loss and damage was created in that process. Its results will inform the GST and the assessment of the goal achievement.

**Transparency framework:** The transparency framework sets reporting guidelines which help to ensure the knowledge about and comparability of action and support by the different parties. Loss and damage has been incorporated into the framework. The paragraph on information regarding climate impacts and adaptation includes parties' efforts in dealing with loss and damage. This can encompass impacts already experienced as well as the activities undertaken to address them.

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<sup>1</sup> This Briefing is part of the Germanwatch - Bread for the world Partnership "Klimapolitische Agenda 2018/19: Zivilgesellschaft stärken – Ambition für die besonders Verletzlichen erhöhen". It was prepared by Vera Künzel (kuenzel@germanwatch.org).

## 1.2 Report of the ExCom

In Katowice, the annual report of the ExCom was adopted by the COP<sup>2</sup> after discussions on how to address the **IPCC Special Report on 1,5°C warming and integrating gender considerations into the work of the ExCom**.

## 1.3 Task force on displacement

In accordance with their mandate, the Task force on displacement (TfD) developed a comprehensive report including 12 paragraphs (plus sub-paragraphs) of concrete recommendations on how to support people being displaced due to the impacts of climate change. The recommendations are directed to the UNFCCC process, parties, UN agencies and others. Their recommendations were adopted by the COP24 and incorporated in the decision on loss and damage.

Regarding the technical paper on sources of financial support, the TfD recommended inviting Parties to report upon their support on planning and implementing approaches to displacement (avert, minimize and address). Information from the related submissions<sup>3</sup> (due 14.01.2019) are intended to feed into the technical paper, which is to be presented at SB 50 in June 2019.

# 2 Key Tasks for ExCom#9

## 2.1 Task force on displacement

The ExCom incorporated their decision to enhance the mandate of the TfD in their annual report, which was welcomed by COP24. The TfD is supposed „to help execute the work of the Executive Committee in an advisory role, in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism, as appropriate as part of the five-year rolling workplan, strategic workstream (D) ‘Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation’. The Executive Committee will consider the information and relevant approaches outlined in the report of the task force when elaborating the terms of reference“. (FCCC/SB/2018/1<sup>4</sup>)

### Next steps:

a) The TfD asked the ExCom to consider the following steps<sup>5</sup> at ExCom#9:

*“(a) Ensure synergies between the strategic workstream (d) on human mobility and the other workstreams of the five-year rolling work plan [...]*

*(b) Include civil society, experts, affected communities as well as other relevant stakeholders on displacement, and the broader area of human mobility, in the context of climate change in ExCom activities*

*(c) In collaboration with relevant organizations, compile existing knowledge, data, tools and guidance; and develop these in gap areas where appropriate [...] and disseminate them, including through the UNFCCC website;*

<sup>2</sup> [www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24\\_auv\\_ec%20wim.pdf](http://www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_ec%20wim.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx)

<sup>4</sup> [www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/1e.pdf](http://www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/1e.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Para 28 of the Report of the Task force on displacement, 17.09. 2018: [www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2018\\_TFD\\_report\\_17\\_Sep.pdf](http://www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2018_TFD_report_17_Sep.pdf)

*(d) Facilitate action and support for developing country Parties efforts, as appropriate, to integrate approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change into relevant national planning processes, including the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).*

*(e) In collaboration with relevant bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and relevant organizations as appropriate, facilitate capacity-building of developing country Parties related to mapping of risks of displacement, and identification and implementation of integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change;*

*(f) Facilitate enhanced understanding and the provision of technical support for developing country Parties to bridge knowledge and capacity gaps regarding in particular to internal displacement related to the adverse effects of climate change.“*

b) Additionally, the TORs<sup>6</sup> for the next phase of the Tfd need to be determined at ExCom#9.

### **Priorities to take into account when setting up the next phase/new TORs of the Tfd:**

The Tfd has done a tremendous job since its setting up in 2017. Its working results are presented in the form of a comprehensive report covering 2 years of extensive work on the issue and in cooperation with relevant experts and related political processes relevant in the field. It culminates into a set of recommendations (see above). The welcomed decision to extend the mandate of the Tfd should serve the goal to implement the respective recommendations – including the definition of gaps and hurdles in doing so, where needed. Several aspects are to be considered in the way forward:

#### *Process/Composition/Collaboration*

An important precondition for successful further work would be the **financial support** for the respective activities. This encompasses the facilitation of the ExComs and the Task Forces work itself as well as for the implementation of the recommended activities like strengthening the preparedness of countries<sup>7</sup> (e.g. through resilience building, risk management, early warning systems) to avert displacement and enable human mobility, incorporate the issue in national planning processes and others.

A further close collaboration with bodies of related **international processes** such as the Platform on Disaster Displacement, the Global Compact on Migration, etc. should be ensured and strengthened in order to coordinate and support the work of the different processes, avoid duplication of work and locate respective task areas accordingly.

When composing the task force it would be essential to **broaden the participation of CSOs** – either through permanent membership in the group or through consultations/installing communication channels that enable gathering the respective experiences and expertise of different CSOs.

#### *Support for affected countries*

Countries should be supported to cover human mobility and the prevention of displacement within related documents such as **NAPs, NDCs, other national adaptation communications** (including respective priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions), **national policies and strategies** including the regarding needs of international financial support.

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<sup>6</sup> Tfd TORs of the first phase, adopted Sept. 2016 [www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/tor\\_task\\_force.pdf](http://www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/tor_task_force.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> CP.24 Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts: [www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24\\_auv\\_ec%20wim.pdf](http://www.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_ec%20wim.pdf)

Exchange between affected countries to learn from each other about existing and effective practices should be promoted. **Existing best practices that showcase related policies** could help to further develop and scale up solutions.

All activities and measures related to avert, minimize and address displacement need to be designed against **basic principles** summarized as a **human-rights-based approach**, covering aspects like ensuring information and participation of affected people and communities, securing livelihoods (protecting people against poverty) and more.

#### *Scope*

The broader focus of the Tfd to cover people displaced by **slow as well as sudden onset events** and those displaced **internal or cross border** should be maintained as the challenge is very complex with differing regional specificities.

Addressing the existing “**legal protection gap**” for affected people and communities, when crossing international borders, is of specific importance to enhance human security. In addition, the above mentioned **implementation gaps in cases** where instruments exist should be incorporated in the next TORs.

#### *Strategy*

The extended mandate should include strategical considerations of how to **scale up/enhance the effect of the Tfd’s work**. Possibilities and anchors to **leverage greater action/support** need to be identified. Important political events during the next years could serve as respective milestones: The Tfd should use them as opportunity to provide input.

These could be i.a.:

- The UNISDR global platform on disaster risk reduction (May 2019)
- The international migration review forum (IMRF) aimed at serving as the primary intergovernmental global platform to review progress made in terms of implementing the Global Compact on Migration.
- The work of the UN Security Council and its work on climate change as a security issue (presumably debated June 2020)
- Meetings of the G7/G20 foreign ministers

## **2.2 Work of expert groups**

As designated in the five-year rolling workplan of the ExCom, three expert groups were established:

- The thematic expert group on comprehensive risk management approaches (CRM) in the context of strategic workstream (c)
- The expert group on non-economic losses (NELs) in the context of strategic workstream (b) and
- The expert group on slow onset events (SOE) in the context of Strategic workstream (a).

The members serving these groups were appointed and are now tasked to initiate the respective activities.

The ExCom seeks to take on flexible approaches for identifying and engaging experts. It established a “roster of experts” from which appropriate experts can be selected/invited to undertake specific tasks for the working groups.

#### **Next steps**

At ExCom#9 the groups will report on the selection of experts and the way forward to implement the activities of the work plan.

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You can download this paper here: [www.germanwatch.org/de/16412](http://www.germanwatch.org/de/16412)

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