Further views and information on the themes to be addressed in the implementation of the work programme on loss and damage

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This submission contains the views of Switzerland on the themes to be addressed in the work programme on loss and damage, as requested under paragraph 5 FCCC/SBI/2011/L.20.
Switzerland welcomes the opportunity to share its views on this topic. From Switzerland's perspective the following topics should be addressed under the three proposed thematic areas:

a. Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and current knowledge on the same

Under this thematic area an overview on methodologies and data requirements for risk assessment and current knowledge on the risk of loss and damage should be provided. We consider useful to address the following questions under this thematic area:

1. Methodologies for risk assessment:

- What kind of risk assessment and risk quantification approaches exist (incl. risk assessment for slow onset events)?
- What are their requirements, their strengths and weaknesses?

2. Data requirements for risk assessment:

- What are the data requirements and gaps for risk assessment (data on weather and climate change as well as non climate-related data needs such as vulnerability data)? What does already exist? How comprehensive and reliable is that data?
- How accessible and how compatible is the data?

3. Current knowledge on the risk of loss and damage:

- What is the current knowledge on the risk of loss and damage (e.g. SREX, Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, knowledge at regional and local level)?
- What are the actors / institutions/networks with relevant knowledge (incl. actors/institutions in DRR, development cooperation, humanitarian aid and the private sector)?

b. Range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, taking into consideration experience on all levels

Under this thematic area the knowledge on different approaches to address loss and damage should be deepened and experiences with these approaches bundled. Approaches to be considered are: integrated risk management approaches, risk transfer solutions (as part of a risk management approach) as well as other approaches including in relation to gradual changes.

The following questions may be addressed:

- Which approaches exist for risk management and for risk transfer? What is their scope (type of hazards, losses, geographical scope etc.) and limits, applicability to other contexts?
- Which experiences with risk management and risk transfer approaches exist at regional and local level?
- How can risk management and transfer solutions contribute to disaster risk reduction (DRR)?
- How can risk management and risk transfer approaches be applied under difficult circumstances (e.g. data gaps, difficult policy environments etc.) and be used in assisting the poorest?
- What are the needs such as capacity building in order to better implement risk management and risk transfer approaches?
- What kinds of approaches are feasible when being confronted with gradual changes / slow onset events?
- How do different approaches best contribute to a broader adaptation approach?

c. Role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change

Under the third thematic area the role of the Convention, including linkages, complementarities and synergies to other institutions and initiatives should be investigated. The importance thereof derives from the significant overlaps and synergies especially with the institutions and initiatives in the field of disaster risk reduction.

The following questions may be considered:

1. Role of the Convention

- What role may the Convention play in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage, e.g. through capacity building, technology transfer and finance, and in the context of initiatives of governments, private sector, civil society and others?
- What institutional arrangements within the Convention exist which may address loss and damage (e.g. Nairobi Work Programme, Adaptation Committee)?

2. Complementarities and synergies to other institutions and activities
What may be the relationship, complementarities and synergies between UNFCCC and other relevant institutions, initiatives and frameworks/strategies such as UNISDR, Hyogo Framework for Action and others in the field of loss and damage?

As a result, the findings of the three thematic areas should be provided to the SBI prior to its 37th session.

Activities to address the three thematic areas
Switzerland proposes to address the three thematic areas sequentially and through expert meetings and workshops.
For thematic area *"a. Assessing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change and current knowledge on the same"* we propose a technical paper summarizing methodologies, data requirements and gaps, and current knowledge, to be prepared by the secretariat and to serve as a basis for an expert meeting. This paper should include and be based on elements of existing papers that have been done in other contexts (such as the Hyogo Framework for Action). The expert meeting should allow for in-depth discussion under involvement of experts from different fields such as IPCC, the insurance industry, academic institutions and others. Findings from the SBI workshop to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change (to be held in October 2011 in Peru) should be taken at hand.
Thematic area "*b. Range of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, taking into consideration experience on all levels*" may be addressed in a joint meeting of experts and delegates. This meeting should build on the outcomes of the above mentioned SBI workshop to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches. The joint meeting may have a stocktaking element as well as a capacity building element for negotiators. Other cost effective activities such as online capacity building tools, webinars etc. may also be explored. It is crucial that existing relevant experiences on all levels are made available and shared among experts and delegates.
In thematic area *"c. Role of the Convention in enhancing the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change"* we propose to have a meeting with delegates and other actors (e.g. representatives of institutions in the field of DRR). This would provide a space for in-depth discussions and input from other relevant actors on these complex institutional issues.