

SWITZERLAND

Views and information on elements to be included in the work programme on loss and damage

AWG-LCA 14

Switzerland welcomes this opportunity to share views and information on what elements should be included in the work programme to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts as stated in the Draft decision -/CP.16 "Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention". Switzerland believes that addressing loss and damage is an important component of a comprehensive Adaptation Framework as decided in Cancún.

Objective

The Conference of Parties decided at COP16 in Cancún to establish a work programme in order to consider approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The SBI is requested to agree on activities to be undertaken under such a work programme. The SBI shall be able to make recommendations on loss and damage to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at its eighteenth session (December 2012).

Thus, the principle objective of the work programme on loss and damage is to provide a framework to deepen knowledge on this topic and therewith to create a basis for sound recommendations to the COP 18.

Due to the limited timeframe until COP 18 the SBI should agree on activities of the work programme at its thirty-fourth session in June 2011. This would give sufficient time to enrol the activities of the work programme before SB36 (June 2012) and, thus, give time (from SB36 onwards) to Parties to formulate recommendations and prepare for a decision at COP 18. As the work programme is limited in scope and time, it will be necessary to focus on elements that are crucial for preparing recommendations to the COP.

Proposed structure of the work programme

Switzerland proposes to structure the work programme in three work streams. The three work streams shall address the main elements of loss and damage contained in Draft Decision -/CP.16. These work streams shall be complementary and independent from discussions or outputs in other work streams.

- **Work stream 1: Enhance understanding** on loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

Work stream 1 reflects the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise to understand loss and damage.

- **Work stream 2:** Exchange and deepen knowledge on **ways to reduce loss and damage**

Work stream 2 reflects the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise to reduce loss and damage. It covers the main elements of a comprehensive risk management approach, including risk assessment, risk reduction and risk transfer.

- **Work stream 3:** Exchange and deepen knowledge on **residual risks**

Work stream 3 reflects the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise on impacts related to slow onset events and on approaches for addressing rehabilitation measures.

Principles to be considered in all work streams

The work programme as a whole shall be guided by the following principles:

- **Aim for convergence of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction:** The Work Programme shall take into consideration the Hyogo Framework for Action and catalyse synergies between both fields of action.
- **Involvement of various actors:** All stakeholders with relevant expertise in addressing loss and damage shall be engaged in the proposed activities. These include, e.g. actors in DRR, development cooperation, humanitarian aid and the private sector.
- The Work Programme shall **build on existing experience and expertise and upcoming events and reports:** e.g. studies and workshops held under the Nairobi Work Programme, UNFCCC technical papers, UNISDR (especially the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction), the workshop to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change (as decided in FCCC/SBI/2010/L.34/Rev.1, para 5), the IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events, and experts etc.

Modalities

Switzerland proposes to have a similar process in all of the proposed work streams. Activities may start with one or two workshops on specific topics (refer to Table 1). Depending on the knowledge base in each work stream, the starting point may be a stock-taking workshop / expert workshop or a workshop with broader involvement of different stakeholders. The outcome of these initial workshops may be summarized in a workshop report and be made available to all Parties by the secretariat. In order to assure continuity of the process, the workshops may be followed by informal meetings, meetings with delegates or by further discussions in specific task groups, depending on the needs of the Parties and the progress achieved in the initial workshops.

The work programme may also have the flexibility to incorporate additional activities at a later stage, depending on the needs of Parties, particularly those formulated in the report of the SBI-workshop “to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change”, that has been agreed in SBI Decision FCCC/SBI/2010/L.34/Rev.1, and the ongoing processes beyond this work programme. Such additional activities may be decided upon at SBI35 (December 2011).

Possible topics and activities

Switzerland proposes the following topics and concrete activities to be included in the work programme (Table 1):

Proposed Work streams	Proposed topics	Proposed activities
1. Enhance understanding on loss & damage associated with climate change impacts	Estimations and according methodologies for climate change induced loss and damage	Workshop / expert meeting on existing estimations and methodologies for quantifying climate change induced loss and damage and the way forward (such a workshop should be held after the publication of the IPCC SREX)
	<i>Other topics may be introduced</i>	
2. Exchange and deepen knowledge on ways to reduce loss and damage	<i>[Placeholder for needs identified in SBI workshop on risk management, to be decided upon at SBI35]</i>	1 or 2 workshop on approaches and possibilities to overcome barriers in the implementation of risk management approach (responding to the SBI workshop on challenges & gaps in implementation of risk management), with focus on e.g. risk management cycle as a whole, risk assessment, cost and benefit analysis
	<i>[Placeholder for needs identified in SBI workshop on risk management, to be decided upon at SBI35]</i>	
	Insurance solutions, including reflections on a climate risk insurance facility	Workshop on existing climate insurance facilities, their institutional set-up and elements to be further considered
	<i>Other topics may be introduced</i>	
3. Exchange and deepen knowledge on residual risks	Approaches for addressing rehabilitation measures associated with slow onset events	Workshop / expert meeting on existing approaches for addressing residual risks and the way forward
	<i>Other topics may be introduced</i>	

Table 1 Proposed work streams, topics and activities.

1. Enhance understanding on loss and damage: In-depth research to quantify loss and damage associated with climate change is still limited. Switzerland therefore proposes to first conduct a workshop at expert level to discuss e.g. definitions of loss and damage, current existing estimations on climate change induced loss and damage, and methodologies for quantification etc. This would allow a more in-depth discussion and identify common ground and differences between these estimations and methodologies. The Secretariat may be requested to prepare a stocktaking report as a basis for such a workshop. Experts / institutions to be involved may include the IPCC, insurance industry, academic institutions that have been involved in assessing costs of climate change. The workshop should be held after the publication of the IPCC Special Report on “Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation” (SREX).

2. Exchange and deepen knowledge on ways to reduce loss and damage: The following activities to address elements of a comprehensive risk management approach are proposed:

- Switzerland proposes to build on the workshop “to identify challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change”, that has been agreed in SBI Decision FCCC/SBI/2010/L.34/Rev.1. Linking the work programme with the SBI-workshop mentioned above would allow for follow-up consideration of responses to the identified challenges and gaps. Therefore, Switzerland proposes to foresee **one or two follow-up workshops within the work programme on loss and damage to discuss approaches and possibilities to overcome identified barriers** and the potential role of the Convention in this regard. These follow-up workshops may address e.g. the following elements: explore possibilities to strengthen the implementation of approaches and tools for identification and quantification of risks; explore possibilities to enhance data collection and public access to climate data and risk projections; explore possibilities to strengthen the implementation of cost and benefit assessments of adaptation options. Independently from the concrete elements, bringing in the practical expertise of the disaster risk reduction community in risk management and fostering synergies between Climate Change Adaptation and DRR could clearly benefit the process.
- **Workshop on existing climate insurance facilities:** Based on experience with regional / global insurance facilities, the workshop would allow to discuss their potential and limitations and to analyse the main common elements, their institutional set up and the role of the partners involved as well as the role of the Convention in this regard. A broad range of actors may be involved, e.g. insurance experts from private and public sector (e.g. UNDP, GFDRR, UNEP Finance, WB, and regional insurance facilities), experts in funding architecture and Party delegates.

3. Exchange and deepen knowledge on residual risks: The knowledge base to address residual risks is still limited. Switzerland therefore proposes to first conduct a workshop at expert level to discuss the range of instruments, approaches and alternative solutions to estimate and deal with residual risks as well as the role of the Convention and / or other institutional arrangements. This would be the case when expected losses could not be averted through adaptation / risk transfer measures and relief and rehabilitation responses will need to be included in the package of measures. The work stream will have close links with work stream 2 on risk management. The Secretariat may be requested to prepare a stocktaking report as a basis for such a workshop. Experts from different fields may be involved, e.g. from the insurance industry, the humanitarian aid, emergency aid.