

**Submission to support the UNFCCC secretariat in determining the scope of a technical paper which will serve as an input to the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage in 2019:  
Type and nature of actions to address loss and damage for which finance may be required**

Submitted by Asia Climate Change Consortium (ACCC)<sup>i</sup> (<http://www.asiaclimateconsortium.org>) with contribution from Christian Aid and partners engaged in addressing loss and damage post-Haiyan

**Introduction**

It is projected that Asia Pacific will suffer the most disasters through 2030. In 2017, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reported<sup>ii</sup> that the 60% of the world's population can be found in Asia Pacific. Through 2030 alone, it is projected that 405 of the global economic losses from disaster will occur in the region. Already, the World Economic Forum that while extreme weather events is a leading global risk, it is closely related to the failure in both mitigation and adaptation actions that will cause ecosystems failure and lead to substantial losses and damages.

Many countries will no longer have time to adapt and, thus, losses and damage will be certain if the matter is unaddressed. Climate change aggravates underlying issues (poverty, inequality, disempowerment, land and housing tenurial insecurity, lack of access and control over natural resources ) that leads to loss and damages Reflecting on Article 8 item 1 of Paris Agreement which says, “ Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage”, ACCC asks what then is the viable approach to loss and damage?

In Article 8 of the Paris Agreement, names eight (8) areas of cooperation where finance will be needed. In response to the call for submissions, ACCC recommends the following areas of financial support to address loss and damage concerns.

**Type and nature of actions to address loss and damage for which finance will be required**

**1. Resilience of communities, livelihoods and ecosystems**

A situation of loss and damage occurs when failure of climate mitigation occurs and the conditions for extreme weather events and slow-onset events are created affecting communities and ecosystems who lack adaptive and coping capacities in the facing climate change-related hazards.

However, IPCC notes that resilience is a means of managing climate change-related risks that, if left unaddressed can lead to disasters --- which technically is a state of significant losses and damages. The Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC defines resilience as “the ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions”.

Thus, the authors of this document recommend that significant investment in resilience of communities, livelihoods and ecosystems are vital in averting loss and damage especially for those who no longer have time to adapt and whose adaptation preparations may not be sufficient to withstand the force of the hazards. However, we also recommend that as resilience also covers capacities to recover from impacts of a climate change-related event, the loss and damage mechanism must provide finance for the recovery of communities and ecosystems. Among the resilience interventions that will need to be financed are the following:

### **1.1 Anticipatory actions for resilience**

- 1.1.1 End-to-end early warning system for early action against slow and rapid onset events;
- 1.1.2 Contingency measures and pre-emptive evacuation in geographically isolated areas;
- 1.1.3 Integrated risk assessment, data management including setting up the registry of at-risk populations, data sharing and communication;
- 1.1.4 Ecosystems-based preparedness measures among communities and countries
- 1.1.5 Land-use planning informed by climate-related risk assessments
- 1.1.6 Acquisition of and investing on safer lands for settlement and on climate-resilient infrastructures for temporary and transitional shelter needs;
- 1.1.7 Multi-stakeholder but community-led and managed approach to the development of safe settlements
- 1.1.8 Innovations leading to resilience particularly in livelihoods, social cohesion food and water systems, ecosystems and infrastructure
- 1.1.9 Development of locally-led response preparedness measures to ensure immediate action, upon impact of climate-related hazards, and avoid cascading disasters that lead to further losses and damages
- 1.1.10 Planning for the continuity of essential service delivery, business and markets
- 1.1.11 Risk transfer mechanisms that specifically address climate change-related risks rather than impacts to allow early action avoid loss and damage

### **1.2 Actions that will enable communities to absorb unavoidable climate hazards**

- 1.2.1 Invest in building social capital and cohesion in all communities not only among the most vulnerable and the geographically-isolated areas but also among highly dense settlements but where social capital is low;
- 1.2.2 Enhancement of primary, secondary and tertiary health care services especially in areas with highly vulnerable populations to reduce susceptibility to climate change associated hazards;
- 1.2.3 Develop climate-resilient infrastructures especially those that are needed to deliver essential services and provide temporary safe shelters where needed;
- 1.2.4 Enhance resilience of food systems, water systems and ecosystems to ensure food and water security and secure livelihood assets;
- 1.2.5 And as IPCC AR 5 recommends, finance initiatives that address multi-dimensional inequalities and, to add, addressing the need for social protection that enhance capacities and reduce dependencies and vulnerabilities
- 1.2.6 Inclusion of marginalized and undocumented sectors in capacity building measures to address vulnerabilities

### **1.3 Actions that will help communities recover from impacts of climate change-related events**

- 1.3.1 Pre-disaster recovery planning at the local, national, and regional levels that become essential part of development planning of governments at all levels;
- 1.3.2 Recovery measures that promote co-benefits in mitigation, adaptation and resilience in the recovery process;
- 1.3.3 Multi-stakeholder yet community-lead and managed ecosystems restoration: The case of Haiyan in the Philippines saw the destruction of vital coastal and marine ecosystems as well as terrestrial farming ecosystems. Failure to restore those ecosystems will have devastating impacts in livelihoods and will encourage displacement;
- 1.3.4 Asset restoration: shelter and livelihood assets in particular
- 1.3.5 Transformative restoration of ecosystems, settlements, livelihoods, markets that address both mitigation and adaptation needs and honors just transformation processes;
- 1.3.6 Risk insurance coverage specifically for the most vulnerable sectors who are most-at-risk and often times excluded from risk insurance or unable to pay for high insurance premiums because of their risk status;
- 1.3.7 Safe, secure and acceptable settlements for displaced populations;
- 1.3.8 Psycho-social support and health care honoring following loss and damage

### **2 Non-economic losses and damages (NELD)**

There will be losses and damages that are, for certain, not based on physical nor economic assets. Dedicated financing will have to be set aside for these concerns that are vital to human survival and well-being:

#### **2.1 Restoration of human dignity**

- 2.1.1 Legal support for the restoration of identity - many of those who suffer loss and damage will have lost their basic identification records as citizens of States, thus, unable to secure services, assistance, recognition from their own governments;
- 2.1.2 Shelter, clothing, food, service deliver that befit the status of human beings worthy of respect and honor consistent with Core Humanitarian Standards;

#### **2.2 Multi-stakeholder and community-owned restoration of cultural and historical artifacts vital to the identities of peoples and communities;**

#### **2.3 Support for community-led, determined and owned activities facilitating the restoration of social capital and promoting social cohesion;**

#### **2.4 Social protection coverage for those displaced ;**

#### **2.5 Protection of the basic human rights of those in caught in climate-induced migration and support rights-claiming initiatives;**

#### **2.6 Mainstream NELD the preparation of the National Communications**

#### **2.7 Create a Centre for NELD Research, Documentation and Advice**

### **3 The UNFCCC Conference of Parties through the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage in 2019 must consider investing in the Architecture to Finance Loss and Damage at the global, regional and national levels without prejudice to climate justice . Specifically,**

- 3.1 Invest in setting up a Global Fund to address Loss and Damage of the climate affected communities in vulnerable countries and regions;
- 3.2 Promote the inclusion of measures addressing climate change-related loss and damage in emergency and social safety net programmes of the governments
- 3.3 Provide support for the setting up of institutional and policy frameworks that will accommodate financial support and/or generate/mobilize resources to address loss and damage at the national , regional and global levels and facilitates coherent, effective and efficient implementation
  - 3.3.1 Initiate national level mechanisms to collect data/information on both economic and non-economic loss and damages including measures to address them;
  - 3.3.2 Legislate the formulation of a Strategic Framework and Action and Financial Plan addressing structural and non-structural components of loss and damage;
  - 3.3.3 Developing standard tools and methods for identifying, monitoring, and assessing different non-economic losses and damages considering the challenges of direct and indirect impacts

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ii UNESCAP, Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2017.