LOSS AND DAMAGE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN BANGLADESH:
WHITHER WOMEN MATTER?

This discussion initiation paper is produced by Centre for Global Change (CGC)
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COP decision (1/CP.16) regarding establishing a “... work programme provide an outline into three thematic areas:

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

2. A 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 at all levels

3. The role of the Convention in **enhancing the implementation of approaches** to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change

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Scoping Dialogue on Loss and Damage, Dhaka, 16 September 2012
SBI-35 and COP-17

Negotiations on the loss and damages under SBI 35, resulted in the adoption of a COP decision and agreed to continue the implementation of the work programme and to make recommendations on loss and damage to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at its eighteenth session

[Decision 7/CP.17, Para-1]
SBI-36 and Conclusions

- The main conflicting issues in the drafting session included listing the **non-economic losses** and the mentioning the necessity of the international mechanism, which was agreed in the decision of the COP-17.

- G77 and China, AOSIS and the LDCs provided some list on non-economic losses such as loss of territory, ecosystem, cultural heritage, values, livelihoods, local and indigenous knowledge. However, finally a compromise was achieved by not listing those and just to refer the non-economic losses in general.
L&D is seen as an added paradigm in the global effort on CC

Source: Brochure of Global Consortium on L&D, German Watch 2011

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Working Definition of Loss and Damage

 Loss and Damage represents the actual and/or potential manifestation of climate impacts that negatively affect human and natural systems.

“Damage” can be seen as negative impacts that can be repaired or restored (such as windstorm damage to the roof of a building, or damage to a coastal mangrove forest from coastal surges which affect villages).

“Loss” can be characterized as negative impacts that cannot be repaired or restored (such as loss of geologic freshwater sources related to glacial melt or desertification, or loss of culture or heritage associated with potential population redistribution away from areas that become less habitable over time with climate change).¹

Source: http://www.loss-and-damage.net
Draft Conclusions  (SBI and Expert Meetings)
The key issues agreed in the final conclusions are as follows:

• The assessment of climate-related risk is identified as a complex procedure and taken into account the underlying risk drivers.

• A range of approaches, methods and tools are available to assess the risk of loss and damage, however, the selection of appropriate approaches, methods and tools depends upon regional, national and local capacity, contexts and circumstances and involves the engagement of all relevant stakeholders;

• Enhanced technical and institutional capacities supported by technical and financial assistance and other resources will help developing countries to continue to determine, prioritize and address their needs in assessing the risk of loss and damage.
Draft Conclusions

• Numerical data are sometimes not sufficient in conveying a comprehensive range of the risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change since available estimates on losses typically lack numbers on non-economic losses.

• The agreement on an informal meeting before COP-18; since loss and damage will not be dealt within the extra negotiating session in Bangkok and since neither the regional expert meetings have the mandate to draft decision text, this meeting is crucial to come to COP-18 with some kind of text basis.
Since the SBI is entrusted by the COP to develop a Work Plan, we call for consideration of the following important aspects.

The L&DWP should

• Prioritize specific needs of, and the risks for, those countries and people which are particularly poor and vulnerable, including women

• Provide clear understanding on shifting timelines for ‘peaking’ and ‘emission targets’ and consequent L&D needs in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries, with particular focus on Women
The L&DWP should **contd.**

- Provide clear understanding on ‘deficits’ in adaptation (for delayed actions) and adaptation financing and consequent L&D needs in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries, with particular focus on Women
- Include mechanisms towards carrying out assessments, including assessment of gender-differentiated vulnerability, adaptation and L&D needs in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries
- Create immediate and urgent actions involving communities and in particular, vulnerable women.

Scoping Dialogue on Loss and Damage, Dhaka, 16 September 2012
Our Calls (for GOB endorsement)

• Enhance global knowledge base towards comprehensive understanding on L&D (towards a 360° analysis and understanding): Involve IPCC through a Special Report on Loss and Damage, dealing with clear definitions, indicators, and tools to estimate L&D

• Capacity building (with special considerations for LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries)
Our Calls (for GOB endorsement) contd.

- Acknowledge and assess special needs of poor and marginalized people and women in LDCs, SIDS, and Vulnerable African Countries (A priority Action involves assessment of gender-differentiated vulnerability to CC)

- Based on SBI recommendations, finalize a L&D Mechanism, including L&D financing, creating L&D global architecture in line with AFB and AC, further strengthening the architecture with adequate gender representation
Our Call

The objective of the UNFCCC and the principle 3.1 of the Convention in its uncurtailed essence should be clearly reflected in the expansion of ideas, understanding and work of the L&D Work Programme, with developed countries taking committed steps to proactively prevent and redress L&D and support approaches to address L&D, including an approach which is based on needs of the vulnerable, including women.
Our Call

The L&DWP should be seen as an ongoing global effort, with the blessings of the COP decisions, and it should by no means be limited to a specific end-point. To this end, the L&DWP should encompass immediate and urgent L&D actions as well as a long-term rehabilitation mechanism to deal with gradually unfolding contexts of vulnerability faced by the vulnerable, especially women.
Our Call contd.
We attach high importance on vulnerable people’s as well as women’s participation in defining their contexts of vulnerabilities, at all levels, and in all the vulnerable countries across the globe. We welcome constructive debates towards integrating women’s particular vulnerability in the L&D accounting processes and greater gender participation in the evolving architecture on the L&D.