Loss and Damage (L&D): Climate actions need to include both economic and non-economic L&D!

What is L&D?

Loss and damage (L&D) refers to the unavoidable or unavoidable adverse impacts of climate change in vulnerable developing countries.

Why is L&D relevant? Selected examples:

- **Agriculture**
  - Climate change outpaces agricultural adaptation. Damage to farms, livestock and crops lead to a loss of agricultural production and assets. Temperature rise, desertification and salinisation lead to a loss of biodiversity and traditional livelihood.

- **Infrastructure**
  - Sea-level rise forces communities to relocate, leaving well established and known infrastructure behind. Extreme events like floods and storms destroy infrastructure, separating families, cutting off access to markets, health or education facilities.

- **Water**
  - The salinisation of groundwater due to rising sea levels negatively affects the health of coastal communities, leading to loss of labour force and health.

- **Health**
  - Even stronger and irregular floods overburden adaptive planning. As critical infrastructure is damaged or severely strained, loss of life and health needs to be expected.

- **Migration**
  - Rising sea levels and deteriorating rural livelihoods trigger human displacement. Involuntary displacement leads to a loss of territory, sense of place and cultural heritage.

- **Ecosystems**
  - Rising temperatures and droughts endanger forests. A loss of forests leads to soil erosion, reduces agricultural productivity and a loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage.

How to take account of L&D?

**Enhanced research agenda**
- Develop comprehensive, comprehensible and measurable indicators for non-economic L&D
- Ensure strong methodologies for measuring and interpretation
- Invest in accessible, reliable, quantitative and long-term data on economic and non-economic L&D
- Work interdisciplinary
- Compile elucidating cases to raise understanding on economic and non-economic L&D

**Enhanced policy agenda**
- Increase mitigation ambitions and actions to limit global warming to 1.5°C
- Take decisions in context-sensitive manner, in order to reflect cultural priorities and preserve values
- Recognise irreversible non-economic losses
- Enhance support for vulnerable countries to cope with loss and damage
- Offer technical support and capacity building

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