

Working Group on Climate-Resilient International Development

Objectives, Principles, and Assumptions

Executive Order 13677 requires the integration of climate-resilient considerations into all United States international development work to the extent permitted by law. Considering current and future climate-change impacts will improve the resilience of the Federal Government's broader international development programs, projects, investments, overseas facilities, and related funding decisions. EO 13677 also requires the United States to promote a similar approach among relevant multilateral entities in which it participates [Sec. 1].

To that end, the Interagency Working Group (Working Group) is tasked with achieving the following objectives by September 2016 [Sec.4(b)(i)]:

1. **Develop guidelines** for integrating considerations of climate-change risks and climate resilience into agency strategies, plans, programs, projects, investments, and related funding decisions, including the planning and management of overseas facilities;
2. **Assess and identify existing climate-change data, tools, and information;**
3. **Identify approaches for adjusting strategies,** planning, programs, projects, investments, and related funding decisions, including the planning and management of overseas facilities;
4. **Facilitate the exchange** of knowledge, data, tools, information, and lessons learned;
5. Working through existing channels to **share best practices** developed by the Working Group with other donor countries and multi-laterals;
6. **Promote interagency collaboration and joint training;**
7. **Develop methods for tracking and reporting** on Federal Government progress in institutionalizing more climate-resilient development approaches.

The Working Group adopts the following principles and assumptions as its members carry out the activities needed to achieve the objectives of EO 13677:

Broad considerations

- 1) Successful implementation of the EO 13677 and adoption of Working Group recommendations will require active engagement and support by intra- and inter-agency leadership.
- 2) Climate-resilient risk assessment and evaluation will apply across all investment sectors and not be limited to investments specifically focused on addressing climate change;
- 3) Climate-resilient development approaches should be incorporated into agency decision-making processes and reporting processes (as opposed to developed as a parallel set of processes).

- 4) In developing guidance on how to integrate climate-resilience into agency decision-making, Working Group Agencies will use approaches that maximize value instead of exclusively considering costs.
- 5) Assessing, evaluating, and, as appropriate, adjusting for climate risks are mandatory, though the use of any particular tool is not. The methods used to assess, evaluate, and adjust their investments will be left to agency discretion. This will allow each agency to use methods that fit their programming models and implementing regulations. The Working Group will develop good practice guidelines and minimum standards for these actions.
- 6) On October 1, 2015, all affected agencies will begin implementation of the assessment and evaluation requirements of the E.O. by screening all new agency international development investments for climate -related risks. All affected agencies will report to the Working Group by that date on the implementation status of the agency-wide screening requirement; agencies that are unable to meet the requirement should identify the reasons for delay, explain how they intend to make progress toward the screening requirement, and set a date by which screening will begin.

Tracking and reporting

- 7) The Working Group intends to develop a high level, common metric across all affected agencies to meet the EO 13677 requirement of “estimating the proportion of each agency’s direct international development programs and investments for which climate risk assessments have been conducted as well as an estimation of the proportion of the programs and investments for which climate risk was identified and acted upon.”
- 8) The Working Group will consider how to utilize and build on existing tracking and reporting mechanisms.

Facilitating exchange

- 9) The Working Group members will actively share good practices, tools and approaches to facilitate efforts to integrate climate resilience measures into strategies, plans, programs, projects, investments, and related funding decisions with climate risks.
- 10) The Working Group will provide regular updates to the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience to promote information exchange and knowledge sharing among agencies working on climate resilience efforts, both internationally and domestically.
- 11) The Working Group will coordinate with other US Government agencies to support the Public-Private Partnership on Climate Data and Information for Resilient Development.

- 12) The Working Group will make guidance developed by the EO 13677 process for incorporating climate-resilience considerations into international development activities publicly available.