# The importance of addressing loss & damage

## The Role of Insurance

Christoph Bals

MCII, Vice Chair of the Board

Political Director, Germanwatch e.V.



#### Loss and damage: Don't shoot the messenger!

- Existing emission pathways suggest temperature increases to > 4° C until the end of the century
- Crucial for the difference between a 4° world and a 2°C world is a strong projected increase in unavoidable damage (<u>Hof et al.</u> <u>2010</u>);
- > Raising costs and human burden of extrem and slow onset events;
- This is the context for (unhelpfully) politicized debates around "compensation" from for the effects of climate change. Legal compensation or responsibility?
- We need to put the debate back to its feet: Founding vision of MCII to support affected people through co-financed insurance and risk management;
- > and to look at incentives in adaptation and mitigation

## **Progress made – further progress possible**

- 2008: MCII's first submission;
  - internationally cofinanced climate insurance
  - risk layering
- Since 2008: promising activities world-wide
  - various stakeholders involving
  - real world solutions, how to manage the risks of climate change effectively and efficiently,
  - (in some projects) to reach vulnerable communities.
    Example: MCII's experience in the Caribbean, CCRIF, ARC
- → Debate on loss and damage is more comprehensive
- supporting adaptation, mitigation and equity
- real advancement possible at this COP



### "Insurance": more than pay out mechanism

- > Assess the loss potential
- Combination with adaptation /risk reduction / resilience building to prevent and address loss and damage
- > Incentivize loss reduction and resilience-building activities

#### And:

> Reduce financial repercussions of volatility

