UNPACKING THE LINK BETWEEN THE SANTIAGO NETWORK AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND FUND FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE

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“As the climate crisis escalates, it is critical that operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund and funding arrangements at COP28 include provisions for financing the technical assistance that developing countries need. New, additional, predictable and sufficient funding dedicated to the Santiago network is crucial to ensure that developing countries receive the technical assistance and support required to respond to loss and damage.”

“...to have sufficient funding. Thus, it is of utmost importance to include the Santiago network in the Loss and Damage Fund and its funding arrangements to enable it to provide technical assistance to both the Fund as well as countries, helping them articulate and effectively address their needs and priorities.”
“At COP28 Parties should also discuss and agree on the role of the UNFCCC secretariat in supporting the work of the Santiago network in improving the process of identifying technical assistance needs, enhancing the role and capacity of national contact points, and expanding the membership of OBNEs.”

“As we stand at the precipice of a defining moment in our climate action journey, the operationalisation of the Santiago network must not be an afterthought but a beacon guiding our path forward. Let us collectively affirm our commitment to provide robust financial support and clear governance for the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring that technical assistance is not merely accessible but well-resourced through the network. It is important for Parties to bring clarity and vision to the table, and to define the role of the Santiago network within the landscape of the Fund and funding arrangement. At COP28, we must seize the opportunity to enshrine these principles into the fabric of our agreements, carving a pathway for the Santiago network to elevate its role and deliver on the promise of coherent, effective action against the loss and damage wrought by climate change.”
“As the impacts of climate change escalate, vulnerable communities are now standing at the edge of their adaptive capacity. The invisible line in between resilience building and constant battle of economic and non-economic loss and damage from the adverse impacts of climate change leaves a huge information gap. To address that, at COP 28, Parties should be reminded that the Santiago network secretariat needs a home (host) urgently and sustainable funding to operate in order to deliver its core functions - to catalyse technical assistance to the most vulnerable communities at the forefront of climate change impacts.”

“...The Santiago network is an essential element of the architecture for loss and damage under the Convention and its Paris Agreement. The WIM ExCom delivers on policy-setting and policy discussion, the Santiago network is to provide technical assistance and support, and the Loss and Damage Fund and funding arrangements are to mobilise and provide finance at scale. It is essential that the opportunity of the Santiago network to address the urgent need in developing countries for enhanced action and support including finance, technology and capacity building, to address loss and damage – is not wasted. To ensure this, more thought needs to be given on where the Santiago network fits vis-a-vis other processes and how to fully operationalise a fit for purpose network to deliver demand-driven assistance as soon as possible.”
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Written by: Hyacinthe Niyitegeka

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Santiago network must be included as part of the Loss and Damage funding arrangements in order to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. This support will enable these countries to gain insights into their specific needs related to Loss and Damage and devise effective strategies to address them;

- The Santiago network can also play a critical role in providing capacity and readiness support to help developing countries access funding under the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) once it is operational. The Advisory Board could also provide technical inputs to the Board of the LDF including on the needs of developing countries to respond to loss and damage and the range of measures to address them;

- It is important for the Loss and Damage funding arrangements and Fund to acknowledge the financial requirements for the Santiago network; this includes recognising the need for and ensuring funding for both the independent secretariat and the provision of technical assistance through organisations, networks, bodies and experts (OBNEs);

- Countries need to articulate how they would like to see the Santiago network incorporated into the Loss and Damage funding arrangements, its relationship to the Fund and the linkages amongst the funding arrangements and the Fund, in order to guarantee an efficient and timely delivery of adequate funds for technical assistance to developing countries.
BACKGROUND

To better understand the linkages between the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (Santiago network) and the LDF, this section provides context on the evolution of each institutional arrangement separately, explaining their mandates and progress on their operationalisation in order to better understand how they can complement one another. The objective of this policy brief is to articulate the connection between the Santiago network, the funding arrangements and the LDF.

SANTIAGO NETWORK FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE

At the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP 25) in 2019, Parties established the Santiago network as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) which serves both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement. The mandate of the Santiago network is to catalyse technical assistance of relevant organisations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs), for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage at the local, national and regional levels, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The Santiago network was a key outcome of the second review of the WIM in which developing countries called for more focus on the third function of the WIM: enhancing action and support. The Santiago network serves as a technical implementation arm of the WIM to enhance the action and support delivered to developing countries, including finance, technology and capacity building.

“...The mandate of the Santiago network is to catalyse technical assistance of relevant organisations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs), for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage at the local, national and regional levels, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.”
At COP 26 in Glasgow, Parties determined the functions of the Santiago network which include catalysing demand-driven technical assistance by assisting in identifying, prioritising and communicating technical assistance needs and priorities and facilitating, through catalysing technical assistance, access to action and support including finance, technology and capacity building. Parties also established a process to further develop the institutional arrangements of the network and decided that it will be provided with funds to support technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimise, and address loss and damage and enable the network to fulfil its functions. Developing country Parties have repeatedly demanded more focus on addressing loss and damage, which is the role of the UNFCCC vis-a-vis Loss and Damage and the mandate of the WIM. It is widely recognised that averting loss and damage is best accomplished through mitigation and minimising loss and damage through adaptation.

Developed country Parties were urged to provide funds for the provision of technical assistance operations and the services of the secretariat. However, Parties deferred the decision on modalities for the management of funds provided for technical assistance under the Santiago network and the terms for their disbursement to a future session, as they decided that these modalities and terms would be determined by the same process to further develop the institutional arrangements of the Santiago network.

The decision at COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh defined the structure of the Santiago network which includes a hosted secretariat that will facilitate its work; an Advisory Board to provide guidance and oversight to the Santiago network secretariat on the effective implementation of the functions of the network; as well as a network of member OBNEs covering a wide range of topics relevant to averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage. Furthermore in order to progress the work of the Santiago network in 2023 and beyond, Parties in Sharm El-Sheikh established a process to select the host of the Santiago network secretariat with the emphasis on ensuring that no potential conflict of interest exists in the process of selection.

“Developing country Parties have repeatedly demanded more focus on addressing loss and damage, which is the role of the UNFCCC vis-a-vis Loss and Damage and the mandate of the WIM. It is widely recognised that averting loss and damage is best accomplished through mitigation and minimising loss and damage through adaptation.”
According to a report from an evaluation panel tasked with assessing the proposals, both proponents satisfied the evaluation criteria, although they each had varied strengths and weaknesses. Unfortunately, Parties failed to reach an agreement on a host for the Santiago network secretariat. However, Parties are trying to resolve this divide in advance of COP 28 so that the host can be selected and formally agreed at COP 28 in Dubai. Other issues to be determined at COP 28 include the nomination of the Advisory Board members which Parties and observer organisations must give special attention to because it must begin its work in 2024.

In a recent blog post members of Loss and Damage Collaboration’s Santiago network project, made some suggestions for how the Santiago network could move forward in this interim period to begin providing technical assistance to developing countries while waiting for the Santiago network to become fully operational. The authors highlighted the significance of transparency regarding the interim arrangements of the Santiago network to ensure that developing countries can derive benefits from them.

IV

THE NATURE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

There are several important issues that still need to be discussed and resolved by various stakeholders, including countries, members of the Santiago network (OBNEs), and the beneficiaries of technical assistance (i.e. developing countries). A few issues may remain unresolved until the Santiago network is fully operational and its secretariat and Advisory Board begin their work. The functions of the Santiago network provide some clarity on what the assistance catalysed by the Santiago network might look like, including that a wide range of topics will be considered including but not limited to current and future impacts, priorities and actions including those mentioned in previous COP decisions, in Article 8 of the UNFCCC’s Paris Agreement, as well as the workstreams of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (ExCom).
The most important thing to keep in mind is that the technical assistance is intended to be demand-driven and based on the needs and priorities of the country seeking assistance so a wide range of innovative and ambitious solutions are expected to be delivered through the Santiago network. Therefore it is ultimately up to developing countries to decide what types of support the Santiago network should provide.

When the Santiago network was established, countries agreed that technical assistance would be provided for the implementation of approaches at the local, national and regional levels in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. How this translates into practice when countries are determining their needs and priorities as well as determining which OBNEs are available and have the expertise to assist them, will become clearer as the Santiago network evolves. Therefore, this is an invitation for regional entities, states, and other members of the Santiago network to initiate comprehensive planning.

LOSS AND DAMAGE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND FUND

At COP 27, Parties made significant progress by establishing breakthrough new funding arrangements and a fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage\textsuperscript{15–16}. The LDF, along with the newly developed funding arrangements is mandated to provide crucial financial assistance to developing countries impacted by climate change. A Transitional Committee (TC) consisting of 24 members from both developed (ten) and developing country Parties (fourteen), was established to advance the operationalisation of the fund at COP 28 in Dubai. The TC met five times this year with a fifth (and additional) meeting concluded on November 5, this year.\textsuperscript{17} The outcome is a set of recommendations for the operationalisation of the LDF
which many are calling a failure of climate justice and far from what is needed to address the needs of developing countries. Since its establishment, the TC has also held two workshops (WS). Additionally, ministerial consultations on financing arrangements for responding to loss and damage were convened in September, on the margins of Climate Week in New York City, in an effort to collect political support for advancing consideration and understanding of potential outcomes at COP 28.

The table below summarises the timeline of TC and related meetings that have been held since the establishment of the fund. It also includes corresponding links to the outcomes of these meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TC1</td>
<td>27 - 29 March 2023</td>
<td>TC1 Co-Chair’s summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS1</td>
<td>29 - 30 April 2023</td>
<td>WS1 summary report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC2</td>
<td>25 - 27 May 2023</td>
<td>TC2 Co-Chair’s summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS2</td>
<td>15 - 16 July 2023</td>
<td>WS2 summary report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC3</td>
<td>29 Aug - 1 Sep 2023</td>
<td>TC3 Co-Chair’s summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial consultations</td>
<td>22 Sep 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC4</td>
<td>17 - 20 Oct 2023</td>
<td>TC4 Co-Chair’s summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TC5</td>
<td>03 - 04 Nov 2023</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP 28</td>
<td>30 Nov - 12 Dec 2023</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Timeline of Transitional Committee and other relevant meetings in 2023.

In order to support the work of the TC, Parties and observers made submissions on various elements related to their expectations for the LDF\textsuperscript{18}. In addition, a Technical Support Unit (TSU) was established by the UNFCCC secretariat\textsuperscript{19} and comprises experts from UN agencies, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and the operating entities of the financial mechanism though notably with no representation from civil society. The TSU established to support the TC, has also provided documents that specifically address key ideas to fulfil the mandate of the TC. These documents have focused on institutional arrangements\textsuperscript{20}, sources of funding\textsuperscript{21}, funding arrangements\textsuperscript{22}, coordination and complementarity\textsuperscript{23}, as well as additional elements relevant to the operationalisation of the Fund\textsuperscript{24}. 
CURRENT STATUS OF FINANCE FOR THE SANTIAGO NETWORK

KEY MESSAGES:

- Parties have recognised the urgent need of finance for the Santiago network and requested developed countries to contribute the funds necessary for its full operationalisation.

- A total of over €50 million has been pledged to the Santiago network thus far with some funds already being used by the UNFCCC with Parties not having been notified. Moving forward transparency in the use of funds is critical.

- In order to fully operationalise the Santiago network, developed Parties must make additional pledges at COP 28 to ensure both the support of the independent secretariat (once the host is selected) and the provision of technical support through OBNEs.
Since COP 26, a number of developed countries, non-state actors, and philanthropies made commitments to allocate funds towards addressing loss and damage (see table 2 below for pledges directly to the Santiago network). The pledges made by developed countries have included support for the work of the Santiago network. However, some pledges to the Santiago network did not include a specified timeline for the delivery of funds. Additionally, it was not specified whether the funding is intended for operational purposes or for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to loss and damage. Yet, the allocation of financial resources needed to fully operationalise Santiago network must cover both the internal operational costs and the provision of technical assistance.

In mid-2023, a series of regional workshops were held to convene actors and stakeholders who are directly engaged in providing technical assistance to developing countries in addressing the impacts of climate change. The workshops were organised with the objective to involve countries in the process of identifying and synthesising information and insights about their experiences in responding to loss and damage. Specifically, the focus was on addressing the substantial loss and damage caused by hydro-meteorological hazards and extremes. Additionally, the workshops aimed at determining the specific requirements for technical support at various stages of responding to and addressing loss and damage. The proposed workplan for the TC acknowledges the value of the Santiago network’s regional scoping workshops as a source of relevant information and insights that could be utilised by the TC throughout 2023. The outcome of the workshops could be used by the LDF to better understand the needs on the ground and the type of challenges developing countries are facing.

In the draft text from the UNFCCC intersessional, the 58th session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 58) in Bonn in June 2023 on matters relating to the Santiago network under the WIM, the SBI and SBSTA welcomed the pledges that have been already made for the Santiago network and expressed appreciation to the governments of Canada, Japan, and Spain for their financial contributions to the operationalisation of the Santiago network. During the discussions also at SB 58, it was reported that funding from the above-mentioned countries had already been disbursed for the UNFCCC secretariat, which is currently serving as an interim role as the Santiago network secretariat and has already been used. However, there was no clarification provided regarding the amount received and how it is being utilised.

There is also an outstanding pledge of approximately €30 million from the European Union which has not been delivered. It is essential that Parties have a comprehensive understanding of the funding that has been pledged but not yet disbursed, as well as whether this funding is designated

“ [...] the allocation of financial resources needed to fully operationalise Santiago network must cover both the internal operational costs and the provision of technical assistance.”
for specific purposes, such as operational or technical assistance\(^7\). It is also crucial for developed countries to make additional pledges at COP 28 to support the work of the Santiago network; these commitments include a clear timeline for delivery, ensuring that there are no further delays in fully operationalising the Santiago network. The table below summarises some of the pledges that have been made thus far.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who pledged?</th>
<th>When pledged?</th>
<th>The total climate finance pledged</th>
<th>Pledges specific to the Santiago network</th>
<th>Received by UNFCCC</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>COP 26</td>
<td>€10 million</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>COP 27</td>
<td>€50 million</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2023 - 2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>COP 27</td>
<td>US$24 million</td>
<td>US$1.25 million</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>By 2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>COP 27</td>
<td>£13 million</td>
<td>£5 million</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>COP 27</td>
<td>€10 million</td>
<td>€5 million</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>in 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td></td>
<td>€2 million</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td></td>
<td>€30 million</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Summary of pledges made to the Santiago network from developed countries.
OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS ON FINANCE FOR SANTIAGO NETWORK

KEY MESSAGES:

• There is an ongoing discussion about the financing of the Santiago network in order to fulfil its mandate. Some questions that have been raised include when and how the pledges made for the Santiago network can be made accessible;

• Clarity regarding in-kind support to be provided by the host organisation of the Santiago network secretariat as many countries during SB 58 said they envisioned the host to have the capacity to receive different sources of finance and demonstrate its commitment to give financial, in-kind, and other support. Some work is needed to better understand the expectations and challenges on these issues as it is essential that finance delivered not be absorbed by operating costs.

• A critical conversation that is separate yet related is how the Santiago Network will enable developing countries to build capacity to better understand their loss and damage needs through Loss and Damage needs assessments.
At COP 27, it was agreed that the Santiago network secretariat would be responsible for effectively managing and overseeing the allocation of funds in accordance with fiduciary standards, legal and ethical integrity policies, and financial regulations set by the host organisation. The secretariat will also handle the administration of funds for technical assistance within the Santiago network, ensuring efficiency and transparency. Additionally, the Advisory Board will play a crucial role in the Santiago network. One of the responsibilities of the Board will be to review and approve the annual budget of the network. They will also endorse the financial statement of the Santiago network.

It is important to also note the numerous outstanding questions on the issue of finance for Loss and Damage. Resolving these is fundamentally important and central to the full operationalisation of the Santiago network. There is a separate but inevitably related conversation happening regarding finance for the Santiago network which through its mandate to catalyse technical assistance will be an enabler for countries building their capacity and helping them better understand their loss and damage needs including through sound Loss and Damage needs assessment. Finance for the Santiago network will need to be predictable, sustainable, adequate and sufficient as well as new and additional. Furthermore, the issues that need to be clarified include the clarity regarding the pledges and in-kind support by the host organisation.

On the latter, Parties have agreed that the Santiago network needs funding both for catalysing technical assistance and operations and the services of the secretariat. It was important to countries during the SB 58 that the host would have the capacity to receive a variety of sources of finance and that the commitment from the host to provide financial, in-kind and other support was clear. Some work is needed to better understand the expectations and challenges on these issues. This is especially important so that as far as possible finance for the Santiago network is delivered for technical assistance and is not absorbed in operational costs.

“There is a separate but inevitably related conversation happening regarding finance for the Santiago network which through its mandate to catalyse technical assistance will be an enabler for countries building their capacity and helping them better understand their loss and damage needs including through sound Loss and Damage needs assessment.”

“Parties have agreed that the Santiago network needs funding both for catalysing technical assistance and operations and the services of the secretariat.”
KEY MESSAGES:

- The COP 27 decision recalled that at COP 26 Parties agreed that the Santiago network will be provided with funds to support technical assistance and that developed countries were urged to provide finance for Santiago network for the provision of technical assistance and operational costs.

- The Santiago network was not included in the decision that established the LDF and funding arrangements, and the lack of mention of the Santiago network in this decision poses a potential risk of excluding its significance in these discussions.

- During the TC meetings, there were no explicit discussions regarding the Santiago network’s potential integration into the LDF or funding arrangements; however, in the final TC recommendations, there were a few mentions of the role of the Santiago network in the Fund and funding arrangements.
Despite the mandate from COP 26, the Sharm El-Sheikh decision avoided making any reference to the modalities for the management of funds provided for technical assistance under the Santiago network and the terms for their disbursement. It also just recalled that at COP 26 it was decided that the Santiago network will be provided with funds to support technical assistance and that developed countries were urged to provide funds for the operation of the Santiago network and for the provision of technical assistance. Despite this agreement, the Santiago network was left out from the COP 27 decision that established the Loss and Damage funding arrangements and fund. One only novelty in this decision regarding finance was the encouragement to “others” to provide support for the operation of the Santiago network and technical assistance. The lack of mention of the Santiago network in this decision poses a potential risk of excluding its significance in these discussions. However, Parties can decide at COP 28 to remedy this issue by clearly articulating the link between the LDF and funding arrangements and the Santiago network, including to officially designate the network as part of the funding arrangements.

During this year’s TC meetings, which were centred around the operationalisation of the funding arrangements and Fund, there was no explicit discussion among countries regarding how the Santiago network can be part of these arrangements and the Fund. There are, however, a few mentions of the Santiago network in the TC’s recommendations for LDF and funding arrangements, such as:

- The LDF secretariat will coordinate with the Santiago network to support countries seeking to access the Fund through technical assistance;

- The Santiago network and its members should contribute to the coherence by aligning technical assistance it catalyses to build capacity and support programmatic approaches of the fund and the funding arrangements;

- The work of the WIM and its Santiago network will inform the Fund;

- The Santiago network and its members should contribute to the coherence by aligning technical assistance it catalyses to build capacity and support programmatic approaches of the fund and the funding arrangements;

- An annual High-level coordination and complementarity dialogue with representatives from main entities that form part of the funding arrangements will consist of no more than 30 high-level representatives from entities that form part of the funding arrangements engaged in responding to loss and damage, invited by the convener of the dialogue, including, inter alia:... representatives of the WIM ExCom, the Santiago network.

“...It also just recalled that at COP 26 it was decided that the Santiago network will be provided with funds to support technical assistance and that developed countries were urged to provide funds for the operation of the Santiago network and for the provision of technical assistance. Despite this agreement, the Santiago network was left out from the COP 27 decision that established the Loss and Damage funding arrangements and fund.”

“...Parties can decide at COP 28 to remedy this issue by clearly articulating the link between the LDF and funding arrangements and the Santiago network, including to officially designate the network as part of the funding arrangements.”
At SB 58, a few developed countries proposed that either the Santiago network or the Global Shield could effectively coordinate funding arrangements for Loss and Damage. However, some developing countries and civil society organisations made interventions emphasising that the role of the Santiago network is to catalyse technical assistance therefore, it is not suitable for it to serve as the coordinating entity of the Fund.\(^3\) That said, the network should certainly be considered part of the funding arrangements and it can provide technical assistance to both the Fund and to countries in articulating their needs and accessing finance to address them.

The Santiago network has a crucial role to play in enabling countries to better understand and articulate their needs vis-a-vis Loss and Damage. The technical assistance provided under the Santiago network will help developing countries assess and identify and develop policies, plans and processes to address both economic and non-economic loss and damage. In addition, developing countries could also be provided with technical assistance to access finance for addressing their needs including under the LDF. There are thus very strong linkages between the two institutional arrangements. The Santiago network must be designated as a funding arrangement and included in discussions on the LDF.

“ [...] the network should certainly be considered part of the funding arrangements and it can provide technical assistance to both the Fund and to countries in articulating their needs and accessing finance to address them.”

“The Santiago network has a crucial role to play in enabling countries to better understand and articulate their needs vis-a-vis Loss and Damage. The technical assistance provided under the Santiago network will help developing countries assess and identify and develop policies, plans and processes to address both economic and non-economic loss and damage.”
NEXT STEPS IN THE LEAD-UP TO COP 28 AND BEYOND

As we approach COP 28, there are several important issues that need to be addressed in order to fully operationalise the Santiago network including:

- **Selection of the network’s secretariat host organisation:** The lack of consensus regarding the choice of the host for the Santiago network secretariat at SB 58 delayed its full operationalisation. During the discussions at SB 58, it was agreed that the selection of the host organisation for the network’s secretariat will take place at SB 59/COP 28 in Dubai. Between SB 58 and COP 28, it is expected that Parties have continued discussions to find a common position on who the host will be between the UNDRR-UNOPS consortium and CDB.

- **Selection of members of the Advisory Board:** During the discussion of SB 58, all Parties recognised the significance of swiftly establishing the Advisory Board. According to the decision made at COP 27, the election of Board members will take place during COP 28. Parties are encouraged to nominate experts with a diverse range of technical experience and knowledge related to averting, minimising, and addressing the loss and damage caused by the adverse effects of climate change. As per the COP 27 decision, it is critical to note that the nomination process should take into account the inclusion of women and gender constituencies, indigenous peoples organisations, and children and youth non-governmental organisations.

- **Finance for Santiago network:** The resources pledged to the Santiago network thus far are not sufficient. Very little funding has been pledged and some of it has not been delivered. Thus, it is anticipated to hear additional pledges from developed countries and other stakeholders at COP 28. To ensure the swift full operationalisation of the Santiago network, it is crucial that these commitments are promptly fulfilled. Once the host organisation is chosen and the Advisory Board members are elected, the network must be able to operate effectively with the funds it requires.

“During the discussions at SB 58, it was agreed that the selection of the host organisation for the network’s secretariat will take place at SB 59/COP 28 in Dubai. Between SB 58 and COP 28, it is expected that Parties have continued discussions to find a common position on who the host will be between the UNDRR-UNOPS consortium and CDB.”

“According to the decision made at COP 27, the election of Board members will take place during COP 28. Parties are encouraged to nominate experts with a diverse range of technical experience and knowledge related to averting, minimising, and addressing the loss and damage caused by the adverse effects of climate change.”

“Once the host organisation is chosen and the Advisory Board members are elected, the network must be able to operate effectively with the funds it requires.”
There are several other important issues that should be addressed at COP 28 and beyond. These include discussing the role of the UNFCCC secretariat in supporting the work of the Santiago network, improving the process of identifying technical assistance needs, enhancing the role and capacity of national contact points, expanding the membership of OBNEs, and addressing other matters that the secretariat and advisory board will handle as the Santiago network becomes fully operational.

Finally, at COP 28, Parties will need to discuss the role of the Santiago network in the landscape of funding arrangements and its relationship to the LDF. This is critical in order to begin to address the full spectrum and scope of needs in developing countries in relation to responding to loss and damage.

CONCLUSION

Technical assistance is widely acknowledged as a crucial component in effectively addressing loss and damage in developing countries that are at the forefront of climate change impacts. In order to fully operationalise the Santiago network, it is important for the LDF and funding arrangements to acknowledge the financial requirements. This includes recognising the need for funding to support technical assistance by OBNEs through the Santiago network. It is essential for Parties to have a clear understanding of how the LDF and funding arrangements will operate and be governed. The agreement at COP 28 could provide more information on the role of the Santiago network in the landscape of the LDF and funding arrangements and its relationship to other institutional arrangements therein. Therefore, it is critical that discussions and further decisions on the operationalisation of funding arrangements and the LDF include the Santiago network.

“...at COP 28, Parties will need to discuss the role of the Santiago network in the landscape of funding arrangements and its relationship to the LDF. This is critical in order to begin to address the full spectrum and scope of needs in developing countries in relation to responding to loss and damage.”

In order to fully operationalise the Santiago network, it is important for the LDF and funding arrangements to acknowledge the financial requirements. This includes recognising the need for funding to support technical assistance by OBNEs through the Santiago network.”

“The agreement at COP 28 could provide more information on the role of the Santiago network in the landscape of the LDF and funding arrangements and its relationship to other institutional arrangements therein. Therefore, it is critical that discussions and further decisions on the operationalisation of funding arrangements and the Loss and Damage Fund include the Santiago network.”
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IMAGE CREDIT

1. Cover image: Collecting water at the UNDP-funded dam in Baligubadle, Somaliland, northwest Somalia. Via Water Alternatives Photos / UNDP Somalia licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0 DEED. Image description: On 3rd December 2019, Fardosa Mohamed, a 50-year-old pastoralist, walks home after collecting water at the UNDP-funded dam in Baligubadle, Somaliland, northwest Somalia. The country experiences major climate-induced shocks every two to five years with flooding, cyclones and, most often, drought resulting in sometimes violent disputes over access to scarce water and land. Pastoralists, which make up approximately 60% of the population, are particularly vulnerable to changes in climate because they rely on rain-fed rangeland for grazing livestock, have very few fixed assets and typically live in extreme poverty.

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