

Call for submissions¹ on views on the Santiago network to further develop the institutional aspects

UNEP sees great value in the Santiago Network, and is therefore welcoming the opportunity to respond to the invitation to provide further views in relation to the operationalisation of the Santiago network, for consideration at the technical workshop ahead of and at SB 56.

In addition to the information provided in below submission, UNEP would like to express its view, that it could be considered to establish a side-by-side or integrated set up with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to ensure an environment that would facilitate a speedily, efficient establishment and facilitate synergies and collaboration between the two. UNEP would be pleased to discuss such an arrangement further.

I. Operational modalities

As per Decision 2/CMA.2, the Santiago Network shall “catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, for the implementation of relevant approaches at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change”. The operational modalities proposed in this submission respond to the six functions, delineated in Decision 19/CMA.3.

The Santiago Network needs first and foremost to be structured so that it is responsive to country needs. The Santiago Network will operate in an environment with multiple stakeholders. It is key to its success that relationships are managed carefully to ensure impact of its activities, prevent duplication of effort, and realize swift and high-quality service provision.

As per the description below (“II: Structure”), the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism will govern the work of the Santiago Network. This work will be delivered through **a small, dedicated secretariat**. The staff in the secretariat will conduct the day-to-day activities required to mobilise the funding required to deliver technical assistance, and channel it through the most appropriate node in a network of institutions skilled in to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage.

The secretariat to the Santiago Network will:

- **provide technical advice** on the design of all interventions funded through the Santiago Network;
- **oversee the implementation of all interventions** funded through the Santiago Network, with a focus on (i) ensuring compliance with administrative and budgetary considerations, and (ii) avoiding overlaps and reaping synergies across interventions.

To do so, the secretariat shall be staffed with issue-specialists. For proposals requiring highly specialised regional or technical expertise, the advice of external independent experts could be sought.

The secretariat to the Santiago Network will:

¹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>

- maintain a **roster of experts** across the full range of issues relevant to loss and damage;
- conduct a “matchmaking” function between potential providers of assistance and the national loss and damage focal points introduced below (“II: Structure”).

Experience from the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which has a similar mandate, suggests that a light bidding process, through which potential providers can express their interest in serving a given need for technical assistance, can be used to identify the entities that are best prepared to serve that need. Such light bidding process should be followed by the development of a complete proposal, through which the technical and financial feasibility, and the effectiveness of the approach proposed can be fully evaluated, prior to entering into any contractual engagements.

The Santiago Network will organise an **annual technical meeting**, through which (i) government agency staff and technical experts can exchange on topical issues, (ii) technical experts can exchange views and identify knowledge gaps, and (iii) donors can coordinate funding programmes. The agenda for such a meeting would be settled well in advance and would be driven by the needs identified by national loss and damage focal points (see “II: Structure”).

In addition, the Santiago Network could organise **expert workshops and webinars** to disseminate knowledge on topics of direct relevance to the work of the Executive Committee to the Warsaw International Mechanism. Such events could be funded off-budget, through voluntary contributions. The Santiago network will organise regional, national and local trainings and workshops and other forms of capacity building. To do so, it will rely on the network of experts through which it will deliver its technical assistance.

The Santiago Network will act as a **clearinghouse of information on loss and damage**, inter alia by setting up:

- a website documenting all projects funded through the Santiago Network, and including the “studies of strategic importance” referred to under Function 3 above and the results of the stakeholder consultations conducted under the aegis of the Warsaw International Mechanism;
- a platform through which the Executive Committee to the Warsaw International Mechanism can organise outreach events, for example during the annual conferences of the parties to the convention.

Primarily through the head of its secretariat, the Santiago Network will facilitate access to action and support relevant to loss and damage by **mobilising finance**. From the point of view of public budgets, efforts to mobilise finance will take due consideration of existing funding sources, including the Green Climate Fund, to avoid duplication. From the point of view of private budgets, a task force will be set up to (i) scale up successful approaches, and (ii) explore innovative funding sources.

Technical assistance approach

Through the staff of its secretariat, or through external experts as relevant, the Santiago Network will prepare studies of strategic importance with regard to the Warsaw International Mechanism’s programme of work. The need for, and scope of, such studies will be determined by the Executive Committee to the Warsaw International Mechanism, acting as the Santiago Network’s management board (see “II: Structure”).

Through the national loss and damage focal points introduced below (“II: Structure”), the secretariat to the Santiago Network will articulate the delivery of technical assistance on two complementary fronts:

- preparation of loss and damage needs assessments and action plans, to identify effective prevention and response measures for both losses and damages. The approach could build well under the already established methodology for undertaking the GEF-funded Technology Needs Assessments and Actions Plans²;
- delivery of technical assistance on individual topics identified by national governments, to manage immediate climate change-driven losses and damages.

To the extent that its scope is consistent with one or several of the strategic work-streams of the Warsaw International Mechanism (Box 2), eligibility would be contingent upon a positive assessment with regard to criteria such as technical and financial feasibility, effectiveness and country ownership.

Box 2: Current list of strategic work-streams of the Warsaw International Mechanism

- (a) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to slow onset events
- (b) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to non-economic losses
- (c) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to comprehensive risk management approaches
- (d) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to human mobility, including migration, displacement and planned relocation
- (e) Enhanced cooperation and facilitation in relation to action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change

A proposal for technical assistance, of which the scope is not fully consistent with any of the strategic work-streams of the Warsaw International Mechanism, should be subject to a separate evaluation by the members of the Santiago Network’s management board (see “II: Structure”). To make their decision, they may choose to rely on the advice of external independent experts. With regard to unfunded requests, information will be prepared for the Excom or Advisory Board to provide further guidance. With regard to funded requests, evidence covering the entire life-cycle of an intervention, from request, to intervention design, to deliver, will help improve the performance of future interventions.

II. Structure

The Santiago Network shall operate within its terms of reference and be accountable to and under the guidance of either the Conference of the Parties . There would be different options for the model to follow for the overarching structure. The model could either be that the Santiago Network reports to the COP either directly through an advisory board (Option a) or operates directly under the Executive Committee (Option b). However, the governance of the WIM is still to be finally agreed upon.

² www.tech-action.org

The two different options are illustrated below as an Option a and an Option b. The options could be further discussed and elaborated upon.

It is hence suggested that the Santiago Network consists of four elements:

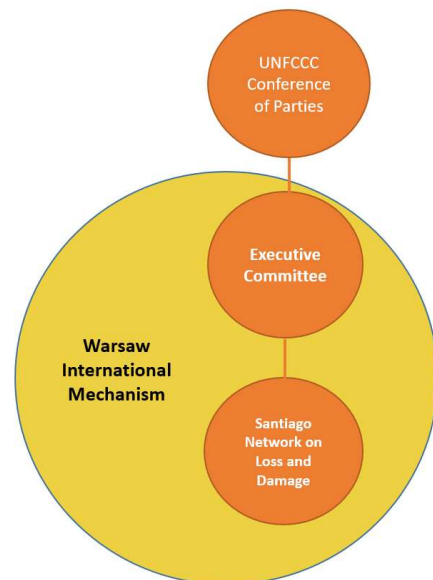
- a. National Loss and Damage Focal Points (LDFPs)
- b. An Advisory Board
- c. A Secretariat
- d. A Network

Figure 1. Structure, two suggested options

Option a



Option b



a. The national Loss and Damage Focal Point (LDFP)

LDFPs are the primary national entry points of the Santiago Network and play a pivotal role in acting as intermediary between the Santiago Network and national stakeholders. The role of LDFPs is further elaborated in section IV.

b. Advisory Board

The Santiago Network should be accountable to, and operate under, the guidance of the Executive Committee or directly under the COP through an Advisory Board, as decided by parties. If it is decided to establish an Advisory Board, the Advisory Board should provide guidance on how the Santiago Network should prioritize requests from developing countries, submitted through LDFPs, it should approve reports and criteria for requests and membership of the Network, and in general monitors, assesses and evaluates the performance of the Santiago Network as well as provide strategic directions.

c. Secretariat

The Secretariat should facilitate the Santiago network fulfilling its functions. It should do so by focusing its actions to areas that fall into the exclusive competence of its network. The Secretariat does not have an implementing role but should rather facilitate and coordinate the efforts of its Network. The Secretariat should administer the funds for the technical assistance to be implemented by the Network.

Roles and activities of the Secretariat is further elaborated in the Modalities, Part I of this submission.

d. The Network

It is through the Network, consisting of organisations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs) that the bulk of the technical assistance on Loss and Damage will be executed. Considering the wide range of expertise required across sectors, regions and sub-regions and application areas, a wide and diverse Network of regional and national institutions is required as a delivery mechanism that can respond effectively and efficiently to requests from LDfPs.

The approach envisaged is one of gradual expansion and increasingly sophisticated structuring of the Network, reflecting the expected build-up of demand and underlying financing for activities, also building upon experience from the establishment of the CTCN. Establishing new sub-networks or strengthening of existing sub-networks for each of the key sectors should be considered, as well as sub-networks focused on private sector partnership and financing support.

The Santiago Network should develop and manage relationships with the actors described above and will find and strengthen its niche, cooperate where possible, and always seek to avoid duplication of efforts.

III. The role of the Executive Committee and its expert groups, task force and technical expert group

Seeing the Santiago Network as the implementation component of the WIM, would complement the Executive Committee in being the political and technical component of the WIM. Henceforth, the Santiago Network could also rely on existing structures, as relevant, notably with regards to the expert groups, task force and technical expert groups associated with the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee members could actively be part of an Advisory Board, if established, and otherwise be nominated as experts to the Santiago Network.

Finally, it should be encouraged that OBNEs report to the Executive Committee in accordance with Decision 19/CMA.3 and Decision 2/CMA.2 on their activities under the Santiago network.

IV. The role of loss and damage contact points and other relevant stakeholders at the subnational, national and regional level;

The national Loss and Damage Focal Point (LDfP) is the body granted responsibility by a Party to manage all Loss and Damage collaboration activities undertaken under the Santiago Network and plays a pivotal role in acting as intermediary between the Santiago Network and national stakeholders. The LDfP is there to:

1. Serve as a focal point for Santiago Network activities in the country;

2. Manage the national request submission process and support the articulation and prioritization of requests and proposals;
3. Identify priority areas and capacity-building needs in line with national development and climate strategies and design collaborative programmes with the Santiago Network;
4. Facilitate the creation of a consultative process to enhance public sector / government actors / private sector coordination and collaboration in the definition of country strategies on loss and damage; and
5. Provide feedback on the quality of Santiago Network assistance and procedures.

LDFPs are encouraged to participate in the definition and update of national development and climate strategies, including Biennial Transparency Report, Adaptation Communications, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long Term Strategies, and have the capacity of reflecting the nationally identified priorities in its requests to the Santiago Network by working in close connection with relevant ministries including Finance, Planning, Environment, Energy, Science and Technology.

LDFPs should coordinate with other national focal points of UNFCCC Mechanisms, such as the Technology Mechanism's National Designated Entities, the Financial Mechanism's National Designated Authorities and Operational Focal Points, the Adaptation Fund's Designated Authorities and National Implementing Entities to enhance effectiveness and scope of the Santiago Network interventions and leverage international funding for adaptation and mitigation activities.

V. Possible elements for the terms of reference of a potential convening or coordinating body that may provide secretarial services to facilitate work under the Santiago network

Possible elements to consider, when developing a ToR for the convening or coordinating body that may provide secretarial services to facilitate work under the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, could be as follows:

Mission

The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage was established in December 2019 at COP25 to operationalize the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) established under the UNFCCC framework. The WIM guides the implementation of Article 8 of the Paris Agreement in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change by:

- Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage
- Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence, and synergies among relevant stakeholders
- Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology, and capacity-building

The mission of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage is to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks, and experts to developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The technical assistance will enable the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize, and address loss and damages associated

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Services of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage

In line with its mandate and functions, the Santiago Network has three core services: (i) providing technical assistance and support capacity building at the request of developing countries in support of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage; (ii) creating access to information and knowledge on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage and (iii) fostering collaboration among loss and damage stakeholders via the Santiago Network's network of regional and sectoral experts from academia, the private sector, and public and research institutions.

- 1) Technical assistance and support to capacity building
 - The Santiago Network should work as a broker pairing developing countries with experts, service providers, and funding to deliver on the developing countries' needs, ensuring that the solutions are tailored to local needs
- 2) Easy access to information and knowledge on Loss and Damage
 - The Santiago Network should provide access to a pool of innovative approaches to effectively address Loss and Damage and research-based evidence from effected communities on Loss and Damage
 - The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage should arrange, coordinate and compile assessments and reviews of Loss and Damage from extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters
- 3) Coordination and collaboration among stakeholders
 - The Santiago Network should provide a coordination mechanism to share knowledge among relevant stakeholders (information and experiences sharing between countries, communities, and other actors all engaged in addressing Loss and Damage with national Loss and Damage approaches)

The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage shall have a lean, cost-efficient organizational structure within existing institutions, led by a director who will manage a small core team of professional and administrative staff. In carrying out its functions, the director will be approved by, and accountable to, the host governing body for the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage. As soon as practicable, after appointment, the director will facilitate the timely recruitment of the staff of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage.

Reporting and Review

The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage shall report to the Advisory Board or the Executive Committee, pending on the model decided, on a regular basis.

The Santiago Network shall report annually on its activities. It could be decided that a joint annual report would be provided by the Executive Committee and the Santiago Network. The report will contain all the information necessary to meet the principles and transparency required by the Convention. The report shall also include information on requests received and activities carried out by the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, information on efficiency and effectiveness in responding to these requests, and information on ongoing work as well as lessons learned and best practices gained from that work.

The Santiago Network Secretariat shall commission an independent review for the effective implementation of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage [four] years after its inception. The findings of the review, including any recommendation regarding enhancing the performance, will be considered by the Conference of the Parties. Subsequently, periodic independent reviews will be conducted every four years.

Terms of Agreement

The initial term of the agreement to host the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage will be for [x] years, with [x] renewal periods, if so decided by the Conference of Parties

The renewal of the agreement is subject to the host organization fulfilling its function laid out and its responsiveness to the direction given to it

To provide its services, in an effective, efficient, and timely matter, it is key that the host of the Santiago Network can facilitate fast response technical assistance to country requests, through a lean procurement system.

It is highly recommendable that, for resource mobilization purposes, the host of the Santiago Network is an Accredited Entity to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention.

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