
Informal information note on the technical workshop on the institutional arrangements of the
Santiago network of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

Towards COP 27 in Sharm-el-Sheik, Parties will elaborate on further institutional arrangements for the Santiago network.

More than 100 participants from Parties and non-Party stakeholders participated in the three-day technical workshop held in May in Copenhagen. The participants actively engaged and shared valuable information, experience and views through presentations, panels and group work in relation to the issues outlined in paragraph 2 below.

This note is an informal reflection on the technical workshop. It is developed under the guidance of the facilitator as an informal note and does not attempt to represent all views expressed during the workshop. The informal note does not in any way restrict or prejudge further deliberation on the development of the institutional arrangements of the Santiago network. It is for information only, for any value it may have for Parties in their work on the issue.

Background and mandate for the workshop

1. COP 25 established, as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM), the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.¹ COP 26 agreed on a set of functions² for the Santiago network that catalyse demand-driven technical assistance to respond to the priority needs of developing countries and decided on a process for further developing its institutional arrangements.³ It also decided that the Santiago network would be provided with funds in support of its functions.

2. As part of the process to further develop the institutional arrangements of the Santiago network agreed upon in Glasgow, COP 26 requested the secretariat to organize a technical workshop prior to SB 56, under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, with inputs from the WIM Executive Committee and the participation of Parties and relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, to elaborate on submissions⁴ on the following aspects of the Santiago network:

- (a) Operational modalities;
- (b) Structure;
- (c) The role of the WIM Executive Committee and its expert groups, task force and technical expert group;
- (d) The role of loss and damage contact points and other relevant stakeholders at the subnational, national and regional level;
- (e) 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.

Proceedings

3. The technical workshop took place at the United Nations City building in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 4 to 6 May 2022, in a hybrid format, with a financial contribution from the Government of Denmark. Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Development Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, welcomed the participants, together with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, in the opening session. A total of 72 representatives from Parties attended the technical workshop (31 virtually), and 33 representatives from non-Party stakeholders attended (20 virtually). The SBI Chair facilitated

¹ See decision 2/CMA.2, para. 43.

² See decisions 19/CMA.3, para. 9, and 17/CP.26, para. 9.

³ As contained in the Glasgow Climate Pact (decision 1/CMA.3).

⁴ See decisions 19/CMA.3, para. 10, and 17/CP.26, para. 10.

the plenary discussions throughout the three-day workshop. The list of participants, agenda, and presentations, as well as other relevant information, are available on the workshop page.⁵

4. The discussions were structured around the five aspects of the submissions on the Santiago network referred to in paragraph 2 above. Building on the submissions received, each session comprised three parts. The first part was a plenary session with an introductory presentation from two Parties highlighting a range of perspectives on the focused theme of the session, followed by two or three non-Party stakeholders who shared experiences and key lessons learned from similar initiatives and relevant ongoing processes. The second part involved breakout group discussions, while the third part was a session at which summaries from the group discussions were reported back in a plenary setting.

5. A total of 18 breakout group discussions held over the three-day workshop facilitated in-depth interaction among all participants to enhance understanding of a diverse range of views and ideas on key aspects relating to the timely operationalization of the Santiago network. The breakout group setting also provided remote participants further opportunities for engagement.

6. Participants took active roles in facilitation and serving as Rapporteur in these groups. The discussions uncovered many common areas that could facilitate reaching convergence at SB 56. The workshop also identified areas on which to focus further efforts to find a collective foundation to build on at SB 56.

7. This note is prepared jointly by the SB Chairs in response to a need raised by many participants of the technical workshop to share their reflections to provide Parties with a broad summary of main points raised. It is prepared without prejudging or prescribing outcomes of deliberations at SB 56. The points captured in this note are not exhaustive, and the recording of the plenary proceedings is available on the workshop page for such an information source. The key takeaways reflect the Chairs' impressions from the discussions in an abbreviated manner, and they are not to be taken as conclusions from the technical workshop.

Key takeaways

8. Throughout the workshop, there was a shared sense of the importance of making progress in deliberations on further institutional arrangements for the Santiago network in 2022 to bring it into operation as soon as possible.

9. The Santiago network, will enable countries to access technical assistance to further develop approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including how to develop proposals to the Financial Mechanism and other relevant entities under and outside the UNFCCC.

10. A number of views were repeated throughout the workshop that could guide further operations of the Santiago network and could thus form guiding principles, such as:

(a) Operating in an efficient, demand-driven manner, responsive to national and locally-led initiatives;

(b) Focusing on the most vulnerable communities and people and include a human rights and gender-based approach;

(c) Supporting its activities using evidence and best available science;

(d) Complementing existing structures to maximize coherence and synergies, and avoiding unnecessary bureaucratic structures;

(e) Avoiding placing additional burdens on developing countries in terms of reporting and other obligations;

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/event/tech-workshop-SN-Loss-and-Damage>.

(f) Ensuring open, broad and inclusive membership to facilitate the active engagement of smaller organizations and others at the regional, national and local level, especially from developing countries.

11. Some opportunities for technical assistance are already available for some aspects of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage through programmes under the Financial Mechanism, such as those related to capacity-building and readiness support, and current support for adaptation.

12. The critical importance of a better understanding of the needs and barriers was underscored by both countries and by providers of technical assistance. In this context, some viewed the process as calling for loss and damage needs assessments, while others pointed to the utility of building on and integrating climate risks into existing assessments, such as post-disaster needs assessment, technology needs assessment, and impacts and vulnerability assessment.

13. During the discussions, the following three broad components were discussed as part of the structure of the network, with many options for further extension to each in terms of action, guidance, reporting, oversight, etc.:

(a) A country component: countries to identify and aggregate their needs and communicate these as technical assistance requests to a coordinating body that provides secretarial services. Views vary on how this part could most effectively be operationalized, ensuring a country-driven manner, from a simple aggregation of needs from stakeholders at all levels through a national compact point or focal point, to a comprehensive process that would assess technical assistance needs;

(b) Providers of technical assistance: a broad range of organizations, bodies, networks and experts that could provide technical assistance would be another component. Such providers would register their interest availability through the coordinating body, on the basis of an agreed process, to collectively form a network that will respond to requests for technical assistance with funding under and outside the Santiago network.

(c) A coordinating body providing secretarial services: a convening or coordinating body would receive, collate and compile requests for technical assistance from countries. It would then identify and reach out to those that could provide the requested technical assistance, with or without funding by the network. There were many views on how the coordinating body would operate, ranging from providing all the necessary services to receive requests and mobilize network partners to deliver the technical assistance, to more elaborate arrangements with bodies that could provide services such as advisory support to the work of the coordinating body; technical support and advice on proposal development, review and assessment; arrangements to handle funding issues for the technical assistance, etc.

14. Organizations and networks shared their experience and lessons learned in providing technical assistance, with further details available on the event page.

15. On the basis of existing mandates, those providing technical assistance under the Santiago network would report on their activities through the WIM Executive Committee, which will in turn include the relevant information in its annual report to the COP/CMA.

16. The workshop participants discussed what role the Executive Committee and its thematic expert groups could play in supporting the work of the Santiago network, including in relation to how they might assist with technical guidance and advice.

17. The workshop participants also discussed how some countries would need additional capacity assistance in articulating their needs for technical assistance and how associated support could be provided under the Santiago network.

18. The Santiago network, as part of the WIM, would continue to be guided by the COP/CMA.

19. In addressing the fifth aspect of the submissions, the workshop participants discussed possible elements of the terms of reference for the convening or coordinating body. Such

elements could include the objective or mission of the coordinating body, reference to agreed functions of the Santiago network, organizational structure, roles and responsibilities (of various components of the structure), governance of the network and relationship to the broader WIM reporting and review arrangements, and terms of the agreement, and other relevant elements.

20. Addressing all the functions of the Santiago network will require a multitude of efforts and effective collaboration with key stakeholders. Models and other initiatives exist from which Parties may draw lessons.

21. The workshop also discussed possible next steps in finalizing the institutional arrangements. COP 27 could either finalize arrangements and appoint the convening/coordinating body, or it could launch a process to invite open submissions of interest and set up a subsequent process to finalize the selection and launch the operations of the body, or another process, as appropriate.

22. The importance of making substantive progress at SB 56 was highlighted in the concluding remarks by the SBI Chair, in particular the importance of producing a draft decision that includes draft terms of reference for the convening or coordinating body of the Santiago network.
