

**Summary of the Presidencies' first technical meeting on the Santiago Network
With organisations providing technical assistance related to loss and damage and open to
parties and observers to the UNFCCC**

16 July 2021

Introduction

The Conference of the Parties at the meeting in Madrid (COP 25/CMA 2) in December 2019 established the "Santiago Network" as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM).¹

Following consultations with Parties in 2020 and 2021, The UK and Chile held a first technical meeting with organisations providing technical assistance in relation to loss and damage². The objectives of the meeting were to (i) gauge technical agencies' and organisations' interest in engaging with the Santiago Network; and (ii) assess potential opportunities and barriers in operationalising the Santiago Network from a technical perspective.

Questions were shared with the participants prior to the consultation, to help structure and stimulate the discussion. These were:

- Would your organisation be willing to be part of the Network?
 - What would enable your organization to provide technical assistance to developing countries ?
 - What barriers do you anticipate?
- How best can the Network be organised to enable efficient response ?

The meeting was organised in two parts. Agencies, organisations and experts were given the floor first to express their views and potential interest in engaging with the network. Parties were then invited to share views based on these interventions and ask questions.

Summary of the discussions

Agencies, organisations and stakeholders who attended the meeting overwhelmingly showed support for **increased action and coordination** on loss and damage, in particular in identifying countries' needs (including at the local level). A coordination unit for the Santiago Network (SN) would help with both the identification and prioritization of these needs. It would also need to have adequate resources and capacity.

Agencies and organisations as well as some Parties noted the need for the Santiago Network to add value and additional benefits. They highlighted the **wide range of areas in which organizations can, could and/or are already providing assistance**. This includes (but is not limited to) technical humanitarian assistance, food security, disaster risk reduction, risk management, early warning systems, provision and application of data, information and methodology for assessing loss and damage (including non-economic losses such as cultural heritage), capacity building, knowledge sharing and peer-learning between countries and agencies and between agencies. The need for

¹ Decision 2/CMA.2, para 43

² <https://unfccc.int/event/SN-tech-meeting>

financing mechanisms (e.g. grants support, insurance, forecast-based finance, results-based finance) to address the full spectrum of risk management approaches was also raised.

Agencies and organisations presented direct linkages and contributions to some of the work of the UNFCCC Constituted Bodies and expert groups - including the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (Excom), the Adaptation Committee (AC), the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP). Some parties proposed to have more discussions on potential synergies between the work of/on these groups and the SN.

Many participants highlighted the need for the Santiago Network to be **inclusive** and take into consideration a wide range of views, including on gender, from youth and civil society. Indigenous people shared their concerns as many are currently suffering losses and damages - but can also provide expertise and solutions.

Some **challenges** in providing technical assistance were raised - including resourcing needs, accessibility and outreach to those most vulnerable and affected by loss and damage (e.g. through finance but also appropriate tools and information available in targeted and appropriate languages), coordination support, and administrative burden, which would make it difficult for organizations to engage in the network.

The Presidencies take note of the interest from new organizations providing technical assistance to join the network.

Next steps

The Presidencies would like to thank all participants for their active engagement in the discussions.

Parties are encouraged to communicate their needs on loss and damage through the survey available on the Santiago Network portal.³

Organizations, bodies, networks and experts engaged in providing technical assistance to developing countries are encouraged to report on their progress to the Executive Committee of the WIM.

An amended paper on the operationalisation of the Santiago Network has been placed on the Santiago Network website.⁴ A Ministerial meeting on Loss and Damage will be held on 26 July, which will be followed by a Heads of Delegation meeting on Loss and Damage and the Santiago Network on 3 and 4 August 2021.

The Chilean and UK Presidencies will work jointly with the UNFCCC secretariat to provide more space for exchange and discussions on the operationalization of the SN in the coming months.

³ <https://unfccc.int/santiago-network/countries>

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/event/informal-meeting-on-the-santiago-network-on-loss-and-damage>