



Presentation by the Group of 77 and China*
Virtual Roundtable on “Developing the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage”
3 December 2020, 1900-2030 CET

1. I am pleased to deliver these remarks on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. This virtual Roundtable on “Developing the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage” is a good opportunity for the UNFCCC community to discuss how the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD) can be made operational and its mandate be strengthened, following on from the SNLD’s landmark establishment last year in Madrid at COP25.
3. As the Chair of the Group of 77 and China pointed out during the opening of the Climate Dialogues on November 23, “We are poised on a precipice and much is at stake, as climate change continues to carve a destructive path across the globe. ... We all need to be reminded that maintaining a “business as usual” approach, or doing nothing’, or backsliding on our commitments, is not an option. We also cannot be indifferent to its effect in undermining the development gains of our countries, even as we strive to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.” She also pointed out that “the world now deals with the economic, social and environmental impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. Now more than ever, we must come together to fashion solutions that go beyond narrow national interests and build the future we want for people, planet, and prosperity.

Strengthening the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage

4. The SNLD is one of the key legacies of the Chilean COP Presidency, not only because the SNLD is named after Chile’s capital city but also because the Chilean Presidency’s support at COP25 for the SNLD was instrumental in its establishment.
5. It is very important and urgent to advance in the full operationalization of the SNLD. No mandate was given to the ExCom at COP25/CMA2 for the operationalization of the SNLD, including a mandate for the adoption of modalities for facilitating the connection between Parties and relevant organizations, bodies, networks, and experts, which under current circumstances leaves operationalization of the SNLD up to the COP Presidency and the secretariat.
6. That said, for the Group of 77 and China, the SNLD now needs to be made operational and fully functional. The Group fully appreciates the recent establishment of the SNLD’s website by the UNFCCC Secretariat. This step now needs to be followed by other steps to make the SNLD operational and able to deliver on the loss and damage technical support needs of developing countries.
7. The SNLD’s design as a technical implementation support partners’ network on loss and damage should be strengthened and embedded into the institutional architecture of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, operating as part of the Warsaw Implementation Mechanism, to help broaden access to resources and facilitate support on the ground for loss and damage action by developing countries.

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8. In addition to guidance by the COP President, the process to design and operationalize the SNLD requires inputs by Parties through substantive discussion on the modalities, scope and linkages with the ExCom and its expert groups, including consideration of the best suitable and effective institutional arrangements.
9. The mandate of the WIM Excom concerning the SNLD could be enhanced so that the ExCom can consider the structure, functions, and modalities of the SNLD and any steps to operationalize it in a manner that responds to developing countries' needs and facilitates Parties' connections with members of the SNLD. Parties drive the implementation of decisions taken by the COP and CMA, and it is up to the Parties to determine how to design and operationalize the SNLD, and expediting its effective and timely operationalization is a priority for all developing countries.

What specific technical assistance should the Network deliver for Parties?

10. In terms of the first question posited for this Roundtable on “What specific technical assistance should the network deliver for Parties?”, the Group thinks that the areas of technical assistance whose provision can be facilitated through the SNLD should remain as open as possible, to cover the wide range of possible needs for assistance that Parties may have at the local, national and regional levels. The SNLD should also cover all aspects of science relevant to loss and damage issues, so that its members can share their knowledge and experiences when dealing with loss and damage.
11. Complementary to work on L&D under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, the scope of the SNLD’s technical support activities that should be delivered to the Parties’ could include, but would not be limited to, the following:
 - Technical support and guidance on approaches to address loss and damage, including
 - Implementation of existing approaches and the development of new approaches/options to address loss and damage, including concrete implementation projects to address L&D on the ground and L&D-related technical assistance gaps and needs of developing countries
 - Urgent responses to severe impacts (e.g., after an extreme weather event)
 - Development and implementation of responses to slow onset events (e.g., sea-level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, and desertification)
 - Assessing loss and damage, identifying options, and designing and implementing country-driven risk management strategies and approaches, implementing comprehensive approaches to address loss and damage
 - Technical support for accessing means of implementation to develop and implement approaches to address loss and damage, including
 - Loss and damage finance (e.g., technical assistance for accessing finance for loss and damage from SNLD members, facilitating access to financial resources from SNLD members, supporting the development of new project financing proposals focused on loss and damage)
 - Capacity building, education, and learning, including:
 - Development, dissemination, and capacity building on methodologies for assessing loss and damage to climate variability and risks in terms of socio-economic and biophysical cost/benefits assessments, including for projections of slow-onset loss and damage.
 - Training and capacity building on general aspects of loss and damage issues that may be included in SNLD members’ individual best-practice manuals/protocols (concerning generic sectoral

issues/features/characteristics), but which may also be with greater specificity on a bespoke basis depending on Parties' identified evolving needs. This could be an evolving exercise over time (like the NWP areas of work but focused on specific L&D issues).

- Information sharing, public awareness, and knowledge (e.g., linking countries to tailored information and expertise), including:
 - Conduct of virtual workshops and meetings for interested people to understand and maximize the benefits and share experiences in relation to addressing loss and damage arising from climate change impacts.
 - Preparation and dissemination of briefings or summary information of any incident or event around the world that relates to loss and damage caused by climate change and the lessons learned and precautions needed to address such loss and damage.
 - Loss and damage public awareness, communications, and publicity (e.g., communicating loss and damage impacts, solutions, innovations, and good practice)
 - Inform national focal points about potential partners to enhance the work of national and local governments to address loss and damage.
- L&D-related policy and strategy development, review, and strengthening (e.g., support for the development of LD-related policy and planning strategies and documents in response to specific LD needs of developing countries)
- L&D-related research preparation and sharing (e.g. loss and damage assessment, monitoring and evaluation, and quantification, scientific research and information relevant to LD impacts and LD-related needs and gaps of developing countries, development of scientific and grey literature among SNLD partners to improve knowledge products that inform plans and decisions at a domestic level)
- Technical support for linking L&D issues to UNFCCC/Paris Agreement bodies and processes (e.g., between WIM/ExCom and Loss and Damage national contact points, the provision by SNLD members of proposals for the consideration of the WIM ExCom for LD-related inputs to the Global Stocktake process, or technical assistance from SNLD members for Parties to report on loss and damage in their biennial transparency reports under para. 115 of the Annex to decision 18/CMA.1)
- Coordination among loss and damage stakeholders (e.g., experience sharing on national loss and damage approaches, facilitating south-south learning, coordination mechanism to share knowledge among relevant organizations, map out relevant organizations that address loss and damages by country as well as those that are willing to start working in the SNLD)

How should the Network deliver on the technical assistance needs of the Parties?

12. In response to the second question of “How should the network deliver on the technical assistance needs of the Parties?”, the Group would like to stress that the form of the SNLD should follow its function. Paragraph 43 of decision 2/CMA.2 states that the SNLD, as part of the WIM, is “to catalyze 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.”
13. As such, the Group visualizes the SNLD mainly as a platform for facilitating the connection between developing countries and relevant organizations, bodies, networks, and experts that are willing to provide technical assistance. This is consistent with our understanding that the membership of the SNLD could be a network of national, regional, international, and sectoral organizations including academia, NGO, the private sector, the public sector, and research entities.

14. Based on this understanding, different non-exclusive options could be afforded to Parties for getting technical assistance through the SNLD. One possibility could be that a Party directly contacts one or more of the organizations, bodies, networks, and experts whose information (including webpage and contact details) appears on the SNLD webpage. There could also be ideas coming from Parties on the further definition of the SNLD's structure that could be considered at an appropriate time, with the aim of better enabling it to support the delivery of L&D-related technical assistance to meet the needs of developing countries and the implementation of Article 8 of the Paris Agreement.
15. Thank you very much.