

SNAB/2024/1/10

Draft elements of process for responding to requests for technical assistance and designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts

Discussion Paper (08 March 2024)

I. Background

1. In decision 19/CMA.3, endorsed in 17/CMA.26, Parties encouraged a broad range of OBNEs from all regions, working at the local, subnational, national, regional and international level, including those in developing countries and those that are represented in the expert groups of the Executive Committee, to engage in the Santiago network.
2. Decision 12/CMA.4 and endorsed in decision 11/CP.27, called for the Santiago network secretariat, once it is operational, to elaborate modalities and procedures for the Santiago network under the guidance of and by approval of the Advisory Board including:
 - a. Developing guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs) as members of the Santiago network
 - b. Developing guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance, including considering the development of procedures for those that require an urgent response;
 - c. Developing guidelines for managing funding provided for technical assistance, including to ensure that technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network is made available to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including through levels of minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
3. The same decisions also invited Parties to inform the Santiago network secretariat of the liaisons to the Santiago network secretariat, as appropriate for their national circumstances, to support alignment of technical assistance through the Santiago network with national priorities.
4. Decision 6/CMA.5 and endorsed in decision 2/CP.28, reaffirms that, when technical assistance is provided under the Santiago network, it should take into consideration the cross-cutting issues referred to in the eleventh preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement.¹
5. The latter decision also requested the Santiago secretariat to include in its annual report to the Advisory Board of the Santiago network information on the inclusive, balanced and equitable nature of the technical assistance catalysed across all regions with developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and take action, as appropriate.

II. Purpose of the discussion paper

6. This paper has been drafted to facilitate an initial discussion among the Advisory Board members on i) the designation of OBNEs as members of the Santiago network, and ii) process for responding to requests for technical assistance, both for the further development of guidelines by the Santiago network secretariat, once it is operational

III. Elements for Consideration

7. Noting the decisions of Parties, Advisory Board members may consider the following elements to provide guidance to the Santiago network secretariat on the process for responding to requests for technical assistance and designation of OBNEs:

¹ *Acknowledging* that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.

- a. Mandate of the Santiago network:
 - i. Means and approaches to ensure that the technical assistance of OBNEs is catalyzed.
 - ii. Prioritisation of technical assistance to least developed countries, small island developing States, and communities.
- b. Scope: This relates to the range of topics relevant for technical assistance under the Santiago network and the diverse needs of developing countries.
- c. Form: Types of demand-driven technical assistance to countries to avert, minimize and address loss and damage.
- d. Access: Mechanism by which demand-driven technical assistance needs are communicated to the Santiago network secretariat and processed, and by which access by relevant stakeholders to the technical assistance provided through the Santiago network is ensured.
- e. Designation of the OBNEs:
 - i. The process of identification of relevant OBNEs to provide technical assistance.
 - ii. Criteria used to assure the relevance and quality of expertise and services delivered by the OBNEs.
 - iii. Duration of membership.
- f. Other elements: This may include considerations to ensure adherence to UN procedures and exceptions, where applicable.

IV. Process of development of the guidelines

8. It is proposed that the Santiago network secretariat will follow a consultative process to further define and elaborate on the elements listed under paragraph 7 above. The consultative process will include holding surveys, in-person and virtual consultative workshops and discussions with specialized and technical organizations. Based on these inputs, the Santiago network secretariat will propose draft guidelines for consideration and approval of the Advisory Board.

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