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**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and  
Technological Advice**

**Fifty-ninth session**

United Arab Emirates, 30 November to 6 December 2023

Agenda item 4(b)

**Matters relating to the Santiago network under the  
Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and  
Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts**

**Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

**Fifty-ninth session**

United Arab Emirates, 30 November to 6 December 2023

Agenda item 13(b)

**Matters relating to the Santiago network under the  
Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and  
Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts**

**Matters relating to the Santiago network under the Warsaw  
International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated  
with Climate Change Impacts**

**Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairs**

**Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and  
Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, having considered the report on the hosting of the secretariat of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change<sup>1</sup> prepared by the evaluation panel,<sup>2</sup> which includes a shortlist of two proposals for hosting the secretariat and information on how the evaluation panel assessed all proposals received against the evaluation criteria,<sup>3</sup> recommended the following draft decision on the selection of the joint proposal submitted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Office for Project Services for the hosting of the Santiago network secretariat for an initial term of five years, with five-year renewal periods,<sup>4</sup> for consideration and adoption by the appropriate governing body or bodies at their sessions held in November–December 2023:

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SB/2023/1.

<sup>2</sup> Details on the evaluation panel and the process for selecting the host are available at <https://unfccc.int/SNevalpanel>.

<sup>3</sup> Set out in decision 12/CMA.4, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to decision 12/CMA.4, annex I, para. 21.

## Matters relating to the Santiago network under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

### Draft decision [-/CP.28] [-/CMA.5]<sup>5</sup>

[*The Conference of the Parties*] [*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement*],

*Recalling* the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in particular decisions 3/CP.18, 2/CP.19, 2/CP.20, 1/CP.21, 2/CP.21, 3/CP.22, 4/CP.22, 5/CP.23, 10/CP.24, 2/CP.25, 1/CP.26, 17/CP.26, 1/CP.27, 11/CP.27, 2/CMA.2, 1/CMA.3, 19/CMA.3, 1/CMA.4 and 12/CMA.4,

*Also recalling* Article 8 of the Paris Agreement,

1. *Recalls* that the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change was established to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;<sup>6</sup>
2. *Also recalls* the request for the UNFCCC secretariat, under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, to develop a draft host agreement (memorandum of understanding) with the host of the Santiago network secretariat recommended by the subsidiary bodies at their fifty-eighth sessions with a view to it being recommended for consideration and adoption by the governing body or bodies at the session(s) to be held in November–December 2023;<sup>7</sup>
3. *Expresses appreciation* to Canada, Japan, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America for their financial contributions to the work of the Santiago network;
4. *Recalls* decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed by decision 11/CP.27, which establishes the institutional arrangements of the Santiago network to enable its full operationalization, including to support its mandated role in catalysing technical assistance for the implementation of the relevant approaches at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;<sup>8</sup>
5. *Also recalls* paragraph 16 of decision 12/CMA.4, which states that the Santiago network secretariat will be accountable to and operate under the guidance of the governing body or bodies through the Advisory Board of the Santiago network and hosted by an organization or a consortium of organizations able to provide the necessary administrative and infrastructural support for its effective functioning;
6. *Welcomes* the report on the hosting of the secretariat of the Santiago network<sup>9</sup> prepared by the evaluation panel;<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Pending the outcome of consultations of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session on the governance of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts. Nothing in this document prejudices Parties' views or prejudices outcomes on matters related to the governance of the Warsaw International Mechanism.

<sup>6</sup> Decision 2/CMA.2, para. 43.

<sup>7</sup> Decision 12/CMA.4, para. 24.

<sup>8</sup> In accordance with the process outlined in decision 12/CMA.4, paras. 19–23, endorsed by decision 11/CP.27.

<sup>9</sup> FCCC/SB/2023/1.

<sup>10</sup> Details on the evaluation panel and the process for selecting the host are available at <https://unfccc.int/SNevalpanel>.

7. *Notes* that two proposals were received in response to the call for proposals to host the Santiago network secretariat,<sup>11</sup> the executive summaries of which are available on the UNFCCC website;<sup>12</sup>
8. *Welcomes* the efforts of the proponents in responding to the call for proposals to host the Santiago network secretariat, of the evaluation panel in assessing the proposals and preparing the report referred to in paragraph 6 above and of the UNFCCC secretariat in providing support for the host selection process, all within a limited time frame;
9. *Notes with appreciation* the completion of the selection process for the host of the secretariat of the Santiago network, which was supported by an evaluation panel comprising four members of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, two members of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and two members of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and involved the participation of the two proponents that responded to the call for proposals for hosting the Santiago network secretariat;
10. *Expresses appreciation* to both proponents that submitted proposals for hosting the Santiago network secretariat;
11. *Selects* the joint proposal submitted by the consortium of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Office for Project Services for the hosting of the Santiago network secretariat for an initial term of five years, with five-year renewal periods;<sup>13</sup>
12. *Encourages* the consortium, as host of the Santiago network secretariat, to consider exploring areas for collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank, which also submitted a proposal for hosting, where appropriate;
13. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to sign, on behalf of the governing body or bodies, the agreement between the governing body or bodies and the consortium regarding the hosting of the Santiago network secretariat;
14. *Requests* the consortium, as host of the Santiago network secretariat, to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place for the meetings of the Advisory Board of the Santiago network, including privileges and immunities for members of the Board in line with existing practice;
15. *Also requests* the consortium, as host of the Santiago network secretariat, to undertake, by the end of January 2024, an analysis of the cost-effectiveness, including a cost–benefit analysis, of various locations around the world as options for the location of the head office of the Santiago network secretariat from a pool of potential locations that can provide the privileges and immunities referred to in paragraph 14 above, and to provide to the Advisory Board of the Santiago network the results of the analysis with its recommendation on which location would be the most cost-effective and suitable in the light of the roles and responsibilities and the organizational structure of the Santiago network secretariat as detailed in annex I to decision 12/CMA.4 for consideration and decision by the Advisory Board at its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, to be held in 2024;
16. *Encourages* the consortium, as host of the Santiago network secretariat, to make the necessary arrangements to promptly launch work under the Santiago network upon conclusion of the November–December 2023 session(s) of the governing body or bodies, including the appointment of a director of the secretariat through a merit-based, open and transparent process, who will facilitate the timely recruitment of the staff of the secretariat in line with the terms of reference of the Santiago network;<sup>14</sup>
17. *Requests* the Santiago network secretariat, to facilitate the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network, to take place in 2024;

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<sup>11</sup> The call was issued on 31 December 2022 and is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/624794>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://unfccc.int/proposalsSNhost>.

<sup>13</sup> Pursuant to decision 12/CMA.4, annex I, para. 21.

<sup>14</sup> Decision 12/CMA.4, annex I, para. 15.

18. *Also requests* the Santiago network secretariat, to start managing, as soon as possible, the day-to-day operations of the secretariat, in line with its role and responsibilities;
19. *Placeholder for adoption of the host agreement (memorandum of understanding);*
20. *Reaffirms* that technical assistance provided under the Santiago network in a demand-driven manner will be developed through an inclusive, country-driven process, taking into account the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
21. *Also 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;
22. *Reiterates* the request<sup>15</sup> to the UNFCCC secretariat to continue providing support for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change that may seek or wish to benefit from the technical assistance available from organizations, bodies, networks and experts under the Santiago network, until the Santiago network secretariat is operational;
23. *Requests* the UNFCCC secretariat to develop draft guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago network, including any conflicts of interest that may arise when organizations, bodies, networks and experts are engaged in providing technical support to the Santiago network secretariat while responding to technical assistance requests, or when the host of the Santiago network secretariat is responding as an organization, body, network or expert to technical assistance requests, for review and approval by the Advisory Board of the Santiago network at its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting;
24. *Also requests* the Santiago network secretariat to:
- (a) Adhere to the mandate of the Santiago network and its functions, including facilitating the consideration of a wide range of topics relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage, including but not limited to current and future impacts, priorities and actions related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage pursuant to decisions 3/CP.18 and 2/CP.19; the areas referred to in Article 8, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement; and the strategic workstreams of the five-year rolling workplan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism;
  - (b) Assume its roles and responsibilities, including that it shall be accountable to and operate under the guidance of the Advisory Board of the Santiago network, recognizing the different mandates of the host and the Santiago network, and that the Advisory Board will provide guidance and oversight to the Santiago network secretariat on the effective implementation of the functions of the network;
  - (c) Report annually to the Advisory Board of the Santiago network information on the in-kind and other support provided by its host that has contributed to its ability to assume its roles and responsibilities, as set out in the terms of reference of the Santiago network;<sup>16</sup>
  - (d) Make use of regional and subregional United Nations offices in all United Nations geographical regions, as appropriate, to serve as designated units to provide relevant services and support for catalysing effective and timely technical assistance in developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;
  - (e) 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;
- (a) Have a lean, cost-efficient organizational structure;<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Decision 12/CMA.4, para. 15.

<sup>16</sup> Decision 12/CMA.4, annex I, para. 19.

<sup>17</sup> In accordance with decision 12/CMA.4, annex I, para. 13.

(b) Make provisions for discussion on further arrangements for the implementation of the host agreement (memorandum of understanding) in line with future decisions of the governing body or bodies;

(c) Carry out financial management, auditing and reporting functions and implement a robust accountability system, sound financial systems of international standard, and a fiduciary record that ensures the correct, impartial administering and disbursement of funds;

25. *Further requests* the Advisory Board of the Santiago network to develop its draft rules of procedure with a view to recommending them, through the subsidiary bodies at their sixty-first sessions (November 2024), for consideration and adoption by the governing body or bodies at the session(s) to be held in November 2024;

26. *Invites* the Advisory Board of the Santiago network to consider and take appropriate action to catalyse technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts at the local, national and regional level in developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including through the provision of guidance for the development by the Santiago network secretariat of guidelines and procedures<sup>18</sup> for ensuring the demand-driven nature of all requests for technical assistance submitted under the Santiago network, and to safeguard against conflicts of interest in, or, as appropriate, the overconcentration of, the provision and delivery of technical assistance through or by specific organizations, bodies, networks and experts;

27. *Also invites* the Advisory Board of the Santiago network to provide guidance to the Santiago network secretariat to develop guidelines and procedures for enabling access to and assisting in preparing requests for technical assistance that recognize the significant capacity constraints of the least developed countries and small island developing States;

28. *Requests* the host of the Santiago network secretariat to ensure that the Santiago network and its secretariat are able to receive the required financial and other support from a wide variety of sources through all parts of the consortium to implement the terms of reference of the Santiago network;

29. *Recalls* paragraph 67 of decision 1/CMA.3, in which it was decided that the Santiago network will be provided with funds to support technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in developing countries in support of the functions set out in paragraph 9 of decision 19/CMA.3;

30. *Also recalls* paragraph 70 of decision 1/CMA.3, which urged developed country Parties to provide funds for the operation of the Santiago network and for the provision of technical assistance as set out in paragraph 67 of the same decision;

31. *Further recalls* paragraph 6 of decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed by decision 11/CP.27, which encouraged others to provide support for the operation of the Santiago network and for the provision of technical assistance under the network;

32. *Welcomes* the pledges made to the Santiago network as at 6 December 2023 by the European Union and its member States Denmark, Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg, and by Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, amounting to approximately USD 40.7 million;<sup>19</sup>

33. *Recalls* paragraph 69 of decision 1/CMA.3, which states that the Santiago network secretariat will administer the funds referred to in paragraph 67 of the same decision;

<sup>18</sup> In accordance with decision 12/CMA.4, para. 17(b), endorsed by decision 11/CP.27.

<sup>19</sup> Noting that this does not set a precedent for making pledges to the Santiago network.

34. *Welcomes* decisions -/CP.28<sup>20</sup> and -/CMA.5<sup>21</sup> on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for assisting developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4, taking note of the parts of those decisions that relate to the Santiago network;
35. *Requests* the Advisory Board of the Santiago network to designate a representative or two representatives to take part in the annual high-level dialogue on coordination and complementarity with representatives of the main entities forming part of the new funding arrangements, referred to in paragraph 2 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4, pursuant to paragraphs 11–16 of annex II to decisions -/CP.28<sup>22</sup> and -/CMA.5;<sup>23</sup>
36. *Invites* the Santiago network secretariat to coordinate with the secretariat of the fund referred to in paragraph 3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4 in supporting developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in seeking to access the fund through technical assistance and to contribute to coherence and complementarity with the fund by aligning the technical assistance it catalyses under the Santiago network to build capacity and support programmatic approaches of the funding arrangements, including a fund, referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4, as appropriate;
37. *Decides* that once the outstanding nominations for the Advisory Board of the Santiago network<sup>24</sup> have been received by the UNFCCC secretariat, the nominees will be deemed elected at this session or these sessions of the governing body or bodies, in accordance with established practice;
38. *Placeholder to include an outcome of the COP President’s consultations on the governance of the Warsaw International Mechanism;*
39. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the UNFCCC secretariat referred to in paragraphs 22 and 23 above;
40. *Requests* that the actions of the UNFCCC secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

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<sup>20</sup> Draft decision entitled “Operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4” proposed under agenda item 8(g) of the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session.

<sup>21</sup> Draft decision entitled “Operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4” proposed under agenda item 10(g) of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fifth session.

<sup>22</sup> Draft decision entitled “Operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4” proposed under agenda item 8(g) of the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session.

<sup>23</sup> Draft decision entitled “Operationalization of the new funding arrangements, including a fund, for responding to loss and damage referred to in paragraphs 2–3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4” proposed under agenda item 10(g) of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fifth session.

<sup>24</sup> In accordance with decision 12/CMA.4, paras. 10–13.