
Operationalising the Santiago Network

Context

CMA 2/COP 25 established the [Santiago Network](#) for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

The vision of the Santiago Network is to ***catalyse the technical assistance*** of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimize and addressing Loss and Damage at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Mandate

Decision 2.CMA/2¹ did not provide for a process to convene or make the Santiago Network operational. As such, the COP President guides the implementation of its functions. Organizations providing technical assistance under the Santiago Network were invited to report their progress to the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism.

Process so far

Parties are providing views on the Santiago network through a survey run by the Secretariat (20 country returns as at 7 April 2021).² Some groups (G77 & China, LDCs, AILAC and the EU) have also provided submissions. The Santiago Network Working Group of the Loss and Damage Collaboration³ also produced a report based on a survey across UNFCCC focal points, government officials, civil society, the private sector and academia (n=38).

It is clear that many parties feel that the Santiago Network should be made **fully** operational and should draw on the strengths of existing initiatives, facilitating the delivery of expertise and enabling access to funding.

¹ 43. *Establishes*, as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism, the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, to catalyse 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;

44. *Invites* those organizations, bodies, networks and experts referred to in paragraph 43 above engaged in providing technical assistance to developing countries to report on their progress to the Executive Committee;

45. *Requests* the Executive Committee to include relevant information from the organizations, bodies, networks and experts that have reported on their progress, as referred to in paragraph 44 above, in its annual reports;

² <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/resources/santiago-network/countries>

³ Members of the L&D Collaboration include UNFCCC Party negotiators, loss and damage technical experts from academia and civil society, and others working on the issue of loss and damage caused by climate change. [link to consultation document](#)

Operationalising the network

The aim is to identify action to further operationalise the network before COP 26. In order to do this, the Presidencies (Chile and UK) will hold further consultations with Parties, technical organisations and civil society.

The first step is to consolidate ideas that have been set out in previous meetings and submissions and develop an outline of the functions of the network. This process will largely be driven by Parties, with UNFCCC observers invited to comment.

The next step is to specify the network's structure and function. This should include a decision on whether a secretariat is required and the degree to which it would act directly or simply coordinate, and the capacities required to fulfil the purpose decided. As part of this, existing mechanisms and organizations that could support the Santiago Network may be identified and engaged.

Following this, a process with technical agencies and civil society will react to the request from Parties and comment on how they could contribute to the function and organization of the network.

The presidencies will collate the ideas gathered and set out a proposal for the further operationalisation of the Santiago Network based upon the views gathered. This will be the subject of further consultations with Parties and technical organizations and civil society.

By COP 26 a refined proposal that has broad agreement will have enabled the Santiago Network to start delivering practical help on loss and damage.

Functions of the Network

Many indicated that the network should act so as to broker technical assistance to Parties to enable action on loss and damage. It would also assist by sharing and increasing the stock of knowledge and expertise on action on loss and damage and highlighting areas for future research. The main functions arising from the consultations with some examples under each function are summarised in Table 1 [below].

Table 1: DRAFT Summary of main functions of the Santiago Network

Information and sharing	Technical Support and Capacity building	Finance and projects
Workshops to share experience Online interactive problem solving Conducting research and publishing knowledge products	Risk assessment <i>Early warning</i> <i>Climate information services</i> Impact modelling, including for slow onset events, assessing loss and damage post disaster, and support for recovery	Design of projects Design of financial instruments, e.g. <i>risk finance tools and instruments</i> <i>forecast-based finance</i> <i>insurance</i> <i>social protection measures;</i> <i>national finance instruments</i>

Feeding collated knowledge to UNFCCC through the WIM	Support for policy development Support for national planning Design of social protection measures Building practical links between humanitarian response, DRR, risk finance, human mobility and development efforts	(e.g. trust funds, bonds). Assistance with access to finance Assistance with access to technology
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Organisation of the network

The network is envisioned to avoid duplicating activities by existing organizations, but instead act so as to be a mechanism to bring those needing assistance in contact with organizations who can provide it. The degree to which this means that it requires a secretariat and capacity to act or whether it is simply a virtual platform has yet to be decided, although a majority of Parties have noted that it will require some capacity to facilitate contacts for technical assistance and be a repository of knowledge. A number of Parties and civil society organizations have drawn parallels with the [CTCN](#).

If the network is to be operational before COP 26, it is likely that it will have to be convened by an existing organization that already deals with actions to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, will be easily accessible to Parties and has the ability to facilitate action.

Next Steps

1. The Presidencies propose to hold **a consultation meeting with Parties (with observers) on Monday April 26 2021**, 13:00 UK time, to help the formulation of a concrete plan to further operationalise the Santiago Network. The meeting will mainly be to gather Party views.
2. Based on the results of the Party consultation, observer groups are invited to hold a subsequent consultation to provide further input.
3. A consultation among relevant agencies likely to form part of the network will be used to react to the ideas expressed by Parties.
4. The Presidencies propose to form a 'Friends of the President ' group to help the formulation of the plan for further operationalising the network, composed of representatives of: UNFCCC Parties, development cooperation agencies, relevant organizations, NGOs and the UNFCCC Secretariat. The members of the group would be identified by the Presidencies taking into account the advice of Parties.

Meeting of Parties and observers 13:00 (UK time April) 26th 2021:

Consultation meeting on form and function of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage

Proposed Agenda:

1. Introduction by the Presidencies - 15 minutes

Objective for the consultation, timeline for production of proposal for consideration.

2. Functions of the network - 1 hour

Are the broad areas functions as set out in Table 1 correct; information sharing, technical support and capacity-building and finance and project formulation?

(At this stage it will not be necessary to set out an exhaustive list of priorities.)

3. Organisation of the network - 2 hours

What process will be required to recruit organizations to the network?

Do we need to draft a core Purpose document, such as Terms of Reference?

3.1 Options for organizing the network

Does the network need to explicitly link and bring in organizations that do not traditionally associate with the UNFCCC and climate finance - for example humanitarian and disaster risk organisations?

What criteria should there be for members of the Network?

Does the network require a dedicated secretariat?

If so;

Should the secretariat extend to practical work with countries?

Should the secretariat involve direct production of knowledge products?

Should the secretariat be able to fund technical assistance directly?

What would the criteria be for an organization to convene the Santiago Network?

Are there existing organizations that are well placed to convene and develop the Santiago Network? If so, which organizations?

Outcomes from this meeting

From this meeting, a Presidency **summary paper** will be produced that will be shared with Parties, observers and a selection of lead agencies that would be key members of the network. Agencies and observers may wish to convene meetings to provide feedback on the practical operation of the network.

Parties and observers may also wish to provide further written input to the Presidencies before **June 21 2021**.

The Presidencies will use the summary from the meeting, input from technical agencies, Party and observer submissions, further results of the survey run by the Secretariat and any further input, to produce **a proposal for the operation of the Santiago Network for dissemination to Parties at a Heads of Delegation meeting**.