



Loss and Damage Youth Coalition

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## The Loss and Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC): Youth submission to inform the effective set up of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD).

[The Loss and Damage Youth Coalition](#) (LDYC) is a coalition of youth from both the global South and North established after COP 25, in Madrid when it became clear that youth engagement and leadership needed to be enhanced and amplified, particularly in the role of taking action to address loss and damage.

To date, the LDYC has over 300 members from 40+ countries working together under the auspices of the Loss & Damage Collaboration (L&DC) to give a voice to the voiceless, the most vulnerable on the frontlines of climate change and to highlight the inequality in achieving climate justice by choosing to act on loss and damage.

### Background

[Loss and damage](#) (L&D) is a term used to describe the economic and non-economic effects of climate change that occur when mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts are no longer valid options. The climate crisis is real in all parts of the world, and those on the frontlines are the most affected, even though they contributed the least to it. Youth are being exposed to the effects of climate change, and the situation will only worsen in the future if serious actions are not taken now.

[The COP 19](#) established the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Loss and Damage Mechanism), to address Loss and Damage associated with the impacts of climate change, including extreme events such as droughts, heavy rainfall, tropical cyclones, etc. and [slow onset events](#) such as desertification, ocean acidification, sea-level rise, increasing temperatures, etc. in developing countries, which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The [Santiago Network for Loss and Damage](#) (SNLD) was established as part of the WIM at COP 25, in Madrid with the purpose of facilitating and catalyzing collaboration of organizations, bodies, networks and experts, for the implementation of relevant approaches for minimizing and



addressing L&D at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The functions of the SNLD were established at COP 26 in Glasgow, but there is still a need to define how these functions will be carried out.

As LDYC, we see the call for providing inputs to effective operationalisation of SNLD as an opportunity to fill in the gap of youth engagement. At the moment, there is a lack of political support, funds, and resources for young people to meaningfully contribute. Moreover, there are complex processes in place that hinder youth groups from accessing funds to inform the public and building coordination and partnerships to address loss and damage at the grassroots level. LDYC provides standpoints on the SNLD's operational modalities, structure, the role of L&D contact points and finance within this realm.

## **1. Operational modalities**

The operations should be threefold:

1. providing technical assistance to assess loss and damage needs and capacity building and sharing on the national and international levels,
2. creating exhaustive knowledge platforms on Loss and Damage by fostering collaboration among stakeholders and actors on loss and damage, and
3. must be able to catalyze finance to support action to address Loss and Damage in a manner that meets the needs taking into consideration the full spectrum of loss and damage impacts.

All of these operations should involve meaningful frontline youth engagement, which can be achieved by supporting young people around the globe with non-tokenistic support (political support, funds, and resources) so that their contribution is maintained.

Furthermore, we request that the following be considered during the full operationalization of the SNLD:

- Ensure that the Santiago Network is operationalised in a just and equitable way that provides timely and adequate technical assistance, knowledge and financial resources on the ground to countries and communities particularly vulnerable to L&D impacts.
- Support and guidance on the development of policies and projects that are sensitive to the needs and priorities of marginalized and vulnerable peoples, LGBTIQ+, differently-abled peoples, women, indigenous peoples among many others.



- Assist in the development of country-specific approaches and frameworks to address loss and damage while implementing projects or any type of developmental works on the communities.
- Ensure that SNLD compliments the ongoing adaptation efforts and builds on the national and regional efforts to build resilience.

## **2. Structure**

The impacts of the climate crisis are already severe and we need to address climate-induced losses and damages now. So, the SNLD must be fully operationalized at COP 27. The SNLD will be under the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM), as the latter is mandated to address Loss and Damage. The SNLD should have an advisory committee to guide the operational modalities and procedures based on the SNLD functions. The SNLD should also have a coordinating body that would assist the country to access assistance including helping to develop loss and damage need assessments through L&D contact points as well as relevant stakeholders.

The SNLD must have a representation of all the regions that are vulnerable to the loss and damage. It must resolve how it will be restructured with the Glasgow Loss and Damage Facility under the Glasgow Climate Pact to enable it to deliver financial support along with the technical assistance to carry out its work smoothly and effectively. There should be an open and easy process where the national contact points on Loss and Damage can submit requests for technical and financial assistance for L&D to address its immediate needs and the way they can easily have access to them. Furthermore, youth must be fully involved throughout the process to ensure that their needs, concerns and contributions are taken into account in decision making.

## **3. The role of Loss and Damage contact points**

National Loss and Damage contact points (L&D contact points) are critical for raising awareness of, and building synergy, partnerships, and support to avert, minimize, and address Loss and Damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change at the national level. Unfortunately, not all of the countries most affected by climate change have a point of contact for Loss and Damage. The SNLD should strongly encourage and support the most vulnerable parties in appointing an L&D contact point who must listen to the demands of youth and frontline communities most affected by the climate crisis. The L&D contact point would assist countries to produce a needs assessment report that is able to be translated into an action plan which is able to be financially supported in implementation.

Capacity building of the L&D contact points is required to facilitate engagement and coordination with ministries, civil societies, and other stakeholders at the national level, as well as to communicate country-specific needs to the UNFCCC. To avoid confusion and duplication



of work, a clear guiding framework for contact points should be established; such a framework should be open to making country-specific changes and reflecting a country's priorities. The assistance provided must go directly to where it is due and contact points should be mandated to directly work with the communities on the ground. Moreover, there is a need to work with relevant government bodies to ensure that infrastructure development takes into account the potential losses and damages. This is to minimize the impacts of the possible repercussions on the people. More importantly, these L&D country points must actively engage with the youth to ensure youth are active stakeholders in the process of taking action to address L&D for a responsible future for all generations.

#### **4. SNLD finance**

The SNLD should have dedicated finance for its coordinating body which will be different and not be counted as adaptation and Loss and Damage finance and they should learn from the challenge and benefit of CTCN within the UNFCCC. There is a need for an additional financial commitment from developed countries to finance the network. As the SNLD largely focuses on the need of providing technical assistance for countries to develop the Loss and Damage need assessment, funding SNLD does not replace the need for finance for action to address L&D. Funding the SNLD is an opportunity to be able to catalyze finance that meets the needs of the community based on concrete facts and data-driven.

The finance for Loss and Damage should be at the scale of the needs of climate impacts suffered and meet its function of providing technical assistance. We demand the new and additional finance to existing climate finance allocated to adaptation and mitigation and be provided directly to the countries to be able to access it through the Glasgow facility. SNLD must function beyond the limitation of the WIM and be able to respond to the needs of the vulnerable communities.

The financial structure should also cover non-economic losses and damages. For example loss of cultural heritage, loss of biodiversity, and loss of lives. The psychological damage that comes with all of this process is often overlooked but is important to address when designing a financial structure to address L&D.

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## Other references

<https://www.lossanddamagecollaboration.org/publication/preliminary-findings-to-inform-the-operationalisation-of-a-fit-for-purpose-santiago-network-for-loss-and-damage>

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