

Submission by the Republic of Zambia on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
on
the Institutional Arrangements for Operationalizing the Santiago Network on Loss and
damage

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) appreciates the opportunity to provide inputs on the institutional arrangements for the operationalization of the Santiago Network for loss and Damage (SNLD), in response to the call for submission that was made by COP26 /CMA.3.

Africa as a continent is highly affected by loss and damage associated with climate change including extreme events (drought and floods) as well as slow-onset events, urgent responses to severe impacts (following the recurrent extreme events) are highly in demand in different parts of the continent. The recent reports of the IPCC (the sixth assessment report (AR6)) clearly stated that human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has caused widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, beyond natural climate variability. The recent findings also stated that extremes of climate events are already increasing in frequency and intensity due to current warming and these trends will continue with each additional fraction of warming. Implementation of approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, require financial and technical support as well guidance on appropriate approaches to address loss and damage.

At the outset, the AGN would like to underline the following:

- For the African Group, the establishment of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) was a very important outcome from Madrid (COP25/CMA2). As provided in decision 2/CMA.2 paragraph 43, as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism established, the Santiago Network should contribute to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change
- The AGN hopes to see the Network fully operationalized to implement the decision and to catalyse technical assistance that contributes to robust action and support to vulnerable developing countries directly and on the ground, to enable them to

implement approaches for addressing, averting, and minimizing the loss and damage and acquire enhanced access to support through means of implementation.

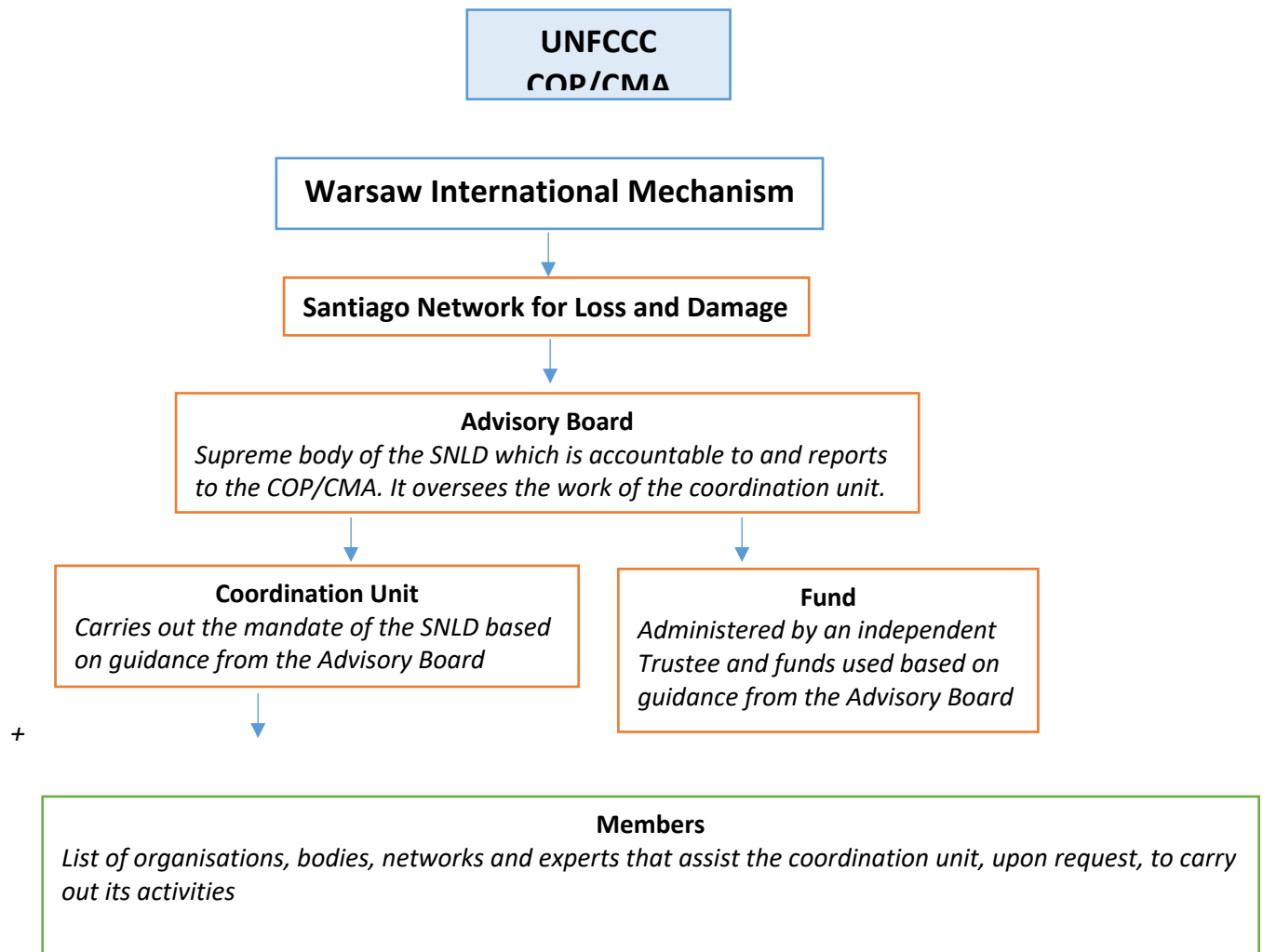
- AGN believes, that the SNLD should contribute effectively and significantly to the implementation of the action and support function of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM). Also, as part of the WIM the Santiago Network should continually elaborate its function of promoting the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change
- Accordingly, its structure should take into consideration linkages with the Excom's work, to ensure coordination, avoid duplication and benefit from data and information generated under UNFCCC, informed by the science basis through the IPCC. The SNLD should build on the work of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and other relevant constituted bodies such as the Technology Mechanism and Capacity building arrangements. The technology mechanism is of significant importance as there is need for development and transfer of suitable technologies to support approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage
- For the SNLD to effectively deliver, it must have sustainable, predictable and sufficient resources (*financial, technical, and human resources*) to ensure that the network will be responsive to parties through a demand-driven approach.
- The AGN believes that the functions of the network should be dynamic and tailored to address the needs of Developing countries Parties; it should be in the context of implementation of approaches to address loss and damage. The AGN strongly believes that the SNLD should make difference at the ground level and significantly contribute to the identification and implementation of approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in different regions.
- Needless to say that the credibility desired for the SNLD will only be attainable if the operationalization is simultaneously accompanied with significant progress in relation to arrangements dedicated to financing loss and damage.

Operational modalities

- The operational modalities that are designed to carry out the functions of the SNLD must be demand-driven. To achieve this, the SNLD must urgently undertake assessments of loss and damage needs, gaps, and barriers. This process should result in a standalone document which will provide a source of information to inform decision making in different processes including National Adaptation Plans, and the prioritization of required actions and activities needed to implement action. The assessments will also provide a basis and justification for loss and damage projects, including finance proposals to support those projects which the SNLD should assist with pursuant to function 9(f) of decisions 19/CMA.3 and 17/CP.26. The assessments should be owned and led by countries to ensure they have clarity about the different risks and impacts, and so that capacity can be built at the national level to develop policies and recommendations, and to anticipate loss and damage and submit requests for assistance including rehabilitation and recovery.
- The modalities for developing countries to access technical assistance through the SNLD will need to be customized to the different forms of loss and damage across the spectrum of slow-onset and extreme events. Accordingly, these modalities must be flexible and evolve to reflect the nature and range of activities and areas that might be necessary to address loss and damage at scale and proportionate with the urgency required.
- The modalities for how members will be engaged will need to be designed carefully to ensure that requests for assistance can be responded to in a timely and effective manner, while ensuring equitable access to all developing countries. The SNLD will need to have a strong membership with a diverse array of expertise and experience across the spectrum of loss and damage and operating across all levels of society and in every region. Modalities may differ, inter alia, based on the type of assistance being offered to each member, the length of their engagement, and any assistance that the SNLD may need to provide to support developing countries to engage with each member.

Structure

For effective operationalization of the SNLD, the following are essential components of the SNLD structure:



The Advisory Board (AB)

The AB shall operate within its ToR and be accountable to, and under the guidance of, the Conference of Parties (COP) and Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). It reports annually to the Conference of Parties (COP) and CMA through the EXCOM. This Board determines the operational modalities and rules of procedure of the SNLD (including for its coordination unit, fund, and members), and periodically identifies and prioritises issues and themes to be targeted and explored. Among other functions, the Board advises on the involvement of other constituted bodies of the convention in addressing issues related to their core functions that have bearing on loss and damage in the short, medium and long term to ensure effectiveness and

efficiency in addressing loss and damage as it cuts across sectors and disciplines. The Board plays an oversight function over the coordination unit and the members of the SNLD would also determine the gaps in capacity to address losses and damages and how to such gaps could be filled. The representatives of the board include: Parties of equal representation between the Annex1 and Non-Annex 1, a representative of each of the relevant constituted bodies under the UNFCCC such as the ExCom, technology and the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the convention, meanwhile global financial institutions, civil society representatives and other relevant institutions in addressing loss and damage globally maybe invited, where appropriate. The linkage between the SNLD and the financial mechanism of the convention and possible Loss and damage Facility will be determined and decided by the COP and CMA.

The Advisory Board determines operational modalities and rules of procedure for the SNLD. The board tends to periodically identify different issues to explore in more detail. It has representatives from civil society, brings together knowledge from various constituencies and ExCom members. This is a positive

Coordination Unit:

The coordination unit for the SNLD should be hosted under the UNFCCC, which shall provide administrative and infrastructural support for the effective functioning of the SNLD. The UNFCCC Secretariat shall manage the process of receiving and responding to requests from developing country Parties, and may also initiate contact with the Parties when needed, and shall work with the Network to respond to such requests.

The coordinating Entity with its Secretariat is an essential part of the SNLD that facilitates the implementation/delivery of SNLD services, it should play interactive role in coordinating/engaging with network members as well as with the developing countries (focal points/loss and damage contact points). The coordination unit manages the network activities, receive and respond to requests, report on progress to the COP/CMA, coordinate with the ExCom on policy issues and activities and coordinate with relevant bodies under UNFCCC and relevant UN organizations. The secretariat will respond to requests by developing country Parties by identifying the appropriate organizations in the Network in consultation with the requesting developing country Party. The Coordination Unit will receive and assess requests and refine and prioritize those requests in conjunction with the loss and

damage focal point or any other nominated person respond to requests through the Network based on the use of the most appropriate capacity and expertise in accordance with its approved modalities and procedures

The coordination unit should facilitate engagement of actors/members in accordance with terms of reference that enable the SNLD and its members to respond quickly and adequately to the specific requests and priority needs that may arise from developing countries. The Unit may also initiate communication with Parties when and where needed.

The AGN believes that the terms of reference of the coordination unit should be developed based on what parties decide regarding the role of the advisory body and its relationship with the coordination unit.

Network members:

- The network should be composed of core team members. The membership of the network as per the decision (2/CMA.2 para 43) that established the SNLD should be open for: relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts, who are willing to contribute to mandate/functions of the network, including relevant stakeholders and practitioners in charge of 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. Specific and ongoing technical assistance and transfer of knowledge and expertise will be promoted among members of the network, particularly to developing country members. In relation to the technical capacity, the SNLD should not be limited to the technical capacity that the specific members can provide to avoid action being driven by the expertise of members and experts instead of responding to country needs.

Role of ExCom and its Expert Groups and Task Force:

As the SNLD is part of the WIM, the ExCom should be part of the Advisory Board of the SNLD. The ExCom, its expert groups and task force should play key role in preparedness of developing countries. Capacity Building, knowledge and information are areas that should be handled by the ExCom (presence of expert groups and Taskforce on Displacement that generate a wealth of information in diverse sectors and fields under the different workstream). There must be guidance to countries (strengthening loss and damage contacts

points) on approaches to address loss and damage including through provision of technical and methodological support to developing countries to enable them to identify areas of risks and identify needs for comprehensive risk management.

Capacity strengthening of the developing countries including through their loss and damage contacts points key is to enable them to lead preparation of national requests that might cover needs for wide range of situation (emergency to setting of comprehensive approaches

Role of loss and damage contact points:

The SNLD will only be as strong as the connection between the national level and the coordination unit and countries still need to appoint loss and damage contact points who will need assistance with how to engage effectively with the SNLD and facilitate cooperation and engagement at the national level

Developing countries interact with SNLD through their Focal points/loss and damage contact points. The developing countries' requests for services should be submitted by the country's loss and damage contact point to the coordination entity/secretariat. The loss and damage contact points should facilitate cooperation and engagement at the national level by engaging with government ministries, national disaster addressing entities, UNFCCC focal point, the relevant sectors, civil society and academia. They ensure that national circumstances are reflected and the needs are prioritised

Capacity strengthening of developing countries including through their loss and damage contacts points is key to enable them to lead in the preparation of national requests that might cover needs for a wide range of situations (emergency to setting of comprehensive approaches).