



SUBMISSION BY GROUP SUR

Views and recommendations on elements of Guidance for the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage

In response to the mandate of the decision 5/CP.29, paragraph 18, that invites Parties to submit views and recommendations on elements of guidance for the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), Group SUR presents the following elements for the consideration of the Parties at COP thirtieth session:

We live in a climate urgency. Extreme weather events are already increasingly affecting every country, community and individual, though the most vulnerable – and less responsible for the climate crisis – are the most affected.

Climate-induced loss and damage is already a reality in South America. Those impacts were tragically felt in Brazil in 2024, when the country witnessed the worst flood in its Southern region, affecting 2,4 million people, as well as a severe drought that led to wildfires in biomes as the Amazon Forest, Pantanal and the “cerrado” region. The fires also spread to the Paraguayan Chaco, devastating thousands of hectares. Similarly, in 2023, Uruguay faced an unprecedented drought and a critical water resource deficit, compromising the water supply for 2,1 million people (60% of the country's population), while in May 2024, estimated LD from floods exceeded 30 million dollars. In Argentina, between 2020 and 2021, at least 1,454,000 hectares were affected by drought conditions, with more than 18,530 fire outbreaks in 2023, according to highly reliable VIIRS alerts and fire reports in 22 of Argentina's 23 provinces. Ecuador in 2024 faced the worst drought in more than six decades, with over two consecutive months without rainfall in several regions. The drastic reduction of river flows and reservoir levels triggered a severe energy crisis, as 90% of the country's electricity depends on hydropower, leading to daily blackouts of up to 14 hours between September and December. The drought also worsened agricultural conditions, strained water supply in various communities, and intensified forest fires.

In the context of increasing frequency and intensity of adverse impacts of climate change across the globe – including extreme weather events and slow onset events – , Group SUR emphasizes the need for strengthening rapid responses to those events in order to cope with the predictable escalation of demand for support from developing country Parties.

With four of its members currently integrating the FRLD Board (Argentina, Brazil Ecuador and Uruguay), Group SUR welcomes the efforts of the Board to establish the start-up phase of the Fund, the Barbados Implementation Modality (BIM). Nevertheless, it is necessary to recognize that a lot more should be done in order to accomplish the Fund's scope.

Conversion of pledges and additional pledges

Group SUR calls upon developed country Parties to immediately convert their pledges into contributions and to enhance their contributions to the FRLD with new and adequate pledges, recognizing the existing gap between the needed and provided financial resources in the Fund, since the current amount of financial resources in the FRLD is insufficient to meet its purpose.

Disbursement and operationalization of the Fund



Group SUR urges the rapid operationalization of the Barbados Implementation Modality, under the leadership of the FRLD Board, and the beginning of the disbursements before COP 30 in support of vulnerable countries and communities in all the regions across the globe.

The effective and concrete operationalization of the Fund – with the launch of its disbursements and active support on the ground – will be the best incentive to fundraising and efficient resource mobilization strategies.

Rapid disbursement mechanism is also essential, particularly in the event of extreme weather occurrences and gradual onset events. Additionally, Group SUR recognizes the efforts of the FRLD Secretariat to hire technical staff, nevertheless urges the Deputy Executive-Director to complete her team rapidly.

Agility

Unlike other climate funds, the FRLD needs to operate with an additional sense of urgency. In order to accomplish its scope, the FRLD must be expeditious and act immediately, with prompt response. The Fund must deliver financial support, offering a remedy for adverse situations in a timely manner. In the face of emergencies, developing countries and vulnerable communities cannot face barriers or excessive bureaucracy that delays access to vital resources.

The Board must strengthen the agility of response of the Fund, and establish enhanced readiness support and rapid disbursement modalities to make it able to react and address climate-induced extreme weather events and sudden-onset events.

Furthermore, we encourage the Board to make efforts to simplify procedures and enhance access to resources.

Coordination, coherence and synergy

More systemic approaches could also help vulnerable countries in emergencies. Group SUR requests the FRLD Board to enhance coordination, coherence and synergy with other climate funds and the other bodies under UNFCCC related to loss and damage - the Executive Committee of Warsaw International Mechanism and the Santiago Network -, enhancing complementarity in consistence with their mandates, avoiding duplication of efforts, and maximizing impact.

Access and Geographical Balance Group SUR emphasizes that all developing countries must be eligible to access the resources of the FRLD, since all of them present vulnerabilities to climate change. Accordingly, in the development of a long-term operational model of the FRLD, the Board must ensure balanced geographical representation – otherwise, entire regions in the world will remain excluded. The Fund must provide support in a geographically balanced manner, avoiding overconcentration in any given country, group of countries or region.