

## CONCEPT NOTE

# **SANTIAGO NETWORK WORKSHOP FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES IN AFRICA**

22 to 24 July 2025 in Saly, Senegal

### **Background and context**

The [Santiago network](#) was established to catalyze technical assistance from organizations, bodies, networks, and experts (OBNEs) to support developing countries in averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage. The Santiago network facilitates access to knowledge, resources, and technical assistance in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, for activities at the local, national and regional levels.

During its inception stages a series of country engagement exercises were conducted with governments and stakeholders. Regional scoping workshops were also held in 2023 in [Africa](#), [Asia-Pacific](#), and [Latin America and the Caribbean](#). Across the workshops, governments and stakeholders identified a diversity of hazards covering different timescales for which support is required.

Similar workshops are also being conducted for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). These workshops identify the unique challenges of LDCs and SIDS and explore potential opportunities that the Santiago network can support. The first of these workshops was conducted in the [Pacific](#) during the Pacific Resilience Week, titled "Managing Climate and Disaster Risk for a Resilient Pacific" held from 23 to 27 September 2024. The second will be held in Saly (near Dakar), Senegal, from 22-24 July 2025.

### **Workshop for LDCs and SIDS in Africa**

The report from the regional workshop held in Africa in 2023 documents several types of hazards that continue to affect the countries in the region, ranging from extreme events such as floods, cyclones and drought, to slow-onset events such as higher temperatures, sea level rise, salinization and desertification. Countries also signalled the potential for seeking technical assistance under the Santiago network to support countries' in taking appropriate action.

The workshop for LDCs and SIDS in Africa will build on the outcome of the regional Santiago network workshop, but with a specific focus on the unique challenges and opportunities of LDCs and SIDS. It will further introduce Santiago network operative guidelines and assist countries and other stakeholders in understanding the processes for making requests for technical assistance and becoming a member of the Santiago network.

## Rationale and objectives

The objectives of the Santiago network workshop focusing on LDCs and SIDS in Africa are:

1. Familiarize and update LDCs and SIDS in Africa on the Santiago network.
2. Enhance understanding on modalities of access to technical assistance through the Santiago network (including orientation on the operative guidelines).
3. Facilitate the identification of regional and country contexts, and based on capacity gaps, initiate the drafting of requests for technical assistance.
4. Discuss and articulate the next steps for enhancing capacity relevant to loss and damage through technical assistance from the Santiago network.

## Target audience

The workshop will target LDCs and SIDS in Africa, particularly loss and damage contact points / national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat and disaster risk reduction focal points.

## Workshop Modality

The workshop will be run in an interactive 'write-shop' manner with a focus on developing demand-driven technical assistance proposals by countries. Facilitators will ensure that participants develop a shared understanding of capacity gaps and challenges, and fully understand the operative model of the Santiago network and its relevance in addressing their technical assistance needs and means to catalyze it further. This will be embedded in the national risk and policy landscape of the respective countries. Surveys will be conducted with the participating countries to develop preparatory materials.

## Language

The workshop will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in French. Key workshop materials will be available in English and French.

## Outcome

The workshops will result in:

- (i) Stocktake of experience, capacity challenges and needs in LDCs and SIDS.
- (ii) Preliminary requests for technical assistance from the Santiago network.
- (iii) A roadmap to support countries in accessing technical assistance to avert, minimize and address loss and damage in a demand- and country-driven manner.