

**Annual report of the Santiago network 2024**

**Addendum 2**

*Joint report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change*

## Abbreviations and acronyms

CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services

## I. Background

### (a) Mandate

1. In the terms of reference<sup>1</sup> of the Santiago network, the Santiago network secretariat is mandated to prepare an annual report on its activities, for the approval of the Advisory Board, including the following:
  - a. Requests received and activities carried out by the Santiago network and their outcomes;
  - b. Responses to requests;
  - c. Ongoing work as well as lessons learned and best practices derived from that work;
  - d. Support delivered in regions, finance disbursed and administrative costs;
  - e. Inclusion of new members in the Santiago network and their engagement therein;
  - f. Assistance to developing country Parties in identifying, prioritizing and communicating their needs for technical assistance;
  - g. Efforts to reach communities that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;
  - h. Gender considerations, including through the use of gender-disaggregated data, consistently with decision 3/CP.25.

### (b) Scope of the report

2. This report is an addendum to the joint annual report of the Santiago network and the Executive Committee submitted to the governing body or bodies through their subsidiary bodies. It responds to the above mandate for the annual report of the Santiago network, and contains recommendations from the Advisory Board of the Santiago network, taking into consideration the challenges and lessons learned over the reporting period, from 7 March 2024 to 6 September 2024.
3. The report also references the draft rules of procedure approved by the Advisory Board for consideration and adoption by the governing body or bodies at session(s) to be held in November 2024, through the subsidiary bodies.<sup>2</sup>

## II. The Advisory Board of the Santiago network

4. The Advisory Board, supported by an interim secretariat, held three meetings in 2024. The third meeting was convened from 4-6 September 2024 in Bonn, Germany, in conjunction with the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee (11-13 September 2024). All meetings were held in a hybrid format, allowing for virtual participation of members, representatives and observers that were unable to participate in-person.
5. The Advisory Board, at its third meeting, adopted the revised annual budget for 2024.<sup>3</sup> The interim secretariat presented two scenarios for the annual budget of 2025: (i) an indicative budget of US\$9,229,244 based on the assumption that contributions will be made available for

<sup>1</sup> Decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed in decision 11/CP.27

<sup>2</sup> Para 14 of decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed in decision 11/CP.27, and para 25 of decision 6/CMA.5, endorsed in decision 2/CP.28.

<sup>3</sup> [https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB\\_2024\\_3\\_13.Rev1.-Santiago\\_network-Revised\\_2024-budget-05Sept2024.pdf](https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB_2024_3_13.Rev1.-Santiago_network-Revised_2024-budget-05Sept2024.pdf)

implementation of activities,<sup>4</sup> and (ii) a budget of US\$4,966,867 based upon actual contributions received as at the time of adoption of the report.<sup>5</sup> The Advisory Board approved the two annual budgets, wherein the budget based on the first scenario will apply when the contributions matching the budget are available with the Santiago network secretariat.

6. The Advisory Board adopted its draft rules of procedure<sup>6</sup> for the consideration and adoption by the governing body or bodies at session(s) held in November 2024.<sup>7</sup>

### III. Progress in establishing the Santiago network secretariat

7. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) established an interim secretariat while simultaneously advancing the recruitment of the director of the Santiago network secretariat through a merit-based, open and transparent process.
8. In August 2024, the Advisory Board endorsed the selection of the director. It is anticipated that the director will commence in November 2024.
9. The director, once in place, will facilitate the timely recruitment of the staff of the secretariat in line with the terms of reference of the Santiago network.<sup>8</sup>
10. The Advisory Board selected Geneva, Switzerland, to host the head office for the Santiago network secretariat.

### IV. Implementation

#### (c) Development of guidelines

11. The Advisory Board approved the following guidelines during 2024:
  - a. The guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts as members of the Santiago network;<sup>9</sup>
  - b. The guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance;<sup>10</sup>
  - c. The guidelines for managing funding;<sup>11</sup>
  - d. Guidelines for conflict of interest;<sup>12</sup>

#### (d) Membership of the Santiago network

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<sup>4</sup> [SNAB/2024/03/14.Rev.1](#)

<sup>5</sup> [SNAB/2024/03/16](#)

<sup>6</sup> [https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB\\_2024\\_3\\_05.Rev.1-Rules-of-procedure-of-the-Advisory-Board-of-the-Santiago-network-06Sep2024-Adopted.pdf](https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB_2024_3_05.Rev.1-Rules-of-procedure-of-the-Advisory-Board-of-the-Santiago-network-06Sep2024-Adopted.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Paragraph 25 of decision 6/CMA.5, endorsed in decision 2/CMA.28

<sup>8</sup> Para 16 of decision 6/CMA.5, endorsed in decision 2/CP.28

<sup>9</sup> [https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB\\_2024\\_2\\_06.Rev.2-Guidelines-Designation-of-OBNE-4-July-2024-FINAL.pdf](https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB_2024_2_06.Rev.2-Guidelines-Designation-of-OBNE-4-July-2024-FINAL.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> [https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB\\_2024\\_3\\_06.Rev.2-Guidelines-and-procedures-for-responding-to-requests-for-technical-assistance-06Sep2024-Approved.pdf](https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB_2024_3_06.Rev.2-Guidelines-and-procedures-for-responding-to-requests-for-technical-assistance-06Sep2024-Approved.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB\\_2024\\_3\\_08.Rev.3-Guidelines-for-managing-funding-06Sep2024-Approved.pdf](https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB_2024_3_08.Rev.3-Guidelines-for-managing-funding-06Sep2024-Approved.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB\\_2024\\_3\\_04.Rev.1-Guidelines-on-conflicts-of-interest-06Sep2024-Approved.pdf](https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB_2024_3_04.Rev.1-Guidelines-on-conflicts-of-interest-06Sep2024-Approved.pdf)

12. Outreach activities commenced in August 2024 for building the network of members in keeping with the guidelines approved by the Advisory Board, including the creation of a dedicated webpage<sup>13</sup> with relevant information on becoming a member of the Santiago network, the phased roll-out of an outreach strategy, and membership forms. As at 6 September 2024, an estimated nine organizations, bodies, networks and experts submitted expressions of interest, and ten made queries on becoming a member of the network. Further outreach activities are to be undertaken to share information with diverse organizations, bodies, networks and experts across different regions, including a series of webinars and information sessions. The Advisory Board acknowledged the diverse organizations, bodies, networks and experts that expressed interest in joining the Santiago network during the period that the UNFCCC secretariat was the interim Santiago network secretariat. The guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts will be translated into other UN languages to facilitate diverse membership, and incorporated in outreach activities accordingly.

**(e) Technical assistance to countries**

13. In accordance with the decisions from the second meeting of the Advisory Board of the Santiago network secretariat, the interim secretariat was requested to respond to the technical assistance request from Vanuatu that was submitted in 2023 to the UNFCCC secretariat. The interim secretariat engaged with Vanuatu to update and refine the request in line with the template for request for technical assistance, included in Annex 2 of the draft guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance following revisions made after the second meeting of the Advisory Board.

**(f) Country outreach**

14. The Advisory Board, in its work programme, approved workshops to be conducted for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). These workshops are a continuation of similar scoping workshops that were convened by the UNFCCC secretariat in 2023, acting as the interim secretariat, in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia-Pacific. The first workshop will be convened in the Pacific on 26 and 27 September 2024 in conjunction with the Pacific Resilience Week, titled “Managing Climate and Disaster Risk for a Resilient Pacific” scheduled for 23-27 September 2024. Other workshops are planned to be conducted in 2025.

**(g) Collaboration with relevant bodies**

15. The Advisory Board communicated formally on progress in the operationalization of the Santiago network to the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. Following a request to this effect by the Advisory Board at its second meeting, the co-chairs of the Santiago network sent a letter to the co-chairs of the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage on 16 August 2024.
16. The Advisory Board supported the decision for a letter to be sent to the co-chairs of the Executive Committee to advise them of information on expressions of interest for membership in the Santiago network, particularly for its expert groups and task force that may have an interest in becoming a member. This was in keeping with the decision of Parties to encourage a broad range of organizations, bodies, networks and experts to engage in the Santiago network, including those that are represented in the expert groups of the Executive Committee.<sup>14</sup>
17. The Advisory Board reiterated the importance of and committed to strengthening collaboration with the Executive Committee, in line with the mandate of the governing body or bodies. This

<sup>13</sup> <https://santiago-network.org/membership>

<sup>14</sup> Decision 19/CMA.3, encorsed in decision 17/CP.26.

includes holding meetings, where possible, in connection with meetings of the Executive Committee as well as information exchange through the members of the Executive Committee that are represented on the Advisory Board.

18. The Advisory Board took note of the decision of the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage to launch the annual high-level dialogue during the high-level segment of the upcoming sessions of the governing body/bodies scheduled for 11-22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Advisory Board decided to formally communicate with the Board of the Fund, to enhance collaboration, update on the guidelines approved to operationalize the Santiago network, and enquire about and express interest in participating in the launch of the high-level dialogue at COP29 and the first high-level dialogue in 2025.

#### (h) Public awareness and advocacy

19. The official website of the Santiago network<sup>15</sup> was established to disseminate information on different aspects of the network. It currently hosts, inter alia, the outcomes and relevant documents of Advisory Board meetings, and a membership page that contains information on the process for submitting an expression of interest for becoming a member of the Santiago network.
20. A webinar will be convened in September 2024 to share information on the expression of interest to become a member of the Santiago network. It will target a wide range of organisations, bodies, networks and experts.
21. The Advisory Board encouraged the interim secretariat to identify and engage in diverse opportunities to share information about the Santiago network, including Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in 2024, and side events at the sessions of the governing body/bodies to be held in November 2024.

## V. Financial management system

22. UNDRR and UNOPS, acting as the interim secretariat, conducted activities as approved by the Advisory Board in keeping with the revised annual budget for 2024.

#### (a) Funding overview

23. The pledges made and cash receipts are contained in the tables below:

**Table 1: Pledges made towards Santiago network**

	Donor	Amount (US\$)
1	European Union	40,700,000
2	Denmark	
3	Germany	
4	Ireland	
5	Luxembourg	
6	Switzerland	
7	United Kingdom	
8	Switzerland	1,180,638
10	Spain	5,302,227

<sup>15</sup> <https://santiago-network.org>

11	United States of America	1,900,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>49,082,865</b>

**Table 2: Cash receipts for Santiago network in 2024**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Amount (US\$)</b>
Spain	5,302,226.94
United States of America	1,900,00.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,202,226.94</b>

24. As of 2 September 2024, a sum of US\$ 728,801 has been spent towards implementation of the approved work programme.

## **VI. In-kind and other support**

25. Decisions 6/CMA.5 and 2/CP.28<sup>16</sup> requested the UNDRR and UNOPS to provide in-kind and other support for the Santiago network secretariat to carry out its roles and responsibilities, as set out in the terms of reference of the Santiago network, and to provide periodic updates on matters regarding the Santiago network secretariat and make this available for the annual report to Parties.
26. UNDRR's in-kind and other support include:
- a. Support to the development of the guidelines on designation of OBNEs and guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance, and review of other guidelines and documents.
  - b. Support to the organisation of Advisory Board meetings, preparing background documents and outcome reports.
  - c. Contribution to the communication strategy and outputs of the Santiago network, including online articles and the design and development of the website.
  - d. Technical support and review of the indicative results framework of the Santiago network.
  - e. In-kind and complementary support for the convening of country outreach activities, including the workshop for least developed countries and small island developing States to be convened in the Pacific in September 2024, and events at Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction.
27. The total value of UNDRR's technical support and backstopping is estimated to be around US\$200,000, and the value of co-financing of outreach events and workshops is estimated to be around US\$90,000.
28. UNOPS is a self-financing organization with an operating model based on full-cost recovery. In line with its operating model, UNOPS is not able to provide in-kind support.

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<sup>16</sup> Paras 13 and 14

## VII. Recommendations to the governing body or bodies of the Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage

29. The governing body or bodies may consider the following recommendations, considering lessons learnt and challenges, at the session(s) to be held in November 2024:
- a. *Welcomes* the progress made in operationalizing of the Santiago network, including implementing its first work programme, approving the guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts as members of the network, the guidelines for responding to requests for technical assistance, guidelines for managing funding, and guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest;
  - b. *Also welcomes* the ongoing operationalization of the Santiago network secretariat;
  - c. *Further welcomes* the efforts of the Santiago network Advisory Board and the interim Santiago network secretariat to undertake considerable intersessional work to ensure continued progress in their first year of existence, and other good practices adopted relating to, inter alia, regular updates on information relevant to the Santiago network's operations;
  - d. *Acknowledges* the support of the UNFCCC secretariat including the development of the guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest;
  - e. *Expresses* appreciation to all organizations, bodies, networks and experts who participated as observers in the meetings of the Advisory Board;
  - f. *Also expresses* appreciation to organizations, bodies, networks and experts that have expressed interest in the work of the Santiago network and those who have submitted expressions of interest to become members of the network, and to the interim secretariat on their efforts to build the network of members;
  - g. *Further expresses* appreciation to the government of Switzerland for its financial support for the hosting of the Santiago network secretariat;
  - h. *Further expresses* appreciation to UNDRR and UNOPS for supporting the Santiago network during the start-up phase, including the establishment of an interim secretariat and for information on in-kind and other support provided for the interim Santiago network secretariat to carry out its roles and responsibilities;
  - i. *Invite* Parties to inform the Santiago network secretariat of their liaison to the Santiago network, as appropriate for their national circumstances, to support alignment of technical assistance with national priorities;
  - j. *Encourages* the Advisory Board to collaborate with the Executive Committee on outreach and communication activities, and in the context of enhancing the coherence and complementarity relating to the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, including participation in the annual high-level dialogue;
  - k. *Also encourages* the Advisory Board to collaborate with the funding arrangements and the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, as appropriate, in aligning the technical assistance catalysed under the network with efforts to build capacity and support programmatic approaches of the Fund for responding to loss and damage and the funding arrangements;
  - l. *Acknowledges and appreciates* the pledges made to the Santiago network totaling US\$49.1 million and the US\$7.2 million that has already been converted into contributions as of the date of this report, and look forward to all pledges being converted



into contributions in order to enable the Santiago network to fulfill its mandate effectively;

- m. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the relevant processes to ensure contributions are promptly transferred to the Santiago network;
- n. *Also requests* the Secretariat under the guidance of the Advisory Body to develop a resource mobilization strategy for the operations of the Santiago network that would encourage further contributions from a wide variety of sources;
- o. *Requests* the Santiago network secretariat to continue to develop an outreach plan and to promote the network with a view to engaging a wide range of members, in particular those at the local level;
- p. *Welcomes* the progress made to implement the guidelines for designating members of the network, and *encourages* the Santiago network secretariat to translate this and other guidelines into UN languages in a timely manner;
- q. *Invites* Parties to consider and adopt the draft rules of procedure of the Advisory Board of the Santiago network;<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> [https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB\\_2024\\_3\\_05.Rev.1-Rules-of-procedure-of-the-Advisory-Board-of-the-Santiago-network-06Sep2024-Adopted.pdf](https://assets.santiago-network.org/Common/Documents/Core/SNAB_2024_3_05.Rev.1-Rules-of-procedure-of-the-Advisory-Board-of-the-Santiago-network-06Sep2024-Adopted.pdf)