

First Meeting of Advisory Board of the Santiago Network

18-20 March 2024, Geneva

Decisions taken by the Advisory Board

[20 March 2024]

1. Item 1. Opening of the meeting

The first meeting of the Advisory Board (AB) of the Santiago network (SN) was held from 18 to 20 March 2024 in Geneva. Welcome remarks were provided by Mr Omar Al Braiki on behalf of the COP 28 Presidency, Ms Paola Albrito, Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in representation of the host of the Santiago network secretariat, and Mr Youssef Nassef, Director of the Adaptation Division, UNFCCC secretariat.

2. Item 2. Election of the Presiding officers of the Advisory Board

Members of the Advisory Board (AB) elected Mr Alpha Kaloga and Mr Akio Takemoto to serve as Co-Chairs for a term of one year.

3. Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

The Advisory Board adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document SNAB/2024/1/03.2/Rev.1.¹

4. Item 4. Organizational Matters

The AB members and representatives participating in the meeting are listed in Annex I.

5. Item 5. Operationalization of the Santiago network secretariat

The AB discussed elements regarding the operationalization of the SN secretariat, including the work done by the UNFCCC secretariat as the interim SN secretariat. The UNFCCC secretariat presented the progress and outcomes of the regional scoping workshops on loss and damage under the SN.²

Regarding the progress made by the UNFCCC secretariat, the AB members agreed on the following:

- i. To acknowledge that requests for technical assistance was received by the UNFCCC secretariat ahead of the operationalization of the SN secretariat, including from Vanuatu, and that this is reflected in relevant reports and subsequent work programme of the SN secretariat.
- ii. A dedicated SN website should be established, which will also include information currently on the UNFCCC website.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/event/first-meeting-of-the-advisory-board-of-the-santiago-network>

² <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Santiago%20network%20presentation%20for%20Advisory%20Board.pdf>

An interim work programme and estimated budget was presented for consideration and approval of the AB. The work programme included operationalization of the SN and the SN secretariat, advocacy and outreach, communication, resource mobilisation, and monitoring and evaluation. An estimated budget of US\$1,809,792 for the year 2024 was also presented.

- iii. The work programme, as contained in the annex, was approved with the option for making changes intersessionally, if required.
- iv. The estimated annual budget for 2024, as contained in the annex, was approved.

Further,

- v. The AB members agreed that the work programme will be implemented and updated on a rolling basis and will be further aligned with the rolling work plan of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage (WIM).
- vi. The host was encouraged to promptly launch the process for selecting the director of the Santiago network secretariat following the selection of the location for the head office of the Santiago network secretariat, and asked to share the terms of reference of the director with the AB before its issuance.
- vii. The post announcement for the staff of the secretariat is to be shared widely, including by the AB members.

6. Item 6. Vision and expectations of the work of the Advisory Board

AB members shared views on their vision and expectation of the work of the AB, including its work within the broader structure of the WIM and relationship with the ExCom.

The AB decided on the following:

- viii. Collaboration with the ExCom, as proposed by its representatives on the Board, to be explored, including on: communication and outreach activities such as a newsletter; utilizing and contributing to the outputs of its experts groups, and task force, including technical guides; an invitation to contribute to the 3rd Glasgow Dialogue that will be convened during the 60th Subsidiary Bodies (SB 60) sessions (June 2023); and a side event to be held at SB 60 with the ExCom as the lead organizer.
- ix. Explore options for creating synergies with the loss and damage funding arrangements and the fund as part of a wider architecture on loss and damage, including the naming of representatives, at the next meeting, to participate in the high-level dialogue to be convened by the UN Secretary-General.
- x. Enhanced and proactive engagement with the OBNEs is needed to ensure the operationalization of demand-driven technical assistance and capacity retention in developing countries.

7. Item 7. Location of the head office of the Santiago network secretariat

- xi. The AB agreed that the assessment prepared by the host will not be used as the basis for selecting the head office of the Santiago network secretariat, in light of concerns that include: the use of time zones as a criteria, and locations considered for the analysis, that, for example, did not include Panama whose government expressed interest to host the secretariat during the negotiations at the Subsidiary Bodies and Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2023.
- xii. The AB selected Geneva, Switzerland as the location of the head office of the Santiago network secretariat.

8. Item 8. Guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest

The AB considered the presentation of the UNFCCC secretariat on the draft guidelines, took note of the document and requested the UNFCCC secretariat to update the guidelines based on the inputs provided by members and that will be shared in writing with the Santiago network secretariat, particularly in light of the approved interim work programme for the Santiago network. The UNFCCC secretariat will revise the guidelines in consultation with the co-chairs and will present them for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the AB.

9. Item 9. Rules of procedure of the Advisory Board

The AB decided to use the draft outline as contained in document SNAB/2024/1/09 as a basis for developing the draft rules of procedure for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the Advisory Board. A small team of AB members will prepare the draft with the support of the interim secretariat, comprising the following members and representatives:

- Ms Stella Brožek-Everaert
- Ms Sierra Woodruff
- Ms Angela Patricia Rivera Galvis
- Ms Camila Minerva Rodríguez
- Ms Tetet Lauron
- Mr Samuel Okorie

10. Item 10. Modalities for technical assistance and designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts as members of the Santiago network

The AB discussed some key elements of the planned SN guidance on (i) designation of OBNEs as members of the Santiago network; (ii) procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance; and (iii) managing funding provided for technical assistance. Elements of discussion included scope, form, access and criteria.

Members and observers highlighted the need to keep the SN technical assistance process agile, and building on existing mechanisms and networks, ensuring flexibility in the range of topics and forms of technical assistance, while ensuring that broad parameters of the scope are outlined. The AB also pointed to the principle of inclusiveness and leaving no one behind, to ensure that access to technical assistance is accessed by the vulnerable communities and provision of assistance by organizations of all sizes.

The AB acknowledged that OBNEs have already been providing technical assistance, including those reflected in three annual reports of the ExCom. The AB further decided to task the interim secretariat to develop guidance on modalities for technical assistance and the designation of OBNEs, as required in the CMA/COP decisions, for the consideration of the AB. The AB also decided that the interim secretariat will share progress intersessionally for feedback and input of the AB members.

11. Item 11. Date and venue of the next meeting

The AB decided to hold two more meetings during 2024.

The proposed dates and locations are as follows:

- a. 2nd meeting: 9-11 July 2024 (with informal consultations on 9-10 July) in Geneva.

- b. 3rd meeting: Following the 21st WIM ExCom in Bonn.

The secretariat, on behalf of and with the co-chairs, will consult AB members further to confirm the dates.

The work of the AB for upcoming meetings for 2024 would focus tentatively on the following:

- 2nd meeting: rules of procedure; conflicts of interest guidelines; and guidelines for designating OBNEs.
- 3rd meeting: guidelines for managing funding provided to technical assistance (including minimum percentage for vulnerable communities), guidance on how to provide capacity building for requesting technical assistance, results framework, the SN strategy aligned with the ExCom strategy, the resource mobilization strategy, and cohesion and complementarity with the WIM and loss and damage funding arrangements.

12. Item 12. Any Other Matters

The AB extended appreciation of the incoming COP Presidency, Azerbaijan, represented by Mr Farid Osmanov, who provided a statement of support to the work of the AB and wider loss and damage landscape, which will be a priority for the Presidency.

Annex I – List of Participants

Participants as prescribed in decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed in decision 11/CP.27

	Groups	Name	Participation
1	Africa	Mr. Alpha Kaloga (Co-Chair)	In-person
2	Africa	Mr. Rachid Tahiri	In-person
3	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Akio Takemoto (Co-Chair)	In-person
4	Asia-Pacific	Mr. Syed Asif Hyder Shah	Virtual
5	GRULAC	Mr. Kenel Delusca	In-person
6	GRULAC	Ms. Belen Reyes	In-person
7	WEOG	Ms Sierra Woodruff	In-person
8	WEOG	Ms. Leona Hollasch	In-person
9	SIDS	Ms. Camila Minerva Rodriguez	In-person
10	LDCs	Mr. Idy Niang	In-person
11	WIM Executive Committee	Ms. Angela Patricia Rivera Galvis	In-person
12	WIM Executive Committee	Ms. Stella Brožek-Everaert	Virtual
Representatives			
1	Women & Gender Constituency	Ms Tetet Lauron	In-person
2	Indigenous peoples organizations	Mr Gideon Sanago	In-person
3	Children & Youth	Mr Samuel Okorie	Virtual

Note: nominations were not received from the Eastern Europe group as at the time of convening of the meeting.

There were 68 registered observers, with 30 participating in-person, and 38 online.