

**Fourth Meeting of the Advisory
Board of the Santiago network****SNAB/2025/04/12**

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**Discussion paper: Minimum percentage of technical
assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed
to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects
of climate change**

Version 2**Summary**

Paragraph 17.c. of Decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed in 11/CP.27, decided that the Santiago network will develop guidelines for managing funding provided for technical assistance including "to ensure that technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network is made available to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including through levels of minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change."

In its third meeting (September 2024), the Advisory Board of the Santiago network agreed to continue its consideration of the levels of minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network to be made available to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change intersessionally, for further elaboration and agreement at the next meeting of the Advisory Board. In response to this request, an informal meeting of the Advisory Board was held on 11 March 2025. During the meeting, the Santiago network Director presented on the 'Minimum percentage of technical assistance', providing an overview of the discussion paper shared by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting. The presentation was followed by a discussion, during which Advisory Board members shared their reflections on the topic of the minimum percentage, the content of the discussion paper, and suggested additional points for consideration. A non-exhaustive summary of the points made is included below:

- The discussion paper presented by the Secretariat was recognized as a useful starting point for the AB to further discuss on the minimum percentage item.

- AB Members noted areas for further development in the paper, including, the need for clarity in defining vulnerable groups and ensuring complementarity with the FRLD.
- There was broad support for targeting technical assistance towards vulnerable groups such as children, youth, women, indigenous people, and people with disabilities.
- Some AB Members welcomed stakeholder consultation as a next step in the further development of the paper, to gather ideas on effective fund allocation.
- The AB stressed the importance of making funding accessible and predictable, particularly for marginalized groups, and suggested removing barriers hindering access.
- The proposal of a dedicated window for community-led projects was generally welcomed, with comments in relation to the size of the envelope and access procedures.
- The AB agreed on the need for further discussions on the minimum funding percentage, the importance of community ownership, and alignment with national processes.

This updated discussion paper is to assist the Advisory Board in their deliberations in response to the aforementioned mandates.

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I. Background

1. The Santiago network was established to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
2. [Decision 12/CMA.4](#), endorsed in [decision 11/CP.27](#) (para 17) stipulates that the Santiago network secretariat, once operational, must elaborate modalities and procedures for the Santiago network under the guidance of and by approval of the Advisory Board, including:

‘(c) Developing guidelines for managing funding provided for technical assistance, including to ensure that technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network is made available to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including through levels of minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change’.
3. At its third meeting in September 2024 (see [meeting decisions](#)), the Advisory Board approved the [Guidelines for managing funding](#)¹ and decided ‘to continue its consideration of the levels of minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network to be made available to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change intersessionally, for further elaboration and agreement at the next meeting of the Advisory Board’. A summary of views on the topic of the minimum percentage shared by the Advisory Board at its third meeting are captured in the following [tracker](#).

II. Provisions in the Santiago network relevant to technical assistance and funding at the community level

4. The Santiago network is mandated to catalyze technical assistance for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage at the local, national and regional levels in developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. As such, the focus on communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change is intrinsic to the Santiago network’s core mandate.
5. The guidelines for managing funding were adopted by the Advisory Board at its third meeting in September 2024, and govern the preparation of the Santiago network budget, the mobilization and management of resources, fund management, audit and reporting. The guidelines for managing funding foresee the inclusion of the outcomes of the determination of the levels of minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse

¹ Approved guidelines included a placeholder for inclusion of the outcomes of the discussions on the determination of levels of minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (paragraph 7).

effects of climate change. These guidelines are to be reviewed every two years for continued applicability based on lessons and experiences.

6. The Advisory Board, at its third meeting, also approved the [guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance](#). The guidelines stipulate that requests for technical assistance may be prepared by government/public institutions (including national, regional, sub-national and local governments), academic, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations (including local communities, women's, children and youth, and Indigenous Peoples), among others, and submitted according to the process determined by each country.
7. Requests for technical assistance should address regional, national and/or local technical assistance needs, priorities and challenges, including those of vulnerable groups and communities, through an inclusive and country-driven process, taking into account the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities,² including children, youth, women, etc.
8. Requests for technical assistance are for initiatives to be implemented at the local, national and/or regional levels. The guideline further requires proponents of technical assistance to demonstrate the need for such assistance, including by describing how the request was developed through an inclusive³ and country-driven process,⁴ and take into account cross-cutting issues, including those in the 11th preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement. In addition, the guideline provides prioritisation criteria, which include prioritisation of requests for technical assistance that are directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.⁵
9. This is reflected in the template for requests for technical assistance to be completed by a proponent. The template asks proponents to specify the geographical scope of the technical assistance, which includes local / community-level, as well as the process for developing the request with a particular focus on how the request takes into account the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as appropriate, also considering children, youth, women, etc. Furthermore, proponents are asked to describe how the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have been considered in the request for technical assistance and indicate whether vulnerable communities receive access to the technical assistance, including any gender or other co-benefits (e.g. biodiversity, economic, social, cultural, etc.) that are likely to be generated from the provision of the technical assistance.

² Decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed in decision 11/CP.27

³ This means that the technical assistance request reflects the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities and is developed through a demand-driven process, and takes into account gender-responsive approaches, human rights and the interests of present and future generations (decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed in decision 11/CP.27)

⁴ Including considering the needs of and consulting with segments of the population that are vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihood, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability

⁵ 12/CMA.4, endorsed in decision 11/CP.27, paragraph 17 (c)

10. During the process of matching requests for technical assistance with Members, the guidelines highlight that for technical assistance receiving financial support from the Santiago network, tailored criteria for the assessment of proposals may include sectoral, geographic and technical expertise. It may also be considered as part of the assessment criteria, with a particular aim to draw on country-led approaches and expertise by mobilizing national and community-based Members.⁶

III. Proposed approach for determining the levels of minimum percentage directed to communities

11. To support the Advisory Board in making an informed decision, the Secretariat proposes the following approach:

A. Consideration of vulnerable communities

12. Under the guidance of the Advisory Board, the Secretariat will explore possible approaches for identifying requests for technical assistance as directly benefiting communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. This will be informed by the tracking of requests of technical assistance under point D below.
13. The consideration of vulnerable communities will also be informed by provisions in the Santiago network operative guidelines as these relate to proponents and potential proponents of regional assistance including local communities, women's, children and youth, and Indigenous peoples, among others, as well as to providers of technical assistance including local and community-based organisations in developing countries.
14. Due consideration will be given to stakeholders identified in the 11 preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement, including "indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations."
15. Experience from relevant stakeholders will also be critical for this exercise, including the Fund for responding to loss and damage as they consider resource allocation for climate vulnerable communities (see section E below).

B. Research on good practices in community-centric technical assistance

16. The Secretariat will identify where similar practices or approaches are adopted, and note elements that may inform the deliberations on minimum percentages, including successes and challenges. Among other things, the research will explore not only the allocation of resources to communities, but modalities that can be used to effectively facilitate access.
17. Along these lines, a community-centric approach will be used placing communities at the heart of the design, decision-making, planning, and implementation processes for identifying needs and developing inclusive, demand-driven technical assistance requests.

⁶ This may include a requirement for Members from the global north to provide evidence of country presence or suitable partners in country, as well as thresholds for how much of the budget must be spent in country.

C. Operational framework

18. An operational framework is being proposed to make available technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network to communities particularly vulnerable, anchored in the Guidelines for managing funding and in the Guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance.
19. The operational framework is proposed to be designed around the technical assistance cycle and tailored to the specific needs of vulnerable communities, as follows:
 - a. Facilitating TA request development. Enabling and facilitating demand-driven requests of technical assistance from or directly benefiting communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. These requests should align with the national priorities of the country, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance, and will follow the standard no-objection procedure outlined therein.
 - b. Dedicated window for community-based organisations to support and respond to technical assistance requests benefiting communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, with an envelope of up to USD 50,000. This envelope is proposed to allow for simplified procedures, ensuring easier access for technical assistance requests directed to communities. The possibility of accessing a larger amount remains available through the regular technical assistance process..
 - c. Tailored grant modality to cater to local and community-based technical assistance providers, including appropriate risk management.
 - d. Support for implementation, monitoring and evaluation assisting local and community-based TA providers throughout the technical assistance cycle.
 - e. Tracking of results and outcomes of the provision of technical assistance with feedback loops that inform the setting of a minimum percentage.

D. Tracking of requests for technical assistance

20. The Secretariat will track requests over 18 months, and identify those requests that are community-centric or have community-centric components using the following criteria:⁷
 - a. *Nature of the proponent:* If the proponent submitting the request for technical assistance is a community-based organization or Indigenous Peoples organisation.
 - b. *Geographical scope of the technical assistance:* If the proponent, while submitting a request for technical assistance, indicates the scope of the assistance, to be provided at the local/community level.
 - c. *Type of technical assistance:* If the request for technical assistance addresses local technical assistance needs, priorities and challenges and/or is designed for initiatives to be implemented at the local level, as clearly outlined by the proponent.

⁷ Based on the *Guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance*

- d. *Alignment with priorities on loss and damage:* If the technical assistance is clearly aligned with identified priorities at the local level in a relevant policy, strategy or plan.
 - e. *Inclusiveness:* If the proponent has clearly outlined how the technical assistance addresses the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, including if the most vulnerable communities receive access to the technical assistance.
21. In addition to the above criteria, the Secretariat will further use the following key performance indicators from the Interim Results Framework to better understand the benefits of technical assistance at the local level and the percentage of funding allocated in real terms to communities on a demand-driven basis:⁸
- a. *Benefits:* Number of people a) directly and b) indirectly benefiting from technical assistance, gender disaggregated
 - b. *Enabling environment:* Number of local, national and/or regional systems enabled (laws, policies, institutions)
 - c. *Allocation of funding by the Santiago network:* Value of financial and other resources a) directly provided annually for Santiago network operations and b) percentage directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in line with the Santiago network interim results framework.
22. These criteria can be converted into a checklist, or a scorecard (with scales of coverage), to assess and systematically track the levels of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

E. Collaboration with the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage

23. The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) is currently discussing the resource allocation framework for its start-up phase⁹ aiming to allocate resources across areas of work or activities to achieve agreed objectives. According to paragraph 60(a)–(f) of their Governing Instrument, the resource allocation system will take into account, inter alia:
- a. The priorities and needs of developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, while taking into consideration the needs of *climate vulnerable communities* (emphasis added).
 - b. The best available data and information from entities such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and/or pertinent knowledge from Indigenous Peoples and *vulnerable communities* (emphasis added) on exposure and sensitivity to the adverse

⁸ Taken from the Santiago network interim results framework

⁹ FRLD, Fifth Meeting of the Board, "[Proposal for the start-up phase of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage](#)", FRLD/B.5/7.

effects of climate change and on loss and damage, recognizing that such data, information and knowledge may be limited for specific countries and regions.

24. The FRLD is also exploring the expansion of its funding modalities to include small grants for community-led initiatives, for a subsequent phase, including small grants allowing for tailored and direct deployment of resources to vulnerable communities, including Indigenous Peoples, community-based organizations and other nongovernmental groups.
25. Collaboration with the FRLD on the design and implementation of the Santiago network offer for communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change can help build functional points of articulation with their resource allocation framework under development and with their plans for a community-led small grants programme in a subsequent phase, easing outreach to and access for climate vulnerable communities.

F. Identify lessons and challenges

26. The tracking of requests for technical assistance from or addressing the needs of communities, including through access to technical assistance, will provide important information on successes, challenges, opportunities, etc. Similarly, the needs and priorities of countries that have been and will be identified through capacity building workshops or initiatives will be instrumental in the process.

G. Proposal on minimum percentages

27. Building on the aforementioned activities, the findings will be reported to the Advisory Board at its meetings. Based on these analyses, and with further guidance from the Advisory Board, the Secretariat will prepare a paper that proposes a minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network for communities particularly vulnerable to adverse climate impacts.
28. The level of minimum percentage at the portfolio level could be set as a percentage of overall annual technical assistance funding within the annual budgets approved by the Advisory Board, and which may evolve as operations mature.
29. The final proposal will include, inter alia:
 - a. A minimum percentage or a range (informed by the tracking and analysis of levels of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities)
 - b. The baseline and periodicity for applying the minimum percentage
 - c. The dynamic and progressive nature of the minimum percentage based on the evolution and maturity of operations
 - d. Modalities for effectively applying the minimum percentage
 - e. Additional parameters for the Advisory Board's consideration, as appropriate.

IV. Timeline and next steps

30. The proposed timelines are as follows:
 - a. Consideration of vulnerable communities: 2025
 - b. Research good practices: 2025
 - c. Operational framework to make available technical assistance to vulnerable communities: 2025-2026
 - d. Tracking requests for technical assistance and identification of lessons: 2025-2026
 - e. Collaboration with the FRLD: 2025-2026
 - f. Proposal on minimum percentage: Q2/Q3 of 2026
 - g. Review of the guidelines for managing funding Q3 2026
31. The timeline above for the development of a proposal on minimum percentage aligns with the foreseen review of the guidelines for managing funding after two years of its adoption in September 2024, for the proposal on minimum percentage in Q2/Q3 2026 to feed into the review in Q3 2026.
32. Progress on the timeline above can contribute and benefit from the roadmap of consultations on the Santiago network strategy and other strategic components¹⁰, ensuring alignment in the development of the Santiago network strategic framework, while incorporating feedback from the Advisory Board and relevant stakeholders.
33. It is proposed that the further consideration of the matter takes place in the context of consultations on the Santiago network strategy, and in close coordination with other relevant processes in the loss and damage landscape.

References

1. [Third Meeting of Advisory Board of the Santiago Network 4-6 September 2024, Bonn Decisions taken by the Advisory Board](#)
2. [SNAB_2024_3_08.Rev.3-Guidelines-for-managing-Approved \(06 Sept 2024\)](#)
3. [Santiago network: Guidelines for Managing Funding Feedback Tracker_04Sept2024](#)
4. [SNAB_2024_3_06.Rev.2-Guidelines-and-procedures-for-responding-to-requests-for-technical-assistance-06Sep2024-Approved.pdf](#)
5. [SNAB_2024_3_10_Rev2 - Santiago network interim results framework - 06Sep 2024 - Adopted.docx](#)

¹⁰ Please see SNAB 4 document: "Santiago network strategy: zero draft and development roadmap" (SNAB/2025/04/11).