

**Fifth Meeting of the Advisory
Board of the Santiago network**

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Report on the activities of the Santiago network Secretariat

18 April 2025 - 14 August 2025

Summary

This report provides an update on the progress made by the Santiago network Secretariat, supported by the co-hosts, against the initial two-year work programme of the Santiago network 2024-2025 during the period between the fourth and the fifth Advisory Board meetings, from 18 April to 14 August, 2025.

This document has linkages with the [Santiago network work programme 2024-25](#) and it is recommended that it should be reviewed in conjunction with the 'Report of the Santiago network Advisory Board Co-Chairs' (SNAB/2025/05/03) and the 'Report from subcommittees and task force' (SNAB/2025/05/04).

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I. Introduction

1. This report provides an update on the progress made by the Santiago network Secretariat, supported by the co-hosts, during the period between the fourth and the fifth Advisory Board meetings, from 18 April to 14 August, 2025, against the initial two-year work programme of the Santiago network 2024-2025.
2. This has been a pivotal period for the delivery of the Santiago network's mission, marked by achievements on both institutional and operational fronts. Key milestones include:
 - i. approval and commencement of the technical assistance request from Vanuatu;
 - ii. increased outreach with developing countries, including the first information sessions for national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat and UNFCCC National Focal Points and bilateral engagements at relevant meetings;
 - iii. the Santiago network workshop for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) in Africa, hosted by the Government of Senegal from 22 to 24 July 2025, in partnership with UNDRR;
 - iv. the first in-person Members' gathering held on 5 June on the margins of the 8th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland;
 - v. tailored outreach to encourage expressions of interest from OBNEs representing [children and youth](#), [women and gender](#), and [Indigenous Peoples](#);
 - vi. welcoming new Members, bringing the total membership to 57;
 - vii. implementation of the consultation roadmap for further development of the Santiago network strategy and related strategic documents;
 - viii. strengthened engagement across the loss and damage ecosystem, including through the first High Level Dialogue, and collaboration with the ExCom and FRLD;
 - ix. ongoing recruitment of Secretariat head office and regional staff.
3. In achieving these milestones, the Secretariat, supported by the co-hosts, has focused on the timely implementation of Advisory Board decisions, the successful completion of the 2024–2025 work programme, and positioning the Santiago network for its next planning cycle, including by supporting the development of its first strategic framework.
4. For reporting purposes, the report on the activities of the Santiago network Secretariat as presented here, streamlines these sections into the following three overarching pillars:

I. Institutional strengthening	II. Full operationalization	III. Resourcing and positioning
A. Finalize legal agreements	C. Operationalize the SN	F. Resource mobilization
B. Ensure arrangements for AB	D. Catalyze technical assistance	G. Outreach and advocacy
E. Operationalize the Secretariat	I. Monitoring & Reporting	H. Communication

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5. The Santiago network has made significant strides in consolidating its institutional foundations, including through effective and efficient Secretariat operations; implementing Advisory Board decisions critical for shaping the Santiago network strategic framework; the advancement of recruitment processes for head office and regional Secretariat staff; and robust arrangements to support Advisory Board meetings.

A. Operationalizing the Santiago network Secretariat

6. Cohesive and effective day-to-day operations have guided the Secretariat's work during the reporting period, ensuring that activities were developed and executed in a timely, efficient, and effective manner, in line with relevant decisions and available resources.
7. Following the decisions from the fourth Advisory Board meeting, the Secretariat moved quickly to implement the continuation of interim personnel until the end of 2025 and to initiate the recruitment of approved head office and regional positions. The Secretariat was also delighted to welcome two new team members: Edita Ajeti, Programme Support and Operations Associate, who joined on 1 July 2025, and Elizabeth (Liz) Carabine, Senior Programme Manager, who joined on 7 July 2025, both bringing valuable experience.
8. The Secretariat has prioritized fostering a collaborative and supportive work environment, characterized by open communication, continuous learning, and joint planning of activities. The dedication of Secretariat staff, together with the support of the co-hosts, has enabled significant progress in advancing institutional strengthening, catalyzing technical assistance, and resourcing and positioning, as detailed in this report.

B. Support to the Advisory Board

9. Decision 12/CMA.4 endorsed by decision 11/CP.27 stipulates that "The director of the Santiago network secretariat shall serve as secretary to the Advisory Board."¹ The Director will assist the Advisory Board in its decision making process, in ensuring adherence with the rules of procedure, and in the codification and improvement of related processes.
10. Following the fourth Advisory Board meeting, the Secretariat prioritized the timely and effective implementation of adopted decisions, and updated its internal action plan to organize work and resources accordingly. This included actions related to decisions on establishing a regional presence, advancing the implementation of the strategy roadmap, support to the established subcommittees and task force and undertaking intersessional work to ensure timely progress on agreed priorities.
11. Subsequent to the establishment of the Budget Subcommittee, the Conflict of Interest Subcommittee as well as the Task Force on Outreach at the fourth meeting of the Advisory Board, Secretariat focal points were appointed to provide support for their convening and work. The reports from subcommittees and task force will be made available to the Advisory Board ahead of its fifth meeting. The reports on activities of the Co-Chairs, the Secretariat and the Subcommittees and Task Force contribute to the transparency and accountability in the delivery of their respective roles.

¹ This function is also prescribed in paragraph 25 of the rules of procedure of the Advisory Board.

12. As done for the fourth meeting of the Advisory Board, the Secretariat prioritized the timely publication of documents for the fifth meeting, to effectively support the Advisory Board in its decision-making.

Informal meetings of the Advisory Board

13. Under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, the Secretariat supported the organization of intersessional work as decided by the Advisory Board during its fourth meeting, including:
 - a. Informal meeting of the Advisory Board held on 16 May 2025, addressing the Santiago network strategy.
 - b. Informal meeting of the Advisory Board held on 29 July 2025, addressing the minimum percentage of technical assistance funded directly by the Santiago network directed to communities particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and the provisional agenda for the fifth Advisory Board meeting.
14. The Secretariat's work supporting these meetings included the development of the respective agendas, preparation of documents, tailored presentations, in-session support, reports from the sessions, and revision of the papers taking into account feedback received and follow-up actions from the intersessional meetings.

Preparations for the fifth meeting of the Advisory Board

15. In accordance with paragraph 26a of the rules of procedure of the Advisory Board of the Santiago network, the Secretariat is responsible for all logistical preparations pertaining to Advisory Board meetings, including the announcement and invitation processes, as well as the distribution of meeting documents. The Secretariat has undertaken the following preparatory actions for the fifth Advisory Board meeting:
 - a. Development of documents to assist the Advisory Board in their consideration of items in the provisional agenda. The Secretariat prioritized the timely publication of meeting documentation, in compliance with paragraph 41 of the rules of procedure requiring documents being published at least two weeks prior to the meeting, to the extent possible, unless otherwise decided by the Co-Chairs.
 - b. Formal invitation letters were dispatched to all members and representatives of the Advisory Board. Notifications for observers were duly circulated to all pertinent stakeholders as well as to Santiago network Members.
 - c. The Secretariat facilitated the coordination of travel arrangements for Advisory Board members and representatives who are financially supported by the Santiago network, as well as visa support where required.
 - d. A suitable venue was secured in Geneva. The selection was informed by cost effectiveness as well as operational insights gained from the execution of the initial four meetings, maintaining the established format of previous sessions, and providing for hybrid participation.

- e. An in-person informal Advisory Board meeting is being organized on 1 September 2025 ahead of the fifth Advisory Board meeting, under the guidance of the Co-Chairs.
- f. The Secretariat is organising an informal reception during the course of the meeting to foster networking and exchange among the Advisory Board and Observers.
- g. A dedicated [webpage](#) has been established for the meeting, where all updates and meeting documentation are published.

Support to subcommittees and task force

16. At the fourth meeting of the Santiago network Advisory Board (SNAB4), the Advisory Board agreed to establish a:
 - a. Budget Subcommittee
 - b. Conflict of Interest Subcommittee, and
 - c. Task Force on Outreach
17. The Advisory Board also invited the subcommittees and the task force to develop their terms of reference for consideration and approval by the Advisory Board.
18. The Secretariat facilitated the work of the subcommittees and task force by supporting their meetings, the drafting of their Terms of Reference, and Interim Mode of Work for the Budget Subcommittee, as requested, as well as the revision of these documents in accordance with feedback received. Additionally, the Secretariat kept the Co-Chairs apprised on progress made by the subcommittees and the task force. The Secretariat further provided support to the subcommittees and task force with the initial drafting of the 'Report from subcommittees and task force' for submission to the Advisory Board ahead of its fifth meeting.

Support to the Co-Chairs

19. Throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat supported the Co-Chairs in effectively discharging their duties. This support encompassed a variety of activities aimed at keeping the Co-Chairs informed and preparing them for intersessional work and representational engagements.
20. A key element of this support was the establishment of regular bi-weekly calls with the Co-Chairs. These calls served multiple vital purposes:
 - a. Apprising of ongoing activities: The Secretariat continuously updated the Co-Chairs on progress and developments within the Santiago network, including in response to Advisory Board decisions, ensuring they had an up-to-date understanding of operations.
 - b. Seeking guidance on pertinent matters: These interactions provided a dedicated forum for the Secretariat to solicit the Co-Chairs' guidance on critical issues and emerging challenges, ensuring alignment with their vision and priorities.

- c. Facilitating intersessional work: The calls were essential for coordinating and streamlining the Advisory Board's work guided by the Co-Chairs between formal meetings, ensuring continuity and progress on key objectives.
 - d. Preparing for events and meetings: The Secretariat prepared the Co-Chairs for all events and meetings where they represented the Santiago network. This included crafting speaking notes and providing briefings, as needed.
21. Beyond these regular consultative and preparatory sessions, the Secretariat also extended administrative support. This included, but was not limited to, the drafting of official communications on behalf of the Co-Chairs.
 22. Further details regarding the scope and results of this support are documented and presented in the 'Report of the Santiago network Advisory Board Co-Chairs' (SNAB/2025/05/03).

II. Full operationalization

A. Operationalizing the Santiago network membership

23. The Santiago network currently has 57 Members, comprising 34 organizations, 2 bodies, 6 networks, and 15 experts. The Secretariat is processing expressions of interest on an ongoing basis, with a number of OBNEs currently responding to requests for additional information.
24. The current membership base comprises strong technical capacities in a wide range of topics, such as resilience and adaptation planning, capacity building and knowledge sharing, loss and damage assessments, and early warning systems and emergency preparedness, among others. Other notable areas of expertise include risk analysis and management, human mobility and displacement, and climate finance. Geographically, nearly half of the Members have indicated they operate at a global level, while also maintaining active engagement at regional and national levels.
25. Following the fourth Advisory Board meeting and in response to relevant decision points, the Secretariat undertook targeted outreach to increase the inclusivity and diversity of the network's membership. This included outreach to key constituencies, accompanied by tailored materials encouraging expressions of interest from OBNEs representing [children and youth](#), [women and gender](#), and [Indigenous Peoples](#). For instance, the Secretariat provided a briefing to the Indigenous Peoples Caucus on the margins of the Bonn Climate Meetings. Increased diversity is anticipated to enrich the types of technical assistance that can be provided to developing countries, and provide opportunities to promote and enhance the capacities of local and community-based OBNEs through collaboration of such OBNEs with international organisations in the provision of technical assistance.
26. At the time of the fourth Advisory Board meeting, expression of interest reviews had already largely been transitioned to the [Santiago network portal](#), which is now fully operational to manage submissions and streamline the review processes. Since then, the portal has undergone further refinements to strengthen the review process and broader Member engagement. Among others, these include the transfer of all previously externally

tracked data into the portal, which will populate a forthcoming Members Directory; improved accessibility and clarity of language; and development of a mock-up for a future network platform hosted under the portal, to facilitate collaboration and peer-to-peer interaction.

27. Since the fourth meeting of the Advisory Board, the Secretariat processed five expressions of interest from OBNEs that did not meet the eligibility criteria stipulated in the *Guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts as members of the Santiago network*. The Secretariat has taken a thorough and supportive approach before making any final determination. Secretariat staff conducted multiple rounds of in-depth reviews and follow-ups to request additional information relating to these expressions of interest, as well as carefully considered whether an exemption could be made under criterion 2, as stipulated in the *Guidelines*. In most cases, this also included at least one virtual meeting to guide the OBNE through the membership criteria and to clarify their expertise and experience, before a final assessment on their expression of interest was made and confirmed by the Director. The OBNEs were informed of the decision, including the possibility of requests for reconsideration in line with section 5.4 of the guidelines. In addition, the Secretariat offered to provide additional feedback upon request.
28. The Secretariat has introduced several new formats to enhance Member engagement. These include Member updates circulated via email to keep Members informed of ongoing activities, as well as a new resources page on the Santiago network portal featuring a calendar of events. The Secretariat also created dedicated engagement spaces, including the [first in-person Members' gathering](#) held on 5 June 2025 on the margins of the 8th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, Switzerland, and participation of Members in the stakeholder consultations on the Santiago network strategy held on 25 June 2025 during the Climate Meetings in Bonn.
29. The Secretariat will continue to build on this progress by refining engagement mechanisms, strengthening outreach, and ensuring Members are well-positioned to contribute to the provision of technical assistance.

B. Catalyzing technical assistance

30. At its fourth meeting, the Advisory Board requested the Secretariat to continue and increase its outreach to countries, including national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat and the UNFCCC National Focal Points to enhance access to technical assistance. The Board further noted the importance of providing information in a manner that considers accessibility, inclusiveness and simplicity.
31. Responding to the feedback received from the Advisory Board, the Secretariat prioritised its efforts to increase access to technical assistance, including by updating the information presented on the [Santiago network webpage](#) related to technical assistance, highlighting the role of national liaisons, offering tailored information sessions, leveraging opportunities for bilateral engagement with interested proponents of technical assistance, and learning from the experience with Vanuatu.
32. Since the last Advisory Board meeting the number of national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat increased from 25 to 34 countries. A [list of appointed liaisons](#) can be

found on the Santiago network website. To increase engagement of national liaisons and UNFCCC National Focal Points (where liaisons are not nominated), the Secretariat organised three information sessions in May and June 2025 (to cover different timezones) on accessing technical assistance from the Santiago network. The information sessions introduced participants to the work of the Santiago network and relevant guidelines and procedures, provided an overview of their roles and responsibilities, and clarified the process for requesting technical assistance.

33. Other outreach activities included a dedicated session for AILAC and Group SUR, an in-person briefing of national delegates attending the 8th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, introductions to the Santiago network for the group of LDCs and the group of Eastern European States on the margins of the Bonn Climate Meetings (June 2025), a virtual session for countries that are members of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, among others. In addition, the Secretariat had a number (15+) of bilateral meetings with interested proponents of technical assistance on the margins of relevant in-person meetings and conferences as well as virtually.
34. A set of surveys were shared with participants of the three virtual information sessions for national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat and UNFCCC National Focal Points, as well as participants of the briefing for national delegates held during the 8th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The surveys aimed to identify technical assistance needs, better understand barriers to accessing support and technical assistance, determine any areas where the Secretariat can provide targeted support, and ascertain the level of readiness of countries to submit technical assistance requests.
35. Respondents highlighted a number of challenges in accessing technical assistance, including limited national institutional, technical and coordination capacities. They also highlighted a number of areas of support that the Secretariat could provide, including capacity building, knowledge exchange to enable learning among countries and further guidance on how to complete the technical assistance request template. Eight country representatives responded that they are preparing a request, and an additional six indicated that they are considering a request. The Secretariat is following up with these countries to provide support, as required.
36. The [provision of technical assistance in Vanuatu](#) commenced in May 2025. A consortium composed of four Santiago network Members - Institute for Study and Development Worldwide, Pacific Advisory, Santo Sunset Environment Network and Sustineo - are working with the Government of Vanuatu to design a comprehensive national programme to address loss and damage.
37. The Secretariat is currently processing three additional requests for technical assistance, working with the respective proponents to refine their requests. A number of other developing countries shared their early thinking on what technical assistance they may wish to request and the Secretariat is actively engaging with these countries to guide and support them through the process.
38. Since the last Advisory Board meeting, the Secretariat received one request for technical assistance that did not meet the criteria for approval. The request, as presented, was not in line with the Santiago network technical assistance guidelines, and relevant decisions on the

Santiago network adopted by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

39. The Secretariat regularly reflects on experiences, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities in processing requests for technical assistance and engaging with developing countries to enhance access. These will continue to shape operational processes, engagement with countries and stakeholders, and outreach and communication efforts.

C. Outreach activities

40. *Santiago network workshop for LDCs and SIDS in Africa.* In keeping with the request from the Advisory Board, the Secretariat, in partnership with UNDRR, convened the second Santiago network workshop for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). It targeted LDCs and SIDS in Africa from 22 and 24 July 2025. The workshop was hosted by the government of Senegal in Saly, and brought together more than 60 representatives from 34 national governments.
41. This workshop featured the first-ever Santiago network writeshop, enabling participating countries to develop and share their draft requests for technical assistance to contribute towards priority actions on loss and damage. The workshop fostered peer-to-peer exchanges and knowledge building among participating countries.
42. The workshop benefited from the engagement of national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat, UNFCCC National Focal Points, and focal points for disaster risk reduction. To ensure full inclusion, interpretation was provided in French, Arabic, and Portuguese, reflecting the linguistic diversity of the participants.
43. The Secretariat is now focusing on follow-up actions, including active engagement with participants on the draft technical assistance requests they developed. A report of the workshop will be shared in the coming weeks, and the insights and lessons gathered from the workshop will help inform the design of the upcoming Santiago network workshop for LDCs and SIDS in the Caribbean, tentatively scheduled for early December 2025.
44. *Pacific Loss and Damage Dialogue and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.* At the invitation of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Secretariat participated in the Pacific Loss and Damage Dialogue and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, which took place 11–12 and 13–15 August 2025 respectively in Apia, Samoa. These events provided an important opportunity to engage with Pacific SIDS, civil society groups, and current and potential Members based in the region during joint sessions with the FRLD, and in dedicated country clinics and bilateral meetings.
45. *Bonn Climate Meetings.* The Secretariat attended the Bonn Climate Meetings from 23 to 26 June 2025, with a focus on [outreach activities](#) to help developing countries access technical assistance through the network and stakeholder consultation with key stakeholders on the development of the Santiago network strategy.
46. A special event hosted by the Santiago network, [Full Operationalization of the Santiago network: Advancing a critical pillar of the loss and damage architecture](#), highlighted the network's full operationalization as a key pillar of the loss and damage architecture. Speakers included the Advisory Board Co-Chairs and representatives from the FRLD and

- ExCom. Discussions in the form of a world cafe allowed participants to identify and discuss capacity gaps, challenges and good practices related to technical assistance.
47. Following the special event, the Secretariat hosted a stakeholder consultation to inform the Santiago network strategy, attended by 73 participants. The event brought together for the first time national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat, UNFCCC National Focal Points, Santiago network Members, UNFCCC-accredited NGO constituencies, and representatives of other key stakeholders in the loss and damage ecosystem.
48. *8th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*. The UNDRR and the Government of Switzerland co-chaired the 8th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva. It was convened from 2-6 June 2026 under the theme, “Every Day Counts, Act for Resilience Today.” With the support of and in collaboration with the Santiago network Secretariat, three types of outreach activities were facilitated:
- High-level event for wide stakeholder reach - A high-level special session titled, [“Comprehensive approaches to reduce loss and damage: Bridging climate action and disaster risk reduction”](#) was convened that facilitated, inter alia, awareness of progress made in operationalizing the Santiago network and sharing of opportunities for developing countries to access technical assistance.² The Director of the Santiago network Secretariat was a panelist, as well as Hon. Ralph Regevanu, Minister for Climate Change, Adaptation, Meteorology and Geo Hazards, Energy, Environment and Disaster Management, Vanuatu, who shared about the ongoing technical assistance support received from the Santiago network. Other high-level representatives included: Mr. Kamal Kishore, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR; Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, Executive Director, Fund for responding to Loss and Damage; Mr. Benoît Faraco, Ambassador for climate negotiations, for decarbonized energies and for the prevention of climate risks, France; and Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Ms. Fatou Jeng, Former Climate Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and Member of the Early Warnings for All Advisory Panel, was the moderator.
 - Briefing session for country delegates - A session for country delegates was convened in the margins of the Global Platform to share information on accessing technical assistance from the Santiago network.
 - Bilateral engagements - A number of bilateral engagements were facilitated between national delegates and the Santiago network Secretariat. Among other things, these were instrumental in clarifying diverse aspects of the Santiago network’s operational modalities, and giving feedback to assist with the development of requests for technical assistance.

² <https://globalplatform.undrr.org/quick/93198>

49. The outcome and [co-chair's summary](#) of the Global platform, titled "The Geneva Call for Disaster Risk Reduction,"³ recognized the role of the Santiago network in building capacity within countries, as well as in enabling alignment and complementarity between disaster risk reduction and climate action.

D. Monitoring and reporting

50. The Secretariat has supported compliance with reporting obligations under the governing body or bodies, contribution agreements, and financial statements, as follows:

- a. Report of the Santiago network to the governing body or bodies. In accordance with relevant decisions, the Secretariat has prepared the Annual Report of the Santiago network, under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, for submission to the governing body or bodies. This report is divided into two parts:
 - i. [Joint report of the WIMExCom and the Santiago network](#) - serving as the parent report, which contains the procedural and organizational information of the WIM ExCom and the Santiago network between September 2024 and June 2025. This report was shared with the Advisory Board on 25 July, 2025 for consideration and comments by 29 July, 2025, after which the report was shared with UNFCCC for final editing and publication.
 - ii. Addendum - containing substantive information on the progress made by the Santiago network and to be considered by the Advisory Board at SNAB5 (item 10 in the provisional agenda). This addendum on the Santiago network is to be published prior to COP 30, following approval by the Advisory Board.

The joint report will be considered by the Subsidiary Bodies with a view to recommending a draft decision or decisions for consideration and adoption by the governing body or bodies at the session(s) to be held in November 2025.

- b. [Santiago network Secretariat's annual report](#) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024. This document was prepared for and shared with the Santiago network contributors on June 30, 2025, in accordance with the reporting requirements outlined in the respective legal agreements with contributors. The report was shared with the Advisory Board on 2 July, 2025. The report compiles the progress and milestones of the network in 2024, in line with the information in the report of the Secretariat at SNAB 4 and Secretariat Updates, in a consolidated product to showcase the work of the Santiago network in 2024.
- c. 2024 Financial Statement of the Santiago network. The Secretariat prepared the 2024 Financial statement of the Santiago network, submitted to the Advisory Board with the approval of the Co-Chairs for intersessional consideration and approval, in accordance with paragraph 7 (h) of the Terms of Reference of the Santiago network which details

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<https://globalplatform.undrr.org/news/geneva-call-disaster-risk-reduction-co-chairs-summary-global-platform>

that the Advisory Board will 'Endorse the financial statement of the Santiago network'. The financial statement was endorsed by the Advisory Board through an inter-sessional decision deemed taken on 7 July.

III. Resourcing and positioning

51. During the reporting period, the Secretariat supported the increased profiling and engagement of the Santiago network with key actors and developments in the loss and damage and climate action landscape. This included participation in the first High-Level Dialogue on Strengthening Response(s) to Loss and Damage through Complementarity, Coherence, and Coordination; the 22nd meeting of the WIM Executive Committee; the sixth meeting of the FRLD; and other key events in the multilateral climate agenda.
52. *First High-Level Dialogue.* In line with decisions by the Santiago network Advisory Board, the Santiago network was represented by Idy Niang, Advisory Board member, and Carolina Fuentes Castellanos, Director of the Secretariat. Following the fourth meeting of the Santiago network Advisory Board, [key messages](#) were developed by the Secretariat, approved by the Co-Chairs and shared with the Advisory Board on Wednesday, 23 April 2025.
53. During the first roundtable, the Santiago network's statement was delivered, centring on the proposed three-pronged approach for collaboration:
 - a. Country ownership: Emphasizing a demand-driven, country-owned process to articulate technical assistance needs and develop funding requests.
 - b. Shared resources: Offering multilingual operational guidelines, a technical assistance portal, regional presence and a growing network of Members.
 - c. Joint learning: Supporting FRLD's learning function by generating evidence and contributing feedback to strengthen operational modalities.
54. Positive recognition of the Santiago network's role in the loss and damage ecosystem were reflected in multiple partner statements, including from representatives of Germany, UNDRR, WIM ExCom, IFRC, UNEP, C40, World Bank and others. This broad acknowledgment helped reinforce the central role of the Santiago network in the loss and damage landscape.
55. An [Update on the Santiago network participation in the High-Level Dialogue](#) was shared with the Advisory Board on 30 April, 2025.
56. *Collaboration with the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage.* Regarding collaboration with the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, the Director of the Santiago network and the Executive Director of the FRLD convened several bilateral meetings since the fourth meeting of the Advisory Board, including on the margins of major events, such as the inaugural High-Level Dialogue on Loss and Damage in Washington, D.C., and the Sixth Meeting of the FRLD Board in Cebu, Philippines.
57. These engagements have underscored a shared recognition that the near-simultaneous operationalization of the respective bodies presents a unique opportunity for collaboration.

Both Secretariats have expressed a willingness to explore concrete avenues for collaboration within their respective mandates, including through identifying actions to implement the Letter of Intent signed on 7 February 2025 to collaborate on key areas, including:

- a. Supporting countries in accessing the FRLD through technical assistance provided via the Santiago network;
 - b. Coordinating and collaborating with relevant stakeholders;
 - c. Enhancing knowledge management and information sharing.
58. The Director of the Secretariat participated in the sixth meeting of the Board of the FRLD in Cebu, Philippines, and engaged in bilateral meetings with participants.
59. *Collaboration with the WIM Executive Committee.* The Secretariat coordinated with the UNFCCC secretariat to facilitate the participation of Santiago network Co-Chairs, Advisory Board members and representatives under Agenda Item 13: Collaboration with the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network, during the 22nd meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, held in Bonn, Germany, from 13–15 May 2025. Secretariat representatives, including the Santiago Network Director, also attended. The outcomes of discussions under Agenda Item 13 are reflected in the [Summary of Decision Points from ExCom 22](#) (advanced unedited version).
60. *Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4).* The Santiago network was represented by its Director at the FfD4 in Seville, Spain, on 1 and 2 July, 2025. On 1 July 2025, the Director joined a side event hosted by UN DESA, UNEP and UNOPS on bridging the infrastructure gap through lifecycle financing and asset management tools, underscoring that the network's role goes beyond addressing immediate loss and damage to helping countries build durable systems capable of withstanding future climate shocks. She also spoke at a panel on scaling climate finance for impact, also joined by Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Under-Secretary General and UNOPS Executive Director, on 2 July 2025, stressing the need for demand-driven, community-led solutions tailored to national contexts. Drawing on the example of Vanuatu, where technical assistance is being delivered with local actors and Indigenous organizations, she emphasized that centering on local leadership ensures solutions are inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

A. Status of contributions to the Santiago network

61. The Santiago network is currently at a funding level of USD 40.6 million. Seven contribution agreements, respectively with Austria (BMK), the European Union (CLIMA), Ireland (DFA), Ireland (DECC), Germany (BMZ), Luxembourg and Switzerland (SDC), have now been signed, in addition to the initial funding provided, through UNFCCC, from Spain and the United States.
62. Negotiations on specific terms and draft agreements with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs have advanced significantly and are expected to be finalized during Q3 of 2025.
63. Discussions with the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) are ongoing.

B. Communications

64. The Secretariat expanded communications efforts to enhance visibility and engagement with key stakeholders. A major highlight was the media and digital coverage of the network's first technical assistance match in Vanuatu, coordinated with the government of Vanuatu and the Nabanga Loss and Damage Consortium. The Secretariat worked closely with the government to coordinate media outreach, secure significant national and international coverage, and produce a [video statement from the Prime Minister](#), ensuring the story reached national, regional and global audiences.
65. Member engagement also featured prominently in coverage. The Secretariat's first Members' meeting, participation at key climate events and bilateral engagements were widely shared by Members and partners, drawing attention from influential voices and high-level leaders.
66. Other notable communications included [local media coverage](#) of the [LDCs and SIDS workshop in Senegal](#), held in partnership with the government of Senegal, as well as visibility for Santiago network-hosted events, participation in major climate meetings and events, and ongoing collaborations with partners to spotlight the network's role in delivering context-specific, country-led climate action.
67. The Santiago network website was updated regularly with relevant information and communications content. The membership page was revised and updated to make the information clear and accessible, incorporating feedback received from national liaisons and relevant stakeholders. During the reporting period, the website averaged more than **7,000** monthly views — marking a **32%** increase in monthly website views since the previous Secretariat report.
68. The Santiago network LinkedIn channel has more than **3,000** followers. The channel has been actively covering network milestones, event engagements, and Advisory Board and Secretariat activities. The channel has served as an important platform for outreach, including targeted membership outreach to potential members working with and for women, Indigenous Peoples, and youth and children. During the reporting period, communications content published on the channel reached more than **60,000** LinkedIn users. The channel content received more than **115,000** impressions, marking an increase of **283%** since the previous report.

IV. Reflections on the way forward

69. Progress during the reporting period advances the delivery of the 2024–2025 work plan toward its successful completion by year's end and lays a solid foundation for accelerating operations in 2026–2027. With technical assistance and membership processes now fully operational, and Secretariat recruitment expected to be in place by the end of 2025, the Santiago network is poised to enter a new chapter in the delivery of its mission.
70. This new chapter will be anchored in the Santiago network strategy, currently under Advisory Board consideration, intended to set the directions, strategic priorities, and approaches to guide the network's next phase of growth. It will be supported by a lean

Secretariat structure with a strong central core and regional operations that brings us closer to end beneficiaries, enabling the provision of tailored, demand-driven support.

71. The emerging strategic framework, together with the relationships forged and lessons learned during 2024–2025, positions the network to unlock the full potential of its unique mission, adding value for developing countries as a catalyst for action and a driver of broader engagement within the loss and damage ecosystem.
72. Key lessons from the reporting period stem from engagement with developing countries, through sessions with national liaisons and UNFCCC National Focal Points, bilateral follow-up on indications of interest, and the Santiago network workshop for LDCs and SIDS in Africa featuring the Santiago network's first-ever writeshop. Feedback from these interactions is helping to refine the Secretariat's operational work and tailor processes to country needs. The writeshop format proved especially valuable as a platform for two-way communication and learning, fostering an enabling environment for country- and demand-driven technical assistance.
73. Another area of shared learning has been the Secretariat's deepened engagement with key actors in the loss and damage ecosystem, including the WIM Executive Committee and the FRLD. These interactions have underscored a shared recognition of the need to clearly communicate the Santiago network's distinct yet complementary mandates to developing countries, and to identify ways to simplify access to action and support. Addressing this gap jointly is critical for greater operational complementarity.
74. Relationships with key stakeholders, including national liaisons to the Santiago network Secretariat/UNFCCC National Focal Points and Members, have been established and will be further strengthened through the outreach and engagement strategy currently under consideration by the Advisory Board. An immediate operational priority is to further define and activate the Santiago network's mandate at local, national, and regional levels, including through engagement at the community level.
75. On the institutional front, a key priority is to continue and finalize recruitment for Secretariat head office and regional positions, ensuring a smooth transition from interim to permanent arrangements and seamless coordination between central and regional positions. This will require an enhanced focus on team-building activities and the advancement of the Santiago network's culture and values.
76. Moving forward, the communication strategy, under Advisory Board consideration, will further enhance the visibility of the Santiago network, helping ensure consistent messaging and a unified network voice. In terms of day-to-day work, the 2026–2027 work programme, once adopted by the Advisory Board, will serve as a key instrument to implement strategic priorities and approaches, building on the progress made during the reporting period.
77. The Secretariat stands ready to continue supporting the Advisory Board decision-making process, breaking new ground to deliver on the network's catalytic mandate and empower people in developing countries to shape and implement action on loss and damage.