

Regional Platforms 2024

Santiago network session concept

Background

Loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change continue to intensify, challenging the capacity of countries and communities to cope and address them. The Santiago network was established under the Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage (WIM) in 2019 (COP 25/CMA 2) to enhance the capacities of developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, through technical assistance, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage.

The uniqueness of the Santiago network lies in its operational model - to catalyze the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks, and experts (OBNEs) to assist countries and communities on loss and damage action. This will be done by connecting those seeking technical assistance with the providers of technical assistance based on country- and demand-driven needs.

Another key value addition of the Santiago network is the opportunity to harness the collective expertise and experience of different domains, including measures to avert, minimize and address loss and damage and disaster risk reduction. A coherent approach to capacity development will help in breaking silos and ensuring synergies in the support provided to developing countries. This includes offering a platform, through the Santiago network, to different actors and stakeholders (OBNEs) working on building resilience through diverse communities of practice, at different levels, to contribute to loss and damage knowledge and expertise and deliver technical assistance. This will also help fill critical knowledge gaps (e.g. slow onset events and non-economic losses), while further strengthening relevant actions identified in the Paris Agreement (e.g. early warning systems, comprehensive risk management, etc.).

As the Santiago network is being operationalized, building its network of members and putting in place the modalities for receiving and responding to requests for technical assistance, it will be critical to understand the capacity gaps, needs and opportunities related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage faced by developing countries, including the needs of vulnerable people, indigenous peoples and local communities. In the absence of regional climate weeks in 2024, Regional Platforms for disaster risk reduction provide an opportunity to deep-dive into regional perspectives, particularly to identify challenges and gaps, and share experiences. They are also opportunities to introduce the Santiago network to a wide audience, thereby potentially increasing the network of members that can provide much needed technical assistance.

Objectives

The sessions proposed during the Regional Platforms in 2024 aim to introduce the Santiago network and spotlight aspects related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage through technical assistance supported by a network of OBNEs. Depending on the scope, focus and priorities agreed for the particular Regional Platform, the sessions may be tailored accordingly. This concept note outlines the high-level elements that may be featured in a session on the Santiago network.

The following high-level objectives are proposed for the sessions:

1. Introduce the Santiago network, its importance and relevance, including the added value in light of the evolving expert and funding landscape related to loss and damage.
2. Provide an update on progress of operationalising the Santiago network, including OBNE membership and building the network.

3. Socialise relevant operative guidelines, including the guideline on the designation of OBNEs as members of the Santiago network and the guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance.
4. Identify and increase understanding of capacity gaps and needs for technical assistance on averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
5. *Based on the specific theme for the Regional Platform*: share experiences and opportunities for joint action and support for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage and the contribution that the Santiago network can make in this regard.

Format of the session

Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours

Audience: country representatives, decision makers, potential OBNEs

Lead organiser: Santiago network Advisory Board members with support from the Santiago network interim secretariat,

Partners: UNFCCC

Design of the session:

Setting the scene – Roundtable (45 min): information sharing on the relevant aspects of progress to operationalize the Santiago network; sharing perspectives from various stakeholders involved in the Santiago network, including the host country, Advisor Board members from the region, and experts from organisations, CSOs, vulnerable / indigenous / local communities, etc.

Gaps, needs and opportunities – interactive discussion or world café (45 min): reflecting on the perspectives shared in the first part of the session, discussion on gaps, needs and opportunities on joint action and support for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage that can be supported by the Santiago network. This part of the session may include 5-minute impulse presentations from developing countries (e.g. Vanuatu, local community rep, etc.).