



**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
Technological Advice**

Sixty-first session

Baku, 11–16 November 2024

Item 6(a) of the provisional agenda

**Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage
associated with Climate Change Impacts**

**Joint annual 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**

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Addendum

Summary

This report covers activities under the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in the reporting period from 7 March to 6 September 2024, including information on the approval of operational guidelines, financial management, and in-kind and other support provided by the host of the Santiago network secretariat. In addition, it contains recommendations from the Advisory Board of the Santiago network for consideration by the governing body or bodies of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.



I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. In the terms of reference of the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change,¹ its secretariat is mandated to prepare an annual report, for consideration and approval by the Advisory Board of the Santiago network, on the activities of the Santiago network and its secretariat, including on:

- (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

2. This addendum to the joint annual report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and the Santiago network for 2024,² submitted to the governing body or bodies through their subsidiary bodies, has been prepared in response to the mandate referred to in paragraph 1 above and covers the reporting period of 7 March to 6 September 2024.

3. It contains recommendations from the Advisory Board of the Santiago network for consideration by the governing body or bodies at the session(s) to be held in November 2024, which take into account lessons learned and challenges encountered in the operation of the Santiago network over the reporting period. In addition, it refers to the draft rules of procedure of the Advisory Board, approved at its 3rd meeting, which are to be recommended through the subsidiary bodies for consideration and adoption by the governing body or bodies at the November 2024 session(s).³

II. Advisory Board of the Santiago network

4. The Advisory Board, supported by an interim secretariat (see para. 6 below), held three meetings. The 1st and 2nd meetings were held from 18 to 20 March 2024 and from 2 to 4 July 2024 respectively. The 3rd meeting was convened from 4 to 6 September 2024 in Bonn in conjunction with the 21st meeting of the Executive Committee, held from 11 to 13 September 2024. All meetings were held in hybrid format, allowing for virtual participation of members, representatives and observers who were unable to participate in person.

¹ Contained in annex I to decision [12/CMA.4](#), endorsed in decision [11/CP.27](#).

² [FCCC/SB/2024/2](#).

³ As per para. 25 of decision [6/CMA.5](#), endorsed in decision [2/CP.28](#).

5. At its 3rd meeting, the Advisory Board approved the revised annual budget of the Santiago network for 2024.⁴ The interim secretariat presented two scenarios for the annual budget for 2025: an indicative budget of USD 9,229,244 that is based on the assumption that pledged contributions will be received,⁵ and a budget of USD 4,966,867 that is based on actual contributions received as at 6 September 2024.⁶ The Advisory Board approved the two versions of the annual budget for 2025; the budget based on the first scenario will apply once the required contributions have been received.

III. Progress in establishing the Santiago network secretariat

6. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), as the host of the Santiago network secretariat, established an interim secretariat while advancing the recruitment of the director of the Santiago network secretariat through a merit-based, open and transparent process.

7. At its 1st meeting, the Advisory Board selected Geneva as the location for the head office of the Santiago network secretariat.

8. In August 2024, the Advisory Board endorsed the selection of the director, who is anticipated to commence their term of office in November 2024.

9. The director will facilitate the timely recruitment of the staff of the secretariat of the Santiago network in line with its terms of reference.⁷

IV. Implementation

A. Development of guidelines

10. The Advisory Board approved:

(a) Guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts as members of the Santiago network;⁸

(b) Guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance;⁹

(c) Guidelines for managing funding;¹⁰

(d) Guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago network.¹¹

B. Membership of the Santiago network

11. Outreach activities commenced in August 2024 for building the network of members of the Santiago network, in keeping with the guidelines referred to in paragraph 10(a) above, including the creation of a dedicated membership web page¹² that provides information on the process for becoming a member, membership forms and details of the phased roll-out of the outreach strategy. As at 6 September 2024, 9 organizations, bodies, networks and experts had submitted expressions of interest in and 10 had made queries about becoming a member of the Santiago network. Further outreach activities will be undertaken to share information with a broad range of organizations, bodies, networks and experts across different regions, including a series of webinars and information sessions. The Advisory Board acknowledged

⁴ See Advisory Board document [SNAB/2024/03/13.Rev.1](#).

⁵ See Advisory Board document [SNAB/2024/03/14.Rev.1](#).

⁶ See Advisory Board document [SNAB/2024/03/16](#).

⁷ As per para. 16 of decision [6/CMA.5](#), endorsed in decision [2/CP.28](#).

⁸ See Advisory Board document [SNAB/2024/2/06.Rev.2](#).

⁹ See Advisory Board document [SNAB/2024/3/06.Rev.2](#).

¹⁰ See Advisory Board document [SNAB/2024/3/08.Rev.3](#).

¹¹ See Advisory Board document [SNAB/2024/3/04.Rev.1](#).

¹² <https://santiago-network.org/membership>.

the broad range of organizations, bodies, networks and experts that had expressed interest in joining the Santiago network while the UNFCCC secretariat was acting as its interim secretariat. The guidelines referred to in paragraph 10(a) above will be translated into other United Nations languages to facilitate diverse membership and be incorporated into outreach activities accordingly.

C. Technical assistance provided to countries

12. As requested by the Advisory Board, the interim secretariat engaged with Vanuatu to update and refine, in line with the template for request for technical assistance contained in annex 2 to the guidelines referred to in paragraph 10(b) above, the technical assistance request that it had submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in 2023.

D. Country outreach

13. The Advisory Board approved, as part of the work programme of the Santiago network,¹³ the convening of region-specific workshops on the network for the least developed countries and small island developing States as a continuation of similar scoping workshops convened in 2023 in the Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia-Pacific regions by the UNFCCC secretariat as the former interim Santiago network secretariat. The first workshop, for the Pacific, took place from 26 to 27 September 2024 in conjunction with Pacific Resilience Week, which was on the topic “Managing Climate and Disaster Risk for a Resilient Pacific”. Other workshops are planned for 2025.

E. Collaboration with relevant bodies

14. The Advisory Board formally notified the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage of the progress of operationalization of the Santiago network via a letter sent by the Co-Chairs of the Santiago network to the Co-Chairs of the Board of the Fund on 16 August 2024.

15. The Advisory Board decided to send a letter to the Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee to provide information, in particular for its expert groups and task force, on the expression of interest in becoming a member of the Santiago network. This is 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.¹⁴

16. The Advisory Board committed to strengthening collaboration with the Executive Committee, which involves holding meetings of the Advisory Board, where possible, in conjunction with meetings of the Executive Committee and exchanging information through the members of the Executive Committee that are represented on the Advisory Board.

17. 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 on coordination and complementarity¹⁵ during the high-level segment of the November 2024 sessions of the governing body or bodies. The Advisory Board decided to formally communicate with the Board of the Fund in order to enhance collaboration, provide updates on the guidelines approved for operationalizing the Santiago network and enquire about and express interest in participating in the launch of the high-level dialogue and in the first of the high-level dialogues in 2025.

¹³ Available at <https://santiago-network.org/first-advisory-board-meeting>.

¹⁴ Para. 7 of decision [19/CMA.3](#), endorsed in decision [17/CP.26](#).

¹⁵ See chap. II.B of annex II to decisions [1/CP.28](#) and [5/CMA.5](#).

F. Public awareness and advocacy

18. The website of the Santiago network¹⁶ was established to disseminate information on the network. It currently features, inter alia, the outcomes and documents from Advisory Board meetings and a membership page to, inter alia, facilitate the submission of expressions of interest in becoming a member of the Santiago network.

19. A webinar targeting a broad range of organizations, bodies, networks and experts was scheduled for October 2024 for sharing information on expressing interest in becoming a member of the Santiago network.

20. The Advisory Board encouraged the interim secretariat to identify and engage in diverse opportunities to share information about the Santiago network, including at the UNDRR Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction being held in 2024, and side events at the November 2024 sessions of the governing body or bodies.

V. Financial management system

21. 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

22. Pledges made to the Santiago network and cash receipts are presented in tables 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1

Pledges made to the Santiago network

<i>Donor(s)</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
European Union and member States (Denmark, Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg; and Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	40 700 000.00
Switzerland (additional contribution)	1 180 638.00
Spain	5 302 227.94
United States of America	1 900 000.00
Total	49 082 865.94

Table 2

Cash receipts for the Santiago network in 2024

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Spain	5 302 226.94
United States of America	1 900 000.00
Total	7 202 226.94

23. As at 2 September 2024, USD 728,801 had been spent in implementing the work programme of the Santiago network.

B. In-kind and other support

24. UNDRR and UNOPS were requested 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

¹⁶ <https://santiago-network.org>.

the Santiago network secretariat for the information to be included in the annual report referred to in paragraph 1 above.¹⁷

25. The in-kind and other support provided by UNDRR includes:

(a) Supporting the development of the guidelines referred to in paragraph 10(a–b) above and the review of other guidelines and documents;

(b) Supporting the organization of Advisory Board meetings and preparing background documents and meeting reports;

(c) Contributing to the communication strategy and outputs of the Santiago network, including through online articles and the design and development of its website;

(d) Providing technical support for and reviewing the indicative results framework of the Santiago network;

(e) Supporting, including with funding, country outreach activities, including the workshop for the least developed countries and small island developing States convened in September 2024 and events at its Regional Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2024.

26. The total value of UNDRR technical support and backstopping is estimated at approximately USD 200,000, and the value of its co-financing of outreach events and workshops is estimated at approximately USD 90,000.

27. As a self-financing organization with an operating model based on full cost recovery, UNOPS is not able to provide in-kind support.

VI. Recommendations for consideration by the governing body or bodies

28. At the November 2024 session(s) the governing body or bodies may wish to consider the following recommendations, which take into account lessons learned and challenges encountered in the operation of the Santiago network during the reporting period:

(a) *Welcomes* the progress of operationalization of the Santiago network, including implementation of its first work programme and approval of the guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts as members of the network, guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance, guidelines for managing funding, and guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago network;

(b) *Also welcomes* the ongoing operationalization of the Santiago network secretariat;

(c) *Further welcomes* the considerable intersessional work undertaken by the Advisory Board and the interim secretariat of the Santiago network to ensure continued progress in the first year of the Santiago network's operations, and the adoption of good practices such as providing regular updates on those operations;

(d) *Acknowledges* the support provided by the UNFCCC secretariat, including for the development of the guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago network;

(e) *Expresses appreciation* to all organizations, bodies, networks and experts that have participated as observers in meetings of the Advisory Board;

(f) *Also expresses appreciation* to the organizations, bodies, networks and experts that have expressed interest in the work of the Santiago network and those that have submitted expressions of interest in becoming members of the network, and to the interim secretariat for its efforts to build the network of members;

¹⁷ Paras. 13–14 of the annex to decision [6/CMA.5](#), endorsed in decision [2/CP.28](#).

(g) *Further expresses appreciation* to the Government of Switzerland for its provision of financial support for the hosting of the Santiago network secretariat;

(h) *Expresses appreciation* to UNDRR and UNOPS for supporting the Santiago network during its initial phase, including by establishing an interim secretariat and for the in-kind and other support provided to the Santiago network;

(i) *Invites Parties* to inform the Santiago network secretariat of their liaison to the Santiago network, as appropriate to their national circumstances, in order to support the 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 coherence and complementarity relating to the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, including through participation in the annual high-level dialogue on coordination and complementarity;

(k) *Also encourages* the Advisory Board to collaborate on funding arrangements and with the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage, as appropriate, by aligning the technical assistance catalysed under the Santiago network with efforts to build capacity and support the 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 totalling USD 49.1 million and the USD 7.2 million in contributions that had already been received as at the date of publication of this report and *looks forward* to all pledges being received as contributions to enable the Santiago network to fulfil its mandate effectively;

(m) *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate the relevant processes to ensure that 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) *Further requests* the Santiago network secretariat to continue to develop an outreach plan and to promote the network with a view to engaging a broad range of members, in particular at the local level;

(p) *Welcomes* the progress of implementation of the guidelines for the designation of organizations, bodies, networks and experts as members of the Santiago network, and *encourages* the Santiago network secretariat to translate these and other guidelines into other United Nations languages in a timely manner;

(q) *Invites* the governing body or bodies to consider and adopt the draft rules of procedure of the Advisory Board of the Santiago network.
