KEY MESSAGES FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SANTIAGO NETWORK FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE

2nd to the 4th of July 2024
08:00h - 17:00h GMT+1 / UTC +1
Geneva, Switzerland

lossanddamagecollaboration.org

L&DC
THE LOSS AND DAMAGE COLLABORATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This living document has been prepared by the Loss and Damage Collaboration (L&DC), led by Heidi White and Teo Ormond-Skeaping.

We wish to thank the following for their valuable contributions:

INTRODUCTION

The [Second meeting of the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network](#) for Loss and Damage will take place from the 02nd to the 04th of July in Geneva, Switzerland. The [provisional agenda](#) includes key items such as:

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

    b.   Rules of procedure of the Advisory Board

    c.   Santiago network strategy & results framework

    d.   Santiago network indicative 5-year budget

    e.   Guidelines on designation of OBNEs

    f.   Procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance, including for urgent response

    g.   Guidelines on managing funding

    h.   High-level dialogue and input of the SNLD

The following key messages which will continue to be updated, respond to each of the agenda items for the second meeting of the Santiago Network Advisory Board, build upon and/or situate the recommendations detailed in the L&DC's [Santiago Network Project](#) publication "[Examining the Path to Meaningful Progress for the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage in 2024](#)".

KEY MESSAGES

For each of the 15 agenda items for the Second Meeting of the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network we have the following key messages:

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Co-Chairs of the Advisory Board will open the meeting. We expect progress but expect members and representatives to also take time to get it right.

- The timeline is important—we do not yet have a Director or independent staff for the permanent secretariat. The mandate of the UNFCCC secretariat is to be interim secretariat, however, this role appears to have been taken up by the Consortium of UNOPS and UNDRR which were selected to host the SNLD secretariat. A discussion needs to happen on the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the COP, CMA and UNOPS, UNDRR. We also need to see the agreement reached between UNOPS and UNDRR on the host arrangement as well. Transparency and accountability, as well as sticking to mandates is important in this early stage of the full operationalisation of the SNLD.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

KEY MESSAGES:

- Text [General messages here]

3. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

KEY MESSAGES:

- For meeting proceedings, there is informal consultation and an open meeting. It is understood both formats are open to observers. All sessions should be webcast. Meeting documents should be made available promptly on the webpage. The working language of the meeting is in English with no translation available. This practice of conducting meetings needs to be addressed for inclusivity. There should be modalities for translation in all six UN languages, to enable engagement by as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.

- Observer participation has been outlined as welcome to attend unless otherwise decided by the Advisory Board. This includes interventions under substantive agenda items and participation in parallel working group discussions. There is no information regarding virtual/hybrid participation or webcast which are expected by observers. The note says only that recordings will be available after the meeting via the webpage.

4. SECRETARIAT RECRUITMENT

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Director of the secretariat must be appointed urgently through a merit-based, open and transparent recruitment process, and immediately upon their endorsement by the Advisory Board, facilitate staff recruitment for the head office and regional and sub-regional offices.

- Arrangements must be made to establish the head office in Geneva, and to make use of regional and subregional UN offices in all UN geographical regions, with no region left behind.

- The Advisory Board needs to oversee the recruitment of the Director with care. They should have some input on the interview panel and questions to facilitate a merit-based, open and transparent process. A robust discussion must occur including how the endorsement will happen, and ensuring the integrity of the process.

5. GUIDELINES ON PREVENTING POTENTIAL AND ADDRESSING ACTUAL AND PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

KEY MESSAGES:

- The draft guidelines presented to the Advisory Board on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago network are a critical issue for the SNLD and must be developed based on best international practice and relevant lessons learned.

- A revised draft guidelines needs to be provided by the UNFCCC secretariat on the webpage for the meeting, to enable review and comments for a robust policy.

6. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

KEY MESSAGES:

- Provisions for active observer participation at Advisory Board meetings and in intersessional work as well as measures for transparency, accountability and engagement more broadly, must be enhanced, including through the Rules of Procedure currently being developed.

- The Rules of Procedure are not being adopted until COP 29 in Baku. However, the Advisory Board needs to advance this work and operate within its framework to ensure smooth and successful Advisory Board proceedings. A revised draft needs to be provided by the UNFCCC secretariat on the webpage for the meeting, to enable review and comments for a robust policy.

7. SANTIAGO NETWORK STRATEGY & RESULTS FRAMEWORK

KEY MESSAGES:

- [Messages to come in response to progress made during the meeting]

8. SANTIAGO NETWORK INDICATIVE 5-YEAR BUDGET

KEY MESSAGES:

- Pledges made amounting to approximately USD 48.5 million must be contributed and complemented by further pledges that are also swiftly transformed into contributions. There must also be transparency regarding in-kind and other support provided by the host of the secretariat and host country of the head office.

- It is implied that donors from the EU and SDC (Switzerland) need to see an indicative 5-year budget to progress contribution agreements. However, the COP and CMA mandate is for an annual budget. Only an estimated 2024 budget has been agreed so far and it speculates only USD 1 million in finance available for technical assistance requests despite the scale of pledges. This agenda item needs to be addressed transparently.

9. GUIDELINES ON DESIGNATION OF OBNEs

KEY MESSAGES:

- The modalities for the process to access technical assistance and designation of OBNEs as members, as well as guidelines for managing funding provided for technical assistance, must also be finalised to begin building the network, including in particular to engage OBNEs of all sizes, and to ensure requests can be complemented by financial support.

- Guidance needs to be provided by the Advisory Board, however, it is important to ensure this is developed by the permanent secretariat so it should not be finalised until this is operational.

10. PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING FOR URGENT RESPONSE

KEY MESSAGES:

- The interim secretariat must fulfil the mandate given by Parties to continue providing support for developing countries to access technical assistance. As a starting point this includes response to the unactioned request by the Republic of Vanuatu, followed by response to further requests over the course of 2024.

- As above, guidance needs to be provided by the Advisory Board, however, it is important to ensure this is developed by the permanent secretariat so it should not be finalised until this is operational.

11. GUIDELINES ON MANAGING FUNDING

KEY MESSAGES:

- As above, guidance needs to be provided by the Advisory Board, however, it is important to ensure this is developed by the permanent secretariat so it should not be finalised until this is operational.

12. HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE AND INPUT OF THE SNLD

KEY MESSAGES:

- Pending the discussion by the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund on the high-level dialogue on coordination and complementarity, the Advisory Board needs to nominate its representative(s) for the dialogue and consider its role and input.

- At SNLD AB2 the Advisory Board will be invited to name member(s) for the high-level dialogue and consider input of the SNLD. In its first meeting (18-20 March 2024) the Advisory Board' decided to 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.

13. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

KEY MESSAGES:

- This needs to be agreed sooner than one meeting in advance. It was already agreed this would be in connection with the upcoming meeting of the WIM Executive Committee. How is that and the Loss and Damage Fund, as well as other relevant meeting dates being taken into consideration in setting dates?

14. ANY OTHER MATTERS

KEY MESSAGES:

- [Messages to come in response to progress made during the meeting]

15. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

KEY MESSAGES:

- [Messages to come in response to progress made during the meeting].

IMAGE CREDIT

January 17, 2021, a river embankment is being repaired to protect a village near Khulna in Bangladesh where cyclones regularly cause devastating storm surges. The technical assistance provided by the Santiago Network could include support to access economic and non-economic loss and damage after extreme events such as cyclones as well as assistance to identify ways to further minimise loss and damage. Image credit: Saikat Bhadra.