



## Concept Note

### Plenary 3: Reducing Loss and Damage: Saving Lives and Protecting Investments

<b>Type of Event</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plenary <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic Session <input type="checkbox"/> Working Session <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Lab <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Title of the Event</b>	Reducing Loss and Damage: Saving Lives and Protecting Investments
<b>Relevant Conference Plenary</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Plenary 1: <input type="checkbox"/> Plenary 2: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Plenary 3: Reducing Loss and Damage: Saving Lives and Protecting Investments</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Cutting Issue
<b>Background and Rationale</b>	<p>Climate hazards are increasing in intensity and frequency, leading to a rise in the number and scale of disasters. From 2000 to 2019, the world recorded 7,348 major disasters causing 1.23 million deaths, affecting 4.2 billion people and generating around \$2.97 trillion in global economic losses. Africa is on the front lines of this global crisis. Between 2000 and 2023, 1,436 disasters were recorded, with the majority (66%) linked to floods followed by storms (15.4%) and droughts (11.7%)<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>On top of substantial loss of lives, the devastating effects of disasters destroy hard-won development gains, including investments in key social services and economic sectors key to the achievement of the Sustainable Development <u>Goals</u>, as well as to the realization of Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want," and the efficient implementation of the development visions and strategies of regional economic communities and states. Disasters generate food insecurity, even famine, erode biodiversity, and increase displacement, among other negative economic, social and environmental impacts. These impacts are most severe for the world's most vulnerable people and undermine progress towards sustainable development. Least developed countries, small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries, are most affected by disaster impacts while facing specific economic challenges.</p> <p><a href="#">The risk profiles of African countries</a> estimate that rapidly varying social and economic landscapes of African societies in connection with climate change will increase the impacts of natural hazards in the becoming decades, revealing the complex, interlinked and systemic nature of risks. Urgent action is needed to build the capacity of African countries to reduce expected loss and damage due to disasters if countries are to achieve their development priorities and economic potential.</p> <p>Addressing loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change has become a central issue in global climate agenda. The Santiago network was established under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) in 2019 to enhance the capacities of developing countries to avert, minimize and address loss and damage. It aims to catalyse the technical assistance of relevant</p>

<sup>1</sup> ARC: [The State of Natural Disasters in Africa](#), White Paper, May 2024



	<p>organizations, bodies, networks, and experts 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. In 2021, COP 27 successfully established funding arrangements and a dedicated fund to address the issue of loss and damage which is now being operationalized.</p> <p>Policies, plans and investments for reducing future loss and damage require a solid evidence base, drawing on historical data from previous events combined with information from risk assessments and climate forecasts, as well as the consideration of indigenous and traditional knowledge. However, the findings of the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework emphasize the need to strengthen countries’ capacities to collect, analyse and use data on disaster losses and damages. Technical assistance from the Santiago Network can support countries in addressing capacity gaps and challenges related to disaster loss data, which is also critical in accessing the associated Loss and Damage Fund. Building capacity to enhance the use of the DesInventar disaster information management system, as well as the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment tool, are also key to addressing this gap in Africa.</p> <p>This session provides an opportunity to review the current climate loss and damage landscape in Africa, understand the technical and capacity gaps and needs in Africa to avert, minimise and address loss and damage based on country experiences, and discuss how African countries can access the technical assistance to be provided by the Santiago Network. Additionally, it will be an opportunity to highlight how African organisations, bodies, networks and experts can become members of the Santiago network, and providers of technical support.</p>
<p><b>Session Objectives</b></p>	<p>The session aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight the current climate risk landscape in Africa and the specter of increased losses and damages in the face of a warming continent;</li> <li>• Facilitate exchanges on countries’ experiences to date on identifying, and addressing climate induced losses and damages, and highlight Member States’ capacity gaps and needs that can be addressed through the Santiago network, and the Fund, including through socialization of the relevant guidance (Technical Assistance and OBNE networks);</li> <li>• Raise stakeholders’ awareness on the multiple applications of disaster losses and damages data and rationale for investing on comprehensive national losses and damages tracking systems and official disaster-related statistics to improve disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation and loss and damage actions at national and local levels; and</li> <li>• Facilitate exchange between stakeholders on good practices in disaster and climate-induced losses and damages management at regional and national levels to inform policies and actions to prevent and reduce disaster and climate-related risks.</li> </ul>





<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<p>Participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better understand the losses and damages landscape in Africa, capacity gaps and needs, and how to engage with the Santiago Network, as a provider and receiver of technical assistance. and the importance of disaster losses and damages data in informing climate and disaster risk reduction actions at strategic and operational levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Structure</b>	<p>The session will be organized as a panel featuring experts from different backgrounds working on the subject. The moderator will ask specific questions to guide the discussion before interaction with the audience.</p>
<b>Moderator of the Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Rita Missal, Recovery Advisor, UNDP</li> </ul>
<b>List of Panellists</b>	<p><b>Setting the Scene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet, Chief of Branch, Risk Knowledge, Monitoring and Capacity-Development, UNDRR</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H.E. Erol Fonseka, Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Seychelles</li> <li>Ms. Sintiki Ugbe, Director for Humanitarian and Social Affairs, ECOWAS</li> <li>Ms. Cecilia Aipira, Chief of Disasters and Conflict Branch, Ecosystems Division, UNEP</li> <li>Ms. Luisa Celma Meque, President of INGD</li> </ul>
<b>Reference Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">The Santiago Network</a></li> <li><a href="#">Bridging the gaps in disaster loss data to support early warning and early action in Southern Africa</a></li> <li><a href="#">Data and digital maturity for disaster risk reduction: Informing the next generation of disaster loss and damage databases</a></li> <li><a href="#">The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years (2000-2019)</a></li> </ul>
<b>Public narrative [For the website]</b>	<p>Climate hazards are increasing in intensity and frequency, leading to a rise in the number and scale of disasters, and the African continent finds itself on the frontlines of this global crisis. These impacts are most severe for the world’s most vulnerable people and undermine progress towards sustainable development. Least developed countries, small island developing states, and landlocked developing countries, are most affected by disaster impacts while facing specific economic challenges.</p> <p>As part of the commitments of the Santiago Network to enhance the capacities of developing countries to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, this plenary aims to understand the technical and capacity gaps present in Africa in order to avert, minimise and address loss and damage based on country experiences. The session will have participants discuss how African countries can access the technical assistance to be provided by the Santiago Network, and subsequently formulate plans and policies to reduce loss and damage caused by disasters that utilise solid bases of evidence.</p>

