



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

TRAINING REPORT ON

ONLINE SHORT COURSE ON COP 29 **Tracking Global Climate Negotiations:** **Navigating COP without going to COP**



Executive Summary

The online certificate course, “**Tracking Global Climate Negotiations: Navigating COP (Conference of Parties), without Going to COP**” was designed to equip climate professionals with critical insights into global climate policies and negotiations. This innovative program provided a unique opportunity to explore the outcomes and implications of COP29, empowering participants to contribute effectively to climate advocacy, policymaking, and project implementation.

Spanning multiple sessions and featuring renowned experts, the course addressed key areas of global climate action, including **Loss and Damage mechanisms, Climate Finance, the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), Resilience in Water, Food, and Agriculture, and the Health-Climate Nexus**. Participants engaged in live interactive sessions, thematic webinars, and self-directed learning, ensuring a flexible yet comprehensive educational experience.

The training emphasized the importance of **science-based policymaking** and **equitable climate solutions**, with a focus on empowering participants from developing and least developed countries (LDCs). Through discussions on pressing topics such as IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) climate science updates, the operationalization of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, and innovative financing mechanisms, participants gained a deeper understanding of global climate challenges and solutions.

Key highlights of the course included:

- Interactive sessions with distinguished speakers, fostering dialogue and collaboration.
- Real-time updates and analysis of COP29 negotiations, bridging the gap for non-COP participants.
- Practical strategies to integrate global negotiation outcomes into national and community-level actions.

The course also underscored the need for **inclusive and resilient approaches** to address climate impacts, particularly for vulnerable communities. Participants were encouraged to critically analyze negotiation processes, counter misinformation, and advocate for just transitions to low-carbon economies.

The training concluded with participants submitting reflective essays, which demonstrated their understanding of the material and outlined how they planned to apply their learning in their professional or advocacy work. By fostering knowledge sharing and building a network of informed climate professionals, the course contributed to strengthening global efforts toward a sustainable and equitable future.

This program not only enhanced participants’ technical expertise but also reinforced their capacity to drive impactful climate action across diverse sectors and geographies. It served as a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration and advancing evidence-based solutions to the climate crisis.

Training Agenda

Time	Name of the Session/Activity	Resource Person	Facilitator
09:00 - 10:30 AM	Positioning for COP 29	Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi	Md. Rayatul Islam
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Opportunities and Challenges of Negotiation and How to Capture Fallacies	Mr. Adnan Qader	Md. Rayatul Islam
02:00 - 03:30 PM	COP 29 Debrief about Santiago Network	Mr. Samuel Chijioke Okorie	Md. Rayatul Islam
04:00 - 05:30 PM	Bridging Science and Policy: Empowering Climate Negotiators with Evidence-Based Insights	Dr. James Kirkham	Md. Rayatul Islam
09:00 - 10:30 AM	IPCC Climate Science Report and Updates from COP29	Professor A.K.M. Saiful Islam	Md. Rayatul Islam
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Loss and Damage Finance: Updates on Negotiation Processes	Mr. Alpha A. Djalon	Md. Rayatul Islam
02:00 - 03:30 PM	Health and Climate Nexus in UNFCCC Negotiations	Dr. Kristine Belesova	Md. Rayatul Islam

Acronym

AR6	Sixth Assessment Report
AR7	Seventh Assessment Reports
ATACH	Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health
CIDs	Climatic Impact Drivers
COP	Conference of Parties
DG	Director-General
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
ExCom	Executive Committee
GGA	Global Goal on Adaptation
GPoA	a Global Plan of Action on Climate Change and Health
GST	the Global Stock take
HIIP	Health Impact Investment Platform
HNAPs	Health National Adaptation Plans
ICCCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
ICCI	International Cryosphere Climate Initiative
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUB	Independent University, Bangladesh
JTWP	The Just Transition Work Programme
L&D	Loss and Damage Fund
LDCs	least developed countries
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
NCQG	New Collective Goal on Climate Finance
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OBNES	Official Bodies and Networks for Engaging Stakeholders
SN	Santiago Network
SNLD	Santiago Network on Loss and Damage
TA	Technical Assistance
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

1. Background

The training program, titled “**Tracking Global Climate Negotiations: Navigating COP without Going to COP,**” was developed to address the challenges faced by climate professionals and organizations in staying informed about global climate policy developments, particularly in the context of COP29. Recognizing the critical importance of equitable climate solutions and evidence-based policymaking, this course aimed to empower participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the complexities of climate negotiations and contribute meaningfully to global climate action.

The training was structured to provide a comprehensive overview of key themes and developments in international climate policy. These themes included **Loss and Damage, Climate Finance, Resilience in Water, Food, and Agriculture, the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA),** and the **Health-Climate Nexus,** among others. By focusing on COP29 updates, the course served as a vital resource for understanding the outcomes of negotiations and their implications for countries, sectors, and vulnerable communities worldwide.

Designed for professionals already familiar with the UNFCCC process, the training emphasized practical and actionable learning. Participants engaged with a hybrid model of learning that combined **live sessions, webinars, COP-related documents, and self-directed assignments.** The program also encouraged **peer-to-peer discussions,** enabling participants to share insights and experiences while fostering a collaborative learning environment.

This course was a response to the growing need for building the capacity of professionals in developing and least developed countries (LDCs), where the impacts of climate change are disproportionately severe despite minimal contributions to global emissions. As such, the training underscored the urgency of advocating for **science-based climate targets, enhanced climate finance, and locally-led adaptation initiatives** that address the unique challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

Through this initiative, participants were equipped with a deeper understanding of:

- The **technical and operational aspects** of climate negotiations.
- Strategies to counter misinformation and navigate logical fallacies in discussions.
- The integration of **scientific findings into policy dialogues,** especially concerning the cryosphere, IPCC reports, and loss and damage mechanisms.
- The intersection of **health and climate resilience,** emphasizing innovative financing and adaptation strategies.

The training culminated in a reflective assignment, where participants articulated their takeaways and developed action plans to apply their learning in their professional or advocacy efforts. By fostering a cadre of informed and empowered individuals, this training contributed to building global capacity for advancing equitable and sustainable climate solutions.

2. Objectives and methodology of the workshop

2.1 Objective

The primary objective of the workshop, "*Tracking Global Climate Change Negotiations: Navigating COP without going to COP*," was to equip participants with the knowledge and skills required to effectively understand and engage with the intricacies of global climate change negotiations. This was especially targeted at non-COP attendees, empowering them to navigate critical policy discussions and contribute meaningfully to climate action initiatives.

Specific objectives included:

- Enhancing participants' understanding of global climate change policies, agreements, and negotiations, including key outcomes of COPs.
- Building capacity to critically analyze negotiation dynamics, logical fallacies, and stakeholder interests.
- Strengthening knowledge on pressing climate issues, such as loss and damage, climate finance, adaptation strategies, and health impacts.
- Bridging the gap between scientific findings and policy implementation, enabling participants to advocate for evidence-based solutions.

2.2 Key Discussion Topics

The workshop covered a wide range of crucial topics in the context of climate change negotiations:

1. Positioning for COP29: Understanding the role of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the significance of equitable climate actions, including adaptation and finance.
2. Negotiation Challenges and Fallacies: Addressing common logical fallacies and effective strategies to navigate complex negotiation landscapes.
3. Loss and Damage Mechanisms: Exploring the operationalization and updates on the Santiago Network and related financial mechanisms.
4. Science-Policy Interface: Bridging cryosphere science and global climate policies to address critical issues such as sea-level rise.
5. IPCC Updates: Delving into the latest IPCC findings on global warming, mitigation strategies, and their implications for policymaking.
6. Climate and Health Nexus: Highlighting the intersection of climate change and global health, emphasizing the need for resilience and innovative financing.

2.3 Methodology

The workshop adopted an interactive and participant-centered approach to maximize engagement and learning outcomes. Key methodological components included:

- **Instructor-Led Sessions:** Expert facilitators from diverse fields conducted sessions, blending theoretical insights with practical examples and case studies.

- **Thematic Presentations:** Each session was designed around a specific theme, with presentations followed by Q&A to encourage participant interaction and knowledge sharing.
- **Interactive Discussions:** Participants were encouraged to engage in dialogue, critically analyze key topics, and share their perspectives on climate change challenges and solutions.
- **Evidence-Based Learning:** The course relied on up-to-date scientific reports, policy documents, and COP outcomes to ensure accuracy and relevance.
- **Skills Development:** Focus was placed on building participants' analytical and negotiation skills, particularly in understanding stakeholder dynamics and addressing common fallacies.
- **Virtual Format:** The workshop was conducted online, leveraging digital tools to ensure accessibility and participation from diverse geographical locations.

This methodology enabled participants to gain a holistic understanding of the global climate change negotiation process, fostering an environment for meaningful engagement and actionable learning.

2.4 Target Group of Participants

The training program, “**Tracking Global Climate Negotiations: Navigating COP without Going to COP,**” was specifically designed for professionals and practitioners engaged in climate policy, advocacy, project management, research, and capacity-building initiatives. The course targeted individuals who already possess foundational knowledge of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and sought to deepen their expertise in global climate negotiations, with a particular focus on COP29 outcomes.

The course participants included:

- **Climate Professionals:** Individuals working in climate policy and advocacy at national, regional, or international levels.
- **Researchers and Academics:** Scholars specializing in climate change, sustainability, resilience, and adaptation studies who aim to align their work with the latest global climate negotiation updates.
- **Government Officials:** Policymakers and negotiators representing governments, especially from developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs), who require insights into international frameworks to shape national climate policies.
- **NGOs and Civil Society Representatives:** Activists, program coordinators, and technical advisors working on climate resilience, community adaptation, and grassroots initiatives who aim to integrate global negotiation outcomes into local efforts.
- **Private Sector Representatives:** Business professionals and investors interested in climate finance, sustainable practices, and renewable energy solutions.
- **Youth and Early-Career Professionals:** Young leaders and emerging climate professionals looking to enhance their understanding of climate negotiations and contribute to future policy-making processes.

2.5 Geographic and Sectoral Representation

The participants represented diverse geographical regions, with significant participation from:

- Developing and least developed countries (LDCs), particularly those most vulnerable to climate change impacts.
- A wide array of sectors, including water governance, agriculture, health, education, and renewable energy.

The course brought together individuals with a shared commitment to advancing climate justice and science-based solutions. It emphasized diversity and inclusivity, ensuring representation from various nations, sectors, and professional backgrounds to foster rich, interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration.

2.6 Expected Outcomes

The training program, “**Tracking Global Climate Negotiations: Navigating COP without Going to COP,**” was designed to deliver tangible and actionable outcomes for participants. Upon completion of the program, the following key outcomes were expected:

1. Enhanced Understanding of COP29 Negotiations

- Participants will gain a **comprehensive understanding** of the critical issues, decisions, and outcomes emerging from COP29 negotiations, including:
 - Loss and Damage mechanisms.
 - Climate Finance frameworks.
 - Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).
 - Resilience strategies in key sectors such as water, food, and agriculture.
 - Health-climate intersections within the UNFCCC framework.

2. Improved Climate Negotiation Skills

- Participants will develop the ability to **analyze and navigate complex climate negotiation processes**, including:
 - Identifying and addressing logical fallacies in climate discussions.
 - Engaging with diverse stakeholders effectively.
 - Formulating evidence-based arguments to influence global and local policy dialogues.

3. Practical Application of Knowledge

- Participants will be equipped with actionable insights to:
 - **Integrate global negotiation outcomes** into national policies and projects.
 - Support community-level climate action initiatives with a global perspective.
 - Enhance advocacy efforts by aligning them with COP29 resolutions and frameworks.

4. Capacity for Collaboration and Networking

- The course will foster a **global network of climate professionals**, enabling participants to:
 - Share best practices and lessons learned across regions.
 - Build partnerships for joint advocacy and implementation efforts.
 - Engage in peer-to-peer learning to tackle shared challenges.

5. Increased Engagement in Evidence-Based Climate Action

- Participants will be better equipped to:
 - Leverage the latest scientific findings, such as IPCC reports, to drive decision-making.
 - Advocate for **science-based targets**, enhanced climate finance, and just transitions to low-carbon economies.
 - Contribute to advancing locally-led adaptation and resilience strategies.

6. Certification and Recognition

- Participants will earn a **certificate of completion** upon submission of a reflective essay, demonstrating:
 - Their understanding of the course content.
 - Their ability to apply the knowledge gained in professional or advocacy contexts.

2.7 Date and Time

Course Duration: November 11–22, 2024

Live Sessions: Conducted between **19:00 and 21:00 (GMT+6)** during the course period

Webinars: Scheduled between **January to March 2025**

3. Session Description

3.1 Welcome Remarks and Brainstorming and Expectations of the Workshop by Habibur Rahman, Research Officer, ICCCAD, IUB

The session was moderated by Md. Rayatul Islam and at the very beginning of the training session, he addressed the attendee with welcoming speech. The session was inaugurated by Dr. Hafizur Rahman, professor of IUB and focal person between IUB and ICCCAD . In the inauguration event, a keynote remark was added by director of ICCCAD Md. Saqib Haq. Both of them emphasis on how important the training session for the non-COP attendee is to understand the global climate policy.

3.2 Session 01: Positioning for COP 29 by Bimal Raj Regmi, PhD, Interim Technical Director, ICCCAD

Positioning for COP 29, presented by Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi, Interim Technical Director at ICCCAD, emphasized the urgency of addressing the escalating climate crisis. Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including Nepal, highlighted the disproportionate impacts of climate change, despite their minimal contribution to global emissions. The session underscored the need for science-based targets, enhanced climate finance, and urgent action to implement the Paris Agreement. Nepal advocates for scaled-up renewable energy investments, accessible climate finance, and support for locally-led adaptation initiatives. Cross-cutting themes such as gender, technology transfer, and agricultural resilience were also stressed, underscoring the importance of inclusive climate solutions.

LDCs are already experiencing severe climate impacts, including GLOFs, landslides, and flash floods. Addressing these issues requires deep emission reductions, aligned with the 1.5°C target, and comprehensive support, particularly through the full implementation of the first Global Stock take. Nepal commended the UAE's successful COP28 outcomes and called for continued focus on the "Roadmap to Mission 1.5." The urgency of reducing global emissions and addressing loss and damage is paramount, and LDCs urge stronger global commitments to support their resilience and adaptation efforts.

The role of science in driving transformative change was also emphasized, particularly the need to integrate IPCC findings into climate actions at all levels. The importance of the IPCC's Seventh Assessment Reports (AR7) for the second Global Stock take was highlighted, and the session called for utilizing the latest science to inform the next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and scale up adaptation and loss and damage finance.

Climate finance remains a critical issue. Nepal advocates for a significantly higher New Collective Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) than the current \$100 billion per year, with the scope to include finance for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. The NCQG should establish a common definition for climate finance, ensuring that funds are new, additional, and concessional.

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Furthermore, the process of accessing this finance should be simplified, promoting direct access for LDCs and ensuring fairness, equity, and transparency. Nepal proposes a shorter-term goal for climate finance with a long-term aim of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

On mitigation, Nepal emphasized the need for more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that prioritize emissions reductions over market mechanisms. Support for LDCs to scale up renewable energy is essential to transition to net-zero emissions. The session called for a substantive decision on the Mitigation Work Programme at COP29 to support the implementation of Global Stock take outcomes.

The Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) must ensure that transitions to low-carbon economies are equitable and tailored to the specific needs of LDCs. This includes addressing the socioeconomic contexts of LDCs and avoiding additional burdens in the creation of green jobs.

Adaptation is equally critical, and the UAE-Belém Work Programme on Indicators must develop tools to track global progress toward the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). LDCs demand scaled-up adaptation finance and resources to implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), with a focus on locally-led initiatives.

The urgency of operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund (L&D) was highlighted, following Nepal's recent climate-induced disasters. The fund must be capitalized adequately, with provisions for direct and simplified access to finance for vulnerable countries. The Santiago Network for Loss and Damage should begin operations in 2024 to provide technical assistance.

Regarding the Global Stock take (GST), Nepal emphasized the need for its outcomes to be fully implemented, particularly to strengthen NDCs and align them with the 1.5°C target. The scope of the UAE Dialogue on GST implementation should prioritize the means of implementation, with a focus on renewable energy investments and technology transfer to LDCs.

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, addressing cooperative approaches and market mechanisms, needs further clarification and regulation to ensure environmental integrity and facilitate LDC participation. The session also stressed the importance of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) to track climate progress, with robust support for developing countries, including Nepal.

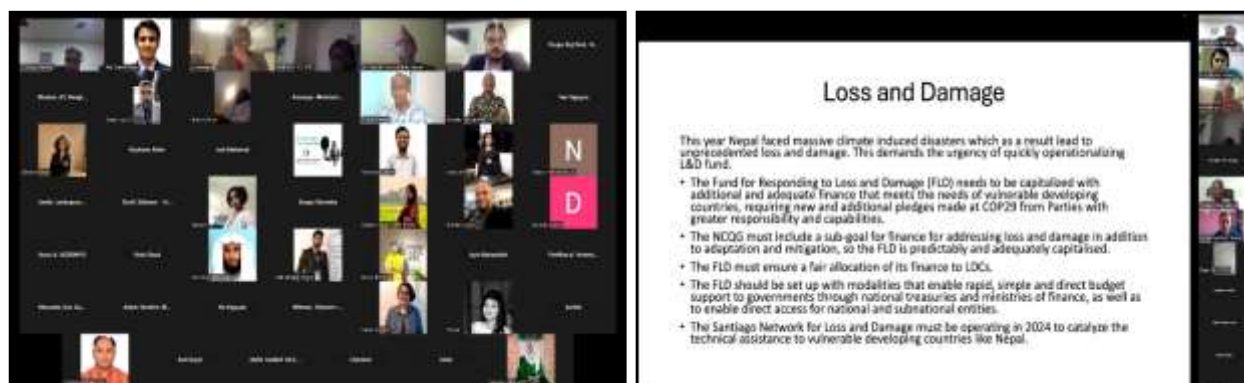
Finally, the session highlighted the need for concrete actions on gender and climate change, advocating for the full implementation of the Lima Work Programme and Gender Action Plan (GAP) in climate planning and implementation processes.

In conclusion, Session 1 emphasized the urgency of addressing climate change through equitable, science-based actions, enhanced climate finance, and the full participation of LDCs in global climate efforts, particularly in terms of adaptation, loss and damage, and the transition to a low-carbon future.

Open Discussion Under Session 1

At the end of the session, number of questions were asked. One of the participants from Nepal, Puspa Raj Pant thanked the organizer and presenter for a fruitful presentation. However, in his question, he added developing countries are facing difficulties to achieve the SDG's due to the lack of finance and technological solutions. Different ministries getting difficulties to make coordination with among themselves.

He finally added, "How far we have reached in the past COP events and what are the solutions towards the problem we had addressed". He again asked how can citizen and community level advocacy can support the global dialogue? In the reply of the question, Dr. Bimal Raj Regmi appreciates him for the question which is very much important for COP context. He agreed that the way to achieve the desirable solution getting delayed or even in some case we are some what unable due to some constrains. As funding sources are highly depends on international financing, so to make the solution, we should proactive to make diversified domestic approach to attracting private sector approach. He also gives emphasis on mainstreaming of the challenges among the ministries.



3.3 Session 02: Opportunities and Challenges of Negotiation and How to Capture Fallacies by Adnan Qader, Climate and Water Governance Specialist - WaterAid Bangladesh

The session on "Opportunities and Challenges of Negotiation and How to Capture Fallacies" led by Adnan Qader, a Climate and Water Governance Specialist at WaterAid Bangladesh, focused on navigating the complexities of climate negotiations and addressing logical fallacies that often emerge in these discussions.

One key aspect covered was the need to "read between the lines" during negotiations, emphasizing the importance of understanding the underlying goals beyond the surface-level noise of debates. Recognizing the different types of lobbyists involved in climate policy debates was highlighted as crucial for effective negotiation. These lobbyists range from environmental NGOs, such as Greenpeace, to industry associations advocating for renewable energy or sustainable businesses. Think tanks, grassroots activist groups like Extinction Rebellion, and fossil fuel companies also play a significant role in shaping climate discourse, with each lobbying for

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policies that reflect their interests. This diverse array of lobbyists can create challenges in aligning global priorities, as their motivations and proposed solutions often vary widely.

A key challenge in climate negotiations lies in identifying and addressing common logical fallacies that often cloud discussions. Adnan Qader outlined several such fallacies, including the Red Herring Fallacy, where attention is diverted from the core issue to irrelevant points, and the Bandwagon Fallacy, where ideas are adopted because they are popular rather than because of their merit. Another prevalent fallacy is the Strawman Fallacy, in which an argument is misrepresented to make it easier to attack, rather than addressing the actual point.

Other fallacies that disrupt climate negotiations include the False Dilemma, where nations are presented with a misleading choice between economic growth or environmental action, ignoring potential solutions that combine both. The Ad Hominem Fallacy, often seen in COP discussions, involves attacking the motives of a country or delegate, especially high-emitting nations, rather than focusing on specific commitments or policies. The Slippery Slope Fallacy is also common, where any climate regulation is exaggerated as a potential cause of severe economic collapse, discouraging meaningful change.

To navigate these challenges effectively, the session emphasized strategies to critically assess and address fallacies. The importance of recognizing these common fallacies and evaluating arguments based on sound reasoning was stressed. Clear communication strategies were recommended to counteract fallacies constructively, enabling negotiators to stay focused on evidence-based arguments instead of emotional or misleading tactics. Building resilience against misinformation was another essential takeaway, as negotiators must learn to resist persuasive but logically flawed climate rhetoric.

In conclusion, the session underlined the necessity of understanding the diverse stakeholders involved in climate negotiations and the logical fallacies that often undermine productive discussions. By sharpening critical thinking skills and emphasizing evidence-based arguments, negotiators can more effectively engage in global climate dialogues, contributing to more robust and scientifically grounded outcomes in climate policy.



Question answer session:

One participant inquired about the classification of water as a fundamental human right. In response, Adnan Qader acknowledged water's indispensable role in human survival and highlighted the advocacy efforts of certain organizations that consider water a basic human need. He further emphasized that the categorization of water as a human right often involves complex political considerations and perspectives.

3.4: Session 3: The session on "COP 29 Debrief about Santiago Network" was led by Samuel Chijioke Okorie, a Climate and Water Governance Specialist at WaterAid Bangladesh.

The session on "COP 29 Debrief about Santiago Network" was led by Samuel Chijioke Okorie, a Climate and Water Governance Specialist at WaterAid Bangladesh, and focused on the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), which was discussed in depth at COP29.

The UNFCCC Santiago Network (SN) was established in 2019 during COP25 in Santiago, Chile, as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), which was created at COP19 in 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. The main aim of the SNLD is to identify and provide the necessary support, technical resources, and mechanisms to address climate-change-induced disasters, particularly for communities that are highly vulnerable to climate impacts. These communities, located mostly in developing countries, are the primary focus for the implementation of strategies to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage caused by climate change.

The scope of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) is defined by its goal of facilitating technical assistance from relevant organizations, bodies, networks, and experts to support vulnerable nations at local, national, and regional levels. This is aimed at reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, specifically on the most affected areas and populations.

Key updates on the progress of the SNLD include the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and the status of its work and activities. The review featured the work of the Executive Committee (ExCom), the five-year work plan, and thematic areas. The session also covered a range of significant approvals and developments:

- The approval of a one-year budget for the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD).
- The selection and approval of the host country for the SNLD Secretariat.
- The approval of the Official Bodies and Networks for Engaging Stakeholders (OBNES) designation and membership.
- The approval of guidelines for responding to Technical Assistance (TA) requests.
- The approval of funding management guidelines.
- Approval of the 2024 and 2025 budgets.
- The approval of a Result Framework for assessing the network's progress.
- The development and approval of rules and procedures governing the SNLD's operations.
- The approval of the SNLD's annual report, which outlines key activities and outcomes.

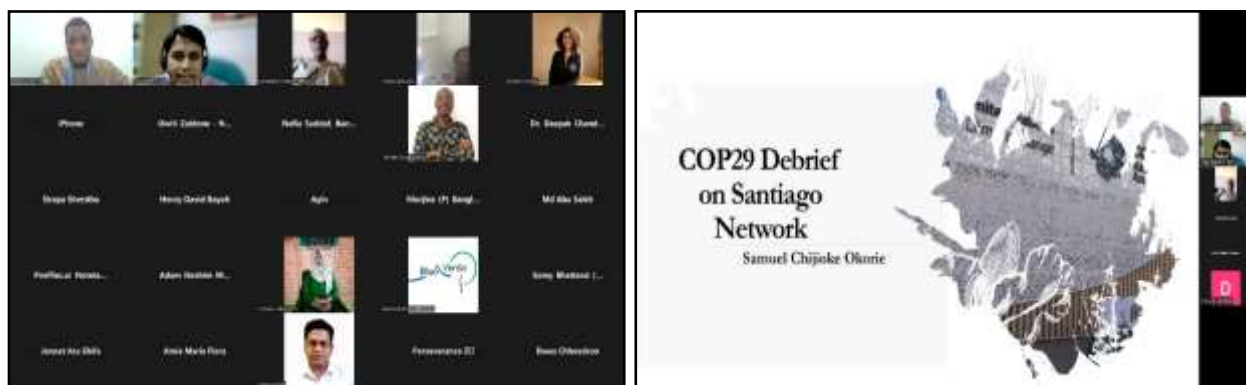
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- Guidelines to address actual and perceived conflicts of interest were also established.
- The appointment of Carolina Fuentes as the Director-General (DG) of the Santiago Network.
- Full operationalization of the SN, marking a significant step forward in its activities.

Another important aspect discussed was the active participation of countries in shaping the work of the SN. Several nations called for more inclusive spaces in the design of technical assistance, underlining the importance of local contexts in tailoring the network's support to those most in need.

Additionally, the SNLD hosted side events at COP29, which provided further insights into the ongoing efforts and challenges related to loss and damage, as well as fostering dialogue on how best to implement the necessary solutions for vulnerable countries.

In summary, the session provided an in-depth look at the achievements of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage at COP29, focusing on the key organizational developments, approvals, and future plans. The network's primary goal remains to assist the most vulnerable communities in adapting to the devastating impacts of climate change, with a strong emphasis on technical assistance and resource mobilization.



Question and Answer session:

During the questions and answer session, one of the participants asked a question on “what are the core functions/technical pathway of a country or organization that need of this assistance?”. Another question was asked on “What are the main challenges for operationalizing this technical assistance?”. In the response of the questions, the presented responded addressing number of factors associated with Santiago Network. The summary of the answer is:

Community of a country or organization send a request to the concerned authority for technical assistance. And tis assistance come up with bottom up approach that mean community should be come with the first approach. And the request of the technical assistance should be relevant with the national Climate Change Action Plan of the country.

Once the request is approved the Santiago Network go with assistance phase. They would come with solution or assistance for the community with community involvement. The concerned

authority (Santiago Network) explores similar or relevant cases that includes best practices, capacity building, exchange programs, data collection and data analysis.

The network do not provide funds beyond knowledge based projects. In a project that is not knowledge based, it would not get any funds or technical assistance for the network.

3.5 Session 4: How can cryosphere science break through to policymakers and the public? Was presented by Dr James Kirkham, Chief Scientific Advisor, Ambition on Melting Ice

The session titled "Bridging Science and Policy: Empowering Climate Negotiators with Evidence-Based Insights" was presented by Dr. James Kirkham, Chief Science Advisor and Coordinator of the Ambition on Melting Ice High-Level Group on Sea Level Rise and Mountain Water Resources (AMI). The session provided an in-depth look at the cryosphere's crucial role in climate change and how scientific insights are being used to influence climate policy.

Dr. Kirkham began by explaining the concept of the cryosphere, which refers to the frozen water components of the Earth's system, including ice sheets, glaciers, sea ice, and snow. While Bangladesh, for example, has no cryosphere, it is directly impacted by the changes occurring within the cryosphere, especially through rising sea levels and glacial melt. The session highlighted that polar regions are warming 2-4 times faster than the global average, with the Arctic warming at four times the global rate and Antarctica at about twice the global average.

The acceleration of ice sheet melting over the past two decades has led to a rapid rise in sea levels, now increasing at twice the rate they were 30 years ago. Dr. Kirkham emphasized that some degree of irreversible sea-level rise is already locked in, but the rate and extent of future rises remain within human control. A 1.5°C pathway could limit sea level rise to 0.5 meters by 2100, while current emission trends point to 1 meter by 2100 and potentially 6-7 meters by 2300. If ice sheets continue to melt at an accelerated pace, sea level rise could occur much more rapidly, with estimates suggesting up to 1 meter within the next 50 years and 15 meters by 2300.

Dr. Kirkham stressed the immediate relevance of these issues, pointing out that even a 10 cm rise in sea level can significantly increase coastal flooding events, impacting countries around the world, particularly those investing in nature-based solutions such as coastal wetlands, salt marshes, and mangroves. However, these ecosystems can only adapt so fast, and under current emissions policies, they may soon fail to keep up with rising waters. Furthermore, long-term inundation of coastal areas could cause irreversible damage, with major cities like the Bahamas and Karachi at risk of significant flooding as early as 2070 if current emissions trends persist.

The session also detailed the role of the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI) in influencing policy. Dr. Kirkham highlighted how the ICCI collaborates with scientists, journalists, and civil society organizations to push the cryosphere's importance into the global climate discourse. The ICCI runs the cryosphere pavilion at COPs, which serves as a platform for scientists

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to communicate their findings to policymakers, and has launched campaigns such as one ahead of COP28 to emphasize the urgency of staying within a 1.5°C temperature rise to prevent catastrophic impacts from cryosphere loss.

Dr. Kirkham emphasized the need for direct engagement with negotiators, particularly during key climate events like the Bonn climate conference. The ICCI facilitates sessions where scientists and negotiators collaborate to draft policy language that integrates cryosphere science into climate agreements. By establishing personal connections with key figures, including ministers and heads of state, the ICCI ensures that the issue of cryosphere loss gains visibility at the highest levels of decision-making.

In conclusion, the session underscored that sustained effort, clarity of message, and personal connections are key to bridging the gap between science and policy. While progress is being made, significant challenges remain, including the difficulty of keeping high-level attention amidst competing issues and the need for continuous education as staff turnover occurs in government positions. Dr. Kirkham emphasized that effective communication of emerging science, while maintaining trust, is critical to ensuring that the policy responses align with the scientific realities of climate change.



During the Q&A segment of Session 4, several pertinent topics were addressed:

1. **Structure of the UNFCCC:** Participants sought clarification on the organizational structure of the UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies. The facilitators explained the roles of the Conference of the Parties (COP), Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), among others.
2. **Key Negotiation Groups:** Questions were raised regarding the various negotiation blocs, such as the G77 and China, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and the Umbrella Group. The trainers discussed the composition, interests, and influence of these groups in the negotiation process.
3. **Decision-Making Processes:** Attendees inquired about how decisions are made during COP sessions. The session provided insights into consensus-building approaches, the role

of the COP Presidency, and the significance of informal consultations and high-level segments.

4. **Opportunities for Observer Organizations:** Participants were interested in understanding how observer organizations can engage in the UNFCCC process. The facilitators highlighted avenues such as attending open meetings, submitting interventions, and participating in side events and exhibitions.

These discussions aimed to enhance participants' comprehension of the UNFCCC framework and the dynamics of international climate negotiations, thereby preparing them for more effective engagement in climate advocacy.

3.6 Session 5: A session titled "IPCC Climate Science Report and Updates from COP29," was presented by Professor A.K.M. Saiful Islam from the IWFM of BUET.

The session focused on recent climate events, the impact of global warming, and key findings from the IPCC reports, providing updates on climate science and policy discussions from COP29.

Professor Islam highlighted the record-breaking heatwaves of 2024, where countries across Asia experienced extreme temperatures. Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines recorded temperatures exceeding 40°C for prolonged periods, with Bangladesh enduring over a month of heatwaves in April and May. The highest recorded temperature was 43.8°C in Jessore on April 30, 2024. Urban Heat Island effects were noted, where cities experience exacerbated warming due to urbanization, despite its negligible impact on global temperature trends.

The session also discussed the devastating impact of severe cyclonic storms. Cyclone Dana, which affected India's West Bengal and Odisha in 2024, and Cyclone Remal, which hit West Bengal and Bangladesh in May, are examples of the increased frequency and intensity of cyclonic storms. Cyclone Remal, for instance, resulted in 84 fatalities. Furthermore, floods in Bangladesh during 2024 caused widespread damage in districts such as Feni, Moulvibazar, and Chittagong, with five major rivers surpassing danger levels, exacerbating the flooding risks.

Professor Islam provided an overview of global warming, emphasizing that human activities have caused unprecedented warming rates over the last 2,000 years. Greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, trap heat in the atmosphere, leading to the observed rise in global temperatures. The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) highlighted that recent climate changes are rapid and widespread, and human influence is directly linked to rising temperatures, more frequent heat extremes, heavy precipitation, and agricultural droughts.

The future projections of sea-level rise were discussed, with the IPCC predicting an increase of 0.6–0.9 meters by 2100 under a high-emissions scenario, and 0.3–0.6 meters under a low-emissions scenario. Projections for 2150 estimate a rise of 1.0–1.9 meters under high emissions,

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significantly impacting coastal regions worldwide. These projections are sensitive to future emissions, with high risks anticipated even at lower levels of global warming.

The session also covered the concept of Climatic Impact Drivers (CIDs), which represent physical climate system changes affecting society and ecosystems. These drivers include heat and cold, wind, snow, ice, and coastal changes, all of which contribute to the intensifying impacts on human and natural systems. The impact of climate change on marine life, wildfires, cities, and the spread of diseases was also addressed.

In terms of mitigation, Professor Islam discussed the global efforts to limit temperature increases through the Paris Agreement, with the goal to keep warming well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Achieving this requires rapid and sustained reductions in CO₂, methane, and other greenhouse gases. The session underscored that while some climate changes are irreversible, others can be slowed or halted by limiting warming.

Overall, the session emphasized the need for strong, global action to mitigate climate change, as further warming will continue to amplify the severity of impacts across regions. The urgency of transitioning to net-zero emissions and adopting mitigation strategies to curb global temperature rise was a key message.



Question and Answer Session:

One of the participants ask, “What are the causes to experience different temperature increasing rate in different region of the world?” He added an example: in the low laying area of Nepal is experiencing comparatively lower increasing rate than the mountain of Himalayan top region.

In the response of the question, professor Dr. A.K.M. Saiful Islam explained that due to the heat or temperature may have variation in terms of geolocation or region and time. Most significant variation could be found in Town, village/rural area, snow covered hilly area and artic-Antarctic area.

Comparing the village, town has higher increasing rate of average temperature and it is due to the huge concrete blocks, road and infrastructure that eventually trap the heat and the causes to increasing the average temperature. On the other hand, the village has lots of trees, ponds, canals (water body) that absorb the heat and decrease the average heating. But the unique event

occurs at the polar region. The snow/ice covered hill act like a mirror which ultimately increase the heating.

3.7 Session 6: Session titled “Matters relating to finance. Report of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)and guidance to the Fund” presented by Mr. Alpha A. Djalón, an Associate Partner and Project Manager at Greendeeve-Sarl

“Matters relating to finance. Report of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)and guidance to the Fund” presented by Mr. Alpha A. Djalón, an Associate Partner and Project Manager at Greendeeve-Sarl, focused on updates regarding the Loss and Damage negotiation process within the climate change framework. The session provided insights into the mechanisms established for addressing loss and damage due to climate change, particularly under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM).

The session began by explaining the collaborative arrangements among the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), and the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. These arrangements set the working relationship between the COP, the CMA, and the Board to ensure accountability and proper governance of the Fund. The Board is responsible for strategic direction, governance, operational modalities, and funding decisions related to loss and damage, while the COP and CMA provide guidance on policies and priorities.

One of the key updates was the process for reconsidering funding decisions. The Board has the authority to adjust its funding strategies based on feedback from the COP and CMA. Additionally, the Board is required to provide annual reports to both the COP and the CMA, detailing the implementation of policies, financial activities, and any progress in resource mobilization. These reports include information on the financing activities of the Fund, action taken to enhance coordination with other international funding bodies, and evaluations of the Fund’s performance.

Mr. Djalón also discussed the Fund’s periodic reviews, which will be conducted by the COP and CMA, informed by independent evaluations and the annual reports from the Board. The aim of these reviews is to assess the Fund’s performance, funding sufficiency, and its alignment with the global climate response goals. Cooperation between the Fund's secretariat and the UNFCCC secretariat is crucial to ensure that the financial mechanisms under both the Convention and Paris Agreement are coordinated effectively.

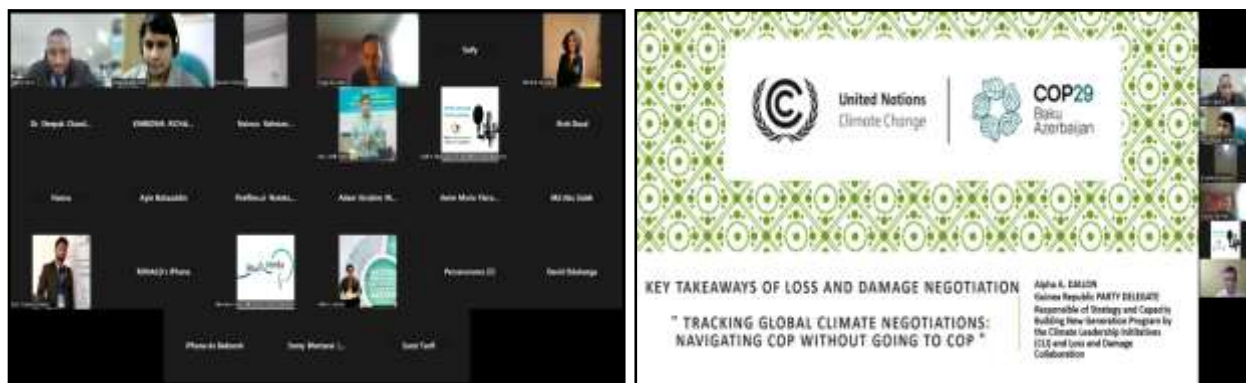
Further, the session outlined the terms under which these arrangements can be modified or terminated. Modifications require written consent from the COP, CMA, and the Board, and can only be altered or terminated upon mutual agreement. These arrangements are effective once approved by the Board and subsequently endorsed by the COP and CMA.

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In addition to the Fund's updates, Mr. Djalon emphasized the 2024 review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, established in 2013. The WIM has been pivotal in enhancing knowledge, catalyzing action, and providing support to developing countries. The Santiago network, established during the last WIM review in 2019, has become operational and plays a critical role in addressing loss and damage. The 2024 review aims to strengthen the WIM's institutional arrangements, particularly the Executive Committee (ExCom) and its thematic expert groups, to improve the assistance provided to developing countries in responding to loss and damage.

Mr. Djalon referenced key documents such as the joint annual report of the ExCom and the Santiago network, along with reports summarizing views and inputs for the 2024 review of the WIM. These reports aim to provide insights into how the global loss and damage support system under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement can better assist vulnerable countries, ensuring that the evolving institutional framework responds effectively to the challenges posed by climate change impacts.

The session underscored the importance of strengthening international collaboration and ensuring effective financial support to mitigate and address the loss and damage caused by climate change, particularly for the most vulnerable nations.



During the Q&A segment of Session 6, several key points were addressed:

1. **Stakeholder Mapping:** Participants inquired about methods to identify and prioritize stakeholders relevant to climate advocacy. The facilitators emphasized the importance of recognizing diverse groups, including government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, and the private sector, and assessing their influence and interest in climate issues.
2. **Effective Messaging:** Questions were raised on crafting compelling messages that resonate with different audiences. The trainers highlighted tailoring messages to the specific concerns and values of each stakeholder group, using clear and concise language, and incorporating data and personal stories to enhance impact.
3. **Lobbying Strategies:** Attendees sought guidance on engaging policymakers effectively. The session provided insights into building relationships with decision-makers,

understanding policy processes, and presenting well-researched positions to influence policy outcomes.

4. Overcoming Advocacy Challenges: Participants discussed potential obstacles in climate advocacy, such as limited resources or political resistance. The facilitators suggested strategies like coalition-building, leveraging media platforms, and continuous capacity building to navigate these challenges.

These discussions aimed to enhance participants' abilities to advocate for climate action effectively, aligning with the broader goals of COP-29 to mobilize diverse stakeholders in addressing climate change.

3.8 Session 7: Health in UNFCCC negotiations focused on the intersection of health and climate change within UNFCCC negotiations, with insights from Dr. Kristine Belesova, Senior Lecturer in Global Population Health at Imperial College London.

The session highlighted the significant role of climate change in global health, referencing key reports such as the 2018 Lancet Countdown, which underscores the long-term implications of climate change on health. Since 1990, the IPCC's coverage of health in its reports has evolved, with earlier assessments providing limited insight into health impacts, while recent reports (2013 and beyond) offer a more comprehensive analysis, albeit with gaps due to the complexity of linking climate change and health.

The WHO's Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), established at COP26, works to promote climate-resilient health systems, with thematic working groups addressing financing, low-carbon health systems, supply chains, and nutrition. ATACH facilitates knowledge sharing, monitoring, and access to climate finance for health-related projects. COP28 further advanced the climate-health nexus, with the COP28 Declaration emphasizing climate action's benefits for health, particularly through mitigation and adaptation strategies.

A landmark resolution passed at the 77th World Health Assembly recognizes climate change as a major health threat and commits WHO to develop a Global Plan of Action on Climate Change and Health (GPoA). The resolution calls for integrated climate data, health adaptation strategies, and a transition to low-carbon health systems. Moving forward, COP29 continues to prioritize health in climate discussions, with Azerbaijan hosting the next major health-climate initiative, ensuring continuity in the momentum gained from previous COPs.

This session also explored critical themes related to health within UNFCCC negotiations at COP29, emphasizing the intersection of climate action and health resilience. Key discussions included the operationalization of climate-health financing, highlighting the "Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions" to enhance resource mobilization and technical assistance at the national level. Success stories from various nations demonstrated effective integrated strategies for health and climate, encouraging global adoption. The scaling of innovative financing

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mechanisms, particularly through public-private partnerships, was underscored to maintain health resilience amidst climate challenges.

Azerbaijan became a signatory and co-organizer of the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), pledging to strengthen global momentum on climate-health action. The country also endorsed the Baku Initiative on Human Development for Climate Resilience, launching the first holistic Human Development Day, which brought together international organizations to foster cooperation on addressing climate change's impact on human development. This initiative led to the adoption of the Baku Guiding Principles for Human Development for Climate Resilience, focusing on areas like climate-resilient education, health systems, and social protection.

The Health Impact Investment Platform (HIIP), launched by WHO and multilateral development banks, aims to invest €1.5 billion in primary health care services in low- and middle-income countries. This platform supports the operationalization of health financing to tackle health crises exacerbated by climate change.

Lastly, discussions on Health National Adaptation Plans (HNAPs) emphasized their role in assessing climate-health risks, ensuring cross-sectoral coordination, and enabling access to climate finance for health. The session concluded with a look ahead to future COPs and initiatives to advance health-focused climate action.



During the Q&A segment of Session 7, several key topics were discussed:

1. **Building Relationships with Journalists:** Participants inquired about strategies to establish and maintain productive relationships with media professionals. The facilitators emphasized the importance of understanding journalists' interests, providing timely and relevant information, and being accessible for follow-ups.
2. **Crafting Press Releases:** Questions were raised on how to write compelling press releases that capture media attention. The trainers highlighted the need for clear and concise language, a strong headline, and the inclusion of pertinent data or quotes to enhance the newsworthiness of the release.
3. **Utilizing Social Media Platforms:** Attendees sought advice on leveraging social media to amplify their climate advocacy efforts. The session provided insights into selecting

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appropriate platforms, creating engaging content, and interacting with followers to build a supportive online community.

4. **Handling Media Interviews:** Participants discussed best practices for preparing for and conducting media interviews. The facilitators suggested techniques such as anticipating potential questions, practicing key messages, and maintaining composure to effectively convey their points during interviews.

These discussions aimed to enhance participants' abilities to engage with the media effectively, thereby broadening the reach and impact of their climate advocacy initiatives.

4 Concluding Remarks

The online certificate course, *Tracking Global Climate Change Negotiations: Navigating COP without going to COP*, has successfully provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of global climate policies and negotiations. Through diverse and enriching sessions led by esteemed experts, participants gained insights into the critical role of science, policy, and collaboration in tackling the escalating climate crisis.

Each session highlighted key areas essential for effective engagement in climate discussions, including positioning for COP29, understanding the complexities of climate negotiations, and bridging science and policy. Special emphasis was placed on the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, IPCC climate science updates, and the vital intersection of health and climate in global negotiations. Participants were equipped with knowledge on critical issues such as equitable climate finance, loss and damage mechanisms, and strategies for resilience and adaptation.

This course fostered a platform for learning, critical thinking, and dialogue, empowering participants to navigate the nuances of climate negotiations and effectively contribute to global climate efforts. The knowledge gained will undoubtedly enhance their ability to engage in evidence-based discussions and drive impactful actions within their respective spheres.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the distinguished speakers, organizers, and participants for their invaluable contributions. Together, we are better prepared to address the challenges posed by climate change and work toward a sustainable, equitable future for all.

5 Result of Post Evaluation

Following the training, participants were sent an google form link to provide feedback on various aspects of the capacity building training. The analysis of their feedback is summarized below:

The post-training evaluation revealed significant improvements in participants' knowledge, engagement, and overall learning experience. The training program was designed to enhance understanding of key aspects related to COP 29 negotiations, climate finance, and negotiation strategies. A structured pre- and post-training assessment was conducted to measure participants' progress and the effectiveness of the training in building their competencies.

Feedback from participants highlighted the high quality of the training, particularly in terms of content relevance, the competency of resource persons, and the interactive nature of the sessions. The Q&A segments were particularly well-received, with many participants appreciating the opportunity to engage directly with experts. The resource persons were acknowledged for their expertise and ability to present complex topics in an accessible manner. Furthermore, the training materials were found to be well-organized, informative, and useful for professional application. Overall, a majority of participants expressed satisfaction, noting that the training successfully met their expectations.

The pre- and post-assessment results demonstrated notable improvements across all thematic areas covered in the training. Prior to the training, many participants exhibited limited knowledge in areas such as COP 29 debriefing, the Santiago Network, and the complexities of climate finance. Post-training evaluations showed a significant increase in comprehension and confidence, with participants demonstrating a deeper understanding of negotiation opportunities, challenges, and positioning strategies. Additionally, awareness of the intersection between health and climate within UNFCCC negotiations improved considerably. The training effectively enhanced participants' grasp of loss and damage finance mechanisms, a critical component in climate discussions.

The overall impact of the training was evident in the enhanced ability of participants to apply their learning in real-world contexts. Many reported feeling more prepared to engage in climate negotiations, analyze policy frameworks, and contribute to discussions on climate finance and adaptation strategies. The structured learning approach, coupled with interactive discussions, helped create a dynamic and engaging learning environment that facilitated knowledge retention.

Based on the evaluation results, several recommendations have been identified for future training programs. Increasing interactive elements such as case studies and simulation exercises can further strengthen engagement and practical application. Additionally, follow-up sessions or periodic refresher courses would be beneficial in reinforcing key concepts and ensuring continued knowledge development. Providing supplementary reading materials and online resources can also support ongoing learning and professional development.

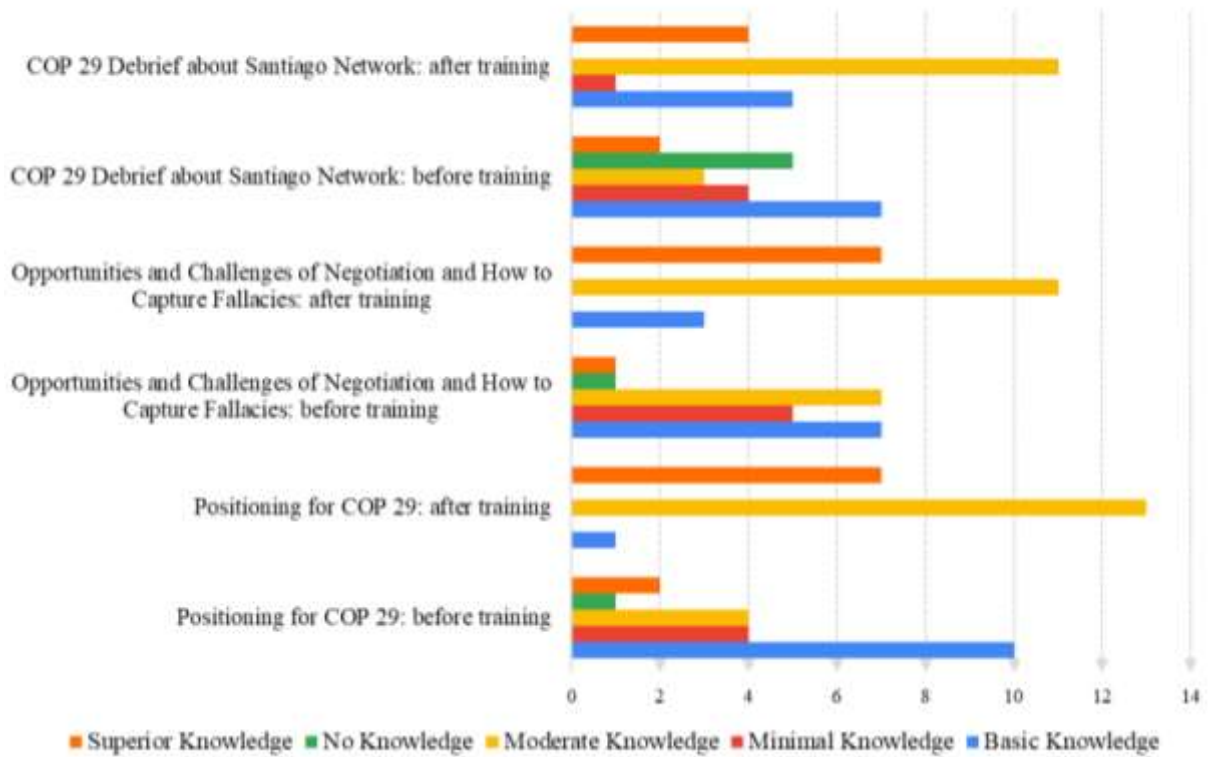
In conclusion, the training successfully met its objectives by significantly improving participants' competencies in climate negotiations and related topics. The positive feedback and measurable knowledge gains highlight the effectiveness of the training approach. By incorporating the suggested improvements, future training programs can further enhance the learning experience

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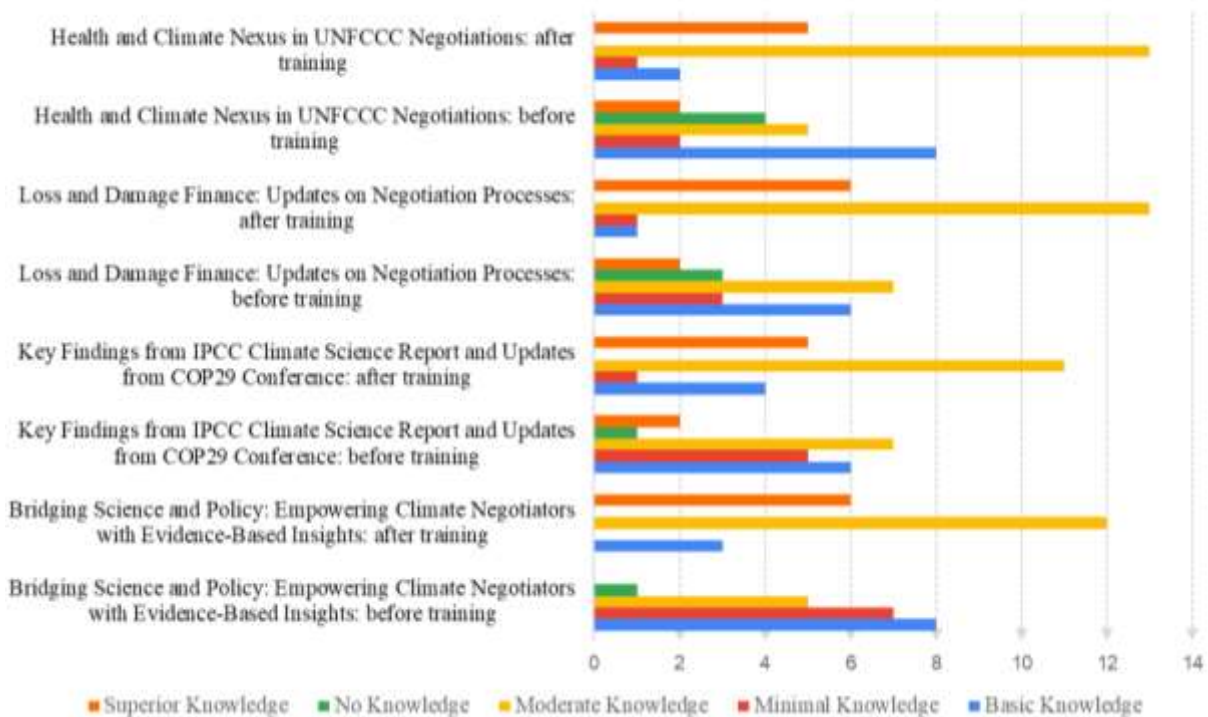
and ensure participants are well-equipped to contribute effectively to climate policy and decision-making processes.

Annex 1: Analysis of the Post Evaluation

Pre and post knowledge assessment (a)



Pre and post knowledge assessment (b)



Participant's observation regarding the Training Quality

