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Session

On

Synergizing Efforts for Supporting LDCs in mobilizing Loss and Damage Fund: Collaborative Strategies for WIM Excom, SNLD, and LDF

6th March, 2024

OVERVIEW

The session organized by International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), supported by the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG), centered on a discussion around how to bring cohesion in the Loss & Damage process and its various under the UNFCCC.

Moderated by **Saqib Huq**, *Managing Director, ICCCAD*, the discussion boasted of a diverse panel of experts including including **Adv. Hafijul Islam Khan**, *Director, Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh (CCJ-B)*; **Ritu Bharadwaj**, *Principal Researcher and Team Leader, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)*; **Samuel Chijioke Okorie**, *Research coordinator, Los Angeles Youth Coalition; Youth member, Santiago Network on Loss and Damage Advisory Board*; **David Chama Kaluba**, *Economist: Climate Finance Negotiator, Least Developed Countries (LDC) and African Groups, Member of the Loss and Damage Fund Board*; **Liane Schalatek**, *Associate Director, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Washington, DC*.

The session aimed to bring forward insights from these experts on the different L&D mechanisms including the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), and the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), and to discuss how to bring cohesion to the entire process.

The panelists collectively highlighted the urgency of addressing climate-induced loss and damage (L&D), and advocated for innovative models and direct community access to resources. They emphasized bottom-up approaches, integration of local perspectives, and transformative adaptation, through community engagement and equitable access to funds, and the advocacy role of civil society. Practical solutions such as direct benefit transfers, stakeholder mapping, and strategic communication were highlighted for effective implementation of L&D initiatives. Coordination between boards, research organizations, and civil society is crucial for success, stressing the importance of collective action in advocating for innovative approaches.



KEY SESSION TAKEAWAYS

- Incorporation of bottom-up approaches into the design of funding mechanisms and boards is crucial, particularly in the context of the Loss and Damage Fund, to ensure that communities from developing countries including LDCs and SIDs can access and benefit from the support provided.
- Community engagement should be prioritized from the outset rather than treating it as an afterthought in the process; by placing it at the center of initiatives like the Santiago Network and the Loss and Damage Fund.
- A structured approach, including a scoping study, review, and integration process, will be instrumental in ensuring meaningful involvement of civil society and local communities in decision-making.
- The pledges totaling 660 million USD by different countries remain inadequate when compared to the massive funding requirements for addressing L&D caused by climate change, with LDCs and SIDs continuing to bear the increasing brunt of climate change impacts.
- There is a need for a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy to meet these financial needs, with civil society organizations having a momentous role here in advocating for increased funding
- More innovative financing methods need to be explored, drawing inspiration from sectors outside the climate realm such as health, poverty reduction, and education.
- Considerations need to be made towards the temporal aspect and the short-lived nature of funding in response to humanitarian disasters. It is crucial to ensure that funding mechanisms for climate-related impacts are sustainable and enduring to address long-term community needs.
- Considering the fund's gradual establishment, it would be prudent to initiate a small-scale funding window for direct accessibility to communities.
- Allocating smaller amounts for community organizations to implement activities, will signal the fund's commitment to providing direct financing at the grassroots level.



WELCOME REMARKS

Saqib Huq

Managing Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development



In his welcoming remarks to begin the session, Mr. Saqib Huq expanded upon the vision of the late Dr. Saleemul Huq, Founder, ICCCAD, and his vision for Loss and Damage (L&D), and how he would be proud today to see its progress under UNFCCC. He briefly reflected on the outcomes from COP 28, and how best to support the developing countries including LDCs & SIDs address L&D through the WIM, LDF, and the SNLD mechanisms. Now, with both

the SNLD and LDF boards gearing to kickstart their activities, it is the right time to discuss the mandates for them along with WIM, areas of synergy, and the areas requiring fostering of ideas, and the role of all stakeholders, particularly civil societies helping the overall process going forward. He invited the panelists to provide their insights on these issues.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Adv. Hafijul Islam Khan

Director, Centre for Climate Justice-Bangladesh (CCJ-B); Co-coordinator, Loss and Damage Team, LDCs Climate Group at UNFCCC' Member, Executive Committee of Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage at UNFCCC



"Access is important for capacity building. It then creates many policies and stakeholders. A national mechanism is needed here with evidence-based approach and global tools."

Adv. Khan focused on the background of the UNFCCC process for loss and damage, along its mechanisms and their structure. Acknowledging the contributions of the late Dr. Saleemul Huq and ICCCAD to the L&D discourse, he highlighted past efforts in COP meetings and workshops to develop mechanisms for L&D through navigating tricky and sensitive negotiations. He further delved into the roles of the institutions like the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) and the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), and the associated challenges in accessing funds.

To ensure the access of funds for the affected communities, Adv. Khan emphasized the need for comprehensive management and disaster management task forces to assess technology and finance gaps at both global and national levels. He called for integrating local



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Global Conference 4

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perspectives and evidence-based approaches into governance structures, advocating for capacity building and empowerment at the community level.

Looking ahead, Adv. Khan called for a programmatic approach to ensure funding availability and coordination, advocating for a shift from top-down to bottom-up approaches in decision-making processes, through enhanced coordination, communication and capacity-building.

Ritu Bharadwaj

Principal Researcher and Team Leader, Climate Governance and Finance, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).



“Many of the existing funds come with many complex processes and principles, making it difficult for LDCs and SIDs to access the funds. If they receive a fund 5 years down the line, how does it stay effective? A strong adaptation of today can become a mild adaptation tomorrow with the accelerating climate change impacts in those nations. We need a flexible funding and this was the vision of Dr. Saleem with the LDF.”

Ms. Bharadwaj, expressing gratitude to Adv. Khan and Mr. Huq, recollected Dr. Huq's long-enduring and transformative contributions to the L&D process, citing his brainchild - the *Alliance for Locally-Led Approaches for Transformative Action on Loss and Damage*. Bharadwaj stressed the urgency for action and support from informal sources.

Bharadwaj outlined a national process for pooling resources among countries for long-term resilience building and crisis response, ensuring direct benefit transfers to communities. Addressing feasibility concerns, she cited examples of digitization and social registries in LDCs and SIDs. She advocated for shifting to practical approaches, and integrating climate risks into registries to identify vulnerable areas and individuals, referencing India's bank transfers and Cambodia's mobile banking during crises. Bharadwaj concluded by highlighting the role of civil society through community engagement and direct support, in bringing forth transformative changes to fund allocation and governance structures to effectively address L&D.

Samuel Chijioke Okorie

Research coordinator, Los Angeles Youth Coalition; Youth member, Santiago Network on Loss and Damage Advisory Board



“Greater engagement with the communities that face the issues of climate crisis is very important, to address and identify who the most vulnerable and who needs what kind of support and how to make sure that these are the necessary resources for the communities, that are accessible to them. Because we know the process is very difficult already and communities and authorities

need to come to an agreement for a particular decision”.



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Mr. Samuel Okorie began by reflecting on his experience as a loss and damage consultant.. Okorie discussed the role of the Santiago Network as a facilitator between the executive committee and the loss and damage fund, emphasizing its function in catalyzing resources, providing technical assistance, and disseminating real-time knowledge.

Okorie advocated for financial reforms in international financial institutions, proposing a three-tiered approach involving the SNLD, WIM Executive Committee (EXCOM), and the LDF. He discussed incorporating transformative adaptation approaches into the Network's work plan and emphasized collaboration and youth involvement. Mr. Okorie prioritized community engagement, resource accessibility, and the need for increased research efforts dispelling misinformation and mobilizing support for climate action. He also suggested a strategic stakeholder mapping to facilitate effective communication and engagement at the local level. He called for proactive measures for fund implementation and aligning the board's priorities with identified community needs.

Underscoring the importance of identifying necessary resources and streamlining approval processes to expedite fund deployment once available, Mr. Okorie indicated the need for clear guidelines and mechanisms to ensure equitable access to the fund for affected communities. He concluded by stressing on the significance of collaboration between host organizations and stakeholders to effectively address the challenges posed by climate change and ensure equitable support distribution.

David Chama Kaluba

Economist; Climate Finance Negotiator, Least Developed Country and African Groups; Member of the Loss and Damage Fund Board



"To make sure that the collaboration (among the L&D fund boards and other stakeholders) is working strongly, discussions are important. There are so much information and works going on we need platforms to be invited to have discussions and share information, so we do not miss out on what is important among the confusion and ambiguities."

David Kaluba, expressing gratitude to be part of the discussion, reflecting on his past involvement with ICCCAD and the impactful work of previous leaders in the L&D discourse. He underscored the need for coherence and complementarity in the governing instrument, highlighting the involvement of stakeholders such as CSOs, NGOs, and Indigenous peoples.

Dissecting the roles and functions expected of the Santiago Network and the Loss and Damage Fund, Mr. Kaluba prioritized collaboration and integration within the funding arrangements. He underscored the importance of practicalities and effective communication in ensuring the success of collaborative efforts, urging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to push for representation and a platform to express their concerns. Acknowledged the challenges ahead, including scheduling difficulties and uncertainty



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regarding board composition, Kaluba maintained optimism about a fruitful starting point for the collaboration.

He concluded by expressing his eagerness to exchange knowledge and support the strengthening of collaboration, and offering to provide tangible case studies and evidence to support board decisions.

Liane Schalatek

Associate Director, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Washington, DC.



“We know that hundreds of billions are required and this is not a capitalization of the fund. So, let's all also be very clear that we need an initial resource moment mobilization or capitalization strategy.”

Ms. Schalatek, relaying appreciation for being invited to the session, underlined the significance of drawing lessons from existing funding instruments like the GCF to inform the operationalization of the LDF. She pointed out the dual nature of the Fund in its functionality both as a mechanism for addressing L&D and also as an entity within the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement financial mechanism, making it critical to have coherence among the different climate finance mechanisms.

Stressing on framing the governance of the Fund through a human rights lens to ensure community empowerment and prioritizing their needs, Ms. Schalatek discussed the importance of broader participation and engagement, particularly from CSOs and vulnerable communities, in decision-making processes. She called for enhanced direct access to facilitate community-driven decision-making and effective fund utilization. She also raised questions about the relationship between the LDF and the SNLD will help incorporate diverse knowledge forms in fund implementation. She pointed out the need of clear communication and outreach to ensure understanding of the Fund's mandate and eligibility criteria, inviting questions and further discussion on its operationalization.

Ms. Schalatek highlighted the critical role of strong CSO and community engagement in the initial board meetings of the LDF, in setting cooperative policies and the need for technical input and community advocacy to prioritize bottom-up approaches. She finally underscored the need for the board members understanding the distinction between supporting communities directly and allocating funds to governments, advocating for a shift towards community-centered initiatives despite potential government resistance.

Way Forward

Reflecting on the session discussion, Mr. Huq raised the question of how the Loss and Damage mechanism can provide immediate support to vulnerable communities, particularly those in LDCs and SIDs, and indigenous groups facing the immediate impacts of climate change. He called for reflexive actions to support these communities amidst ongoing discussions about broader mechanisms. He emphasized on how this discussion is an ongoing process and needs to continue through various platforms to build a consensus



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among different stakeholder groups on how to best proceed with the L&D process such that all of its mechanisms move cohesively to ensure that loss and damage is addressed and the resources reach the communities most at need for it.