Press Release

COP31: Santiago Network scales urgent technical assistance on climate-induced loss and damage

Geneva, 2 November 2026 — As global climate negotiations convene at the 2026 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Antalya, Türkiye, the Santiago Network, the dedicated global mechanism catalyzing technical assistance on loss and damage under the UNFCCC's Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), has announced a decisive scale-up of operational support for frontline countries and communities. The Santiago Network arrives in Antalya with an expanding pipeline of approximately 45 technical assistance requests, including 17 that are currently active, with four projects moving into implementation (the Cook Islands, Kenya, Namibia and Yemen) and one completed in Vanuatu, as well as a global delivery network of more than 450 Members.

Economic loss and damage across developing countries is projected to reach $290 billion to $580 billion annually by 2030, escalating beyond $1 trillion per year by 2050[1]. Behind these financial figures lies an acute, irreversible human toll: forced community displacement, lost coastal livelihoods, saltwater intrusion into vital freshwater and disappearing cultural heritage.

Today, the Santiago Network stands as the world's dedicated global mechanism for technical assistance on climate-induced loss and damage. We connect developing countries and communities with timely, demand-driven and tailored technical assistance, knowledge and support they need to catalyse action on loss and damage.

Operating as a demand-driven mechanism, the Santiago Network equips vulnerable developing countries, particularly small island developing States (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs), and frontline communities with targeted, context-specific technical solutions to avert, minimize and address climate-induced loss and damage. The Santiago Network Secretariat is co-hosted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Concrete operational milestones in 2026:

- Surging pipeline: Around 45 formal technical assistance requests have been submitted as of October 2026, doubling from around 20 requests at the end of 2025, originating directly from governments and communities.
- Scaled implementation: 17 active requests are now in the delivery cycle (advancing through calls for proposals, expert deployment and active implementation), up from just

[1] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/TC2_SynthesisReport.pdf

three in 2025. Projects in the Cook Islands, Kenya, Namibia and Yemen are transitioning into direct on-the-ground implementation, following the successful support provided to Vanuatu.

- Global expert mobilization: Membership has surged sixfold to over 450 specialized organizations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs), expanding from 77 Members in late 2025. This coalition includes more than 330 partner organizations and 100+ technical experts spanning economic assessments, disaster risk management, climate mobility, Indigenous knowledge and other relevant areas.
- Flagship knowledge generation: The Network is also launching its global call for proposals and inputs for the Regular Report on Loss and Damage, setting new analytical benchmarks for the multilateral loss and damage landscape.
- Access to finance: The Santiago Network is strengthening collaboration to advance the Network's access-to-finance function by supporting countries in developing financing frameworks and fundable proposals.

“Developing countries need practical tools right now to assess economic and non-economic losses, build robust evidence bases, reinforce national frameworks, and access dedicated climate finance,” said Carolina Fuentes Castellanos, Director of the Santiago Network Secretariat. “At COP31, we are demonstrating that as country demand rises, our pipeline is rapidly expanding, and we are scaling up the delivery of technical assistance to avert, minimize and address climate-related loss and damage worldwide.”

Flagship high-level side event

Journalists and accredited correspondents are invited to attend the Santiago Network’s official COP31 side event:

- **Event:** Santiago Network in 2026: The Year of Scaled Delivery
- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, 17 November 2026 | 13:00 – 14:30 TRT
- **Location:** Room SPE 6, Blue Zone *(Registration link)*
- **Focus:** Share the progress made this year and reflect on how these evolutions underpin progress in data availability, policy and planning, and access to finance across regions at national and local level, and what opportunities they represent for enhanced efforts for governments, communities and technical actors.

Media Interview & Story Opportunities

The Santiago Network leadership is available for on-site interviews in Antalya (Office DO-66) and remote broadcast/print briefings throughout COP31 (9–20 November 2026).

Key Angles for Journalists:

1. The human face of non-economic losses: How frontline communities are quantifying displacement, loss of cultural identity and ecological damage to access global funds.
2. Delivering on mandate with real-world deployment across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. How targeted technical assistance acts as a critical bridge for countries to prepare bankable proposals for broader climate funds.

Media inquiries & interview scheduling

To schedule an interview, arrange broadcast access or request a media pack:

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Follow real-time updates and announcements on LinkedIn: @SantiagoNetwork

Notes to editors

1. About the Santiago Network: The Santiago Network connects developing countries and communities with tailored, context-specific technical assistance on loss and damage, enabling them to shape and lead action that reflects their priorities and realities. Our mission is to catalyse the technical assistance of organizations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs) for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change at the local, national and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Read more

2. About the membership: The Network convenes over 450 accredited organizations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs) providing specialized technical solutions across diverse thematic areas, including early warning systems, slow-onset events, human mobility, and non-economic losses. Read more