



Press Statement

AFRICAN NON STATE ACTORS URGE A RECALL OF THE UNJUST AND UNORTHODOX DECISION OF LOCATING THE SANTIAGO NETWORK ON LOSS & DAMAGE IN GENEVA

Nairobi, Kenya; March 25, 2024

Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance, its allies and partners, representing the active agency of Non State Actors from across Africa is deeply disturbed by the decision of the Advisory Board of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) which held its first meeting from 18 to 20 March, in Geneva and selected Geneva, Switzerland, as the host of the secretariat of the SNLD.

Such a decision is an epitome of global injustice and the power wielding tactics of the global north to control all the decision making processes for responding to climate change globally.

The Advisory Board meeting in Switzerland, and whose main agenda was to consider the technical report by the UNOPS-UNDRR on the cost-effectiveness, including a cost-benefit analysis of various locations around the world as options for the location of the head office of the Secretariat from a pool of potential locations tactfully veered off from the task and conveniently avoided the recommendations of UNOPS-UNDRR report.

In the assessment process, UNOPS-UNDRR strongly recommended Nairobi as the optimal location to host the Network based on their thorough analysis using scientifically-proven methodologies from a shortlist of various other locations such as Addis Ababa, Bonn and Geneva;

This analysis from UNOPS-UNDRR to the Advisory Board was blatantly and contemptuously ignored and the Board selected Geneva, which was ranked third in the analysis;

The board in its analysis turned a blind eye on what the network is meant to deliver, further concentrating institutions of climate governance, particularly on loss and damage in the North.

This decision by the Board demonstrates the sustained conspiracy by developed countries to keep climate response measures remote to African and other developing nations who ought to be at the centre of the capacity strengthening support of the SNLD.

We are Aggrieved that the hosting right for a Platform which embodies the struggles of the communities at the frontline of climate crisis, and whose location should symbolise the very palpable rationale of tackling Loss and Damage has once again been unjustly snatched from a deserving developing country through a clandestinely nefarious process of manipulation, carrot-dangling and intimidation;

Now in pursuit of justice, greater transparency and accountability to the developing nations, condemn the decision; declare the Advisory Board's decision a nullity and call for:

1. Overwhelming condemnation, in the strongest possible manner, the apparent subversion of the laid-down procedures by the Advisory Board, and call upon appointing authorities, especially those from Africa and other developing countries, to investigate the possibility of collusion, carrot-dangling and manipulation by industrialised countries.
2. In order to regain the lost glory, the Advisory Board should, with immediate effect, reverse their ill-intentioned decision and adopt the recommendations from UNOPS-UNDRR by unanimously picking Nairobi as the host of the SNLD.
3. Call on the Chair of the Committee of the Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) and Chair of AGN to pronounce themselves, and expeditiously compel the Advisory Board to respect and adopt the recommendations of UNOPS-UNDRR.
4. We continue to urge the Advisory Board to foster the principles of climate justice, CBDR-C, human rights including children rights, and gender equality, in addressing Loss and Damage
5. Call on the Advisory Board to further demonstrate Goodfaith by swiftly putting together structures that will ensure countries and communities facing losses and damages are reached soonest possible, and have requisite local governance structures for response. This cannot be done from Geneva!
6. Call on the SNLD to have sustainable, predictable and sufficient resources (financial, technical, and human resources) to enhance capacity of countries in responding to losses and damages occasioned by the changing climate.

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Additional Notes:

- a. *The mandate of the Santiago network is to catalyze the technical assistance of relevant organizations, bodies, networks and experts for the implementation of relevant approaches for averting, minimize and addressing Loss and Damage at the local, national and regional level, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change*

b. 5 locations were selected for further screening against a set criteria that assessed operational costs, operational efficiency and other factors. These were: a. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia b. Bonn, Germany c. Brussels, Belgium d. Geneva, Switzerland e. Nairobi, Kenya

c. The table below provides aggregate scores per location, ranking Nairobi high up in its performance:

<i>SR</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Operational Efficiency (Score out of 2)</i>	<i>Cost Score (Score out of 2)</i>	<i>Other factors score (score out of 1)</i>	<i>Total (Score out of 5)</i>
1	Nairobi, Kenya	1.5	1.6	1.0	4.10
2	Bonn, Germany	2.0	1.2	0.7	3.85
3	Geneva, Switzerland	2.0	0.8	1.0	3.75
4	Brussels, Belgium	2.0	1.2	0.6	3.75
5	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	1.5	1.2	0.6	3.25