

# Call for Action To Reduce Climate-Induced Loss & Damage

Climate change is a recognised driver for hazards and disasters. Disasters are increasing in severity and frequency, a trend that is likely to accelerate with global climate change and the large-scale degradation of ecosystems, leading to new humanitarian crises. Small- and large-scale disasters cause far-reaching economic and structural disruption and have long-term social and psychological impacts. People and communities around the world already face these consequences of climate induced loss and damage. In 2020 more than 30 million people were displaced due to climate change. By 2030 the economic losses due to climate change are anticipated to be above 580 billion USD. Very dry areas across the globe have doubled in extent since the 1970s, resulting in increased frequency, severity, and duration of droughts. The effect of climate change is here. We need to reduce the loss and damage in the long and short term. **The following policy recommendations are developed by a wide part of the society, from Low- Middle- & High-income countries, from informal community groups to large international organisations, from activists to private sector. It is all informed by the evidence generated by science and academia.**

## 1. Operationalise the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage

The Santiago Network mandate must be effectively operationalized and sufficiently financed. Critical actions to take includes:

- Incorporate loss and damage as a **permanent and independent agenda item** for all future COP/CMAs.
- Develop **finance modalities** for the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage and make pledges to support it. Dedicated climate finance by high income countries, of 100 billion USD annually.
- Ensure that the Santiago Network **engages all relevant actors in its operationalisation**. This includes but is not limited to vulnerable groups, communities, youth, and human mobility experts.
- Support establishment and development of **national level systems distributing loss and damage financing**.
- Provide technical support and guidance, including capacity building on a human-right based approach, to **develop national and local policy and needs assessments**.
- Develop a **clear set of trigger mechanisms**, to ensure timely response and technical assistance to severe climate induced hazards and events.
- Implement the **Task Force on Displacement's (TFD)** existing recommendations, to reduce loss and damage related to human mobility.

## 2. Generate and Disseminate Loss and Damage Data

Lack of data and awareness is altering the understanding of the true scope of climate induced loss and damage. As such, critical actions to take includes:

- All countries should support the quantification of both **economic, non-economic, environmental, human, and social climate induced loss and damage**.
- The existing **standardized definitions of hazards** should be used in identifying losses and damages driven by climate change.
- Quantification of climate induced loss and damage should include **both direct and indirect effects**.
- Communities should be included in identification of loss and damage, as well as quantification.
- Communities should have **easy access to information on climate risks**, associated impacts, and the cost of inaction.

## 3. Minimize Climate induced Loss & Damage

To reduce the climate induced loss and damage in the long term, **risk management and prevention** is a key. Better prevention and risk management minimizes adverse effects and creates opportunities to transform systems and societies. Risk-centred approaches should thereby be integrated into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDCs. To reach the most vulnerable, guidance and assistance is needed for the most vulnerable, to access **sustainable, adequate, and predictable finance for addressing underlying drivers and risks for climate change related loss and damage, including human mobility**.

## 4. Collaborate

When people work together, they thrive together. But today's institutional and social structures, grounded largely in a culture of competition and antagonism, perpetuate power imbalances, and entrench inequalities. Unsustainable patterns of human behaviour, including a growth-first mentality and the pursuit of power, also aggravate rather than ameliorate the challenges. **We must put the reality of our shared humanity and dependence on the wellbeing of the planet and each other at the centre of our deliberations and actions**. This applies to all of us, both states and communities, as well as humanitarian and development agencies and actors. **Loss and damage reduction, and risk informed investments and development, should be streamlined, and integrated within all levels, including the work of development and humanitarian actors**.

Signatories: [UPDATED AFTER SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> October]