

**LOSS AND DAMAGE YOUTH COALITION**

MAY 2023

**GLOBAL YOUTH DEMANDS FOR THE BONN  
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (SB 58)**



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**WRITTEN BY  
LOSS AND DAMAGE YOUTH COALITION**

## Background

Loss and damage from climate change is a burning reality for many communities globally, particularly those on the frontlines of environmental devastation, such as low-income, indigenous, and other marginalized groups. Billions of people endure its many effects worldwide: most recently heavy rains that have caused flooding and landslides in Rwanda have killed over 130 people, injured 77 more and destroyed over 5000 houses, infrastructure and crops.

Tropical Cyclone Freddy which led to heavy rains and flooding has devastated Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique causing more than 600 deaths and displacing more than a million people as of today. Cyclone Freddy exacerbated the cholera epidemic, destroyed homes, roads, farmland, and hospitals, and strained the capacity of healthcare facilities. Similarly, Vanuatu was hit by category 4 Cyclone Kevin brought gale-force winds and rainstorms to the Pacific nation, which is dealing with its second major cyclone in a week after Cyclone Judy ravaged Port Vila, cutting power and forcing some residents to evacuate. In turn, these events amplify other economic and non-economic losses and damages. Loss and damage is not exclusive to the Global South.

Two years ago, hundreds of people lost their lives after record-scattering rainfall and flooding in Germany and Belgium. California immigrant farm workers bore the brunt of this winter's extreme weather despite having few resources to rebuild their livelihoods. The floods destroyed agricultural land in the region, causing 30% to 50% yield losses. This is on top of the thousands of acres devastated by flooding in January this year.

In early March, dozens of houses were damaged and hundreds of people were displaced after severe flooding in Brazil. Homes, roads and bridges were damaged. Despite tragic death tolls and irreversible harm to essential ecosystems, decision-makers fail to recognize the urgency of addressing loss and damage, given the many delays in delivering concrete and effective action on the ground. The 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) was a turning point for Loss and Damage. For the first time, several Parties raised the prospect of a Loss and Damage Finance Facility, which was proposed by 134 developing countries and China. Unfortunately, the proposal was not kept in the COP's final decisions. However, COP 26 did see the establishment of the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD), building off work from COP 25.

The SNLD has an ambitious mandate: catalyzing technical assistance to implement effective approaches to address loss and damage at local, national, and regional levels<sup>4</sup> in the Global South which is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. COP 27 maintained momentum on loss and damage action when Parties established the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) and its funding arrangements, agreed on the structure of the SNLD, and increased discussions of Loss and Damage under the GST, the inclusion of young people in all decision making spheres, among other demands.

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Although there is progress that was made at COP 27 on Loss and Damage, much can still be done to incorporate loss and damage considerations in every aspect of just climate action

# LDYC SB 58 Demand

## The main demand is Loss and Damage Finance Now!

We, the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC), a youth coalition with over 900 members from 70+ countries in the Global North and South, join our voices to the demands of global civil society. We hope that the 58th subsidiary bodies (SB 58) will be the venue for debates that will lead to concrete, coordinated steps to address the climate crisis, with a focus on loss and damage. Our primary requests are as follows:

### **Loss and Damage must be made a permanent agenda item within the UNFCCC process**

“Loss and Damage” is a third pillar of the Paris Agreement and the forgotten negotiation item with the UNFCCC process should be a permanent agenda item not only in the SBs but also within the COPs to allow proper space and focus in the climate change negotiation regime. This will allow the voices of the Global South and the frontline community to be reflected in the already existing space.

### **Santiago Network for Loss and Damage**

The SNLD must be up and running as soon as possible after SB 58. The host secretariat should not manage but rather facilitate the “provision of technical assistance to the frontline communities from developing countries”. The host institution for the SNLD should start as soon as possible with proper consideration of the needs and voices of the Global South. The SNLD should have clear, predictable, and transparent funding to allow the proper functioning of the network in carrying out its mandate of providing technical assistance to developing countries through organizations, bodies, networks and experts (OBNEs);

### **Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage**

The Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM) was established under the UNFCCC to promote the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. It should have a dual governance structure i.e. under the COP and Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to allow the strengthening and synergies of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement in all efforts in taking concrete action to address the negative impacts of climate change.

### **Loss and Damage Finance**

Loss and Damage Finance should be new, additional, predictable, accessible and adequate to support the frontline communities within the developing countries in their respective efforts to address loss and damage at the community, national, regional, and international levels.

It should be separate from finance for adaptation and not increase the debt burden of communities and developing countries. Thus, Parties at SB 58 must make progress in discussions on the operationalization of a fit-for-purpose LDF and funding arrangements that meet the needs and priorities of countries and communities on the frontline of climate change and COP 28 must fully operationalize it. Furthermore, the transitional committee (TC) must carry out their work to ensure that the Loss and Damage Fund and funding arrangements are operational at COP 28. The TC should follow through on its promises to be more open and inclusive.

The Glasgow Dialogue must provide a platform to address the gaps in understanding towards fully operationalizing the LDF and loss and damage funding arrangements. The Dialogue’s first workshop should explore topics related to sources of finance and modalities for access; while the second workshop should focus on addressing the needs on the ground including non-economic loss and damage and slow onset climatic processes.

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) must reflect the priorities and needs of the communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis from developing countries and include sub-goals on mitigation, adaptation as well as Loss and Damage. The remaining NCQG Technical Experts' Dialogues must achieve substantial progress this year and agree on concrete recommendations on the structure, timeframe, and quantity of the new goal.

### **Youth, indigenous people, women and other marginalized people must be included in the Loss and Damage decision-making process**

The Loss and Damage decision-making process should be inclusive, respective to the needs and priorities of youth, children, and women especially those located within the marginalized communities, to allow their active participation as stakeholders in taking action to address loss and damage. To begin with, we should establish a partnership on eye level where all sides are regarded as equals and their unique strengths and contributions are recognized to their extent.

# LDYC SB 58 Demand

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## The main demand is Loss and Damage Finance Now!

### Adaptation

Adaptation funding should be doubled by 2025 from 2019 levels as committed at COP26 to avoid a repeat of the \$100 billion commitment failure. Parties must agree on the framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation by COP28 through the Glasgow-Sharm El Sheikh work programme in order to advance the global goal on adaptation, which aims to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change. The Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) should be implemented while ensuring youth inclusion at all levels and prioritizing youth and future generations' adaptation needs. As there is a focus on closing knowledge gaps, there is a need to ensure that young people are trained and equipped with skills and expertise from the grassroots level in order to facilitate and ensure inclusiveness in scaling up adaptation action in developing countries

### Action for Climate Empowerment

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) should facilitate access to Loss and Damage information (skills, knowledge, research among others) to be accessible, and there should be a youth advisory board on Loss and Damage comprised of youth actors and experts who are able to testify that each action taken to address loss and damage at each level is aligned with the current and the next generation's rights toward a safe future.

### Global Stocktake

Loss and Damage should be given equal emphasis as other issues such as mitigation and adaptation in the third technical dialogue (TD) of the GST, world cafes, and other events around GST in SB 58. There need to be clear guiding questions on loss and damage on the roundtable of TDs to collect data and information on loss and damage and associated finance and support needs, to support evidence-based decision-making. Party and non-party stakeholders need to be encouraged to ensure that the collected information on the GST reflects the opinions, needs and priorities of the people who are most affected by loss and damage, indigenous peoples, women, people with disabilities, youth and other marginalized groups

as it is necessary to collect data directly on the ground to inform on the reality of loss and damage. Loss and damage must be prioritized equally in the political outcome phase which needs to start high-level discussions on current gaps and the need and mechanism to finance loss and damage including advance discussion around innovative sources for loss and damage finance including taxes and levies.

Furthermore, the GST report needs to provide clear recommendations on how countries can explicitly include the need to address climate-induced loss and damage and the associated finance, technology, and capacity-building support in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The mechanisms of the UNFCCC do not have any clear mandates for financing loss and damage and it is difficult to differentiate loss and damage finance from other development and aid-related financing.

### No silos and keeping 1.5 degrees alive

Considering the Paris Agreement Goal and the mandate of the UNFCCC, Loss and Damage shouldn't be considered in silos and there is a need for keeping 1.5 alive. On Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in its third paragraph (6.8) which is the work program under the framework of non-market approaches, we urge to include Loss and Damage and its finance into the work program as the program is currently intended to involve the use of finance, technology transfer and capacity building approaches in order to promote only mitigation and adaptation.

### Transparency

Information related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage should be reported by each Party in the biennial transparency reports (BTR) and putting in place a loss and damage financial report mechanism differentiating it from finances allocated for adaptation.