

Loss and Damage in Africa

Africa Pavilion, Baku, Azerbaijan
20 November 2024

Concept note

Organisers

Lead Partner: UNECA

Contributing partners: AUDA-NEPAD?

Background and Context

“Loss and damage” broadly refers to the harm and injury inflicted by climate change that go beyond what people can adapt to. These constitute a range of residual impacts including lost lives; monetary costs from the destruction of infrastructure, buildings, bridges, crops and other properties; loss of ecosystems and cultures; settlements and farmlands among others. Causes of losses and damages of both economic and non-economic types include the rapid and slow onset extreme climate events occasioned by manifestations of climate hazards related to temperature, precipitation, and wind strength. Key examples include floods, droughts, heatwaves, frost, convective storms, cyclones, sea level rise, and ocean acidification among others.

Under changing climate, extreme climate events with devastating impacts are becoming more frequent and intense in Africa. While no country is immune from loss and damage, the concern with addressing the irreversible climate impacts is most pronounced in low- income, inadequate knowledge capacities, and technology deficient countries. Africa has contributed the least GHG emissions but suffers the highest brunt of climate change impacts given its greatest vulnerability to the adverse impacts of anthropogenic climate change. Furthermore, since Africa has contributed the least to the climate crisis and endowed with the least resources to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, loss and damage in the continent is inevitably framed as a climate justice issue.

After nearly 3 decades of negotiation under the UNFCCC, COP27 reached an historic agreement to create and operationalize a fund to help lower-income countries respond to and recover from climate change induced losses and damages. The COP mandated a transitional committee to make recommendations to COP28 on the size of the fund, modalities for payments into the fund, modalities for assessing and compensating loss and damage, and related practicalities.

Objectives of the event

The main objective of the event is to explore modalities for strengthening Africa’s understanding of the role of the loss and damage fund, and to review the continent’s readiness to quantify losses and seek compensation from the fund.

These specific objectives are to:

- Review tools and resources that Africa can use to assess losses and damages orchestrated by climate impacts.
- Increase awareness of the loss and damage fund access modalities.
- Explore partnerships for capacity building on the loss and damage fund.
- Propose solutions to making the case for increased contributions towards the fund.

Alignment with COP 29 Priorities

The COP29 priorities identified by the presidency include energy, peace, relief and recovery. For this reason, November 16 is dedicated towards addressing these themes. Relief and recovery are two aspects of the priorities that will be addressed at this event.

Draft Programme

Panel gender balance (male/female%)

Moderator: James Murombedzi

Panellists:

Cromwel Lukorito, IPCC Working Group II co-chair

Julius Ngoma, Coordinator, Civil Society Network on Climate Change, Malawi

Amjad Abashar, Africa Director, UNDRR

Kulthoum Omari-Motsumi, Africa Adaptation Initiative

Amanda Archibong-Doukoure, Global Climate Adaptation (GCA)

Questions to be addressed during the panel discussion:

- TBC

-

end of event

--- **Coffee and tea break:** yes/no

Key messages

-

-

-

Links to background documentation:

Please add the links here to complete:

Contact event organisers:

James Murombedzi – murombedzi@un.org

Charles Muraya – murayac@un.org