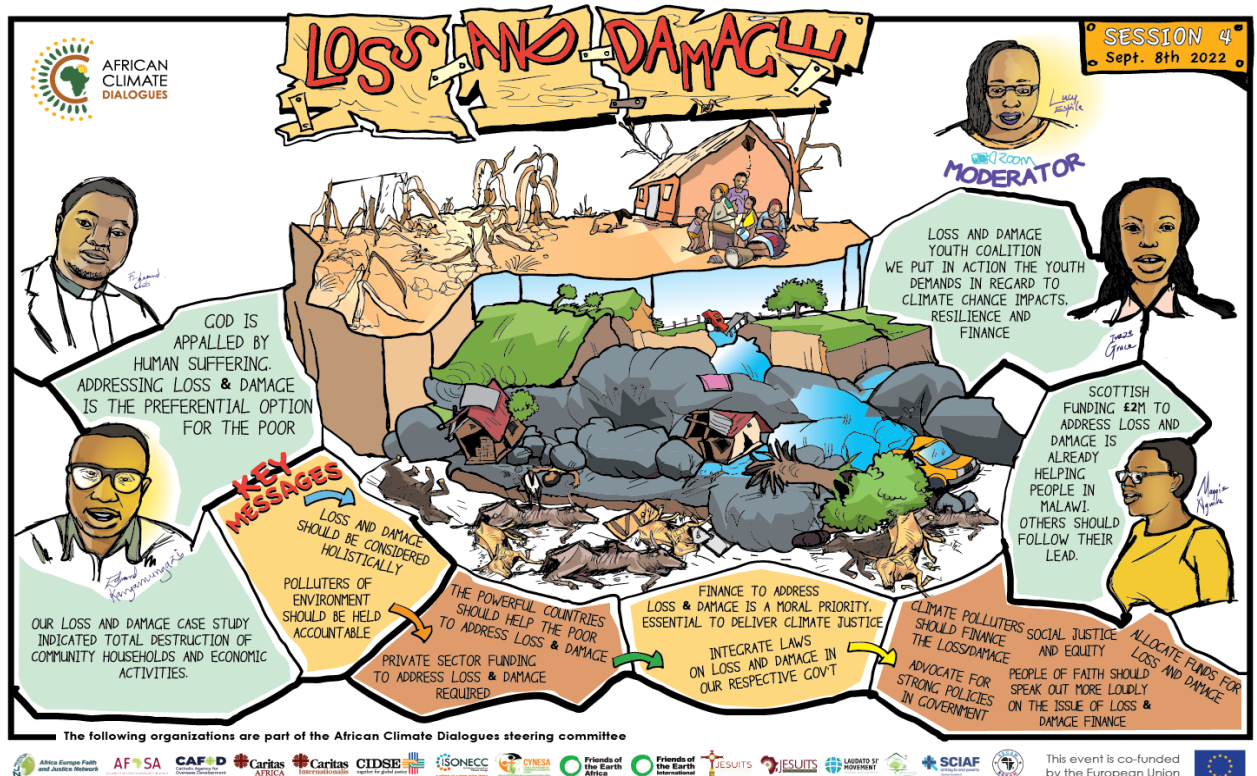


Newsletter
following the
'Loss and Damage'
Fourth African Climate Dialogue

08 September 2022 - Hosted on Zoom



LOSS AND DAMAGE

SESSION 4
Sept. 8th 2022

MODERATOR
Lily Taylor

Key Messages:

- LOSS AND DAMAGE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED HOLISTICALLY
- POLLUTERS OF ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE
- THE POWERFUL COUNTRIES SHOULD HELP THE POOR TO ADDRESS LOSS & DAMAGE
- PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING TO ADDRESS LOSS & DAMAGE REQUIRED
- FINANCE TO ADDRESS LOSS & DAMAGE IS A MORAL PRIORITY. ESSENTIAL TO DELIVER CLIMATE JUSTICE
- INTEGRATE LAWS ON LOSS AND DAMAGE IN OUR RESPECTIVE GOVT
- CLIMATE POLLUTERS SHOULD FINANCE THE LOSS/DAMAGE
- ADVOCATE FOR STRONG POLICIES IN GOVERNMENT
- ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR LOSS AND DAMAGE
- PEOPLE OF FAITH SHOULD SPEAK OUT MORE LOUDLY ON THE ISSUE OF LOSS & DAMAGE FINANCE
- SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Quotes:

- GOD IS APPALLED BY HUMAN SUFFERING. ADDRESSING LOSS & DAMAGE IS THE PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR
- LOSS AND DAMAGE YOUTH COALITION WE PUT IN ACTION THE YOUTH DEMANDS IN REGARD TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS. RESILIENCE AND FINANCE
- SCOTTISH FUNDING £2M TO ADDRESS LOSS AND DAMAGE IS ALREADY HELPING PEOPLE IN MALAWI. OTHERS SHOULD FOLLOW THEIR LEAD.
- OUR LOSS AND DAMAGE CASE STUDY INDICATED TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY HOUSEHOLDS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES.

The following organizations are part of the African Climate Dialogues steering committee

This event is co-funded by the European Union

Sketch by Andrew Baingana

INTRODUCTION

The fourth session of the African Climate Dialogues focused on the issue of Loss & Damage. This session was organised by the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), the Civil Society Network on Climate Change in Malawi (CISONECC), Caritas Zambia and Development and Partnership in Action (DPA) Cambodia, with support from CIDSE. The session was chaired by Lucy Espila from Caritas Africa, who noted in her opening remarks the importance of action on the issue of Loss & Damage, especially in light of the climate impacts we see around the world, especially drought in the horn of Africa and deadly flooding in Pakistan. The chair recognised that whilst Loss & Damage is included in the Paris Agreement, as of yet finance for this issue has not been forthcoming. Lucy invited participants to reflect on the human realities of Loss & Damage throughout, and invited speakers to share insights on what needs to be agreed at the global level on this issue.

HIGHLIGHTS - all slides are available [here](#).

Agatha's Story: Before formal proceedings began, Lucy shared a video produced by SCIAF in the Southern Province of Malawi. This video focused on the experience of Agatha, who lost her home and almost all of her belongings as a result of extreme weather in early 2022. Lucy invited all participants and speakers to remember Agatha's story throughout the session, acknowledging the human face of Loss & Damage. You can watch the video [here](#).

Maggie Ngwira, Programme Coordinator for Trocaire Malawi, shared a presentation detailing a world-first project funded by the Scottish Government's Loss & Damage fund. Maggie noted that at COP26, the Scottish Government "broke the taboo" on Loss & Damage finance, becoming the first developed country in the world to explicitly provide finance to address Loss & Damage. Some of this funding is supporting a project via SCIAF and Trocaire Malawi to support communities affected by Tropical Storm Ana and Cyclone Gombe in Southern Malawi. Maggie shared a presentation demonstrating how the project is taking a community-led approach to assess the needs of communities in relation to their losses and damages and to work with them to develop community-led solutions. It is hoped that this project can help inspire others to commit further financial support for Loss & Damage, and that it will help bring the perspectives of communities to the global discourse on the topic.

Ineza Umuhoza Grace, from the Loss & Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC) then highlighted that Loss & Damage was a key issue for the youth. She presented the demands of the LDYC for the establishment of a Loss & Damage Finance Facility at COP27, and that this money must be accessible, transparent and additional to adaptation and mitigation funding. Ineza highlighted that marginalised groups including women and young people are already experiencing climate impacts and that people with experience of climate change can inform global policy responses. She ended with a call for action on this issue, noting that action on Loss & Damage is needed to preserve all of our futures.

The Global Story of Climate Change Loss & Damage - the chair then introduced a video produced by the Make Polluters Pay Coalition which put the issue of Loss and Damage Finance into the global context at the UN level. You can watch the video [here](#).

Fr. Leonard Chiti SJ, Provincial for Southern Africa, then presented his Theological Reflection on Loss & Damage. This presentation, entitled "Loss, Damage, and God" utilised the "see,

judge, act” method of theological reflection. Fr Chiti presented some of what we see in relation to climate-induced Loss & Damage - loss of lives and livelihoods, destroyed physical assets, loss of heritage, culture and social relationships. He continued to “judge” what we see - noting that God is appalled by human suffering, he cited the books of Exodus and Amos as evidence that God wants us to support the poor and marginalised. He also cited the encyclical *Laudato Si* to help inform our response to the issue of Loss & Damage, noting that this references both “ecological debt” (51-52) and defines harm against the earth and the poor as a sin (8). Fr Chiti concluded with a call for world leaders to dream with a prophetic vision, to “seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan and plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17) and take a restorative justice approach to the issue of climate change, which required funding for Loss & Damage. You can read Fr. Chiti’s paper on Loss & Damage [here](#).

Edmond Kangamungazi, Programme Specialist for Caritas Zambia, then presented a case study on Loss & Damage from Nakamboma Ward in the Namwala District of Zambia. Edmond noted that extreme flooding precipitated by climate change had hit communities in Nakamboma badly in 2021/22. Impacts included households losing cattle, crops, water infrastructure, grain supply and housing. Many communities are still in exile following the floods, and in total 105 households were affected. Edmond noted that the climate impacts are undoing development progress in the area, including by driving farmers back to the use of hybrid seeds and chemical fertilisers, having previously transitioned to indigenous farming methods which are better for farmers, soil and the atmosphere. Edmond concluded with a call for action on Loss & Damage that includes communities and responds to their needs.

KEY MESSAGES AND CALLS OF THE DIALOGUE

Finance to address Loss & Damage is a moral priority, essential to deliver climate justice

- We are dealing here with issues of things which are lost and cannot ever be brought back. This is a fundamental concern for people of faith.
- Loss & Damage must not be the forgotten third pillar of responding to climate change, alongside mitigation and adaptation
- Loss and damage highlights the extent of inequality on all of creation (humans, plants and animals collectively).
- The Global North needs to step up response to Non-Economic Loss & Damage
- Finance for Loss & Damage should be underpinned by the polluter-pays principle
- Loss & Damage finance should be raised from the private sector as well as public, such as via taxation. Loss & Damage responses must be community-led.
- We need to focus on preserving things that might be lost; so-called Non-Economic Loss & Damage, including heritage, cultural artefacts, languages etc.

Without finance to address Loss & Damage, the UNFCCC is pointless

- If the UNFCCC continues to fail to address Loss & Damage, its credibility will be further undermined, and levels of distrust between countries will render the convention irrelevant & pointless.
- Global North countries have moral and legal obligations to fund Loss & Damage
- We need a robust means of calculating experienced Loss & Damage
- Loss & Damage assessments should be made in most impacted countries and means of addressing should be included in NDCs, outlining what costs need to be met by Global North countries.
- National Governments must set up Loss & Damage mechanisms. Rich countries

should finance these, via a Loss & Damage Finance Facility.

- Loss & Damage needs to be a permanent COP agenda item

People of faith should speak out more loudly on the issue of Loss & Damage Finance

- Voices of faith must speak out on the injustice of Loss & Damage, which is a uniquely moral issue, as it relates to the historic and contemporary systems of oppression against the poorest countries in the world.
- The Holy See are strong allies on this issue and have supported Loss & Damage calls in the past, but should do so even louder at COP27.
- We can no longer remain spectators of what is happening in the world!
- The Bishops of Africa should raise their collective voices to call on COP27 to deliver finance for Loss & Damage
- We need to increase awareness of Loss & Damage in affected countries too

CLOSING REMARKS

Augustine Njamshi, from the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) gave closing remarks. Augustine called Loss & Damage the most emotive part of the climate negotiations. He affirmed that if we return from COP27 empty handed to Agatha who lost her home and the farmer from Zambia who lost his cattle, then the climate negotiations will not be fit for purpose. Augustine also emphasised the importance of faith communities to speak out on the issue of Loss & Damage, noting that Loss & Damage is a moral issue; a justice issue; a human rights issue. He asked all people of faith to continue to shine the light so that others may see. He concluded with a parabel:

When in the field in northern Cameroon, I saw this old man. His head was buried in his hands because for months he had not seen a drop of rain. He could not feed his children. His fields were dry. They did not even have water to drink or to take a shower. My colleague asked him, "what is the problem?" He said "my son, it's like the sun has been brought from where it used to be closer to us, and it is burning us". The colleague then asked him, "What can be done?" He said "Let those who brought the sun closer to us come and put it back again, so that we will have rain; we will have water; we will have crops; we will have peace".

Augustine ended with a challenge to all Global North countries to solve the climate crisis, to pay their debt and deliver climate justice.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

This session of the African Climate Dialogues underlined the importance of Loss and Damage to a wide range of participants, including climate campaigners, practitioners, policy makers and concerned citizens. The contributions from speakers helped to explain the meaning of the concept, highlight how people are being affected by Loss and Damage across the world, propose possible solutions for policy and practice, as well as reflect on the issue in light of Catholic Social Teaching and the gospel. The breakout groups helped hone in on some of the key points from these various contributions and identify concrete ideas to help address this issue across the world, including at COP27 in Egypt. Conclusions will be further elaborated upon in a forthcoming event report. Headline recommendations will be distilled and synthesised into a communique alongside contributions from each of the 4 other sessions of the African Climate Dialogues. For any information about the session, please contact Ben Wilson at bwilson@sciaf.org.uk .