

5TH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LOSS & DAMAGE


Advancing Sustainable, Equitable and Just Financing and Technical Support for Loss and Damage in Africa



CONFERENCE REPORT- MARCH 25th - 27th, 2026

Civil Society Network on Climate Change

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage which was successfully held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 25th to 27th March, 2026, aimed to provide a platform to advance sustainable, equitable, and just financing and technical support for Loss and Damage (L&D) in Africa, while examining practical pathways to ensure resources and assistance reach the most vulnerable communities and countries.

The conference sought to achieve five specific objectives namely: (i) Explore sustainable, accessible and equitable financing arrangements that can effectively support African countries and communities in addressing L&D, (ii) Advance coherent and integrated approaches to L&D finance and technical assistance with a focus on overcoming access barriers and strengthening readiness at national and sub-national levels, (iii) Discuss the expansion and diversification of access modalities for L&D finance, beyond the core Funding for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), including pathways that better support CSOs, local communities and marginalized groups, (iv) Strengthen understanding of the role of SNLD in providing demand driven technical assistance, particularly to support inclusive loss and damage assessment and access to finance, (v) Strengthen regional collaboration, preparedness and engagement in advancing L&D agenda at COP32.

The conference was structured across six sessions. The opening session established the political and moral framing of L&D as a lived reality and a matter of climate and economic justice. Session 2 reviewed outcomes of the ACS2 and COP30 and outlined Africa’s priorities for upcoming COP negotiations. Session 3 examined country experiences in accessing L&D financing, with a particular focus on the Barbados Implementation Modality (BIM) and persistent barriers to the FRLD. Session 4 explored integrated approaches to L&D finance and technical assistance, covering data and evidence, reparations and strategic litigation, and structural arrangements for country-level L&D response. Session 5 comprised breakout discussions on strengthening technical capacity, leveraging regional platforms for data and knowledge, and ensuring gender and social inclusion in L&D action. The closing session featured the adoption of a conference communiqué and solidarity remarks from key stakeholders.

The conference consolidated recommendations across five thematic areas: financing, the BIM and FRLD, technical assistance, data and evidence and reparations and justice and concluded with a collective call to action, affirming that its value lies not in the quality of dialogue alone but in the concrete changes it catalyses for climate-affected communities across Africa. To ensure that these recommendations are adequately disseminated, the conference led to the development of this report, a Communique, a Documentary, Pictorial focus and Newsletters. The conference also led to development of a Roadmap to COP32 for Advancing Loss and Damage.



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACS2	Second African Climate Summit
AGN	African Group of Negotiators
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
BIM	Barbados Implementation Modality
CADECOM	Catholic Development Commission in Malawi
CARD	Churches Action in Relief and Development
CDF	Community Disaster Fund
CFAF	Climate Finance Action Fund
CICOD	Circle for Integrated Community Development
CISONECC	Civil Society Network on Climate Change
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSVR	Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation
DAPP	Development Aid from People to People
DCCMS	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
DoDMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAD	Environmental Affairs Department
ELDS	Evangelical Lutheran Development Service
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FRLD	Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IFI	International Financial Institution
ILK	Indigenous and Local Knowledge
L&D	Loss and Damage
LDC	Least Developed Country
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoGSWCD	Ministry of Gender, Social Welfare and Community Development
MUST	Malawi University of Science and Technology
NBS	Nature-Based Solutions
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NCQG	New Collective Quantified Goal
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
PACJA	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
SCIAF	Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
SNLD	Santiago Network on Loss and Damage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Climate change is causing irreversible and escalating loss and damage (L&D) globally, with the most vulnerable communities suffering the greatest impacts through intensified disasters such as heat waves, floods, and droughts. Despite ongoing international negotiations, efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C have fallen short, with the most vulnerable countries experiencing the most severe consequences. The establishment and operationalization of the L&D Fund at COP27 and COP28 marked a significant step toward climate justice, but challenges remain in securing sustainable, equitable, and transparent financing. Recent conferences, including COP29 and COP30, introduced new mechanisms like the Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF) and advanced initiatives such as the annual State of L&D Report and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) to address the multi-billion-dollar impacts already confronting vulnerable nations, while highlighting the urgent need for action under all climate scenarios and reinforcing the critical link between effective mitigation and minimizing future risks.. However, gaps persist in ensuring predictable and just support for those most affected.

Africa is at the frontline of the climate crisis, experiencing disproportionate losses to lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, and cultural heritage. Yet the continent contributes minimally to global emissions. There are also persistent structural gaps in climate finance delivery, as the continent continues to receive limited and predominantly debt-creating finance. The Africa Climate Summit 2-Addis Ababa Declaration has called for grant-based support and the accelerated operationalization of L&D mechanisms, including the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), alongside strengthened data systems and methodologies to assess economic and non-economic losses, including slow-onset events and climate-induced mobility. This momentum has also reenergized calls for climate reparations, highlighting the need to strengthen and elevate evidence on the scale of losses to inform subsequent action and policy positioning. The African Group of Negotiators (AGN), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and regional institutions have consistently called for robust, accessible, and predictable financing for L&D, alongside strengthened technical capacity for assessment and legal recourse.

1.2 Financing Loss and Damage

Vulnerable nations have long sought financial support to address climate-related L&D, yet dedicated funding remains insufficient. While mechanisms like the FRLD mark progress including a \$250 million allocation for 2025–2026 under the Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM) overall pledges fall far short of actual needs. CSOs and local communities have limited direct access to funds despite being most affected. With total climate finance needs projected at \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035, and persistent gaps in L&D cost estimation methodologies, the financing gap remains vast and inadequately addressed.



1.3 Assessment of Loss and Damage

L&D assessment is increasingly urgent as climate impacts intensify beyond communities’ adaptive capacities. Effective frameworks must capture both economic losses such as agricultural and infrastructure damage and non-economic losses including cultural heritage, health, and social cohesion. In African contexts, a gap exists in accounting for debt-linked infrastructure losses, where climate-destroyed assets leave behind stranded debt and reduced public service capacity. While participatory, community-cantered methodologies improve local relevance, they remain underfunded. Current FRLD pledges of \$768 million fall far short of actual needs. Integrating health evidence into assessments can strengthen policy justification, investment priorities, and claims for climate finance and accountability.

1.4 Litigation on Loss and Damage

As the climate crisis intensifies and government and private sector responses remain insufficient, litigation has emerged as an increasingly prominent tool for seeking remedies for climate-related harm. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) 2025 Advisory Opinion further reinforces this trend by establishing that states have a legally binding obligation under international law to limit global warming to 1.5°C and to take ambitious and diligent climate action. The Court made clear that states must align their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with this temperature goal, and that failures such as continued fossil fuel investment or the issuance of new exploration licenses constitute wrongful acts.

Despite climate litigation becoming a critical avenue for advancing L&D it encounters challenges. Nonetheless, its rise signals growing recognition of the legal dimension in addressing L&D. It complements other approaches such as climate finance reforms, international diplomacy, and community-based adaptation by emphasizing accountability, transparency, and justice for climate victims.

1.5 Technical Assistance

Effective responses to L&D, as recognized under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), require not only adequate financial resources but also sustained and quality technical assistance. For many African countries, persistent capacity gaps in L&D assessment, proposal development, data systems, and institutional coordination continue to constrain access to and effective use of emerging L&D finance, including under the FRLD. The SNLD, established to catalyse demand-driven technical assistance for developing countries, is increasingly recognized as a gateway mechanism, supporting countries to meet technical, fiduciary, and reporting requirements necessary for accessing finance. However, demand for SNLD support significantly exceeds current capacity, particularly across African Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Technical assistance must therefore prioritize strengthening national and sub-national capacity to undertake thorough economic and non-economic L&D assessments; develop fundable, evidence-based proposals; and integrate L&D into national planning, disaster risk management, and adaptation frameworks. In line with UNFCCC principles on country ownership and equity, participatory and



locally led approaches, including community-based data collection are essential to ensure relevance, inclusion, and sustainability. It is imperative that the SNLD’s role as both a capacity-building and finance-enabling mechanism, technical assistance be reinforced and understood so that it can ensure that African countries are positioned to access FRLD resources and implement transparent, effective, and climate-just L&D responses.

2 5TH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LOSS AND DAMAGE

2.1. Rationale for the 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage

The 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage convened to strengthen the continent’s coordinated response to escalating climate impacts, including destruction of livelihoods, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Despite the operationalization of the FRLD and recent developments at COP30, African countries continue to face significant barriers in accessing climate finance, with flows remaining slow and inadequate. Debt-financed infrastructure destruction compounds fiscal pressures, while marginalized groups including children, youth, and persons with disabilities bear disproportionate burdens.

The conference advanced the Addis Ababa Declaration’s call for equitable, non-debt-creating climate finance and sought to close critical gaps in data, assessment methodologies, and institutional capacity. Discussions focused on accessible financing models, context-appropriate L&D assessment frameworks, and accountability tools rooted in human rights and climate justice. The conference also initiated a strategic African roadmap toward COP32, consolidating the continent’s unified voice in shaping the global Loss and Damage architecture.

2.2. Objectives of the Conference

The 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage was organized to advance a coherent approach to financing, assessing, and addressing L&D, while enhancing access to technical assistance, including through the SNLD. Specifically, the conference was organized to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Explore sustainable, accessible and equitable financing arrangements that can effectively support African countries and communities in addressing L&D.
- b. Advance coherent and integrated approaches to L&D finance and technical assistance with a focus on overcoming access barriers and strengthening readiness at national and sub-national levels.
- c. Discuss the expansion and diversification of access modalities for L&D finance, beyond the core FRLD, including pathways that better support CSOs, local communities and marginalized groups.
- d. Strengthen understanding of the role of SNLD in providing demand driven technical assistance, particularly to support inclusive loss and damage assessment and access to finance.



- e. Strengthen regional collaboration, preparedness and engagement in advancing L&D agenda at COP32.

2.3. Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of the conference included:

- a. A Conference Communiqué articulating collective African positions, priority actions, and recommendations for UNFCCC bodies, MDBs, governments and other relevant stakeholders.
- b. A draft regional roadmap to guide coordinated preparedness and engagement toward COP32 on advancing the L&D agenda.
- c. Conference proceedings report, including key discussions, expert insights, and agreed follow-up actions.
- d. A video documentary of the conference to be disseminated post the conference
- e. A publishable pictorial focus detailing major highlights from the conference

3 CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The conference commenced with introductory remarks from Julius Ng’oma, National Coordinator for CISONNECC, who set the scene ahead of the High-Level Opening Session. The National Coordinator introduced the CISONNECC Secretariat team, who served as key personnel responsible for logistical coordination and support throughout the conference. He proceeded to formally recognize and introduce the conference partners, acknowledging their contributions in making the conference possible. He concluded his remarks by outlining the modalities under which the conference would be conducted, noting that it was designed to accommodate both in-person and virtual participation.



Figure 1: Julius Ng'oma, National Coordinator, CISONNECC setting the scene for the conference



3.1 Session 1: High Level Opening

The High-Level Opening Session was moderated by Beatrice Makwenda, Southern Africa - Programme Officer, Trust Africa who guided participants through the proceedings of the session.



Figure 2: Beatrice Makwenda, Southern Africa-Programme Officer, Trust Africa moderating the opening session of the conference

3.1.1 Welcome Remarks

3.1.1.1 Remarks from CISONECC

Gift Numeri, Board Chairperson for CISONECC, welcomed participants to the 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage. He framed climate change as a lived reality for African communities, who contribute the least to global emissions yet bear the greatest burden. Mr. Numeri highlighted the tangible manifestations of climate injustice, including loss of homes, erosion of cultural heritage, and displacement of communities. He further described the evolving climate financing landscape as a call to action for African leaders and organizations to take a more proactive role in addressing Loss and Damage (L&D). He also acknowledged the efforts of CISONECC Secretariat and partners in successfully convening the conference.



Figure 3: Gift Numeri, Board Chairperson, CISONECC delivering opening remarks during the conference



3.1.1.2 Remarks from Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

Charles Mwangi, Head of Programmes and Research for PACJA, emphasized that the conference represents a platform that is already yielding tangible outcomes, including the formal recognition of Loss and Damage in Africa as a result of sustained advocacy efforts. He underscored the urgency of strengthening access to technical assistance and advancing the global push for the operationalization of the FRLD.

Mr. Mwangi highlighted the disparity in global financing priorities, noting that less than USD 1 Billion has been mobilized for Loss and Damage over the past four years, compared to significantly larger financial responses to geopolitical conflicts. He emphasized that this disparity reflects a lack of political will rather than a shortage of resources.

He further called for the operationalization of L&D financing facilities and the adoption of inclusive access modalities such as the Barbados Implementation Modality (BIM). In his remarks, he stressed the importance of addressing Loss and Damage through collective and coordinated efforts, rather than in isolation. He also referenced the Belém commitment to triple climate financing for Africa, emphasizing that this remains an obligation that has yet to be fulfilled.



Figure 4: Charles Mwangi, Head of Programmes, PACJA, delivering opening remarks

3.1.2 Solidarity Remarks

3.1.2.1 Remarks from Concern Worldwide

Lucy Mwangi, Country Director for Concern Worldwide, emphasized that discussions on Loss and Damage (L&D) are urgent, noting that climate change is a present and lived reality in Malawi. She referenced recent flooding events, including cyclone Freddy, highlighting their cumulative impact on communities and the reduced capacity to recover which illustrates a pattern of continued loss.

She stressed that L&D financing must effectively reach communities and that countries need strong mechanisms to manage and mobilise funds to reach the last mile. She highlighted the critical role of both international and local NGOs in delivering assistance as well as the importance of scaling up interventions within national frameworks. While mechanisms such as the FRLD and the BIM are



important, she noted that current financing remains insufficient and must be made more predictable to enable delivery at scale. She further emphasized that building resilience should not shift responsibility away from supporting affected communities and called for the FRLD to address existing gaps



Figure 5: Lucy Mwangi Country Director, Concern Worldwide, delivering solidarity remarks

3.1.2.2 Remarks from the Scottish Government

Tessa Ferry, Head of International Climate Change Department of the Scottish Government, emphasized that L&D occurs in many forms and is often underfunded with most interventions addressing quantifiable losses while non-economic and community-level impacts continue to be overlooked. Drawing on Scotland’s experience, Ferry highlighted the Scottish Government’s engagement since COP26, during which it mobilized dedicated funding to address L&D through concrete case studies and direct support to affected communities. Scotland has also worked at the intersection of climate adaptation, resilience, and L&D financing including support for sustainable agriculture recognizing that these areas are interconnected rather than separate funding silos. Ferry highlighted the importance of ensuring that affected communities can meaningfully access loss and damage finance, noting that community access and belief in the system’s responsiveness are essential for any financing mechanism to deliver real impact.



Figure 6: Tessa Ferry, Head of International Climate Change Department of the Scottish Government delivering remarks during the conference



3.1.2.3 Remarks from UNDP

Rabi Narayan Gaudo, Portfolio Manager for UNDP Malawi, affirmed UNDP’s solidarity with climate-affected communities across Africa, stressing that climate change is actively reversing hard-won development progress. While recognizing the FRLD and the SNLD as significant institutional milestones, he noted that both mechanisms remain largely inaccessible to those most in need. Gaudo called for deliberate access modalities that ensure financing reaches frontline communities directly. He concluded that the scale of loss and damage demands collective action across governments, multilateral institutions, CSOs, and the private sector.



Figure 7: Rabi Narayan Gaudo, Portfolio Manager for UNDP Malawi delivering solidarity remarks

3.1.2.4 Remarks from DoDMA - UNFCCC Loss and Damage Focal Point, Malawi

Mr. Wilson Moleni, Commissioner for Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and Malawi’s UNFCCC Loss and Damage Focal Point, opened his remarks by noting that the limits of adaptation are becoming increasingly apparent, demanding urgent and collective action. He drew on Malawi’s lived experience of increasing climate impacts to highlight why the L&D agenda is not abstract but deeply consequential. Moleni challenged the conference to move beyond dialogue and towards concrete action, emphasizing that meaningful progress requires systematic collaboration across sectors including health, agriculture, disaster risk management and others. He noted strong alignment between the conference theme and both Malawi’s DRM Policy (2025) particularly Priority Area 3 and the Sendai Framework. He closed by announcing that DoDMA, in partnership with UNDP through the BIM-DoDMA initiative, is developing a dedicated project to address loss and damage at the national level.





Figure 8: Wilson Moleni, Commissioner for DoDMA and Malawi's UNFCCC Loss and Damage Focal Point delivering his remarks

3.1.2.5 Remarks from the Environmental Affairs Department - UNFCCC Focal Point

Mrs. Tawonga Mbale Luka, Director of Environmental Affairs and Malawi's UNFCCC Focal Point, highlighted that Malawi is experiencing both economic and non-economic loss and damage. She cited Cyclone Ana which destroyed power generation equipment and significantly reduced the country's generating capacity and highlighted that the majority of such damages across the country remain unquantified, weakening Malawi's ability to make credible L&D claims.

In her capacity as UNFCCC Focal Point for Malawi, Mrs. Mbale Luka, stressed the importance of ensuring Malawi's access to technical assistance and financing, and called for platforms such as the conference to be strengthened as spaces that move from dialogue to tangible solutions. She concluded with a pointed message to the private sector: climate risks are no longer distant projections but harsh realities affecting every dimension of daily life. Businesses must integrate climate change into their core models and actively promote solutions that protect the most vulnerable communities.



Figure 9: Tawonga Mbale, Director of Environmental Affairs and Malawi's UNFCCC Focal Point delivering her remarks



3.1.3 Keynote Address¹

Martha Bekele, Co-Founder, Dev Transform based in Ethiopia challenged the prevailing narrative that positions Africa as a climate solutions provider, arguing that the continent already bears a disproportionate burden of the climate crisis while contributing least to its causes. She stressed that African Governments are being forced to borrow and redirect limited national budgets toward climate response funds that would otherwise finance education, health, and social development. Malawi’s case was cited starkly: the country spends twelve times more on debt servicing than it can allocate to climate financing. She called for L&D frameworks to move beyond direct economic and physical losses to explicitly account for lost opportunities in human capital investment making the case that Africa’s true climate burden must be quantified in its fullest, most comprehensive form.



Figure 10: Martha Bekele, Co-Founder, Dev Transform delivering keynote address

3.1.4 Official Opening Remarks from the Ministry of Natural Resources

3.1.4.1 Remarks from Richard Perekamoyo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources

Mr. Richard Perekamoyo, Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources, set the tone by highlighting climate change as a mounting threat to Africa’s socioeconomic gains and livelihood. He noted that conventional adaptation strategies are increasingly failing to keep pace with the escalating scale and frequency of climate impacts. Critically, he acknowledged that existing guiding frameworks and policy documents fall short in addressing L&D, which as a relatively new phenomenon, demands the urgent development of dedicated frameworks, tools, and institutional responses.

¹ [Climate Budget Allocation at What Cost? Africa’s fiscal trade-off with human capital development](#)





Figure 11: Richard Perekamoyo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources delivering remarks during the conference

3.1.4.2 Official Opening by Hon. Patricia Wiskes, MP, Minister of Natural Resources

The guest of honour for the 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage, Hon. Patricia Wiskes, MP, Minister of Natural Resources, affirmed that L&D is no longer a distant or theoretical concept but a lived reality for millions of Africans. She stressed that the true measure of the conference will not be the quality of its dialogue but the concrete actions it will accelerate. The minister called for equitable and just allocation of resources, and highlighted Malawi’s proactive steps in climate preparedness, including the promotion of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS). She emphasized that L&D transcends adaptation as it demands a fundamentally different and more ambitious response. On the continental stage, she issued a rallying call for a strong, unified African position capable of influencing global climate processes in ways that genuinely work for African people and economies. She reaffirmed Malawi’s commitment to working with regional and international partners to advance solutions for sustainable development.



Figure 12: Honourable Patricia Wiskes, MP, Minister of Natural Resources officially opening the conference



3.2 Session 2: Taking Stock of the Global and Regional Pledges for Local Impact

3.2.1 Session Overview

Moderated by Chikondi Mkawa, Regional Advocacy Advisor at CARE International and Julius Ng'oma, National Coordinator, CISONNECC, session 2 of the conference took stock of the global and regional negotiations and processes shaping the L&D agenda for African countries, reflecting on gains and opportunities alongside persistent gaps and challenges in financing and implementation. The session pursued two interconnected objectives. Firstly, it assessed how outcomes from the Second African Climate Summit (ACS2) and COP30 including the reaffirmation of developed countries' legal obligations and the reframing of climate finance as a developmental and economic justice obligation can be translated into actionable, locally relevant commitments ahead of COP31/32. Secondly, it examined how L&D finance can be operationalised at the community level through mechanisms such as Community Disaster Funds (CDFs), within the broader architecture of the FRLD, presenting practical mobilisation pathways and situating CDFs within national and international finance landscapes.

3.2.2 Advancing the African Agenda: Outcomes of the Second African Climate Summit; COP30 Outcomes and COP31 Priorities

Moderated by Chikondi Mkawa, Regional Advocacy Advisor – CARE International

- *Presentations on Outcomes of the Second African Climate Summit, COP 30 Outcomes and COP 31 Priorities by Phillip Kilonzo, Head of Policy Advocacy and Communication - Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)*

The session examined the outcomes of the ACS2², key COP30 outcomes and priorities for COP31/32³, assessing how these commitments can be translated into actionable, locally relevant L&D finance mechanisms and technical assistance across the continent. The ACS2 reaffirmed the legal obligations of developed countries and their historical responsibility as the primary basis for financing L&D, reframing climate finance not merely as project-based compensation but as a broader developmental and economic justice obligation. The presentation stressed the urgency of recalibrating the climate justice discourse and ensuring that global commitments are operationalised at the community level in Africa

The outcomes of the ACS2:

- The Summit called for strengthened African leadership in climate finance governance, with improved mechanisms for transparency, accountability, and equitable access.
- Linking climate finance to wider economic, fiscal, and governance reforms essential to preventing fragmentation and ensure effective delivery.

² [Advancing the African Agenda: Outcomes of the Second African Climate Summit.pdf](#)

³ [12 - Outcomes for COP30 & Priorities for COP31.pdf](#)

- The ACS2 declaration was adopted; however, concerns were raised about translating its commitments into country-level realities, governance structures, and legal frameworks.
- New transition mechanisms including Mission 300 were highlighted as opportunities for more effective and equitable finance mobilisation.

COP30 Outcomes:

- COP30 delivered important openings but fell short of the decisive shift required to adequately protect lives and livelihoods in the Global South.
- The completion and formal establishment of the L&D Mechanism was a significant milestone, marking the culmination of decades of advocacy.
- No meaningful progress was made on Means of Implementation, leaving key financial commitments unmet.
- The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) framework, dominated by concessional loans, is inadequate for Africa's needs; grants and structural finance reforms remain outstanding.
- Just Transition discussions at COP30 have seen more 'transitioning in' than genuine transition away from fossil fuels; Africa must protect its right to meet sustainable development priorities.
- Evolving geopolitics requires that climate finance be linked to wider global reforms; fragmentation of the financial architecture poses a significant risk to African countries.

COP31/32 Priorities for Africa:

- Define and assert Africa's own terms on Just Transition rejecting a framing that protects workers in the Global North while excluding the Global South.
- Recalibrate the climate justice discourse now, ahead of COP31/32, rather than waiting for future negotiating cycles.
- Scale up adaptation financing and strengthen global adaptation frameworks to reflect Africa's disproportionate vulnerability.
- Explore how Africa can strategically delink from a dysfunctional global financial system while building continental financing alternatives.

Key Takeaways

- L&D must be understood as a matter of climate and economic justice, not as a technical compensation mechanism stripping out the politics risks undermining the agenda.
- National readiness is uneven; strong policy frameworks and political will are prerequisites for external climate finance to be absorbed and effectively deployed.
- Debt cancellation alone is insufficient without robust financial management strategies; structural vulnerabilities will persist without systemic reform.
- Existing technologies for fossil fuel replacement remain too expensive for many African contexts; African-led innovation and affordable alternatives must be prioritised.

Key Recommendations

- Revisit the polluter pays principle as the overarching political and legal basis for L&D finance, resisting technical reframing that dilute accountability.
- Improve budget tracking systems to close the gap between high-level financial allocations and actual community-level impact.
- Advocate for concessional grant-based finance as the baseline standard for African L&D needs, with debt relief paired with structural safeguards.

3.2.3 High Level Panel Discussion - Financing Pathways for Loss and Damage

Moderated by Julius Ng'oma – National Coordinator, CISONNECC

Expert presentation on Operationalizing Loss & Damage Finance through Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance Community Disaster Funds by Paul Carr - Concern Worldwide

Discussants:

- *Keith Mackay - Scottish Government (Virtual)*
- *Natasha Zalira - DoDMA, UNFCCC Loss and Damage Focal Point, Malawi*
- *Charles Mwangi - PACJA*
- *Harjeet Singh - Fill the Fund (Virtual)*
- *Melton Luhanga - CARD*
- *Victor Mughogho - Eagles Relief and Development*

The session examined how the shift in the global climate finance landscape necessitates diversified financing pathways within and beyond the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). An expert presentation⁴ on operationalizing L&D finance through CDFs⁵ opened the discussion, highlighting persistent barriers to finance access, weak delivery commitments, and the strategic opportunity these gaps present for African countries. The CDF model was presented as a practical, community-driven mechanism that can function within established national frameworks and be positioned within the broader L&D finance architecture.

The panel explored how African countries can strengthen national mechanisms to effectively mobilise, manage, and access Loss and Damage finance.

Key Issues

- Only an estimated 10% of climate finance reaches communities at the grassroots level, with the bulk absorbed by administrative overheads and bureaucratic processes.
- Donors and political influence continue to dictate the direction of funding flows, often in ways that are disconnected from actual community needs and priorities.

⁴ [Operationalizing Loss & Damage Finance through Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance Community Disaster Funds.pdf](#)

⁵ [Malawi CDF Long-form Flowchart.pdf](#)

- Quantification of losses and damages remains inadequate, constrained by capacity gaps and weak coordination between relevant institutions.
- Resource limitations undermine the ability of governments and communities to prioritize and sustain disaster recovery efforts.

Key Take Aways

- Traditional top-down aid models prescribe solutions that fail to reflect the lived realities of affected communities. Community-owned approaches such as CDFs empower communities to define their own priorities and respond more effectively to local disaster contexts.
- A legal framework alone is insufficient for operationalization. Political will, sustained institutional investment, and dedicated capacity at both national and sub-national levels are essential.
- Systemic improvements to budgeting and administrative efficiency are necessary to ensure that a meaningful proportion of climate finance reaches the communities that need it most.
- Mainstreaming L&D within government systems, without adequate attention and dedicated resources, risks diluting its focus and urgency.

Key Recommendations

- Mainstreaming of L&D must be accompanied by corresponding technical, financial, and human resource capacity to be meaningful and effective.
- Blend Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) with scientific evidence, drawing on lessons from existing community-based models, to ensure that actions are both sustainable and forward-looking.
- Governments and civil society should advocate for structural reforms to climate finance delivery mechanisms to increase the share of funding reaching communities directly.
- The CDF model should be explored as a replicable pathway for channeling L&D finance at the community level, with appropriate adaptation to national contexts and regulatory environments.

3.3 Session 3: From Regional to Community Actions on Loss and Damage

3.3.1 Session overview

This session was moderated by Obed Koringo, Policy Advisor at CARE Denmark, and critically examined the following areas:

- The potential of the Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM) to deliver effective, accessible, and equitable loss and damage (L&D) finance to African countries and vulnerable communities.
- Whether the BIM is fit for purpose in the African context and explored systemic barriers to accessing the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD).



- Country-level readiness challenges, structural reforms needed to enable the BIM to deliver finance at scale,
- Lessons from other climate and disaster financing mechanisms, and practical pathways to strengthen access, readiness, and delivery of resources at both national and sub-national levels.

The session opened with a presentation⁶ by the DoDMA. The presentation provided a stark illustration of the urgency of the situation in Malawi, which has experienced six major cyclones in just eight years, alongside other climate-induced disasters such as floods, droughts, and associated disease outbreaks.

It highlighted significant gaps in the collection and consolidation of Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) data and detailed the wide-ranging impacts of climate change on the country. Participants acknowledged that while the BIM represents a positive step forward, access modalities must be significantly simplified and streamlined to enable affected countries to access funding effectively.

3.3.2 Panel Discussion - Country Experiences on Accessing L&D Financing in readiness for the BIM

Moderated by Obed Koringo – Policy Advisor, CARE Denmark

- Expert presentation on Making the Barbados Implementation Modality (BIM) delivers for Africa Countries and Vulnerable Communities by Natasha Zalira - DoDMA

Discussants:

Sheila Apiny - ActionAid International, Uganda

Natasha Zalira - DoDMA, Malawi

The panel discussion featured Natasha Zalira, Disaster Risk Management Officer from DoDMA, Malawi, and Sheila Apiny, Programme Coordinator, ActionAid International, Uganda. Panel discussions analysed experiences from Malawi, Uganda and other African countries on their readiness to access BIM.

Key Issues

- A large proportion of current climate finance continues to be provided in the form of loans.
- Despite the availability of funds under the BIM, access remains severely constrained by capacity gaps.
- Countries with the greatest exposure to loss and damage are often the least equipped to access the funds designed to support them.

⁶ [Making Barbados Implementation work for African countries and vulnerable communities](#)

Key Lessons Learnt

- It was recognized that citizen science and low-cost, context-appropriate assessment tools offer scalable and practical solutions to persistent data gaps.

Recommendations

The session put forward several recommendations to the BIM for consideration as the Board for the Funding for Responding to Loss and Damage is meeting in Zambia and for the overall implementation of BIM.

- Focus on institutional and technical capacity development to enable countries to effectively access and utilize resources under the BIM for recovery needs.
- Provide targeted orientation and support to countries on developing high-quality proposals
- Establish mechanisms to ensure that funds reach communities directly, enabling them to lead response, reporting, and recovery efforts from climate impacts.
- Strengthen accountability and transparent reporting mechanisms for loss and damage finance
- Reformed BIM allocation frameworks should explicitly prioritize countries with the highest climate vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.
- Provide long-term, targeted technical assistance for post-disaster assessment capacity, including through citizen science approaches, and ensure that the fiduciary standards of the FRLD are fit-for-purpose for the African context and do not create unnecessary barriers to access.
- African countries to collectively advocate for the fulfilment of existing climate finance pledges before committing to new modalities or mechanisms

3.4 Session 4: Integrated Approaches to Loss and Damage Finance and Technical Assistance

The technical sessions explored key dimensions of advancing climate justice and financing for L&D in Africa. Technical Session 1, moderated by Lee Ngirazie Climate Justice Coordinator, Christian Aid examined the role of data and scientific evidence in quantifying climate impacts in the health and agriculture sectors to strengthen financing claims. Technical Session 2, moderated by Gloria Majiga, Policy Officer- Natural Resources and Sustainable Climate Finance, Tax Justice Network Africa, analysed the growing momentum for reparations and the role of global legal frameworks and strategic litigation in advancing climate accountability. Technical Session 3, moderated by Dr. Maggie Munthali, Researcher and Consultant MwAPATA Institute, focused on strengthening institutional arrangements and technical support systems to enhance national and community-level responses to Loss and Damage across Africa.



3.4.1 Technical Session 1: Data, Evidence and Assessment of Impact for Financing Loss & Damage

Facilitated by Lee Ngrazie, Climate Justice Coordinator - Christian Aid

- **Presentation on Preliminary Evidence on Implications of Loss and Damage to the Health Sector: *ramifications for financing resilient health sector in Africa* by James Chirombo - Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Programme**
- **Presentation on Tackling Loss and Damage from an Agriculture and Food Security Lens by Valentine Miheso - AGRA, Samuel Kirichu - FAO**

This session brought together researchers, development organisations, and technical experts to examine how data, evidence, and quantitative modelling can strengthen the case for financing climate-related L&D with a particular focus on Africa's health and agriculture sectors. James Chirombo of the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme presented climate-attributable malaria burden research⁷, demonstrating a direct correlation between rising temperatures, rainfall, humidity, and malaria prevalence in Malawi. Valentine Miheso of AGRA outlined post-harvest food loss reduction strategies for smallholder farmers through cooperative models⁸. Samuel Kirichu of, Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) presented sobering figures \$3.3 trillion in global agricultural losses over 33 years, averaging \$144 billion annually in the last decade, with Malawi alone losing \$300 million to drought⁹.

After the presentation there was a panel discussion comprising the experts that gave presentations. The following were key issues, recommendations and key takeaways that emanated from the panel as well as the plenary:

Key Issues

- Africa's most climate-vulnerable communities are bearing a disproportionate and quantifiable burden of L&D, yet this evidence remains largely absent from financing negotiations.
- Agricultural losses equivalent to the combined GDP of Africa's top six economies occurring annually represent a structural economic injustice that demands urgent recognition in global loss and damage frameworks. Smallholder farmers, who contribute least to global emissions, absorb the greatest shocks with the least support.
- Contradiction in the development landscape for organisations such as AGRA and FAO who are positioned as partners in climate resilience but have simultaneously promoted

⁷ [Preliminary Evidence on Implications of Loss and Damage to the Health Sector: Ramifications for Financing Resilient Health Sector in Africa](#)

⁸ [RE-GAIN Reducing Food Loss in Africa](#)

⁹ [Insights from FAO's global paper on Loss and Damage](#)

input-intensive, emissions-linked farming systems. The sector cannot credibly advocate for climate justice while perpetuating agrochemical dependency that undermines it.

- Data exists, but it is siloed, underutilised, and disconnected from L&D claims.
- Indigenous and local knowledge remains excluded from formal L&D assessments, a gap that not only weakens evidence quality but disrespects the very communities most affected.

Recommendations

- Mandate cross-sectoral data harmonisation, empowering national statistical offices and district-level health systems to serve as coordinated evidence hubs for L&D documentation.
- Governments should improve investment in accessible information systems and utilization of already existing analytical models (open source) to accurately quantify and track sectoral losses.
- There should be a focused effort to systematically track and assess losses specific to key strategic crops, enabling more precise evaluation of damage and informing targeted response strategies.
- Indigenous knowledge must be formally integrated into L&D evidence frameworks, both as a methodological resource and as a matter of climate justice.

Key Takeaways

The evidence linking climate change to measurable losses in Africa’s health and agricultural sectors is no longer in doubt; it is accumulating and becoming increasingly precise. What remains insufficient is the institutional infrastructure to translate this evidence into actionable loss and damage claims. Africa’s negotiating position in global climate finance discussions will only strengthen when data systems are harmonised, costing models are operationalised, and the continent’s losses are presented not as humanitarian appeals but as quantified, justiciable claims. The credibility of development partners in this space also depends on their willingness to align their own programmes with the climate justice principles they adopt.



3.4.2 Technical Session 2: Global Reforms and National Level Applications of Global Instruments in Pursuit of Reparation and Climate Justice

Moderated by Gloria Majiga, Policy Officer -Natural Resources and Sustainable Climate Finance, Tax Justice Network Africa

- Thematic Presentation on Africa's Reparations Agenda¹⁰: *Is there traction and how best can this be better catalyzed?* by Martha Bekele - DevTransform

Thematic Presentation on Reparations and Strategic Litigation in Africa¹¹ by Mary Izobo, CSV

Discussants:

- *Alpheaus Ngonga - SCIAF*
- *Martha Bekele - DevTransform*
- *Mary Izobo - CSV*

The session discussed the historical origin of the concept of reparations in Africa and various milestones so far achieved in institutionalizing reparations. It explored on how key milestones along the African reparations agenda and other global instruments such as the March 25, 2026 United Nations' resolution recognizing slave trade as a crime could be used a legal basis for historical responsibility related to climate loss and damage.

Furthermore, the session examined how global legal frameworks and justice mechanisms can support Africa's climate justice agenda and strengthen the pursuit of reparations and accountability for Loss and Damage. Considering that loss and damage extend beyond adaptation, and that climate change primarily results from historical emissions concentrated in the Global North, the session unpacked that climate loss and damage is a reparations issue. As such, displacement, irreversible ecosystem loss, cultural destruction, and loss of life require redress, not charity. Framing loss and damage as humanitarian aid obscures accountability. The session highlighted the need to leverage on strategic litigation such as the ICJ Advisory Opinion (July 2025); the pending African Court opinion and domestic avenues as tools for advancing the reparations agenda.

Key Issues

- Current global financial and legal systems to address loss and damage are not adequate as they obscure accountability
- Quantification of climate losses is essential for litigation purposes, however standardized methods for quantifying loss, including non-economic loss are emerging but are not yet standardized.

¹⁰ [Africa's Reparations Agenda](#)

¹¹ [Reparations and Strategic Litigation in Africa](#)

Recommendations

- Push L&D toward reparatory logic by resisting dilution of responsibility such as loan-based climate finance.
- Develop standardized methodologies for quantifying loss and damage.
- CSOs need to build dedicated climate litigation capacity within African CSO networks; establish shared litigation funds; document cases systematically across jurisdictions for comparative evidence
- African Governments should embed strategic litigation and accountability mechanisms in national Loss and Damage plans; invest in judiciary training on climate rights and engage robustly in FRLD governance to correct African marginalization.
- Regional Bodies (African Union / African Court) should Accelerate the African Court advisory opinion, and develop a continental reparations protocol
- Development Partners should fund African-led litigation initiatives and legal support organizations unconditionally; cease conditioning climate finance on waivers of legal liability.
- Centre on non-economic loss and damage such as loss of land, culture, identity, language in all reparation frameworks; ensure frontline communities lead the narrative and the process.

3.4.3 Delivering Technical Support for Loss and Damage

Moderated by Dr. Maggie Munthali, Researcher and Consultant - MwAPATA Institute

- Expert Presentation on Structural and Institutional Arrangements to Support Loss and Damage Response at Country Level by Vincent Ondieki - ACT Alliance

Discussants: Country Experiences in access technical assistance on Loss and Damage –

- *Yolanda Mulhuini - Mozambique (Virtual)*
- *Wycliffe Amakobe - Kenya*
- *Lucy Alufandika, ICSP Programme Participant - Chikwawa, Malawi*
- *Lydia Chibambo - Zambia*
- *Felana Andrianaivo – Madagascar*

Effective delivery of L&D action not only requires finance but also coordinated, demand-driven technical assistance. The session commenced with an expert presentation on Structural and Institutional Arrangements to Support Loss and Damage Response at the Country Level¹² that emphasized the importance of building institutional and technical capacity across governments, local authorities, and civil society across Africa.

¹² [Structural and institutional arrangements to support Loss and Damage response at the country level](#)

While the discussion noted that a wide range of support for loss and damage is being delivered across the region, the support remains limited and is mostly relief-based. Technical support is not localized, neither is it well-coordinated which leads to fragmented and duplicated efforts. Loss and damage must go beyond reconstruction of damaged structures to include long-term resilience building.

It was also noted that inclusiveness remains a gap whereby despite youth being one of the most vulnerable groups to climate change, youth focused interventions are lacking, underscoring the need for greater focus on this demographic. Furthermore, involvement of affected communities in decision-making processes, particularly in terms of designing locally-led, youth-centered solutions would ensure that communities are directly involved in shaping solutions.

The operationalization of the SNLD presents an opportunity for African countries to strategically leverage global technical support while strengthening domestic capacity systems.

Recommendations

- Develop strategies for engaging local communities in the process of designing solutions to local problems
- Increase investments in disaster risk reduction to build resilience and ensure that loss and damage action goes beyond reconstruction.
- Simplify access procedures for SNLD technical support for African communities

3.5 Session 5: Breakout Session

3.5.1 Session 1: Strengthening Africa's Technical Capacity for Loss and Damage Action

Moderated by Twapashagha Twea, Policy and Advocacy Manager - Concern Worldwide

- Expert Presentation on Localizing Technical Assistance to National and Subnational Actors by Patrick Phiri - Malawi Red Cross Society

Discussants:

- *Chikondi Chabvuta Mkawa - Care International*
- *Allick Milanzi - Balaka District DRM Officer*
- *Chris Connelly - Trocaire*
- *Patrick Phiri - Malawi Redcross Society*

Overview of the session

The main objective of the session was to explore how the SNLD can practically build Africa's technical capacity to respond to L&D and generate concrete African priorities for how it should work. The session discussed that the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage was created to provide technical assistance to developing countries experiencing Loss and Damage. The role of

SNLD was highlighted as connecting with countries with technical expertise and institutions that can help them to access climate related losses and damages, and improve data and evidence systems. The session opened with a presentation on Localizing Technical Assistance from National to subnational actors done by Patrick Phiri from Malawi Redcross Society¹³

Key Issues

The following key issues were identified related to technical expertise for the SNLD and Africa's technical capacity to respond to L&D.

- **Persistent capacity gaps at all levels:**

Limited local and African-led technical expertise hinders effective responses to climate-induced L&D. This includes weak abilities to conduct comprehensive risk and L&D assessments, quantify non-economic losses (e.g., cultural heritage, biodiversity, community identity, and psychosocial impacts), and synchronize existing data with actionable project proposals and programming.

- **Awareness and understanding deficits**

Many local communities and even district-level actors lack clear knowledge of the nature, scale, and mechanisms of L&D, including available tools, processes, and how to access technical assistance. Grassroots realities are often not reflected in national or international approaches.

- **Institutional and systemic weaknesses**

Shortages in human resources, inability to implement projects, segregate, manage data, access and utilize funds, identify priorities, and effectively use technical assistance. L&D focal points are either absent, under-resourced or lack capacity in many African countries.

- **Exclusion of local and district-level actors**

Decision-making and consultations for the SNLD are top-down, bypassing district councils, local governments, and communities most affected. Local actors are treated as implementers rather than decision-makers, leading to centralized capacity that does not reach where it is most needed.

- **Governance and legitimacy concerns for SNLD**

SNLD is perceived as insufficiently demand-driven, with limited African ownership. Its current location (Geneva) raises questions of institutional justice and relevance to climate-vulnerable contexts. There is no strong embedding of

¹³ [Localizing Technical Assistance through operationalization of SNLD](#)

African and local expertise, and governance does not adequately reflect inclusivity or participation from affected regions.

- **Power imbalances and control issues:**

Capacity building often fails because control remains with those not directly affected by L&D. Tools, data, and assessments have limited impact without decentralized systems and genuine power transfer to local levels. Information erosion over time and systemic barriers further undermine inclusion.

Lessons Learnt

- **SNLD's success depends on demand-driven design and African ownership:** The network will only become practical and legitimate in Africa if it addresses regional realities, embeds local expertise, and ensures communities can directly access support. Top-down approaches and external control undermine its potential; localization (including possible reconsideration of its physical base) is essential for relevance.
- **Non-economic losses and data challenges require specific attention:** Quantifying and addressing cultural, biodiversity, identity, and psychosocial losses remains a major gap because data is inconsistent, not systematically captured, and poorly linked to programming. Closing risk assessment gaps and improving data systems is foundational but insufficient without community involvement.
- **Awareness, social accountability, and community agency are critical:** Informed communities that can articulate their L&D realities drive better planning, preparedness, accountability, and targeted interventions. Building social accountability mechanisms (including M&E tools for tracking funding) empowers citizens and ensures interventions respond to lived experiences rather than remaining on paper.
- **Inclusion must challenge power imbalances:** Genuine participation of local actors, district officers, and affected communities in decision-making processes is not optional; it is essential to overcome systemic exclusion and ensure the SNLD reflects where capacity and finance gaps actually exist.

Recommendations

- **Strengthen national and local structures:** Designate and adequately resource dedicated L&D focal/contact points in every African country. Address existing capacity constraints of these points and encourage national institutions to register with the SNLD secretariat to increase visibility and access.
- **Localize and domesticate the SNLD:** Translate the network's framework into local contexts and integrate it into national policies and regulations. Establish regional focal

points or a stronger regional presence to ensure access is localized and responsive to Africa-specific gaps (e.g., data deficits, coordination failures).

- **Integrate African and local expertise:** Prioritize regional and local experts in the network to address continent-specific L&D issues. Reform governance systems to promote meaningful African ownership, inclusivity, and participation, including active involvement of district-level actors and communities in consultations and decision-making.
- **Decentralize capacity and power:** Make the SNLD genuinely demand-driven by devolving national secretariates and decision-making to district and community levels. Ensure communities can directly access funding and technical support, with capacity and finance placed where L&D is actually experienced rather than remaining centralized.
- **Reconsider SNLD's positioning and resourcing:** Evaluate relocating or strengthening the network's presence to better reflect climate-vulnerable contexts (e.g., considering Nairobi as a more suitable hub). Ensure the network itself is well-resourced to deliver independent, demand-driven technical assistance rather than operating with limitations.
- **Promote long-term, integrated action:** Move beyond short-term fragmented interventions toward sustained, non-fragmented capacity building. Leverage existing Technical Working Groups (involving UN, World Bank, CSOs, etc.) as stepping stones to operationalize the SNLD. Invest heavily in DRR to minimize future losses and scale up anticipatory actions.
- **Build awareness, documentation, and accountability:** Raise community-level understanding of L&D concepts and mechanisms. Equip communities and local actors with tools to measure, track, document impacts, and conduct self-assessments. Enhance social accountability so communities can articulate priorities, advocate effectively, and hold interventions accountable through monitoring and evaluation.
- **Strengthen negotiation and collective voice:** Build strong national platforms and negotiation skills to enhance African countries' influence in international forums and ensure climate financing translates into tangible results aligned with local priorities.
- **Address inclusion and power dynamics:** Actively challenge existing power imbalances by ensuring true inclusion of local actors in all processes, from design to implementation. This includes reforming systems so that capacity resides with those most affected rather than distant decision-makers.

3.5.2 Session 2: Leveraging on Regional Platforms for Knowledge, Data and Access to Technical Assistance

Moderated by Chrispin Chavula, Policy and Advocacy Specialist - Habitat for Humanity

- Expert Presentation on Remote Sensing, Citizen Science, Crowdsourcing Data, and Social Media for Flood Mapping in Malawi by Patrick Kalonde - Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Programme

Discussants:

- *Natasha Zalira - DoDMA*
- *Dr. Isaac Tchuwa - MUST*
- *Patrick Kalonde - Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Programme*

The expert presentation¹⁴ addressed data gaps in PDNA and explored how emerging technologies can strengthen flood mapping, noting that while drones are useful for field-level data collection, their reach remains limited, and satellite imagery is further constrained by infrequent capture cycles. Simpler, widely accessible devices were presented as a more practical and scalable alternative for community-level mapping. The presentation also highlighted infrastructure-induced flooding where poor bridge design and engineering failures contribute directly to flood events and raised the question of whether social media can serve as a reliable source of spatial data for flood mapping, an area requiring further methodological development. Persistent coordination gaps across institutions and data systems were identified as a significant barrier to effective and timely disaster response.

Key Issues

- Absence of a unified and standardized data collection system, leading to inconsistencies in L&D assessments.
- Weak coordination and data sharing among institutions, despite the availability of multiple data tools and platforms.
- Underutilized potential of innovative data sources (e.g., mobile phones, social media, citizen science) to complement traditional systems.

Key Recommendations

- Invest in capacity-building for CSOs and communities in remote sensing and citizen science.
- Promote use of open-source platforms and ensure integration with official disaster information systems. Partner coordination should be structured to prevent duplication and maximize national impact.

¹⁴ [Remote Sensing, Citizen Science, Crowdsourcing data and Social Media for Flood Mapping in Malawi](#)

- Encourage mobilization of CSOs and youth networks as active participants in citizen science data collection to feed verified data into national systems.
- Address institutional and financial barriers to data access through formal data-sharing agreements and partnerships.

Emerging Issues

Remote sensing, citizen science, and social media are powerful tools for L&D monitoring but must be coordinated, integrated, and supported with capacity-building to maximize impact.

Key takeaways

- Assigning monetary values to losses is essential to unlock L&D financing, directly linking data quality to financial access.
- Social media holds untapped potential as spatial data for disaster mapping but requires methodological development before official integration.
- Community participation strengthens data coverage and reliability.
- CSOs can play a strategic role in coordinating decentralized data collection.

3.5.3 Session 3: Interactive Session on Gender and Social Inclusion in Loss and Damage Action

Moderated by Enock Juma, Partnerships Manager - DAPP

- **Expert Presentation on Assessing the Long-term Impacts of L&D on Child Health and Nutrition by John Chipeta - Save the Children**

Discussants:

- *Fred Simwaka, Malawi Gender & Climate Change Focal Point - MoGSWCD*
- *Hastings Banda - Youth Advocate*
- *Esther Mbewe, Child representative - National Children's Parliament*
- *Wangiwe Kambuzi - Emerge Livelihoods*

Children, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups are disproportionately harmed by climate change impacts. For instance, according to the Born into Crisis Report (2020), a child born in 2020 is likely to face 7 times more heatwaves, twice as many wildfires, and 3 times more crop failures than their grandparents. The climate crisis poses a survival threat to more than 5.7 million children under the age of five, worldwide. Given that children contribute the least to global emissions but inherit the most severe climate induced losses, the climate crisis is a major child rights and a critical justice issue! Ironically, children and other vulnerable groups are not prioritized in loss and damage, and climate financing frameworks.

The session began with an expert presentation by John Chipeta from Save the Children on *Assessing the Long-Term Impacts of Loss & Damage on Child Health and Nutrition*¹⁵. The

¹⁵ [Assessing the Long-Term Impacts of Loss & Damage on Child Health and Nutrition](#)

presentation emphasized that loss and damage from climate change is not only an environmental or economic issue, rather a long-term child health and nutrition crisis.

The discussants of a panel discussion that followed noted that climate L&D is not gender neutral as children, youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities face higher risks. However, disaggregated data on how climate shocks affect different genders and age groups are needed to provide an evidence base for L&D.

Climate induced disasters and impacts make child protection challenging, as it among others increase rates of sexual abuse and exploitation, child trafficking, early marriage, education disruption, and child labour.

Key Issues

- Children and youth are among the most affected by climate L&D, yet systems in climate financing are not favourable for youth, communities and civil society.
- Current L&D response including social protection operate entirely on donor funding due to lack of allocation in the national budget.
- Climate loss & damage is not gender neutral as children, youth, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities face higher risks.

Key Recommendations

- Introduce friendly loss and damage funding mechanisms to make funding accessible. e.g. set a dedicated funding window for youth-led initiatives or ensure a dedicated percentage of all climate finance is dedicated toward children/youth focused interventions.
- Establish global legally binding mechanisms for supporting children affected by L&D
- Ensure there is budgetary allocation in the national budget for loss and damage action, instead of entirely depending on donor funding.
- Design tailor-made interventions for people with disabilities
- Invest in gender-responsive solutions such as girls' education, maternal nutrition, and women-led resilience initiatives.
- Strengthen health systems by investing in climate-resilient health facilities, disease surveillance and emergency nutrition service
- Integrate children in L&D frameworks by ensuring L&D mechanisms assess child health and nutrition impact.
- Support in scaling up climate solutions that younger people are creating.
- Develop education policies that consider learners who miss school and construct evacuation centers to limit disruption of education activities during disasters.
- Increase investments in psychosocial support for children affected by disasters to speed up emotional healing and recovery.

3.6 Development, reading and adoption of the Conference Communiqué

As the final substantial session before the official closing, the conference concluded with the development, reading, and adoption of the Conference Communiqué. The session and its proceedings were facilitated by Julius Ng’oma, National Coordinator for CISONECC. Throughout the three days of the conference, a dedicated drafting task team worked continuously in the background, capturing key issues, emerging positions, and recommendations arising from plenary discussions, panel sessions, and breakout groups. Drawing on these consolidated inputs, the task team developed a communiqué that articulates a collective African position on L&D.

The drafting task team comprised representatives from diverse organizations and countries, reflecting the regional and thematic breadth of the conference. Members were drawn from CISONECC, PACJA, CARE Denmark, Dev-Transform, Trocaire, CSVR, TJNA, and the Zambia Climate Change Network. The communiqué was formally read to participants by Gloria Majiga, Policy Officer for Natural Resources and Sustainable Climate Finance at TJNA. Following the reading, the National Coordinator for CISONECC, Julius Ng’oma, facilitated the adoption process. The communiqué was subsequently adopted by conference participants, marking a significant collective commitment to advancing the L&D agenda across Africa.

3.7 Session 6: Closing Session

The three-day African Regional conference on Loss and damage concluded on 27th March 2026. The closing session included the reading and adoption of the communiqué which highlighted the recommendations for advancing the sustainable, equitable and just financing and technical support for loss and damage. Following this; representatives from various institutions delivered solidarity speeches which aimed to call for collective action to actualize the recommendations which emanated from the conference. The Principal Secretary for Natural Resources officially closed the conference.

3.7.1 Remarks from CISONECC

Mr. Gift Numeri, Board Chairperson for CISONECC, recognized the dignitaries and international participants present, and expressed appreciation for attendees’ active engagement and the insights shared throughout the forum. He noted that African voices on L&D are growing stronger and more unified, and highlighted the boldness of children’s voices as a reminder that L&D is not only about past losses of infrastructure but also about the future. He acknowledged that community representatives had articulated their issues clearly and effectively. He stressed that L&D must remain human-centered, noting, for example, that people do not stop being human when disasters strike, and that issues such as privacy and dignity must be addressed in programming. He closed with a call to action: “if conferences do not change lives, they only change the calendar. Real impact must be felt”.

3.7.2 Remarks from PACJA

Mr. Charles Mwangi, Head of Programmes and Research for PACJA, reminded participants that processes are not closed but adjourned, and that the conference had laid an important foundation



for how Africa will position and align itself on L&D. He described the conference as an opportunity to bring diverse actors together to deliver on L&D commitments and called for adequate resources to be directed to the fund. He noted that while governments are often constrained to diplomatic positions in negotiations, CSOs are there to complement and amplify the call for climate justice. He urged stakeholders to demonstrate the true cost of climate inaction showing that excessive spending on climate response comes at the expense of development. He called for flexibility in accessing climate finance, praised Malawi’s trajectory in developing a proposal, and criticized the bureaucratic nature of current climate finance architecture. Drawing on the UN resolution and the ICJ advisory opinion, he called on Africa to leverage these instruments to push for climate reparations. He concluded by affirming that while the session was adjourned, the work will continue.

3.7.3 Remarks from Trocaire

Wamuyu Manyara, Country Director for Trocaire, reflected on the past three years of work examining how recovery from L&D can be scaled up, noting that there is very little room for recovery under current conditions. She affirmed that the need for action is clear and must be elevated significantly. She called for clear funding structures, firm government commitments, and robust accountability mechanisms that enable communities to document and articulate what they are losing including intangible losses such as dignity. She emphasized that while joint effort is possible, there is no one-size-fits-all approach, as the nature of disasters varies even when the damage they cause is comparable. She concluded by affirming that communities are the experts of their own realities and must be placed at the centre of defining what L&D means in practice, with local accountability and tracking as priorities.

3.7.4 Remarks from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Mr. Richard Perekamoyo, Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources, described the conference as a hub for substantive conversation on one of the most pressing issues in climate change which is L&D. He expressed appreciation for the active participation and valuable contributions of all attendees. He noted that the collective resolve to address climate change and L&D has emerged stronger from the discussions and emphasized that L&D is not a future concern but a present, lived reality demanding concrete action, increased financing, and strengthened technical capacity. He acknowledged that the establishment of the FRLD is a significant opportunity, while noting that its modalities must be made accessible to African nations. He encouraged participants to leave the conference with renewed commitment, and commended CISONECC and its partners for creating a platform that brought together such diverse voices.

3.8 Consolidation of Recommendations

3.8.1 Stock-taking of the gains from global and regional climate change processes

- i. Re-affirm the polluter pays principle as the overarching political and legal basis for L&D finance, resisting technical reframing that dilute accountability.



- ii. Improve budget allocations to close the gap between high-level financial allocations and actual community-level impact.
- iii. Advocate for concessional grant-based finance as the baseline standard for African L&D needs, with debt relief paired with structural safeguards.
- iv. Mainstreaming of L&D must be accompanied by corresponding technical, financial, and human resource capacity to be meaningful and effective.
- v. Blend Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) with scientific evidence, drawing on lessons from existing community-based models, to ensure that actions are both sustainable and forward-looking.
- vi. Governments and civil society should advocate for structural reforms on climate finance delivery mechanisms to increase the share of funding reaching communities directly.
- vii. The CDF model should be explored as a replicable pathway for channelling L&D finance at the community level, with appropriate adaptation to national contexts and regulatory environments.

3.8.2 Delivery of loss and damage financing to vulnerable countries and communities

- i. Focus on institutional and technical capacity development to enable countries to effectively access and utilize resources under the BIM for recovery needs.
- ii. Provide targeted orientation and support to countries on developing high-quality proposals
- iii. Establish mechanisms to ensure that funds reach communities directly, enabling them to lead response, reporting, and recovery efforts from climate impacts.
- iv. Strengthen accountability and transparent reporting mechanisms for loss and damage finance
- v. BIM allocation frameworks should explicitly prioritize countries with the highest climate vulnerability and lowest adaptive capacity.
- vi. Provide long-term, targeted technical assistance for post-disaster assessment capacity, including through citizen science approaches, and ensure that the fiduciary standards of the FRLD are fit-for-purpose for the African context and do not create unnecessary barriers to access.
- vii. African countries to collectively advocate for the fulfilment of existing climate finance pledges before committing to new modalities or mechanisms

3.8.3 Delivery of loss and damage technical assistance to vulnerable countries and communities

- i. Strengthen national and local structures by designating and adequately resourcing dedicated L&D focal points in every African country, ensuring they have the capacity to engage with mechanisms such as the SNLD and the FRLD.
- ii. Localize and domesticate the SNLD by translating its framework into national policies, establishing regional focal points, and reconsidering its institutional positioning to better reflect climate-vulnerable contexts, including exploring a more regionally accessible hub.



- iii. Decentralize capacity and decision-making so that technical assistance reaches district and community levels, with communities directly involved in designing and evaluating solutions rather than treated solely as implementers.
- iv. Invest in data systems and non-economic loss and damage quantification, including citizen science approaches, open-source tools, and cross-sectoral data harmonisation, to strengthen the evidence base for L&D claims and financing requests.
- v. Ensure inclusive technical assistance by integrating gender-responsive approaches and dedicated support for youth, children, and persons with disabilities into all L&D technical frameworks.
- vi. Simplify access procedures for SNLD technical support and ensure fiduciary standards under the FRLD do not create unnecessary barriers for African countries and communities seeking assistance.

3.8.4 Loss and Damage Reparations and Strategic Litigation

- i. Climate justice in Africa should recognize restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and non-recurrence as integral to equitable financing.
- ii. There should be Utilization of strategic litigation, domestic courts, and international legal frameworks to advance reparations claims ensuring countries can leverage existing mechanisms effectively
- iii. Tools and guidelines must be developed to assess both economic and non-economic losses which are critical for justifying finance requests to standardize methodologies
- iv. Technical support should be provided through platforms like the Santiago Network to enable countries to accurately quantify losses and submit robust claims.
- v. Ensure L&D interventions and reparations account for differentiated impacts on men, women, and vulnerable populations with clear modalities for equitable access.
- vi. There is a need to shift from conventional aid or loans to reparations based and justice-oriented funding mechanisms that address historical injustices and climate vulnerability.

3.9 Key Action Points

The conference highlighted key actions required to enhance equitable and effective L&D responses in Africa which includes:

- i. Conduct systematic stock taking of gains from Global and regional climate change processes to inform future loss and damage Strategies
- ii. Integrate ILK with scientific approaches building on existing community-based models to enhance sustainability and relevance
- iii. Explore and adapt the CDF as a scalable approach for channelling loss and Damage Finance to the local level within regulatory Frameworks
- iv. Promote structural Reforms in Climate finance mechanisms to increase the proportion of funding that reaches communities directly.



- v. Reaffirm the polluters pay principle as the central political and legal foundation for Loss and Damage finance while resisting efforts that dilute accountability through technical reframing
- vi. Strengthen institutional and technical capacity to access and utilize funds including proposal development support
- vii. Establish mechanisms for direct community access and leadership in response and recovery efforts.
- viii. Enhance accountability and transparency in L&D finance reporting.
- ix. Prioritize highly vulnerable countries in reformed BIM allocation frameworks.
 - x. Provide long term technical support for post disaster assessments, ensuring accessible and context appropriate funding standards.
- xi. Advocate for the fulfilment of existing climate finance commitments before introducing new mechanisms
- xii. strengthen budget Tracking systems to close gap between high level financial allocations and actual community level impact
- xiii. Ensure mainstreaming of L&D is accompanied by adequate resources, including technical, financial, and human capacity, to make interventions meaningful and effective.
- xiv. Provide targeted orientation and support to countries for developing high-quality proposals to access L&D funds effectively.
- xv. Incorporate citizen science approaches into post-disaster assessment capacity, ensuring tools and standards are accessible and context-appropriate for African communities

4 CONCLUSION

The 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage was successfully convened in Lilongwe, Malawi, under the theme Advancing Sustainable, Equitable and Just Financing and Technical Support for Loss and Damage in Africa. From 25–27 March, diverse participants including government representatives, CSOs, multilateral institutions, researchers, and community voices reviewed, challenged and reflected on the outcomes of ACS2, COP30 and other global processes shaping the L&D agenda. The conference explored avenues for technical assistance and examined financing mechanisms beyond the FRLD to strengthen Africa’s capacity to respond to escalating climate impacts.

Discussions advanced coherent and integrated approaches to L&D finance and technical assistance, grounded in the recognition that climate change is no longer a distant threat but a present, lived reality for millions of Africans. The keynote address powerfully reframed Africa's climate burden beyond direct physical losses to include lost opportunities in human capital investment, noting starkly that Malawi spends twelve times more on debt servicing than it can allocate to climate financing. This framing set the tone for the conference's insistence that L&D must be understood as a matter of economic and climate justice, not merely a technical compensation mechanism. The conference ensured an increased understanding of the role of the SNLD in delivering demand-driven technical assistance, while also surfacing serious concerns about its accessibility, African ownership, and



disconnect from subnational realities. A call was made for increased and predictable financing under the FRLD, as current mobilised resources estimated at less than USD 1 billion over four years remain far below Africa’s annual needs. The BIM was examined as a promising but insufficiently accessible pathway, with participants calling for simplified access procedures, stronger institutional capacity, and allocation frameworks that explicitly prioritise the most climate-vulnerable countries.

Participants reaffirmed that Africa continues to demand reparatory justice, urging the Global North to acknowledge and take responsibility for historical emissions and their ongoing consequences. Strategic litigation tools, including the ICJ Advisory Opinion of July 2025 and the pending African Court opinion, were highlighted as concrete legal instruments that African governments and civil society can leverage to advance accountability and resist the dilution of L&D into loan-based humanitarian aid. Regarding the assessment of L&D, data emerged as a recurring challenge and a major barrier preventing African countries from presenting robust, evidence-based claims. Evidence presented on climate-attributable malaria, agricultural losses averaging USD 144 billion annually, and the disproportionate burden on smallholder farmers underscored the urgency of closing data gaps. Participants highlighted citizen science, remote sensing, and social media analytics as practical methodologies to support PDNAs, while calling on the SNLD to develop standardised methodologies for consistent technical support across the continent. The conference also centred the voices of those most affected, including children, youth, women, and persons with disabilities, affirming that L&D frameworks must reflect differentiated impacts and ensure inclusive access to finance and technical assistance. Looking ahead, discussions positioned Africa to influence global L&D negotiations at COP31 and COP32 with a unified, justice-oriented agenda rooted in the continent’s lived realities and collective priorities.

5 NEXT STEPS

Building on the successes and lessons from the 5th African Regional Conference on Loss and Damage, participants recommended several strategic action points to strengthen future conferences and advance the Loss and Damage agenda in Africa. The following key priorities were recommended as a way forward for strengthening the relevance and ensuring that the outcomes of the 5th African Regional Conference are impactful and addressing the real needs of Africa.

- i. Finalisation of an advocacy plan for communication of conference communique, conference outcomes and following up with duty bearers at national, regional and global level
- ii. Commence planning for the 6th African Regional Conference in September 2026 to allow for better preparation and broader participation as some organisations will be planning for their successive financial years.
- iii. Improving regional representation by exploring ways of engaging more African countries representatives, organising pre- and post-conference national consultations, and increasing support for delegates



- iv. Deepen integration of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), children’s voices, and just transition issues and carrying forward key findings and action points from previous conferences.
- v. Diversify participation by engaging private sector actors, banks, international financial institutions (IFIs), ministries (e.g., Education and Local Government), traditional leaders, and more youth representatives. It was agreed to already start engaging with these actors so that they are part and parcel of planning, implementation and resource mobilization



6 APPENDICES

- 6.1. [Concept note](#)
- 6.2. [Programme](#)
- 6.3. [Conference presentations and materials](#)
- 6.4. [Documentary](#)
- 6.5. [Conference evaluation](#)
- 6.6. [Pictorial focus](#)





DAY ONE

25th - 27th March, 2026

**AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON LOSS & DAMAGE**



PICTORIAL FOCUS

BICC, LILONGWE, MALAWI



Rabi Narayan Gaudo, Portfolio Manager, UNDP Malawi



Gift Numeli, CISONNECC Board Chairperson making opening remarks during the conference



Hon. Patricia Wiskes MP - Minister of Natural Resources, Malawi making opening remarks during the conference



Julius Ng'oma, CISONNECC National Coordinator moderating during the conference



Tessa Ferry, Representative for Scottish Government making remarks during the conference



Harjeet Singh from Fill the Fund taking part during the panel discussion at the conference



Martha Bekele, Co-Founder, Dev Transform making a key note address during the conference



Lucy Mwangi, Country Director, Concern Worldwide



panel discussion during the conference



Charles Mwangi, Head of Programmes, PAC-JA making opening remarks during the conference



Richard Perokamoyo, Principal Secretary, Natural Resources making remarks during the conference



Beatrice Makwenda, Programme Coordinator from TrustAfrica moderating during the conference



Paul Carr, from Concern Worldwide making a presentation during the conference



Obedi Koringo from CARE International moderating a panel discussion during the conference



Participants posing for a group photo during the conference



Tawonga Mbale Luka, Director of Environmental Affairs and Malawi UNFCCC Focal Point making remarks during the conference



The Minister and the Principle Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources posing with delegates during the conference

Theme; Advancing Sustainable, Equitable and Just financing and Technical Support for Loss and Damage in Africa





DAY TWO

25th - 27th March, 2026

**AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON LOSS & DAMAGE**



PICTORIAL FOCUS

BICC, LILONGWE, MALAWI



Chrispin Chavula from Habitat for Humanity, moderating a session at the conference



Enock Juma from DAPP moderating a session at the conference



Julius Ng'oma, CISONNECC National Coordinator moderating a session during the conference



Philip Kilonzo from PACJA, delivering a presentation during a session at the conference



John Chipeta from Save the Children delivering a presentation during a session at the conference



Twapashgha Twea, Concern Worldwide moderating a session at the conference



Chris Connelly, from Trocaire participating in a panel discussion at the conference



Mary Izobo from CSVR, delivering a presentation during the conference



Lucy Alufandika from Chikwawa, Malawi participating in a panel discussion at the conference



Panel discussion during a session at the conference



James Chirombo from Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Programme delivering a presentation during the conference



Patrick Phiri, from Malawi Red Cross delivering a presentation during a session at the conference



Esther Mbewe, Child representative, National Children's Parliament participating in a session at the conference



Martha Bekele from DevTransform delivering a presentation during a session at the conference



Dr. Isaac Tchuwa from MUST participating in a session at the conference



Panelists posing for a group photo during the breakout session at conference



Gloria Majiga from Tax Justice Network Africa moderating a session during the conference

Theme; Advancing Sustainable, Equitable and Just financing and Technical Support for Loss and Damage in Africa



DAY THREE

25th - 27th March, 2026

**AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON LOSS & DAMAGE**

PICTORIAL FOCUS

BICC, LILONGWE, MALAWI



Victor Mughogho from Eagles Relief and Development, commenting on an issue during a session at the conference



Gift Numeli, CISONNECC Board Chairperson delivering closing remarks during the conference



Mr. Richard Perekamoyo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resource delivering closing remarks during the conference



Julius Ng'oma, CISONNECC National Coordinator moderating a session during the conference



Chrispin Chavula from Habitat for Humanity, commenting on an issue during a session at the conference



Lucy Alufandika from Chikwawa, Malawi commenting on an issue during a session at the conference



Gloria Majiga, from Tax Justice Network Africa reading the draft communique in a session during the conference



Philip Kilonzo, from PACJA, commenting on a communique during a session at the conference



Wangwe Kambuzi from Emerge Livelihoods sharing insights on importance of MSMEs to advancement of loss and damage conversations at the conference



Charles Mwangi, Head of Programmes, PAC-JA delivering closing remarks during the conference



Wamuyu Manyara Country Director from Trocaire delivering closing remark during the conference



CISONNECC and Trocaire posing for a photo during the conference



Children representative commenting on an issue during a session at the conference



Dieylani Diop from Senegal sharing Senegal experience on loss and damage at the conference



Beatrice Makwenda from Trust Africa moderating a session during the conference



The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources posing with delegates during the closing session



Lydia Chibambo from Zambia sharing Zambia experience on Loss and damage in a session during the conference

Theme; Advancing Sustainable, Equitable and Just financing and Technical Support for Loss and Damage in Africa

