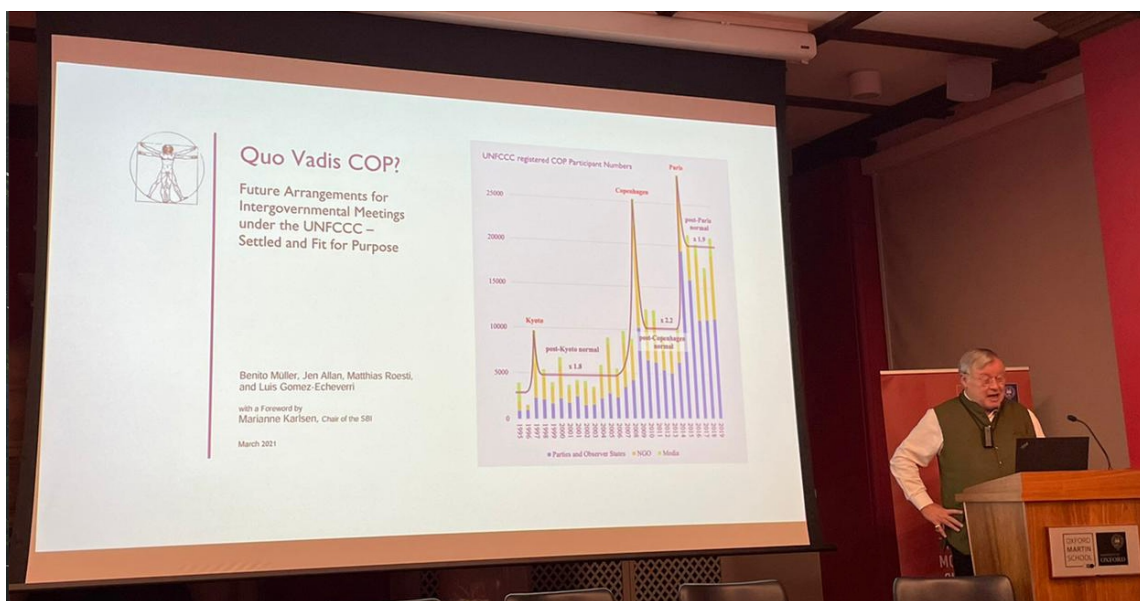


## Oxford Martin School hosts post-COP 28 Debrief and Panel Discussion



On 16 January 2024, the Oxford Martin School hosted a panel discussion reflecting on COP 28 and whether the agreement from that conference ([The UAE Consensus](#)) goes far enough. Leading off the discussion, the event moderator, Professor Benito Müller ([Environmental Change Institute](#) and ecbi), said the COP began on a sad note for him, as his dear friend and colleague [Saleemul Huq](#) had unexpectedly passed away before the COP. He then presented the results of a study that looked at how COP attendance has increased over the years, particularly with respect to the number of Party overflow badges. He said the Dubai COP had over 90,000 registered participants, and that such a huge number was not sustainable. Noting he is working on an updated version of the ecbi publication [Quo Vadis COP? Future Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings under the UNFCCC](#), Müller lamented that there is very little interaction between participants at COPs attending the negotiations, the Summit, and the Expo. He suggested that convening a smaller meeting that only focuses on the negotiations in Bonn would limit the number of participants and present the opportunity for smaller countries to preside over COPs as they often lack the necessary infrastructure and capacity to convene a large COP.

Recalling a [side event held in Dubai and co-hosted by ecbi and Antigua and Barbuda](#), Müller warned that the newly-established Loss and Damage Fund could become a “placebo” fund or siphon money from other climate funds. He explained that as

governments are reaching their budgetary limits, innovative sources of finance will be needed to fund the response to loss and damage. He mentioned the proposal for climate solidarity levies (as elaborated in an [ecbi blog post](#)), which could raise €8-10 billion annually by imposing levies on, for example, air travel and shipping containers. He said these types of levies could be taken up by individual countries or even subnationally.

[Webcast of the Event](#)

## New Publications

### [Good COP? Bad COP? Time to reform COP!](#)

With over 80,000 participants in the UN “Blue Zone” (and many more in the adjacent host-country “Green Zone”), the recent UN climate change conference (COP28) in Dubai was the largest multilateral climate event ever held. The authors of this 10 February blog post, [Good COP? Bad COP? Time to reform COP!](#), were impressed by the enthusiasm, and the global and diverse involvement of so many stakeholders; yet, in light of their 2021 ecbi Policy Report ([Quo Vadis COP?](#)), they felt this would be a good time to take a step back and re-examine how best to maximise the benefits from this enthusiasm without creating detrimental side effects. Thus, the decision was made to revisit and update the 2021 Policy Report, and to write this post to set the scene for possibilities going forward. The post was written by Luis Gomez-Echeverri and Benito Müller with contributions by Jen Allan, Matthias Rösti and Stefan Ruchti.

### [Nomen est Omen!](#)

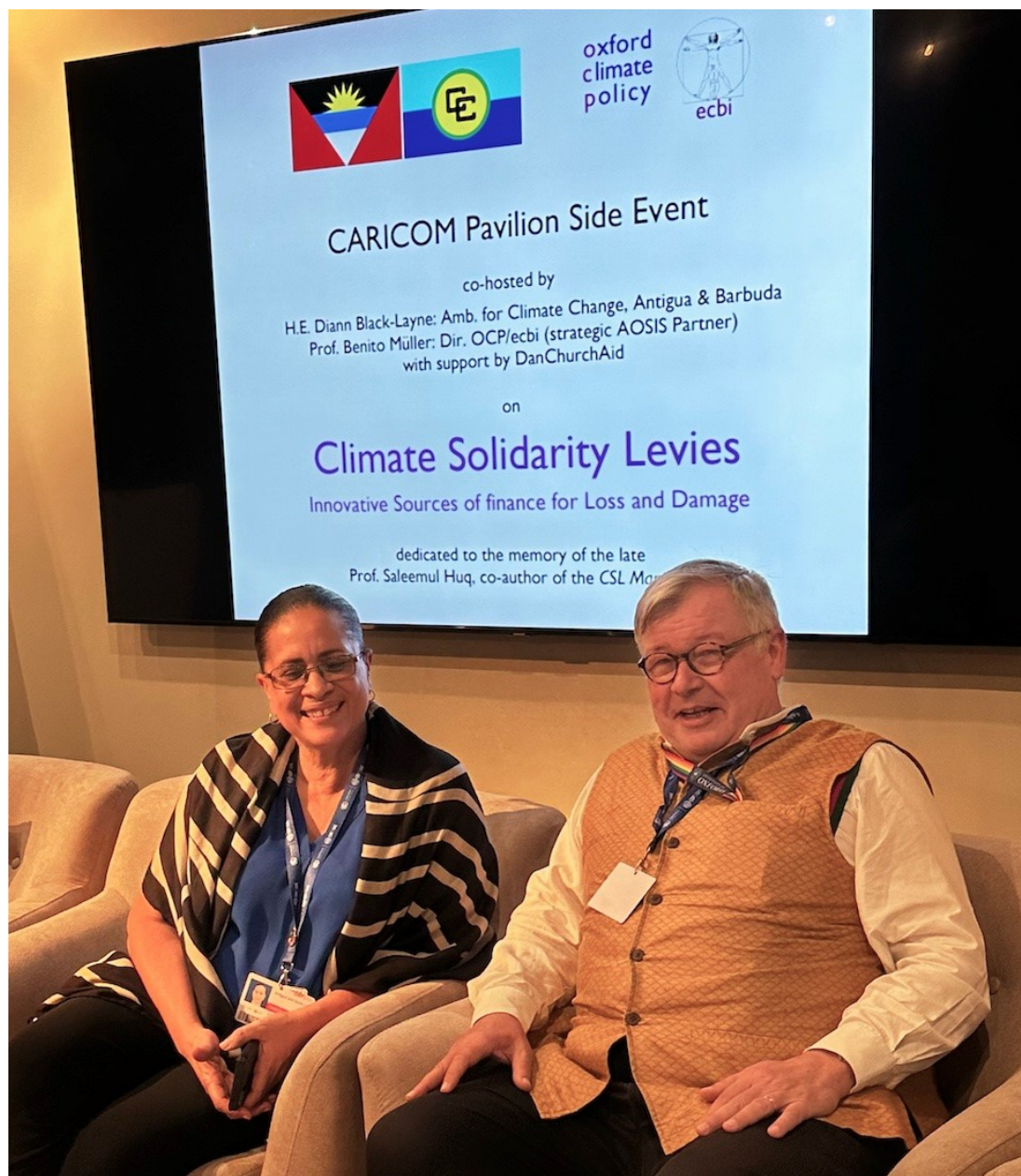
This 6 February blog post begins with a brief historical account of the evolution of the “Loss and Damage” narrative in the multilateral climate negotiations, and ends up with the recent operationalization of the new Loss and Damage Fund. It suggests that if the liability spectre associated with the phrase “Loss and Damage” is too much for some, then perhaps the name of new fund could be more specific, if not “Climate Impact Response Fund” then maybe “Climate Impact Recovery, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (CIR3) Fund”? The fact is, a name can be a sign of something to come, an omen. We must avoid having the name of the fund be regarded as a bad omen, something that has often been associated with the issue of loss and damage over the last thirty years.

### [2023 Annual Report](#)

ecbi has published its [2023 Annual Report](#). The [Bonn Seminar](#), Fellows Colloquium, and [Oxford Seminar](#) took place during the report period, covering a range of issues of relevance to the intergovernmental climate negotiations, such as the Global Stocktake, climate finance particularly for loss and damage, and Paris Agreement Article 2.1.c on making financial flows consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. ecbi also published a report assessing [Key Outcomes from COP27](#), as well as an [Updated Pocket Guide on the Paris Agreement](#). Other ecbi publications, including discussion notes, policy briefs, and blog

posts, addressed, among others, a proposed [climate solidarity levy](#) to help fund the response to loss and damage. In addition, ecbi Director Benito Müller presented at numerous events, including at COP27, promoting the idea of climate solidarity levies, which, he said, could come in the form of levies imposed on air tickets and/or shipping containers, and which could help capitalise the newly-established loss and damage fund. The report includes reflections from Müller on the untimely passing of ecbi co-founder Saleemul Huq, who headed ecbi's Training and Support Programme through the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCD).

## Climate Solidarity Side Event at COP 28 co-hosted by OCP/ecbi



On 8 December 2023, Diann Black-Layne (Ambassador for Climate Change of Antigua and Barbuda) and Benito Müller (Director OCP/ecbi) co-hosted a side event on Climate Solidarity Levies (CSLs) dedicated to [the memory of Saleemul Huq](#), one of the co-authors of the [CSL Manifesto](#), in the CARICOM Pavilion.

The event began with a presentation on CSLs by Professor Müller, which was

followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Kishan Kumarsingh (Head of Delegation, Trinidad and Tobago, and Head of the ecbi Fellowship and Trust-building Programme), with the two co-hosts and Kevin Magron (Special Advisor on Climate Action, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, France) and Frode Neergaard (Chief Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark).

Following a brief account of the genesis of CSLs, the introductory presentation ended with a call for member countries of the newly announced [Taskforce on International Taxation to Scale Up Development, Climate and Nature Action](#) (including Antigua and Barbuda and France) to become the leading group for a Climate Solidarity Alliance. They could do this by adopting domestic CSLs as innovative sources of funding for loss and damage (in particular through the new multilateral L&D Fund) as soon as possible and in parallel to Taskforce deliberations (for more on this, see [COP28: Call for a Climate Solidarity Alliance](#)).

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