

A journey in memory of Pete Betts and Saleemul Huq



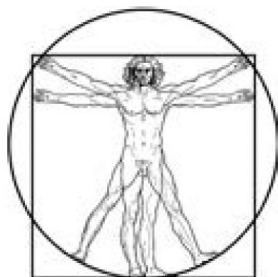
Left to right: Artur Runge-Metzger, John Ashton, Benito Müller, and Todd Stern in London

It has been a sombre journey to the COP this year, beginning with the funeral of Pete Betts in London, where I met some of friends and climate stalwarts (Artur Runge-Metzger, John Ashton, and Todd Stern) and ending the day after in a very moving memorial event for Saleemul Huq in the LDC Pavilion at the COP in Dubai. I have

already given my [personal reminiscences of Saleem](#), so here just a few words on Pete. Pete was a formidable climate negotiator both for the UK and the EU. He had a unique sense of humour which I shall miss: we had invited him as the guest of honour to the 2022 Oxford Seminar. He was undergoing brain tumour treatment which had made him gain weight, which in turn led him to start his after-dinner address by saying “Never would I have imagined ever to be as fat as Benito!” Good old Pete!

From the funeral I went directly to the airport and the day after to the LDC Group memorial for Saleem. It was the opening day of COP28, which began with a tribute to Pete and Saleem. Saleem would have been extremely pleased that among the first decisions to be gavelled through was on the operationalisation of the new Fund and funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage. In that context I would like to recommend our most recent policy paper on [L&D Pilot Funding Arrangements: The Need to Pilot Innovative Funding Sources and Response Tools](#). As to the rest of the COP, I would like to highlight our own 8 December memorial side event, dedicated to Saleem, on [Climate Solidarity Levies: Innovative Sources of finance for Loss and Damage](#).

New Policy Paper Discusses Innovative Funding Sources and Response Tools for Loss and Damage



L&D Pilot Funding Arrangements

The Need to Pilot Innovative Funding Sources and Response Tools

ecbi has published a policy paper, which argues that innovative funding sources and response tools are needed to address loss and damage. Even as the new loss and damage fund is operationalised and contributions are being pledged at COP 28 in Dubai, the road ahead is still long for funding to get to those who need it most. That is why alternative funding arrangements and response tools that can be implemented more quickly and effectively are also necessary. This paper provides some proposals for consideration and examples that can be used as models going forward. On innovative funding sources, the paper highlights, as possible funding avenues, inter

alia: international air travel/aviation solidarity levies, and solidarity offset premiums and/or share of proceeds from the Voluntary Carbon Market. A sampling of innovative response tools to respond to both economic and non-economic loss and damage and rapid and slow onset events are also presented—from insurance and risk transfer options to those that address mental health and cultural loss.

Related Documents:

[L&D_Pilot_Funding_Arrangements.pdf](#)

Updated Pocket Guide to the Paris Agreement Now Available

GUIDE TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT

2023 EDITION



ecbi

An updated version of ecbi's Pocket Guide to the Paris Agreement has been published just in time for COP 28. It details progress made on the various issues addressed under the Agreement's Articles since the last guide was published in 2020. This Pocket Guide will help navigate the nuances of the Articles and the subsequent decisions taken by the CMA. It distils the complexities of the Articles for both novice and seasoned negotiators alike, providing background and explanations in an easy-to-read format, without getting bogged down in technical details. The first Pocket Guide to the Paris Agreement (and the first in ecbi's pocket guide series) was published in 2016.

Related Documents:

[Guide to Paris Agree 2023_web version_1.pdf](#)

Kushlan Lecture at John Cabot University in Rome



Panellists with JCU student COP delegation and Professor Favorite

On 22 November 2023, Dr. Frederica Fricano (Director at the Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security and Head of the Italian delegation to the UNFCCC), Professor Benito Müller (ecbi Director and Convener, International Climate Policy, ECI, University of Oxford) and Giacomo Di Capua (Italian YUNGO delegate) spoke at an event at John Cabot University in Rome. The event was organised by Professor Michele Favorite (Director of Italian Admissions, JCU) on challenges of COP 28.

Dr. Fricano provided an overview of the context and the agenda of COP 28 referring in particular to the Global Stocktake, the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme, and operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund. ecbi Director Müller elaborated on a proposal for [Climate Solidarity Levies](#), which he presented in the context of the impending launch by France and Kenya of an international taxation taskforce. According to a recent [Climate Home News article](#), published on 16 November and authored by Matteo Civillini, the taskforce "is planning to consider a broad range of options, including levies on international shipping, aviation, financial transactions and fossil fuels [with] the goal...agree[ing] on specific proposals by COP 30." According to Civillini's article, these proposals "could then be negotiated in relevant international institutions, like the OECD, the UN or the G20." Being naturally sceptical about the feasibility of any global levies, Müller stressed that one way to hit the ground running would be for Taskforce members to simultaneously form an International Climate Solidarity Alliance by voluntarily adopting a Climate Solidarity Levy, such as an air-ticket charge for loss and damage, in their jurisdiction not only to generate funding up front, but also to demonstrate that such innovative sources work.

Giacomo Di Capua, Italian UNFCCC Youth Delegate, then gave an overview of a

number of issues important to his constituency, in particular human rights and Indigenous Peoples.

In Memoriam Saleemul Huq (1952-2023): Some Personal Reminiscences



Benito Müller and Saleemul Huq in their bottom-of-the-escalator office at the World Conference Centre in Bonn in June 2023

I have known Saleem as a friend and collaborator for most of this century and was promoting the idea of Climate Solidarity Levies at a meeting with representatives of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda when I learned the shocking and truly tragic news that he had passed away. Although he had been hospitalised for a viral infection, he had recovered enough to return home the week before only to be taken from us by what his obituaries ([Dhaka Tribune](#), [The Daily Star](#), [The Guardian](#)) referred to as "a massive cardiac arrest." Saleem's stellar career is well documents, not least in the mentioned obituaries. All I can do is add some personal reminiscences from our interactions over the last two decades.

If memory serves me, which is not always the case anymore, Saleem and I first met as part of a project consortium at the turn of the century, in which we proposed a capacity- and trust-building module for (developing country) climate negotiators. The project proposal did not succeed, but we both felt the module was worth preserving and subsequently founded the ecbi in 2005, with Saleem heading what was then know as the "Workshop Programme" and I the "Fellowship Programme".

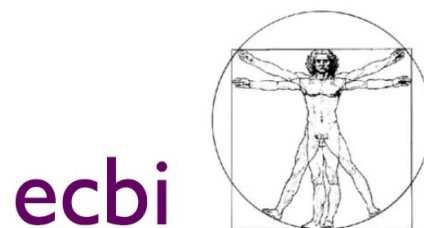
In order to do our job, he and I used to annex a strategically placed table in front of the Brasserie near the main entrance in the Maritim Hotel in Bonn, where the negotiations took place at the time. On more than one occasion, the strategic position of our 'office' was validated when the late Don Pearlman, Executive Director of the then notorious [coal-funded Climate Council](#) occupied it before we arrived (we usually got it back the next morning -- early birds etc).

Saleem headed the ecbi Workshop Programme until he moved to Dhaka to set up the [International Centre for Climate Change and Development](#) (ICCCAD). In 2021, we approached Saleem with the proposal for ICCCAD to take over management of the current "Training and Support Programme" for Phase V of the ecbi, and I was very pleased when he agreed. As it happens, only a few weeks ago, Saleem signed the donor contract that will allow the Programme to begin activities again, following a two-year hiatus. Kishan Kumarsingh, who will be managing the training workshops in the Caribbean, and I were already looking forward to Saleem's participation. Sadly, this was not meant to be. But we will soldier on keeping his memory and legacy going!

Requiesce in pace, care amice!

Benito

Presentation on International Climate Solidarity Alliance at the Ministry of Finance, Antigua and Barbuda



Climate Solidarity

A Climate Solidarity Alliance implementing national Climate Solidarity Levies as innovative source for domestic and multilateral Loss and Damage finance.

Prof. Benito Müller
Director, ecbi

Ministry of Finance,
St John's,
Antigua and Barbuda
24 October 2023



On Tuesday, 24 October 2023, ecbi Director Professor Benito Müller, in his capacity as a [Strategic Partner to the Alliance of Small Island States](#), gave a [presentation](#) on [Climate Solidarity Levies](#) and a proposal for a Climate Solidarity Alliance. After a brief overview of what has been happening in the multilateral negotiations with regard to Loss and Damage finance, he presented a brief history of solidarity levies, starting with the French air-ticket levy for [UNITAID](#). He proceeded to discuss options for operationalising potential solidarity levies for loss and damage as a result of climate change, stressing that Antigua and Barbuda, as a small island state, is one of the most vulnerable countries to “loss and damage” – i.e., unavowed adverse climate impacts such as increased extreme events (for example, Hurricane Tammy, which made landfall on Barbuda on 21 October) or sea-level rise. He explained that Antigua and Barbuda could play a key role in launching an International Climate Solidarity Alliance of countries willing to implement climate solidarity levies (such as air-ticket levies) as innovative source of finance for loss and damage both at home and through the multilateral Loss and Damage Fund established a year ago at the UN Climate Change Conference in Sharm el-Sheik.

Related Documents:

[Climate Solidarity Levies Oct 2023.pdf](#)

Letter of Appreciation from Vanuatu on Innovative Funding Sources for Loss and Damage



TEL : (678) 22068

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20th October 2023

Professor Benito Müller
Director OCP/ECBI
Convener International Climate Policy Research, Environmental Change Institute,
University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Dear Professor Müller,

I would like to thank you for your engagement with Vanuatu on finding innovative solutions to financing solutions to address expanding loss and damage needs. With every fraction of a degree of global heating caused by fossil fuel expansion, the people, economy and ecosystems of Vanuatu suffer unimaginable harm.

Our government is committed to demonstrating sustainable models of finance for loss and damage, including by acting as a first mover, where possible given our status as a recently graduated LDC and a Small Island Developing State.

Vanuatu has made specific commitments on this issue in the Port Vila Call to Action for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, as we have agreed to "Implementing and developing national capacity on innovative means of mobilising finance for a just transition."

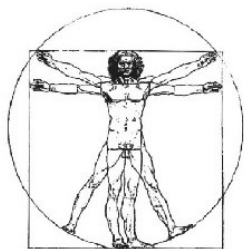
Similarly in a joint communique between the Republic of France and the Republic of Vanuatu, our heads of governments called for "new, additional and scaled up public sector finance, as well as funding arrangements and flows from innovative sources ...for adequately capitalising the new Loss & Damage Fund and Funding Arrangements, through public and private sources and innovative finance such as taxation."

The Honorable Ralph Regenvanu from Vanuatu, who serves as Minister of Climate Change Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment, Energy, and Disaster Management, has sent a letter of appreciation to ecbi Director Benito Müller. The letter thanks Professor Müller for his "engagement with Vanuatu on finding innovative solutions to financing solutions to address expanding loss and damage needs [and appreciating his] inspiring work over the last two decades in promoting air-ticket solidarity levies [to help] developing countries ... cop[e] with adverse impacts of climate change, culminating in the current proposal for a Climate Solidarity Alliance of high ambition nations willing to [jointly] implement ... national air-passenger solidarity levies as an innovative source of Loss & Damage funding, with a view to ... announc[ing] this alliance at COP28 in the United Arab Emirates."

Vanuatu is currently deliberating a range of innovative financing sources to address expanding loss and damage, including through the introduction of a levy on non-economy air travellers.

Related Documents:

[Vanuatu Letter of Appreciation.pdf](#)



VCM- SOPA

How to Operationalise a Share of Proceeds for Adaptation for the Voluntary Carbon Market

ecbi has published a [Policy Paper](#) that analyses how the social integrity of the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) could be boosted through a “Share of Proceeds for Adaptation (SOPA)” to support the poorest and, particularly, the most vulnerable developing countries in adapting to the adverse impacts of climate impacts. The paper begins by discussing why shoring up VCM’s (social) integrity is important; focuses on the work of the Integrity Council of the VCM (IC-VCM); and identifies options on SOPA operationalisation, both in terms of collection and transfer to entities receiving and disbursing SOPA proceeds to adaptation projects.

The authors conclude that any SOPA must be mandatory and applied to all credits in the market to ensure the VCM’s social integrity. In addition, a SOPA should be applied to all project types, and exemptions should only be considered based on geographical (host country) location of the project, for example in a least developed country (LDC). The authors discuss charging a SOPA when credits are issued, retired, or traded, and the pros and cons of each option, and explain that the simplest way to charge a SOPA would be in the form of a fixed fee per credit. They also argue that involvement of VCM standards in SOPA collection or monitoring is essential and success will depend on strong partnerships with VCM standards. In addition, they agree that while the Adaptation Fund offers a ready and tested Adaptation Delivery Vehicle (ADV), other ADVs could be accredited and used by collaborating VCM standards.

ecbi Policy Paper Focuses on Operationalising a Share of Proceeds for Adaptation for the Voluntary Carbon Market

CERI SEMINAR: INNOVATIVE SOURCES OF CLIMATE FINANCE WITH BENITO MÜLLER (OXFORD UNIVERSITY)

🕒 12 September 2023



On 26 September 2023, ecbi Director Benito Müller gave a [presentation on Innovative Sources of Climate Finance](#) at the first 2023 ‘Séminaire Environnement et Relations Internationales’ organised by the [Centre for International Studies](#) at Sciences Po, Paris. Given the urgency of providing financial support to the poorest and most vulnerable countries to respond to loss and damage from climate change and given the current global economic and fiscal situation, it is difficult to see how the new Loss & Damage Response Fund established at COP 27 in December 2022 can be adequately capitalised without diverting funds from other existing multilateral climate funds. This is why Müller argued that raising innovative sources of funding for this new Loss & Damage Fund is needed.

In that context, Müller highlighted the idea of [International Climate Solidarity Levies \(ICSLs\)](#) as an already proven way to mobilise new, additional and predictable innovative resources to avoid fund diversions from other climate funds. In particular, he discussed a recent call for Kenyan President William Ruto and French President Emmanuel Macron, as proponents of ICSLs, to launch a [Climate Solidarity Alliance](#) of

countries willing to adopt an ICSL, initially focussed on air-ticket levies. He also introduced the idea of introducing a [Share of Proceeds in the Voluntary Carbon Market](#) and the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

The session was hybrid, attended in person by Jean-Christophe Donnellier (French Transitional Committee member) and Brice Lalonde (former French Environment Minister), and virtually by Christopher Bartlett (Head of Vanuatu's Climate Diplomacy Program, and lead negotiator on Loss and Damage) and Chathrin Wenger (lead author of the forthcoming mapping and feasibility study of report on [Loss and Damage Financing Solutions](#) for the Nordic Council of Ministers).

Related Documents:

[Innovative Sources-Sciences Po Seminar Paris 2023.pdf](#)

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