

Public Hearing in the German Bundestag's Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development

Topic: Climate-Related Loss and Damage – Supporting communities' response in regions most affected by the climate crisis

Date: 12 October 2022, 11:00 – 13:00 hrs

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The climate crisis is a global human rights threat that we are living not because it was an inescapable act of nature, but because those in power have not been willing to shift to the right side of history. Addressing Loss and Damage is a responsibility to guarantee human rights.

It is perverse that those colonised countries that have contributed the least to climate change continue to be subjected to systems of exploitation to maintain the status quo of high energy consuming regions, like in the European Union.

It is perverse that these colonized territories are the countries that are trapped between the impacts of climate change and never-ending cycles of debt for their survival.

We call on countries, particularly Germany as the current G7 Presidency, to uphold the polluter pays principle by responding to historical responsibilities of developed nations through gender-transformative, locally driven, public, and grant-based funding.

For COP27, developed nations need to recognize and respond to the ecological debt by coordinating, mobilising, and channelling new, additional, and adequate financial resources through a Loss and Damage Finance Facility established under the UNFCCC. Not as a new window hidden under an innovative smokescreen – not as loans, not as humanitarian and development aid, nor as insurances but as reparations, as proper compensations.

Innovation does not refer to the creativity of bringing up new mechanisms based on old models that reinforce current structures of inaction. It does not mean the creation of a new mechanism that sees frontline communities of climate change as potential customers to strengthen profit-oriented organizations that have been financing, for instance, fossil fuel projects since the Paris Agreement.

From a feminist perspective, real innovation, means the redistribution of power, control, and use of resources – like for example by starting cancelling debt structures that hinder the budgetary space of those countries willing to move forward.

October 12 used to be known as Columbus Day, making an apology for oppression, for plunder. There is nothing to celebrate. Today is another day of resistance.

Towards COP 27 I invite you to walk together towards the right side of history by establishing and operationalizing the Loss and Damage Finance Facility.



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