

## Dr. Saleemul Huq's Open Letter to COP28 Presidency

Earlier this year, Prof Saleemul Huq, OBE, published an open letter to the incoming president of COP28 emphasizes the urgent need to create a "Loss and Damage Fund" at the upcoming U.N. climate change summit. The letter gives a very clear set of advice and recommendations on how to operationalize the Loss & Damage Fund:

- Declare your intention to establish the "Dubai Loss and Damage Fund" within the 180 days leading up to COP28. Address key questions concerning the fund's funding sources, management, and eligibility criteria during this period.
- The Transitional Committee, established by the COP decision, should work on a framework to implement the creation of the Dubai Loss and Damage Fund. Providing them with ample time before COP28 will ensure they can strategize its implementation in Dubai.
- Emphasize concrete achievements rather than vague progress. Mere progress in funding loss and damage issues will not suffice; tangible outcomes should be the focus.
- To secure funding, consider seeking voluntary contributions from willing parties and imposing a solidarity levy on UAE-registered airlines. For instance, a \$5 levy on each passenger arriving in Dubai for COP28, or extending it throughout your COP28 presidency, could generate substantial funds, potentially reaching \$100 million.
- Encourage other governments, such as those in Europe and the United States, to adopt similar solidarity levies without necessitating global agreements from UNFCCC or IATA.
- Direct the Dubai Loss and Damage Fund towards the poorest and most vulnerable victims of human-induced climate change. These individuals urgently require support, especially focusing on building long-term climate resilience rather than just disaster recovery.
- Appoint a fund manager responsible for visiting affected countries, assisting not only in recovery efforts but also investing in sustainable climate resilience measures. This proactive approach ensures support for those affected by climate events, including slow-onset issues like sea level rise.
- Acknowledge the existing humanitarian efforts in responding to rapid climate events and emphasize the need for the UNFCCC to address the slow displacement of people caused by sea level rise, a responsibility currently unfulfilled by any existing agency

Source: <https://lossanddamageforum.org/news/cop28-must-set-up-a-new-dubai-loss-and-damage-fund/>