Dear Deputy ,

I am writing to you in advance of the upcoming negotiations on Loss and Damage at COP28 in UAE later this month. As you are aware there was a [landmark agreement at COP27](https://www.trocaire.org/news/trocaire-welcomes-landmark-cop27-agreement-for-loss-and-damage-fund/) to finally establish a new Loss and Damage Fund to support countries on the frontlines of the climate crisis to recover and rebuild in the immediate and long-term aftermath of climate disasters. However, despite a year of technical negotiations since, several key questions remain live ahead of COP28, including the scale of funding required as well as sources for the funding. As your constituent, I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that Ireland, represented by Minister Ryan as Head of Delegation at COP28, ensures the delivery of a Loss and Damage Fund rooted in climate justice, with richer countries moving first to pledge new, additional and adequate finance. It’s time to right the wrongs of decades of delay on loss and damage.

The climate crisis is a crisis of inequality, and its scale is staggering. The poorest half of the world, nearly 4 billion people, are responsible for just 12% of all greenhouse gas emissions.[[1]](#endnote-1) Decades of rampant extraction and burning of fossil fuels by the world’s wealthiest countries, as well as failure to take the action necessary to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change, have driven increasingly frequent and catastrophic climate disasters. These unavoidable and irreversible impacts - referred to as **Loss and Damage** – have had a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable countries and communities in the world. These costs have been left to fall heavily on the shoulders of the world’s poorest, who are picking up the tab for a problem they overwhelmingly did not create.

The most complete economic and climate modelling suggests that loss and damage financing needs in developing countries could reach US$290-580 billion by 2030.[[2]](#endnote-2) **New research (Link) by Christian Aid Ireland and Trócaire estimate Ireland’s fair share of ‘Loss and Damage’ finance, to help developing countries pay for the cost of the climate crisis, to be at least €1.5 billion annually by 2030.**

Deputy, as your constituent I am requesting that you raise these issues in Dáil Éireann and with Minister Ryan before he travels to COP28, to ensure that Ireland voices its support for and pursues the following at COP28:

* **Set up a new Loss and Damage Fund based on climate justice principles:** Adoption of a clear decision on the operationalisation of the fund at COP, reflecting the highest level of accountability and compliance with core principles of equity, gender justice and human rights. We would like to see a clear commitment by richer countries to pay their fair share of finance into the fund on an ongoing basis, on the basis of their historical responsibility and to be held accountable in this regard.
* **Fill the fund with new, additional, predictable, adequate, accessible and grant based finance consistent with our fair share of the global effort needed** The COP27 decision to establish the fund was an historic first step, but it remains an empty bucket. Wealthy, high-emitting nations that overwhelmingly caused this crisis must now lead the way in filling it. In this respect we call on Ireland to commit to developing a pathway to delivering its fair share of L&D finance, of at least €1.5bn by 2030, and to make an initial pledge to the fund in 2023.
* **Maintain principles to ensure broad eligibility and accessibility for those who need it:** The World Bank has been identified as an interim host for the fund. While we are highly sceptical of the World Bank as an interim host, we call for strong conditions to be agreed to, in order to ensure finance is accessible to communities who need it in a timely manner.
* **A Loss and Damage Fund rooted in human rights**: The new Loss and Damage Fund must respect, protect and promote human rights, and be gender-transformative to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are prioritised.
* **Civil society representation:** It is crucial that affected communities are involved in the decision-making processes, and along with stakeholder engagement that civil society has a seat on the board of the fund.

Once again progress on Loss and Damage will be a critical issue at COP and litmus test of richer counties commitment to climate justice. We appreciate your support on this important issue.

We also request that you show your support for Loss and Damage by signing up to the [Global Parliamentarians Pledge on Loss and Damage](https://www.lossanddamagecollaboration.org/parliamentary-pledge-on-loss-and-damage-public#:~:text=of%20action%20required.-,The%20Loss%20and%20Damage%20Collaboration%20and%20the%20Pan%2DAfrican%20Climate,our%20role%20to%20play%20in).

1. Chancel, L., Bothe, P., Voituriez, T. (2023). Climate Inequality Report 2023, World Inequality Lab Study 2023/1, p. [CBV2023-ClimateInequalityReport-2.pdf (wid.world)](https://wid.world/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/CBV2023-ClimateInequalityReport-2.pdf) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Markandya, A. and M. González-Eguino (2019) “Integrated assessment for identifying climate finance needs for loss and damage: A critical review” in Mechler et al. (eds.) (2019) *Loss and Damage from Climate Change: Concepts, methods and policy options*, <https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-72026-5_14> , p.343 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)