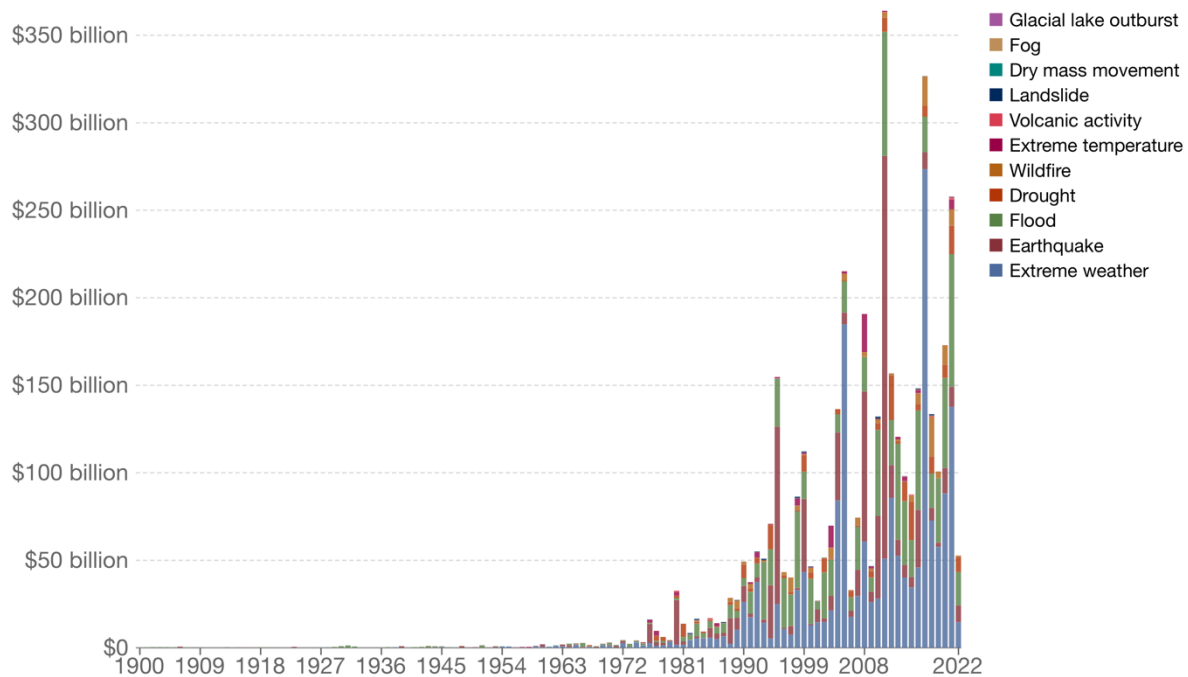


WTC 2023 Open Session – Tuesday May 16th

On 20 November 2022, the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), concluded with a historic decision to establish and operationalize a loss and damage fund. Losses due to consequences of climate change have grown dramatically in the last decades.

Economic damage by natural disaster type, 1900 to 2022

Global economic damage from natural disasters, differentiated by disaster category and measured in US\$ per year.

Our World
in Data

Source: EM-DAT, CRED / Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels (Belgium)

OurWorldInData.org/natural-disasters • CC BY

The conclusion of COP27 urges Parties to adopt a transformational approach to enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change. Notably, emphasizing the importance of protecting, conserving, and restoring water and water-related ecosystems, and accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems.

COP27 calls on developed country Parties to increase support for long-term country-driven capacity-building interventions to enhance the effectiveness, success, and sustainability of those interventions.

End of 2022, ITA updated its vision and mission with notably delivering efficient and resilient underground infrastructure for current and future generations.

Among the strategy, it is important that all ITA activities and notably conferences such as WTC 2023 aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Therefore, ITA proposes that the theme of the 2023 Open Session is related to how underground space use and tunnelling can be part of strengthening resilience, adapting infrastructures, and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

Underground infrastructures to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change

This topic will be developed through the different initiatives taken by ITA, its Member Nations, Working Groups, and Committees as well as other ITA stakeholders (Prime Sponsors) and partners (International Development banks, UN Habitat, UNEP,.....).

Further process

If you are interested in participating in this Open Session and you as ITA Member Nation, WG, Committee, ITA Prime Sponsor or as ITA Partner or International Organization want to present actions, initiatives, examples, we ask you to fill up the attached form and send it back by **February 24th**.

The Task Force in charge of the ITA Open Session, will then recontact you to further work on the format of the Open Session