



PARIS COMMITTEE ON CAPACITY-BUILDING

**1ST MEETING
11 - 13 MAY 2017**

DAY 2

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SBI CHAIR**

THE DURBAN FORUM: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

**SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSIONS HELD AT THE
4TH, 5TH AND 6TH MEETINGS OF THE DURBAN FORUM**

SUMMARY OF THE 4TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, JUNE 2015

The 4th meeting of the Durban Forum hosted presentations and discussions on technical and financial support, and capacity-building activities for the preparation of INDCs.

Presentations were delivered by representatives of developed country Parties and relevant bilateral agencies, international organizations and research centres on the variety of support available to developing countries at the institutional, systemic and individual levels for the preparation of their INDCs.

Examples of support provided included:

- the establishment of interministerial and stakeholder processes;
- increasing the capacity of local teams;
- the establishment of MRV systems.



SUMMARY OF THE 4TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, JUNE 2015

Shared lessons learned included:

- INDCs should be embedded into existing domestic development strategies and linked to non-greenhouse gas related benefits such as employment, air quality and economic growth;
- The availability of an existing institutional structure, of a systemic framework and of national teams responsible for the preparation of national communications and BURs can facilitate the INDC process;
- Training government officials on INDC-related issues and interministerial meetings on INDCs contributed to improving internal coordination and enabled ministries to better grasp the impacts of their policies on other sectors;
- University institutions were engaged in training government officials and establishing groups of experts working on the development of climate change policies;
- Interministerial knowledge transfer facilitated well-informed decision-making on climate change issues and the INDC process;
- Stakeholder and national consultations have been key to INDC development in the context of enhancing transparency, building trust and understanding towards national governments and gaining relevant information on the process.



SUMMARY OF THE 4TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, JUNE 2015

Gaps and needs which made it difficult for developing countries to evaluate their contributions included:

- Incomplete assessments of needs and absence of relevant information on financial resources, technologies, institutions and human resources;
- Lack of comprehensive action plans for mitigation and adaptation for the post-2020 period;
- Lack of coordination and commitment of domestic agencies and of allocation of the appropriate budget required for the preparation of INDCs;
- Lack of capacity of stakeholders to provide adequate input to the INDC process;
- Difficulty of finding specific guidelines for the preparation of INDCs;
- Insufficient research data on the potential effects of INDC development.



SUMMARY OF THE 5TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, MAY 2016

One of the main topics of presentations and discussions at the 5th meeting of the Durban Forum was how to enhance capacities to effectively implement the Paris Agreement, particularly focusing on the capacity to convert NDCs into action.

Shared lessons learned included:

- Capacities developed through other ongoing processes under the Convention (i.e. NAMAs, NAPAs, NAPs and TNAs) can provide a good foundation on which to build the capacity for implementing NDCs.
- The preparation and implementation of NDCs is a participatory and multi-stakeholder process and requires the capacity to coordinate across sectors, levels of government and the private sector.
- A more active engagement through greater awareness and capacity of all civil-society actors enhances the ownership of climate change actions and promotes behavioural change;



SUMMARY OF THE 5TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, MAY 2016

Challenges to overcome and emerging needs included:

- Greater awareness and capacity of the private sector are needed to increase levels of ambition. Also increasing the capacity of governments to engage the private sector would help to mobilize private actions in achieving climate change objectives.
- The integration of climate change objectives, including those identified in NDCs, into national and subnational planning processes and budgeting, is vital to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This implies building the capacity of policymakers:
 - to evaluate, compare and prioritize actions in and across different sectors;
 - to draw out linkages between climate change and country-driven sustainable development objectives;
 - to conduct socioeconomic assessments of options to achieve sustainable development and climate change objectives.
- A national tracking system relevant to transparency was seen as a tool that should be institutionalized through long-term support rather than be developed on an ad hoc basis.



SUMMARY OF THE 6TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, MAY 2017

The 6th meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building was held on Wednesday this week under the topic of “Enhancing capacities for adaptation in the context of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDCs”.

It had the following three sub-topics:

- Enhancing human, institutional and systemic capacities to design adaptation interventions in the context of NAPs and NDCs;
- Enhancing capacity to access finance for adaptation;
- Strengthening the engagement of non-Party stakeholders to support capacity-building needed in the context of NAPs and NDCs.

At the Forum, the importance and relevance of capacity-building was emphasized as a key ingredient for achieving the Paris Agreement as well as the broader 2030 Agenda and development goals.



SUMMARY OF THE 6TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, MAY 2017

On the topic of enhancing capacities to design adaptation interventions in the context of NAPs and NDCs, participants suggested that capacity-building is needed to adapt climate models to national circumstances and that it may work better for some countries to establish a new institution exclusively focused on climate change issues rather than identifying an already existing institution to do the job.

To promote capacity-building for adaptation in the context of NAPs and NDCs, the participants stressed that stakeholders first need to have a clear idea of which institutions are involved in NAP and NDC implementation in order to effectively assess capacity needs.

Participants also suggested identifying and providing incentives for taking part in capacity-building activities and sustaining the capacities built, such as promotion on the job, new opportunities for work and additional learning.



SUMMARY OF THE 6TH MEETING OF DURBAN FORUM, MAY 2017

Key gaps in enhancing capacity to access finance for adaptation included limited knowledge of eligibility criteria for funding, a lack of skills and knowledge at the local level to develop bankable projects and to make the business case for adaptation, a lack of data on vulnerability and climate risks, and insufficient coordination across government ministries.

As a way forward, participants suggested a better use of readiness support and a more simplified application process for readiness support, more systematic support for medium and long-term education and training, and provision of additional resources and time for project preparation.

On the topic of strengthening the engagement of non-Party stakeholders to support capacity-building needed in the context of NAPs and NDCs, participants highlighted the need for enhancing non-Party stakeholders' access to data, and strengthening the science-policy-implementation interface to enable more innovation, research and coordination.

A long-term perspective approach when building or enhancing capacity was considered of vital importance, as opposed to the delivery of capacity-building action on a fly-in and fly-out basis. Building long-term institutional capacity could be ensured, for example, providing funding for medium- or long-term staff appointments that are not necessarily deliverable-based.



The participants also agreed that developing countries' ownership of capacity-building activities was necessary, bridging and empowering central and local governments.