

Durban Forum on Capacity Building

Presentation on the role of youth in Adaptation

Presentation:

Thank you chair (co-chairs),

The youth constituency would like to take this opportunity to present some of our experiences, lessons learned, and input into how capacity building for adaptation works. I think it might be worth noting that many LDCs have very young populations, a 2011 report from the United Nations Population Fund noted that a focus on investments for adolescents and youth is a key priority for Least Developed Country development, so when we talk about capacity building in LDCs, particularly with the emphasis of NAPs on integrating into development plans, we really need to be thinking about how we are enabling young people in these processes.

(slide 1) This first image in front of you is of a YOUNGO daily coordination meeting, we call them spokescouncil meetings, in Cancun. The International Youth Climate Movement has been working to build capacity in the global south by helping to set up or tap into existing networks of environmental activists in the areas where COPs have been held. We have found that involving youth movements in these negotiations can help inspire lasting networks that go on to do amazing work in advocacy, capacity building, awareness raising, and adaptation. However, the biggest barrier to this involvement continues to be financing for youth participation. Last year Norway provided funds for global south youth participation at COP 17, because YOUNGOs use COPs as a rallying point to build capacity on a local level, it is important that countries contribute to global south youth involvement at UN meetings.

(slide2) This is Snigdha Kar from the Indian Youth Climate Network, she works with Indian schoolchildren about sustainable development and also promotes education for sustainable development at a national level. As young people, we often engage in "non-formal education", which is the actions we take outside of the formal curriculum to raise awareness and promote sustainability. Young people are the key actors on non-formal education. So while we would like to see increased support for sustainable curricula throughout formal education that will build environmental stewardship and develop the necessary knowledge and skill base to adapt to climate change, it is crucial that non-formal education by and for young people take place, particularly in the developing world. Stakeholder participation in planning, implementation and reporting on these projects increased their effectiveness. Capacity Building negotiations must be open to stakeholders to participate, and outcomes must include solid mechanisms for stakeholder participation.

(slide 3) This is Ebrima Dem from "Global Unification, the Gambia", African Youth Initiative on Climate Change. He is running a Radio programme called "Climate Talk".

Ebrima says: "After one year of active advocacy and education, the project has helped to reduce the information gap between policy makers and general public. It also enhanced more public participation and engagement in climate change discourse in the country."

There is an urgent need for increased financial support for undertaking capacity-building activities- and frankly, negotiations have progressed poorly on this issue.

Background info from Tom Lafford: Very little money has been allocated to Capacity Building through the GEF so far- only \$289.1 million of mitigation funding has been allocated to projects with CB as a distinct objective and the majority of these projects were funding only government communications campaigns

(110/248), Things are better on adaptation financing. But the spend is so low here that major impacts are doubtful.

We also need clear performance indicators to evaluate whether a project has really built capacity, thus far there is no real way of telling whether or not capacity building is being implemented.

(slide 4) World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in Madagascar- In an effort to empower young women and improve the standard of living in rural areas, the Girl Guides of Madagascar began training local women on fish farming, bee keeping, rice production and other forms of agriculture. After the training, the women are supported by a mentor and have access to materials and resources provided by the Guides. They are also encouraged to set up local income-generating projects. 1,641 people and 124 families trained during 72 training sessions, resulting in over 17,000 people in rural communities benefiting from the project.

WAGGS say that Non-formal out-of-school approaches, as delivered through Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, have a crucial role to play in sensitising youth to the causes and consequences of climate change by providing real-life experiences and the skills needed to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact.

Capacity Building needs coordination. It cannot be seen as something you just tag onto the end of different agenda items. It needs expert advice, skilful planning, and strong coordination. Thus far, negotiators have undermined this ambition and this has directly reduced our ability to build capacity for climate action.

Thank you