

**First meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building
Bonn, Germany, 11–13 May 2017**

**Background paper on the 2017 focus area or theme of the
Paris Committee on Capacity-building**

Expected actions of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)

The PCCB will be invited to agree on:

- a) Its approach to the implementation of the mandate on the annual focus area or theme;
- b) The scope of its work on the mandate for the focus area or theme;
- c) The approach to implementing the 2017 focus area or theme;
- d) Next steps.

I. Possible actions for consideration by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

1. With regard to its work on the 2017 focus area or theme of capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement, the PCCB may wish to agree on its approach to implementing the mandate of maintaining up-to-date knowledge on the successes and challenges in building capacity effectively in the identified annual focus area through enhanced technical exchange on capacity-building. In deciding on its approach, the PCCB may also wish to bear in mind its approach to the implementation of its two pillars of work (the 2017 focus area or theme on the one hand and the activities contained in the 2016–2020 capacity-building workplan, taking into consideration the elements that emerged in the context of the outcome of the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7, on the other, as outlined in document PCCB/2017/1/4).

2. With regard to the implementation of the mandate on the annual focus area or theme, which is to maintain up-to-date knowledge, the PCCB may wish to consider the following options:

- a) At a minimum, the PCCB could focus exclusively on collecting and compiling information on the specific focus area or theme, for example through independent gathering of information or by calling for inputs from various stakeholders, and making that information available, for example through the capacity-building portal;
- b) Should the PCCB wish to go beyond that minimum approach, it could, in an advanced approach, process the information retrieved, for example by providing a summary report in its annual technical progress report;
- c) If the PCCB wishes to deliver beyond that advanced approach, it could also develop conclusions and recommendations based on the aforementioned summary report.

3. In terms of the scope of its work on the mandate for the focus area or theme, the PCCB may wish to take into consideration the following options:

- a) To focus its work, at a minimum, on the mandate of maintaining up-to-date knowledge on the successes and challenges in relation to the specific area or theme;
- b) To also address some or all of the activities listed in the 2016–2020 workplan through the lens of the specific area or theme (see paragraph 4(a) below and document PCCB/2017/1/4) and therefore go beyond the mandate of only maintaining up-to-date knowledge.



4. With regard to its approach to implementing the 2017 focus area or theme, the PCCB may wish to consider the following:

- a) As outlined in document PCCB/2017/1/4, paragraphs 1 to 3, the PCCB could implement the activities of pillar 1 of its substantive work (2016 to 2020 workplan activities and the outcome of the third review) through the substantive lens of the annual focus area or theme. This approach would allow for the PCCB to substantively focus its work on specific activities of the 2016 to 2020 workplan from the specific angle of its focus area or theme in a given year; **annex I** of this document contains an example of how this approach could be implemented for the year 2017;
- b) With regard to work on this issue in 2017, the PCCB could limit undertaking its relevant discussions and technical work to its 1st meeting, the outcomes of which would be captured in its annual technical progress report, to be approved intersessionally. Following this approach, the PCCB would:
 - i) Dedicate a full day during its meeting to discussions focusing on the 2017 focus area or theme. A concept note, including the draft programme, speakers, etc., is contained in **annex II**, which would need to be agreed on by the PCCB before the meeting to allow for organizational arrangements;
 - ii) As a full summary of the discussions would not be able to be made available before the end of the meeting, identify and agree on potential key areas or conclusions/recommendations that it would wish particularly to highlight in its annual technical progress report;
 - iii) Finalize the summary of the discussions, including potential conclusions/recommendations, on an intersessional basis;
 - iv) In addition, agree to call for submissions, for example from Parties, observer organizations, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and/or the constituted bodies established under the Convention, on the successes and challenges in capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs in the context of the Paris Agreement, as well as agree on how to process the information received (see paragraph 2 above);
- c) Another possible approach to its work in 2017 would be that the PCCB could initiate its discussions and technical work on the 2017 focus area or theme during its 1st meeting and decide to continue work intersessionally. Following this approach, the PCCB could, in addition to the steps identified in paragraph 4(b) above:
 - i) Identify specific areas of work that it may wish to look further into, including through additional technical work to be conducted, for example based on the information received in response to a call for submissions, information to be gathered by the secretariat, etc., which could also include the consideration of outputs from other relevant events or processes;
 - ii) Agree on the information to be provided in its annual technical progress report based on the additional work identified, including potential conclusions/recommendations, to be prepared and agreed on intersessionally.

5. Depending on the agreements reached with regard to the options listed in paragraph 4 above, the PCCB may wish to agree on its next steps, bearing in mind the following possible actions:

- a) Establishing one or more task forces/working groups, including the nomination of co-facilitators, who would take forward the necessary work, namely finalization of the annual technical progress report and/or further intersessional work;
- b) Launching a call for submissions from, for example, Parties, observer organizations, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and/or the constituted bodies established under the Convention:
 - i) With regard to the constituted bodies, the PCCB may wish to identify specific areas of work of the respective bodies that may be of particular interest to the PCCB (see document PCCB/2017/1/6 on the linkages with the constituted bodies);
 - ii) The PCCB could consider the involvement of experts from relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside the Convention, including at the intergovernmental, regional, national and subnational levels, and identify the type of inputs they would be invited to provide;

- c) Agreeing on its approach to finalizing the information to be included in its annual technical progress report, including:
 - i) The summary information on the discussions that took place during the 1st meeting of the PCCB as well as related conclusions and recommendations, as appropriate;
 - ii) Information on the inputs received in response to a call for submissions, as appropriate;
 - iii) Information on the outcome of possible further technical work to be conducted by the PCCB as well as related conclusions and recommendations, as appropriate.

II. Background

6. At its twenty-first session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that the PCCB will annually focus on an area or theme related to enhanced technical exchange on capacity-building, with the purpose of maintaining up-to-date knowledge on the successes and challenges in building capacity effectively in a particular area.¹

7. At its forty-fifth session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) agreed that the first focus area or theme for the PCCB in 2017 will be on capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs in the context of the Paris Agreement.²

8. The SBI also agreed that representatives of the following operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the constituted bodies established under the Convention will be invited to participate in the 1st meeting of the PCCB:

- a) The Global Environment Facility;
- b) The Green Climate Fund;
- c) The Adaptation Committee;
- d) The Least Developed Countries Expert Group;
- e) The Standing Committee on Finance;
- f) The Technology Executive Committee.³

9. Inputs to the PCCB will include, inter alia, submissions, the outcome of the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the capacity-building framework, the secretariat's annual synthesis report on the implementation of the capacity-building framework, the secretariat's compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, and reports on the Durban Forum and the capacity-building portal.⁴

10. The PCCB may engage with and draw upon the expertise of relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside the Convention, including at the intergovernmental, regional, national and subnational levels, where appropriate.⁵

11. The PCCB will prepare annual technical progress reports on its work for submission to the COP through the SBI and will make those reports available at the sessions of the SBI coinciding with the sessions of the COP.⁶

¹ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 74.

² FCCC/SBI/2016/20, paragraph 91.

³ FCCC/SBI/2016/20, paragraph 92.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.

⁵ Decision 2/CP.22, annex, paragraph 15.

⁶ Decision 2/CP.22, annex, paragraph 17.

Annex I : Possible joint implementation of work on pillars 1 and 2 of the substantive work of the PCCB in the year 2017

Note: the first two columns of the table below include information on pillar one (the 2016 to 2020 workplan activities and the relevant outcomes of the review as related to a specific activity), the second pillar (2017 annual theme or area capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement) is not included in a separate column as it is valid for all the activities throughout the table; the third column of the table below then provides a possible approach for a joint implementation of pillars 1 and 2.

Workplan activity	Related outcomes of the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the capacity-building framework	Possible approach to joint implementation of pillars 1 and 2
Assessing how to increase synergies through cooperation and avoid duplication among existing bodies established under the Convention that implement capacity-building activities, including through collaborating with institutions under and outside the Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (capacity-building framework) •Previous work undertaken on indicators for capacity-building •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate, that include capacity-building in their scopes •Promote and explore synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement engaged in implementing capacity-building activities •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities, taking into account all initiatives, actions and measures on capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement as well as existing reporting mandates, in order to achieve coherence and coordination 	Identification of activities by existing bodies under the Convention that implement capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with a view to assess how to increase synergies through cooperation and avoid duplication, including through collaboration with institutions under and outside the Convention
Identifying capacity gaps and needs and recommending ways to address them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Previous work undertaken on indicators for capacity-building •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Promote and explore synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) 	Identification of capacity gaps and needs in the implementation of NDCs and recommending ways to address them

Workplan activity	Related outcomes of the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the capacity-building framework	Possible approach to joint implementation of pillars 1 and 2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	
Promoting the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Previous work undertaken on indicators for capacity-building •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Promote and explore synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	Promote the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity-building for NDCs
Fostering global, regional, national and subnational cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Promote and explore synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	Fostering global, regional, national and subnational cooperation to enhance capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs
Identifying and collecting good practices, challenges, experiences and lessons learned from work on capacity-building by bodies established under the Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	Identifying and collecting good practices, challenges, experiences and lessons learned from work on capacity-building by bodies established under the Convention in the context of the implementation of NDCs
Exploring how developing country Parties can take ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time and space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Promote and explore synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Previous work undertaken on indicators for capacity-building •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	Exploring how developing country Parties can take ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time and space in the context of the implementation of NDCs

Workplan activity	Related outcomes of the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the capacity-building framework	Possible approach to joint implementation of pillars 1 and 2
Identifying opportunities to strengthen capacity at the national, regional and subnational levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Previous work undertaken on indicators for capacity-building •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Promote and explore synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	Identifying opportunities to strengthen capacity at the national, regional and subnational levels for the implementation of NDCs
Fostering dialogue, coordination, collaboration and coherence among relevant processes and initiatives under the Convention, including through exchanging information on capacity-building activities and strategies of bodies established under the Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Previous work undertaken on indicators for capacity-building •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) • Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	Fostering dialogue, coordination, collaboration and coherence among relevant processes and initiatives under the Convention, including through exchanging information on capacity-building activities and strategies of bodies established under the Convention in the implementation of NDCs
Providing guidance to the secretariat on the maintenance and further development of the web-based capacity-building portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cross-cutting issues (...) •Outcomes of the third comprehensive review (...) •Previous work undertaken on indicators for capacity-building •Promote and explore linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Promote and explore synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement (...) •Ways of enhancing reporting on capacity-building activities (...) 	Providing guidance to the secretariat on the maintenance and further development of the web-based capacity-building portal to disseminate information gathered by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs

Annex II: Concept note on the work on the 2017 focus area or theme

To be finalized