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The 6th Durban Forum on capacity-building

Summary report by the secretariat

Summary

The 6th Durban Forum on capacity-building was held on 10 May 2017, during the forty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Under the overarching topic of “Enhancing capacities for adaptation in the context of national adaptation plans (NAPs) and nationally determined contributions (NDCs)”, the discussions focused on: (1) enhancing human, institutional and systemic capacities to design adaptation interventions in the context of NAPs and NDCs; (2) enhancing capacity to access finance for adaptation; and (3) strengthening the engagement of non-Party stakeholders in supporting capacity-building needed in the context of NAPs and NDCs.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 2/CP.17, requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to further enhance the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building by organizing an annual in-session Durban Forum with the aim of sharing experience and exchanging ideas, best practices and lessons learned among relevant stakeholders regarding the implementation of capacity-building activities. It also requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the Durban Forum for consideration by the SBI.¹

2. By decision 16/CP.22, the COP invited Parties to submit, by 9 March 2017, their views on potential topics for the 6th Durban Forum.² By the same decision, the COP also invited the SBI to facilitate complementarity between the Durban Forum and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB).³ Based on the submissions received, the topic of the 6th Durban Forum was developed with a view to enhancing the complementarity between the Durban Forum and the PCCB, which held its 1st meeting from 11 to 13 May 2017 during SBI 46. The programme of the 6th Durban Forum was also developed to create synergies with the 2017–2018 in-session workshops on long-term climate finance. The 2017 in-session workshop on long-term climate finance was held on 15 May 2017 and focused, inter alia, on enhanced access to climate finance, climate finance needs and enabling environments.

3. In addition, by decision 1/CP.21, the COP decided that the inputs to the PCCB will include, inter alia, the reports on the Durban Forum.⁴ At the 1st meeting of the PCCB, the value of the Durban Forum was noted by the PCCB members, and due consideration was given to the importance of aligning the work of PCCB with the deliberations in the Durban Forum.

B. Scope of the report

4. This report contains information on: the outcomes of the forum (chapter II); the organization of the forum (chapter III); a summary of the keynote presentation and related discussions (chapter IV); a summary of panel discussions (chapter V); and a summary of the outcomes from the breakout discussions (chapter VI).

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

5. SBI 47 may wish to consider the information contained in this report when deliberating on capacity-building at the next session.

II. Outcomes of the 6th Durban Forum

6. **Developing countries' ownership of the capacity-building process is crucial.** Countries should be able to define for themselves what specific capacities they need and whose capacity should be built in order to effectively design and implement adaptation interventions in the context of NAPs and NDCs. United Nations agencies and other international organizations facilitate capacity-building for climate action – they don't own the process.

7. **Capacity needs to be built to scale.** Continuous training of national and local civil servants is needed so that capacities are retained. The need to enhance readiness to access

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 144 and 147.

² Decision 16/CP.22, paragraph 9.

³ Decision 16/CP.22, paragraph 5.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.

climate funds through support for the tertiary education of local civil servants was also mentioned by forum participants.

8. **The method of monitoring and evaluating capacity-building efforts needs to be adjusted** to reflect the fact that capacity-building is a long-term process that cuts across various sectors and fields. Indicators focusing only on the number of workshops held or the number of case studies produced as a result of capacity-building efforts are therefore insufficient.

9. There is need for **greater involvement of local communities and local governments** and better coordination between local and central governments and among the ministries handling climate change related matters, including capacity-building for climate action. An institutional mechanism that brings together all relevant ministries and non-State actors for a regular dialogue on adaptation related matters, including developing a project concept and pipeline, could address any lack of coordination and local engagement.

10. **Coordination among United Nations organizations** is also needed to maximize the effectiveness of capacity-building. Establishing a common financing framework or reporting cycle for NAPs, NDCs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could help in this regard and could lessen the burden on developing countries with limited capacity.

11. **A mapping of the roles of all relevant stakeholders providing support for capacity-building related to NAPs and NDCs** was recommended so as to enhance coordination among stakeholders and minimize overlap in capacity-building activities. Such mapping would also highlight the gaps that are being addressed through capacity-building efforts and show when results are expected.

12. Communicating with local people and communities regarding climate change impacts or project preparations in **simple language** will help to engage and empower them. **Simplification of the accreditation processes for accessing climate finance and of the UNFCCC processes** was also suggested so as to create a more enabling environment and solicit more active participation from various stakeholders under and outside the Convention. The value of learning from the experience of others could not be stressed enough, and **more rigorous South–South exchange and cooperation** was highly recommended. **Peer-to-peer learning** among developing countries for tasks such as developing project proposals to access finance for adaptation could be helpful.

13. **The ability to produce climate data and to formulate national climate models** according to the countries' needs was highlighted as one of the technical capacities that need to be enhanced in the context of NAPs and NDCs. Building data platforms and engaging information providers such as the insurance industry were suggested ways to enhance these capacities.

14. There is often a lack of capacity, especially local and institutional, to develop project concepts and prepare project proposals. Medium-term staff appointments could help to gradually **develop local capacity**. Capacity-building efforts also need to address the usage of funds and the reporting thereon.

15. More resources need to be invested in **developing networks of non-Party stakeholders**, including research and academic institutions, and better engaging them in the process. Greater capacity, particularly of provincial and municipal governments, is required for effective partnerships for adaptation planning and implementation.

16. Enacting new legislation for **the disclosure of information** in developing countries was mentioned as a way of enhancing transparency and access to information. There is also a need for open communication between policymakers and implementing agencies and other non-Party stakeholders, as well as for the formal engagement of non-Party stakeholders in climate action related decision-making.

III. Organization of the forum

A. Preparatory activities

17. The secretariat prepared the following documents to facilitate discussions at the 6th Durban Forum, in accordance with the relevant provisions of decisions 2/CP.17 and 1/CP.18, and made them available on the Durban Forum web page well in advance of the forum:⁵

(a) A compilation and synthesis report on the capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;⁶

(b) A compilation of capacity-building activities undertaken by bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;⁷

(c) A synthesis report on the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries.⁸

B. Content and format

18. The topics of the forum were chosen on the basis of Parties' submissions and in consultation with the Chair of the SBI, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow. The overarching topic of the forum was "Enhancing capacities for adaptation in the context of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (see para. 23 for information on the subtopics).

19. The forum, which lasted half a day, consisted of a keynote presentation, a panel discussion and three parallel breakout group discussions. After a keynote presentation and a question and answer session on the overarching topic of the forum, the subtopics were each addressed by three panellists who spoke from the perspective of a capacity-builder, a recipient of capacity-building support, and a representative of a policy and research institution. After the panel discussion and a question and answer session, three parallel breakout group discussions corresponding to the subtopics were held, which allowed for a more interactive and in-depth exchange of views among participants in a small group setting. The discussion within each breakout group was led by a representative of an observer organization. A set of questions to help guide the breakout discussions was prepared by the secretariat and made available in advance on the Durban Forum web page.⁹ The key takeaway lessons and suggestions from each breakout group were presented by the discussion leaders at the plenary afterwards, which were also made available on the web page before the closure of the forum.

C. Proceedings

20. The forum was held on 10 May 2017, during SBI 46. The Chair of the SBI opened the forum and handed guidance over to the co-facilitators: Ms. Rita Mishaan, Ambassador of Environment and Climate Change of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala and member of the PCCB, and Mr. Kunihiro Shimada, President and Chief Executive Officer of KS International Strategies, Inc. and special adviser to the secretariat of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan.

21. In his opening remarks, Mr. Chruszczow welcomed the submissions from Parties, which highlighted the benefit of aligning the theme of the 6th Durban Forum with the 2017 focus area or theme of the PCCB, "capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement". Mr.

⁵ <http://unfccc.int/10133.php>.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2017/2.

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2017/2/Add.1.

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2017/3.

⁹ <http://unfccc.int/10133.php>.

Chruszczow also stated that he would present the outcomes of the 4th, 5th and 6th Durban Forum at the 1st meeting of the PCCB in the hope of feeding the valuable inputs from the Durban Forum into the PCCB discussions on its 2017 focus area or theme, with the aim of strengthening the complementarity between the two processes.

22. Mr. Zitouni Ould-Dada, representing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), gave a keynote presentation on the overarching topic of the forum, “Enhancing capacities for adaptation in the context of NAPs and NDCs”. The presentation stressed the linkages between climate action and sustainable development – it underlined that capacity-building is fundamental to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement as well as the larger social and economic development goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to Mr. Ould-Dada, country ownership and coordination among donors, initiatives and ministries are some of the key ingredients for sustainable capacity-building.

23. A panel took the podium following the keynote presentation and a question and answer session. Each panellist discussed one of the subtopics of the forum. Ms. Gelila Terrefe, senior NAPs country support specialist from the NAP-Global Support Programme (GSP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), discussed the first subtopic, “Enhancing human, institutional and systemic capacities to design adaptation interventions in the context of NAPs and NDCs”, and stressed the importance of targeted training and data platforms. Ms. Mandy Barnett, chief director and leader of climate funds at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), which is a national implementing entity with the Adaptation Fund and a recently accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in South Africa, deliberated on the second subtopic, “Enhancing capacity to access finance for adaptation”, and advised stakeholders to invest in long-term building of capacity of civil servants, especially at the local, municipal level. Mr. Webster Whande, focal point for the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) negotiations support in Africa, discussed the third subtopic, “Strengthening the engagement of non-Party stakeholders in supporting capacity-building needed in the context of NAPs and NDCs”. He presented CDKN’s approach to capacity development by shedding light on some of the best practices in supporting capacity-building needed for adaptation, including medium to long-term training of decision makers and researchers on the subject of climate action.

24. Following the panel discussion and a question and answer session, the attendees broke into small groups to further discuss the three subtopics. Ms. Julia Wolf, programme coordinator of the Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme from the Food and Agriculture Organization, served as discussion leader for the breakout group focusing on the first subtopic mentioned in paragraph 23 above. Mr. Espen Ronneberg, climate change adviser from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, led the breakout group on the second subtopic mentioned above. Finally, Ms. Yamide Dagnet, senior associate with the World Resources Institute’s International Climate Action initiative, served as discussion leader for the breakout group focusing on the third subtopic. The discussion leaders reported back to the plenary on their groups’ main discussion points and suggestions for next steps.

25. After the reports of the discussion leaders, the co-facilitators provided a quick summary of the forum using the keywords captured in chapter II above, and delivered their closing remarks.

26. The agenda, presentations, biographies of the resource persons, guiding questions and report slides of the breakout groups are available on the Durban Forum web page.¹⁰

IV. Summary of keynote presentation and related substantive discussions

27. The keynote presentation on the overarching topic of “Enhancing capacities for adaptation in the context of NAPs and NDCs” defined the importance of capacity-building

¹⁰ <http://unfccc.int/10133.php>.

in the wider context of sustainable development and identified key areas of action to make capacity-building more effective and sustainable. More than 80 per cent of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) submitted by 4 April 2016 included adaptation elements, as shown in the box below. There is a strong linkage between the NDCs and at least 154 targets under the SDGs, as the NDCs touch upon sectors such as water, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, coastal zones, marine resources and fisheries that are key to sustainable development as well, as shown in the figure below. Capacity-building is identified as a key priority in the NDCs of many developing countries, as it is fundamental to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. If capacity-building is approached in the wider context of sustainable development, it will bring various social, economic and environmental co-benefits to the countries.

Adaptation in NDCs

- 161 INDCs submitted by 4 April 2016
- 83% of INDCs included adaptation (impacts, vulnerabilities)

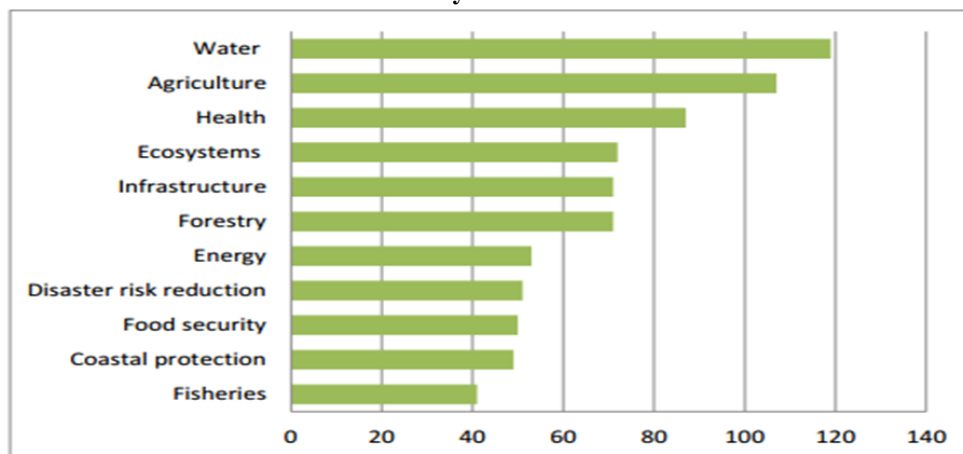
Adaptation components from:

- 54 African States
- 42 Asia-Pacific States
- 30 Latin American and Caribbean States
- 7 Eastern European States
- 2 Western European and other States.

Source: FCCC/CP/2016/2, as quoted in the presentation of the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Abbreviations: NDC = nationally determined contribution, INDC = intended nationally determined contribution.

Priority areas and sectors for adaptation actions identified in the adaptation component of the communicated intended nationally determined contributions



Source: FCCC/CP/2016/2, as quoted in the presentation of the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Note: Number of Parties referring to area or sector in their INDCs.

28. There are more than 500 multilateral agreements with various mandates, various obligations and diverse levels of complexity that countries must commit to. Just looking at capacity-building in the context of the Paris Agreement alone, Parties have established the PCCB and the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency. However, there are other UNFCCC institutions that support capacity-building, such as the Adaptation Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the GCF and the Global Environmental Facility. Given the multitude of initiatives and the various objectives, coordination becomes a very important consideration to make capacity-building truly successful. There needs to be coordination between the donors and recipient countries, but also between relevant ministries and initiatives. Often, the communication between various ministries is not as

effective as it should be and, as a result, various efforts made on capacity-building do not end up being as productive and successful as they could be.

29. Capacity-building is a two-way process: developing countries need greater capacity, especially for adaptation, and developed countries need to be able assess the capacity needs of developing countries and select the best strategies for the local context. Further, donor countries need to understand how they should mobilize local resources to ensure that their support is indeed productive. Further, donors and recipients should be able to monitor, evaluate and make adjustments to the programmes, as indicated by the evaluation results.

30. The need to make capacity-building sustainable and effective was emphasized. For that to happen, the countries need to own the process of capacity-building. When implementing their NDCs, for instance, developing countries need to first define for what and for whom they need capacity-building. The role of international actors is to support and facilitate, not to own or manage the process. Secondly, engaging the local people and communities and other stakeholders is critical to ensure the success of capacity-building efforts. The need for training materials in local languages and the integration of gender perspectives was highlighted in order to better engage the local communities and people. Finally, the aspect of co-benefits needs to be taken into account when undertaking capacity-building activities. For instance, there are many countries that share similar cultures, languages and types of challenges they face in implementing adaptation, and it would make sense to share resources and have joint programmes that can benefit a particular region as a whole. Moreover, capacity-building needs to be integrated into wider development plans, as it cannot be treated in isolation; it is a cross-cutting matter that can deliver various co-benefits if done successfully.

31. Questions were raised following the keynote presentation, including on the issue of indicators. Some developing country representatives pointed out that the effectiveness of capacity-building initiatives are not being properly captured and monitored due to a lack of good indicators. While agreeing with this assessment, the UNEP representative did note the difficulty in formulating indicators for capacity-building, especially for climate change adaptation, for which relatively little time has been spent on developing relevant methodologies. However, it was also noted that the example of the SDGs and the indicators being used to monitor progress on the SDGs could serve as a good reference case. The need for developing a set of indicators, designed to capture both quantitative and qualitative aspects of capacity-building efforts and their impact on the ground in the local setting, was highlighted.

V. Summary of panel discussions

A. Enhancing human, institutional and systemic capacities to design adaptation interventions in the context of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions

32. The UNDP representative, drawing on UNDP's experience of supporting over 80 countries with their NAPs and more than 120 countries, through 14 regional and 3 global dialogues, with their NDCs, highlighted that the capacity-building needs of developing countries have evolved over time. Rather than asking for more general types of support for tasks such as preparing road maps or stocktaking as part of the NAP process, more countries are seeking capacity-building support for sectoral approaches and planning needed for their adaptation interventions. The fact that the capacity needs are evolving also reconfirms the need to constantly track, through indicators, the impact of capacity-building initiatives and adjust the type of support provided over time.

33. Capacity-building is still required to enhance access to climate data and the analysis and utilization of data to support the countries' adaptation actions and priorities. UNDP supports such capacity-building by building data platforms and engaging information providers, such as the insurance industry, in the NAP process. Further capacity-building is also needed in identifying and prioritizing adaptation options for developing countries.

34. Developing countries, through their institutions, need to maintain increased capacity after support providers such as UNDP leave the country. Capacity-building activities thus need to be seen in the context of countries' long-term development planning and priorities.

35. A lack of coordination between various planning frameworks burdens the limited capacity of developing countries. Without coordination and coherence, the multiple planning frameworks become additional processes for developing countries to manage, and there are no synergies created between the different processes. The UNDP's NAP-GSP unit is currently making a targeted effort to facilitate coherence between the NAP and NDC processes and the SDGs and to identify what the entry points could be in these planning processes. For instance, an entry point could be to have common financing frameworks or reporting cycles and obligations for all three processes, which could significantly lessen the burden on developing countries while increasing efficiency.

36. Following the remarks by the UNDP representative, questions were raised on ways to enhance coordination among ministries and the delivery of adaptation projects and programmes. The inclusion of finance and planning ministries in the process, in addition to environment and energy ministries, for adaptation action was recommended. Further, creating a mechanism under which all ministries could engage in regular dialogue with non-state actors was presented as an effective way of engaging all actors and facilitating their coordination.

37. During the question and answer session, the UNDP representative also stressed the importance of being able to articulate the economic value of taking adaptation actions in the light of the heavy cost of not taking action, as such capacity is essential in bringing industries and sectors on board. Responding to the request of a developing country participant, who asked for step-by-step guidance on formulating bankable adaptation projects and applying for the necessary funding, the UNDP representative shared with the audience that her organization provides targeted training to enhance the capacity of developing countries to access funding. Detailed information about the training module is available on the UNDP website.¹¹

B. Enhancing capacity to access finance for adaptation

38. The representative of SANBI highlighted some of the major capacity barriers in accessing finance for adaptation. One of the major constraints is related to the current business model used for accredited entities to access funding. Under the current business model used in readiness funds, accredited entities can only receive funding once projects are fully developed and specific deliverables have been delivered. This model does not allow for long-term institutional capacity-building that accredited entities need in order to do their work efficiently and in a sustained manner. Readiness funds could consider offering funding for medium-term staff appointments in institutions so that staff from accredited entities can develop relevant capacities over time.

39. There is much less emphasis on building the capacity of local civil servants in the institutions responsible for service delivery and educating them on how to access and deal with different forms of climate finance than on readiness before institutions become accredited. Capacity-building support aimed at enhancing access to finance needs to be more practical and hands-on, bearing in mind the need for long-term development of institutional capacity. Specifically, it needs to address the questions of how to prepare adequate project proposals and how to successfully mobilize and use climate finance and report on its use.

40. An example of what the SANBI representative regarded as a successful case of capacity-building was shared. A project leader from SANBI was placed in a municipality with a local authority tasked with leading a USD 7.5 million project approved by the Adaptation Fund. In this setting, the municipal authorities learned from the SANBI project leader along the way how to develop a project, get the funding needed and work with the

¹¹ <http://adaptation-undp.org/managing-project-preparation-climate-change-adaptation>.

Adaptation Fund. This could be a more effective way of building sustained capacity than hiring external consultants who come in for a short time and then leave the country.

41. Simple language and simplification of the accreditation processes for accessing adaptation finance and UNFCCC processes was identified as a need to create a truly enabling environment and empower the people affected. For instance, if one is working in a rural area in South Africa and approaching a farmer to ask about the effects of climate change, it may not be effective to ask the farmer: “How has climate change affected your farming over the years?” The farmer may be better prompted to answer the question if it is phrased thus: “Can you please tell me how your yields have changed since your grandfather farmed, and how do you think you can be supported to respond to such change?” Moreover, if the language of the people affected is not English or one of the other major global languages, the experience of people trying to obtain support can be a lot more challenging. Often, local people are very well aware of what is happening but they simply cannot deal with the complex frameworks and systems of the international climate change regime.

42. The SANBI representative also addressed the need for long-term monitoring of capacity-building activities, in response to some of the questions raised from the floor. She stressed the need for deepening the way that the impact of capacity-building is measured. For instance, if the indicator used is simply the number of workshops held or the number of case studies produced, then capacity-building would stop there without any permanent impact being carried over, and the multidimensional aspect of capacity-building will not be captured adequately. In this regard, forming partnerships with academic institutions, which enables them to conduct long-term, longitudinal studies of what has worked so far and what capacity needs still exist, was recommended. Strengthening the interface between academia, policymakers and implementing agencies through partnerships was also suggested.

C. Strengthening the engagement of non-Party stakeholders in supporting capacity-building needed in the context of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions

43. The representative of CDKN spoke from the perspective of a research and policy institution engaged in capacity-building related to NAPs and NDCs. He explained that relatively little time has been spent in developing methodologies for assessing the effectiveness of adaptation actions, unlike mitigation. This means that for most developing countries, additional capacities would need to be built in a wide range of areas to support implementing NAPs as well as the adaptation aspect of NDCs. Three aspects of capacity are crucial when it comes to adaptation: the institutional capacity, referring predominantly to governance and coordination aspects; the technical capacity to carry out modelling and evaluation; and the capacity to build partnerships and invest time in processes.

44. In the CDKN approach, capacity-building not only looks at developing technical skills needed in adaptation interventions but also takes into consideration the environment in which it is to take place. Capacity-building has so far mostly been treated as an isolated, short-term event. Many of the training courses have only addressed certain aspects of climate change. However, the CDKN representative emphasized that what is actually needed for capacity development in developing countries are processes that enhance or transform the ability of individuals, organizations, institutions and societies to be able to articulate and achieve goals aimed at tackling climate change as well as addressing the issue of poverty alleviation and economic prosperity at the same time. When capacity-building is about infusing and integrating these processes into societies in developing countries, then those processes will grow increasingly endogenous over time, firmly rooted and inbuilt within the systems and institutions of developing countries.

45. CDKN supports capacity-building in developing countries through the development of university curricula and research programmes tailored to designing and delivering climate compatible development. Specifically, it supports world-leading research to enhance the scientific understanding and prediction of extreme weather and climate events in sub-Saharan Africa. As capacity within governments and institutions cannot be adequate

without the necessary technical skills that could be acquired only when attending university, it works with universities in sub-Saharan Africa to develop curricula on climate change and research programmes.

46. CDKN works with different research consortiums based in the southern part of Africa under its Future Climate for Africa programme. This programme is aimed at supporting governments and, in particular, decision makers with their medium- to long-term planning in the context of climate change. Thanks to these capacity development efforts, decision makers and researchers in southern Africa have increased their awareness of climate risks and vulnerabilities and are integrating climate risks into their plans, policies and investments.

47. The CDKN representative also stressed the importance of peer-to-peer learning when responding to questions from the floor. Based on his experience of working with the African group of negotiators, he said that creating an internal team tasked with developing guidelines for INDCs that could commonly apply to African countries in the past had proven to be quite helpful, as the countries were able to discuss one document that better responds to their needs in all their strategy meetings. In the light of this positive experience, peer-to-peer learning between two developing countries, with one country having successfully completed developing a project proposal and the other being in the process of developing one, was suggested.

VI. Outcomes from breakout group discussions

A. Enhancing human, institutional and systemic capacities to design adaptation interventions in the context of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions

48. The first breakout group focused its discussion on the following questions:

(a) Which human, institutional and systemic capacity gaps exist with regard to designing adaptation interventions and implementing them?

(b) What can be done to address the capacity gaps and bottlenecks identified above?

49. There is a need to map key national institutions involved in preparing and implementing NDCs so that stakeholders can understand their responsibilities and how they intend to move from policy planning to the implementation of the NDCs. Also needed are innovative systems for measuring and monitoring capacity-building. Ideally, such systems would allow capacity-builders to better understand which gaps to target and when.

50. The lack of capacity to produce reliable climate data and to use it to develop national climate models was identified as a key issue in designing and implementing adaptation interventions. Climate models specific to national circumstances would enable developing countries to design, plan and implement adaptation strategies and programmes responding to their needs.

51. It was noted that national governance requires additional capacity-building for coordination across institutions, sectors and other stakeholders. In many countries, there are several institutions that deal with climate change issues. Coordination is however frequently lacking, leading these institutions, including United Nations agencies, to compete against one another in climate action. Further, there is often a lack of clarity on governance arrangements for climate action, and the information provided by policymakers is often fragmented, which deters the meaningful and coordinated participation of other stakeholders.

52. More therefore needs to be done to bridge the gap between policymakers and implementing bodies, as well as between central and local governments. One participant shared the positive experience of setting up a new government institution solely responsible for addressing climate change issues, including capacity-building for climate action, in her

own country. This helps to avoid unnecessary competition among different government institutions involved in climate action and reduces fragmentation in the work that supports it. Further, this new arrangement is facilitating the task of devising a long-term, sustainable approach to the country's planning and implementation of climate action.

53. Another suggestion was to strengthen partnerships with universities and research centres, as they can serve as scientific and knowledge hubs in the process and promote innovative solutions for adaptation as well as mitigation actions. Additionally, the use of economic or health- or livelihood-related incentives was also proposed as an effective approach to increasing motivation for work, enabling a successful and sustained delivery of climate action and retaining the capacity built. Such incentives would help local institutions to discourage their staff from leaving after so much was invested in building their capacity for climate action. Encouraging and promoting the ownership of climate action was also recommended. For instance, a participant from Finland shared information about an initiative promoting ownership of climate action through an online platform showcasing climate change related pledges from different stakeholders such as schools, ministries, shops and individuals who are openly committed to becoming a change-maker.

B. Enhancing capacity to access finance for adaptation

54. The second breakout group focused its discussion on the following questions:

(a) In which areas do developing countries lack capacity for accessing finance?

(b) How can those capacity gaps be best addressed, and what are the necessary steps that need to be taken at the local and national level to enhance access to adaptation finance?

55. Many developing countries, including small island developing States in the Pacific region, have small administrations dealing with climate change. The small number of staff, who often have to perform multiple functions simultaneously, cannot devote sufficient time to peer-reviewing project concepts. Further, there is often a lack of national implementing entities in developing countries, making the countries rely on multilateral or regional entities. Governance-related barriers were also noted, including different ministries separately receiving loans and grants.

56. Another major capacity gap identified was a lack of knowledge of the eligibility criteria, processes and requirements of different multilateral climate funds. This is more acutely felt by local governments and communities that lack skills and information needed to develop a winning project proposal. Even at the central government level, a lack of available data on climate risk and vulnerability cuts short the capacity of developing countries to properly develop project concepts and proposals. Ensuring sustainability beyond a project cycle was also mentioned as a key concern in many developing countries, as countries are often unable to retain capacity after a project ends.

57. Participants also noted that they need more support in creating a business case for adaptation, that it is more challenging to sell adaptation projects than mitigation projects, which have clear implications for energy savings. As such, more guidance and training is needed in making a business case for adaptation projects.

58. Some suggestions and recommendations were directed to multilateral climate funds. While it is true that countries should make much better use of the readiness funding that is available, participants agreed that the application process can be further simplified to facilitate easier access. The need for additional resources for project preparation and for better time allowance in preparing and undertaking a project was also noted.

59. The promotion of South–South exchange, particularly on best practices in submitting and implementing projects, was emphasized as a way of minimizing setbacks in the process of getting a project approved. South–South exchange could also shed light on successful institutional arrangements needed for obtaining adaptation finance. How other countries have encouraged interministerial coordination through incentives is another area in which countries can benefit from South–South exchange.

60. Capacity needs to be built to scale so that countries can retain it after a project ends. For instance, it is not sufficient to train just one person in a project; rather, 6–20 people should be trained. Individual country programming for capacity-building is needed and should be approached from a short, medium and long-term perspective. Capacity-building on a ‘fly in and fly out’ basis, which relies on external consultants for short-term projects, does not help countries retain capacity.

C. Strengthening the engagement of non-Party stakeholders in supporting capacity-building needed in the context of national adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions

61. The third breakout group was guided by the following questions:

(a) In which areas can non-Party stakeholders best support capacity-building in developing countries in the context of NAPs and NDCs, and how can these actors be better engaged?

(b) Do the non-Party stakeholders identified require any capacity-building themselves to better support the design and implementation of NAPs and NDCs in developing countries? If so, how can their capacity-building needs be met?

(c) How can developing countries strengthen capacities to foster networks and enhance collaboration with academia and research centres for the purpose of adaptation activities?

62. This group considered a host of non-Party stakeholders, including municipal and subnational governments, non-governmental organizations, engineers and planners, technical experts, private sector entities, schools, universities, youth organizations, research institutions, indigenous people, women, vulnerable groups, climate-related services, faith communities and the media. The lack of access to relevant data and information and related outreach activities was identified as a key barrier hampering the participation of these diverse groups of non-Party stakeholders. It was also agreed that training materials and other forms of capacity-building need to be translated into local languages and the information simplified to empower these actors and encourage their active involvement.

63. As a way forward, an assessment of the capacity-building needs of subnational governments was suggested. Further, it was agreed that more resources need to be invested in developing networks of non-Party stakeholders and training them. The presence and involvement of research institutions in all capacity-building efforts was also highlighted, as it can increase people’s access to information and availability of data. In relation to the sharing and exchanging of best practices and lessons learned, more rigorous South–South exchange and triangular cooperation was recommended. The enactment of a new law or legislation for the disclosure of information in countries was also suggested as a possible measure to enhance transparency and data accessibility.

64. The need for repackaging the complex information about climate risks and vulnerabilities and adaptation to climate change so as to present the information in a simple manner as well as the need for translation support for such information was also emphasized. The simplification of information is especially important to engage local people and grass-roots communities, and there needs to be an open channel of communication between the grass-roots communities and policymakers and implementing agencies to ensure the meaningful and active participation of non-Party stakeholders.

65. Going one step further, the inclusion of non-Party stakeholders in the decision-making process and in the governance structure so as to increase their participation in a more systematic manner was also suggested. Innovation is one of the areas where feedback and suggestions from non-Party stakeholders could make a huge difference, and there needs to be a system in which their insights can be better connected and matched to the requests or issues emerging from the UNFCCC process.