
SUBMISSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Valletta, 23/02/2017

Subject: Capacity building under the Convention and under the Kyoto Protocol:

- **Views on the fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition**
- **Views on potential topics for the sixth meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building**

Background:

The EU welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition (EIT) as invited in Decision 16/CP.22 and 6/CMP.12. The present submission focuses on the EIT countries Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine that are not EU Member States. In preparing this submission, the EU referred to Decision 3/CP.7 setting the Framework for Capacity Building in EIT countries.

The submission also includes the EU views on the topics that could be covered by the Durban Forum during its next session in Bonn in May 2017.

Views on the fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in countries with economies in transition:

The EU believes that capacity building is fundamental to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The fourth review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in EIT countries to be conducted at SBI46 is an important stage in the process of enhancing the capacity building efforts under the Convention. It will be an opportunity to comprehensively review the implementation of the existing framework, take stock of progress, examine and identify existing as well as new and emerging challenges, identify major actors/bodies supporting the implementation of the capacity-building framework within and outside the arrangements established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, identify lessons learned and best practices and to provide recommendations to the SBI on ways to more effectively build the capacity of Parties at all levels to effectively implement the Convention and the Paris Agreement. In addition, the EU sees the result of the review as key input to inform the operations of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB).

EU approach to capacity building

The EU believes that capacity building is fundamental to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. As stated in the Paris Agreement all capacity building should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and foster country ownership of Parties, in particular, for developing country Parties, including at the national, sub-national and local levels. Capacity building should be guided by lessons learned, including those from capacity building activities under the Convention, and should be an effective, iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive. The EU believes that these principles also hold for capacity building supporting the implementation of the Convention.

The EU has extensive experience in the area of development cooperation: it supports a wide range of efforts to enhance capacities to address climate change in the broader context of sustainable development in developing countries across all regions and sectors of the economy and at regional, national and sub-national levels and in accordance with the principles outlined above.

The EU has in its annual submissions to the Convention provided examples of EU support for capacity building activities in developing countries related to climate change.

In line with its commitments within the UNFCCC context, the EU has been providing broad support for climate capacity building in EIT countries over the last decades, and it will continue to do so based on the country needs. Capacity building is integrated in all EU support to EIT countries activities. The EU's external assistance to EIT countries is currently channelled through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) and the Partnership Instrument (PI). Cooperation under these instruments takes place both on a bilateral basis as well as on a regional basis covering several countries. In addition to ENI and PI that are managed by the European Commission, the 28 EU Member States also provide substantial bilateral assistance to the EIT countries. Support from the EU and its Member States is also channelled through other policy instruments, and through investment projects managed by different development banks (EBRD, EIB, KfW, AFD, etc.).

Past submissions of the EU on capacity building have already included non-exhaustive lists of capacity building activities in EIT countries which have been supported by the EU and its Member States. Against this backdrop, two particularly relevant EU-funded initiatives which are still on-going should be highlighted: the ClimaEast project package and the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR).

- ClimaEast is the flagship EU programme for climate capacity building to EU Eastern Partnership Countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and Russia. It consists of two components: the first consists of a number of pilot projects that support the development of ecosystems-based approaches to climate change; the second is a policy component that seeks to foster improved climate change policies, strategies and market mechanisms in the partner countries by supporting regional cooperation and improving information access to EU climate change policies, laws and expertise.
- The PMR, to which the Ukraine is one of the recipient countries, is a forum for collective innovation and action and a fund to support capacity building to scale up climate change mitigation. It provides support to prepare and implement climate change mitigation policies and serves as a platform for sharing lessons. The objective of this partnership is to develop carbon market capacity in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through developing and piloting carbon market instruments. This initiative contributes to enhancing the institutional capacities of the participating countries to assess mitigation

options and developing the enabling environment for market based investments, as well as strengthens the cooperation between relevant stakeholders across different sectors.

Views on potential topics for the sixth meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building:

The Durban Forums for in-depth discussion on capacity building held to date have been very useful and successful as an opportunity for practitioners inside and outside the UNFCCC context to present their experiences and lessons learned, and exchange among themselves and with Parties and other stakeholders on a specific climate related capacity building issue. Its outcomes will provide key input for the work of the PCCB and synergies between the Durban Forum and the PCCB shall be ensured.

In response to the request for views from Parties on specific topics to be considered at the 6th meeting of the Durban Forum, to be held at SBI 46 back-to-back with the 1st meeting of the PCCB, the EU proposes the following topics:

- *Capacity building for adaptation and for accessing support on adaptation*
- *Capacity building for NDC implementation*

This would provide ample time to discuss on adaptation related issues, since so far no Durban Forum session has been devoted to adaptation. Adaptation plays an important role in NDCs of many developing countries. Thus, the suggested topics together with the previous Durban Forum topic "Enhancing Capacity to Implement the Paris Agreement" will support the work of the PCCB which has chosen "Capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement" as the focus area in 2017.

As regards the organisation of the Durban Forum, the EU suggests providing sufficient time for in-depth discussion and exchange of knowledge and experience among the participants to enhance the outcome and value added of the Forum. The EU also considers important that actors outside the Convention, which are providing relevant capacity building support, are invited to contribute to the Forum.

The lessons learned and main outcomes of the Durban Forum should be taken into consideration in the work programmes and activities of the PCCB and other relevant bodies established under the Convention, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and relevant experts and practitioners (14/CP.21) to maximize synergies while enhancing the effectiveness of capacity building.

The EU is looking forward to the consideration of capacity building at the upcoming session in Bonn.