

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

Report

Attendance

Ms. Marzena Chodor
Mr. Crispin d’Auvergne
Ms. Jeniffer Hanna
Mr. Mahawan Karuniasa
Mr. Mfumu Richard Lungu
Mr. Kakhaberi (‘Kakha’) Mdivani
Ms. Rita Mishaan
Mr. Mohamed Nbou (Co-Chair)
Ms. Renilde Ndayishimiye
Mr. Matti Nummelin (Co-Chair)
Ms. Vedis Vik
Ms. Yongxiang Zhang

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The 1st meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) was opened at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 11 May 2017 by Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), who presided over the opening of the meeting. The opening statements were delivered by Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, and Mr. Chruszczow. This was followed by introductory statements by all PCCB members.

2. Election of officers

2. As Mr. Chruszczow had to leave the meeting, and as consultations among members had not yet concluded in an agreement on the Co-Chairs of the PCCB, in line with rule 24 of the draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies, he designated Ms. Rita Mishaan to temporarily preside over the meeting, until such time as consultations among members had been finalized to allow for the election of the Co-Chairs of the PCCB.

3. After a short suspension of the meeting to allow for consultations, the PCCB elected Mr. Matti Nummelin and Mr. Mohamed Nbou as its Co-Chairs, to serve until the first meeting of the PCCB in 2018.

3. Organizational matters

(a) *Adoption of the agenda*

4. The PCCB adopted the agenda contained in document PCCB/2017/1/1/Rev.1 as proposed.

(b) *Organization of the work of the meeting*

5. The PCCB took note of the proposed tentative schedule as well as the order of work for the meeting, as outlined in the annex to document PCCB/2017/1/2.

6. The Co-Chairs announced that, to increase the overall transparency of and broad participation in the proceedings of the Committee, the secretariat had made an effort to ensure live streaming of the meeting via YouTube, and as there was no objection from members, the meeting was broadcast in this manner, except when otherwise decided by the PCCB. The recordings of the meeting are available on the PCCB website.¹

¹ <http://unfccc.int/10260.php>.



7. Upon invitation from Mr. Nummelin, the six representatives of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the constituted bodies established under the Convention, who were invited to participate in the first meeting of the PCCB in line with the agreement at SBI 45,² provided brief introductory statements. In this context, the representative of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts also provided short statements upon invitation by Mr. Nummelin.

8. Furthermore, Mr. Nummelin welcomed the observers of the meeting, which included Party representatives, representatives of intergovernmental organizations, as well as of constituencies of admitted non-governmental organizations.

4. Working modalities and procedures of the Paris Committee on Capacity- building

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9. The PCCB took note of document PCCB/2017/1/3. The agenda item was introduced and discussed in one plenary discussion; and the outcomes were presented to the PCCB for its consideration in the plenary.³

Outcomes

10. Various members highlighted the need to ensure the suitability and accessibility of technical solutions to be employed to facilitate the intersessional work, including decision-making, of the PCCB.

11. During the meeting, the PCCB agreed:

- a) To adopt its rules of procedure and its working modalities as contained in document PCCB/2017/1/3;
- b) To request the secretariat to explore technical solutions to ensure the full participation of all members in all activities of the PCCB at all times.

12. Furthermore, the PCCB highlighted the valuable contribution of observers to its work, and agreed that the PCCB could, at its discretion, also involve observer organizations in the work of, for example, working groups established by the Committee, in line with its rules of procedure.

13. The Co-Chairs also outlined the procedure for the involvement of observers in the meetings of the PCCB, indicating that decision-making would be limited to PCCB members only, but that the floor would be given to observers before any decision would be taken, allowing for inputs and statements to be made by observers.

5. Implementation of the 2016 to 2020 capacity-building workplan

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14. The PCCB took note of documents PCCB/2017/1/4, PCCB/2017/1/5, and PCCB/2017/1/6; of a short oral presentation on the capacity-building portal⁴ delivered by the secretariat; as well as of the background information provided by the secretariat, containing an initial mapping of capacity-building stakeholders and initiatives. The agenda item was introduced and discussed in two plenary discussions, as well as two closed sessions. The outcomes of the discussions were presented to the PCCB for its consideration during the last plenary session.⁵

15. During its work on the development of its workplan, the PCCB invited inputs from observers. The PCCB received several inputs in response to this invitation, which it will take into consideration in its further work on the refinement and implementation of the workplan.

Outcomes

16. On the issue of the 2016–2020 capacity-building workplan, the PCCB agreed:

- (a) To implement, to the extent possible, pillar 1 of its work (see document PCCB/2017/1/4, para. 1) through the lens of its annual focus area or theme;

² FCCC/SBI/2016/L.34.

³ Available at <http://unfccc.int/10260.php>.

⁴ Available at: <http://unfccc.int/7204.php>.

⁵ Available at: <http://unfccc.int/10260.php>.

- (b) To adopt the rolling workplan for the PCCB from 2017 to 2019, to be included in its annual technical progress report to COP 23 and to be made available on the PCCB website once finalized by the PCCB;
- (c) To recommend to the COP to invite Parties and other relevant institutions to provide appropriate support and resources for the implementation of the workplan.
17. On the issue of maintenance and further development of the web-based capacity-building portal, the PCCB agreed:
- (a) To take note of the opportunities offered by the capacity-building portal in supporting the PCCB in implementing its mandates (see annex I for a list of suggestions made for improving the capacity-building portal during the PCCB meeting);
- (b) To request the secretariat to take note of the suggestions made to further maintain and develop the capacity-building portal, and to develop proposals to implement those suggestions to the extent possible, taking note of budgetary constraints related to actions to be undertaken by the secretariat on this matter;
- (c) To also request the secretariat to explore options to further enhance the visibility of the capacity-building portal, including through awareness-raising measures;
- (d) To launch a call for submissions, inviting interested stakeholders:
- i. To provide suggestions on the further enhancement of the capacity-building portal, including on how to enhance linkages with other platforms, networks or initiatives;
 - ii. To submit relevant information to be incorporated in the portal.
18. On the issue of linkages with the constituted bodies under the Convention, the PCCB agreed:
- (a) To take note of the information provided in document PCCB/2017/1/6, outlining the ongoing work of other constituted bodies, as well as of the importance of this work for many areas of work of the PCCB;
- (b) To also take note of the importance of maintaining linkages with the constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, in order to fulfil its mandates;
- (c) To nominate representatives among its members, who would stand ready to liaise with the respective bodies and entities, including through:
- i. The exchange of relevant information;
 - ii. Participation in and representation of the PCCB in their personal expert capacity in meetings and/or events, as appropriate;
- (d) To also nominate members as representatives for matters related to adaptation, loss and damage, technology, climate finance as well as reporting.

Next steps

19. The PCCB agreed to finalize its 2017 to 2019 rolling workplan intersessionally, to be included in its annual technical progress report to the COP, as well as to launch the call for submissions as outlined in paragraph 17(d) above, and will communicate with the bodies established under the Convention as outlined in paragraphs 17(a-c) and 18 above.
20. The PCCB will also include a recommendation on the provision of resources to support its work as outlined in paragraph 16(c) above in its annual technical progress report.

6. Focus area or theme of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building: Capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement

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21. The PCCB took note of document PCCB/2017/1/7, and devoted a full day of its meeting (12 May 2017) to discuss this agenda item (the programme of this one-day event is available on the PCCB website). During the course of this session, various presentations were given, and round-table discussions, as well as breakout group discussions took place. The programme and the presentations delivered are available on

the PCCB website.⁶ Mr. Ari Huhtala, who had moderated parts of the discussions, provided reflections on the one-day event during a plenary discussion on the last day of the PCCB meeting. The outcomes of discussions during this one-day event were presented to the PCCB for its consideration during the final plenary discussion.⁷

Outcomes

22. Based on the discussions that took place during the second day of its meeting, the PCCB agreed:
- (a) To request the secretariat to finalize the summary report on the discussions that took place during the one-day dedicated event on the 2017 focus area or theme;
 - (b) To take the following next steps as also reflected in its rolling workplan:
 - i. Perform an assessment of capacity-building needs as identified in relevant sources (such as nationally determined contributions, biennial update reports, national communications, reports of the Durban Forum);
 - ii. Perform an assessment of the work conducted by other constituted bodies of relevance to this subject matter with a view to identifying gaps, solutions and synergies;
 - iii. Appoint dedicated representatives of the PCCB to liaise with the respective bodies with a view to sharing and gathering relevant information;
 - iv. Strengthen the capacity-building portal as appropriate;
 - (c) To create appropriate working groups;
 - (d) To issue a call for submissions from Parties, constituted bodies and other interested stakeholders to provide information of relevance to the work of the PCCB on the 2017 focus area or theme.

Next steps

23. The secretariat will prepare the summary report for consideration and approval by the PCCB, to be included in its annual technical progress report.
24. The PCCB will advance work on the issues outlined in paragraph 22 above intersessionally, including through the establishment of dedicated working groups, as well as the launching of a call for submissions.

7. Focus area or theme of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2018

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25. The PCCB took note of document PCCB/2017/1/8. The agenda item was introduced and discussed in two plenary discussions. The outcomes of discussions were presented to the PCCB for its consideration during the final plenary discussion.⁸

Outcomes

26. Upon the conclusion of the deliberations of the PCCB on its 2017 to 2019 rolling workplan, the PCCB agreed to continue the focus area or theme on “capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement” in 2018.
27. In line with this agreement, the PCCB agreed to issuing an invitation to the following bodies to be invited to be represented in the meeting of the PCCB in 2018:
- (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.

⁶ Available at < <http://unfccc.int/10260.php>>.

⁷ Available at < <http://unfccc.int/10260.php>>.

⁸ Available at < <http://unfccc.int/10260.php>>.

28. Furthermore, the PCCB agreed that representatives of other bodies established under the Convention and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism will be invited to identify representatives to collaborate, as appropriate, on specific activities related to the work of the PCCB, and particularly to encourage a representative of the CTCN to participate in the meeting of the PCCB in 2018.

Next steps

29. The PCCB will include the agreements reached on the issue of the 2018 focus area or theme in its annual technical progress report. Work will be pursued in line with the agreement reached by the PCCB as outlined in paragraph 22(b) above.

8. Annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building to the Conference of the Parties

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30. The PCCB took note of document PCCB/2017/1/9. The agenda item was introduced and discussed in one plenary discussion. The outcomes of discussions were presented to the PCCB for its consideration during this plenary discussion.⁹

Outcomes

31. The PCCB agreed on the outline of its annual technical progress report as contained in document PCCB/2017/1/9, as well as on the mode of work to finalize the report intersessionally, including the drafting of and agreement on possible recommendations.

Next steps

32. The draft report will be shared with PCCB members by 31 July 2017 at the latest, allowing members five working days to review and to provide feedback. The revised report will be shared with members by 7 August 2017, allowing members five working days to review and to provide additional feedback. Subsequently, the final report will be shared with members by 14 August 2017 for approval on a non-objection basis by 18 August 2017.

9. Other matters

33. The PCCB agreed to consider and adopt the report of the first meeting of the PCCB intersessionally on a non-objection basis.

34. The next meeting of the PCCB will take place in conjunction with the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (April–May 2018).

35. One member highlighted the need to ensure and facilitate the participation of all members in all meetings of the PCCB, including informal meetings.

10. Closure of the meeting

36. The first meeting of the PCCB was closed on Saturday, 13 May 2017, at 5 p.m.

⁹ Available at < <http://unfccc.int/10260.php>>.

Annex I. Suggestions for the improvement of the capacity-building portal

Note: the list below contains a compiled overview of suggestions raised by PCCB members, presenters, and observers on possibilities for further improving and enhancing the capacity-building portal emanating from discussions throughout the three-day meeting of the PCCB.

Suggestions related to overall matters:

- There should be a global interface of stakeholders and stakeholder engagement beyond information sharing;
- This interface should assist the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) in its evaluation and assessment of the capacity-building needs and gaps of different countries by providing relevant information which aims to increase ambition, to identify concrete ways to support Parties, and to assess the effectiveness of capacity-building activities;
- The portal should be a library/repository of capacity-building data at all levels, making use of the authority that the umbrella of the UNFCCC offers for this portal;
- There is a need to take into consideration cost implications and budgetary constraints, and to ensure sufficient budget allocation;
- The portal should help to identify key players/stakeholders involved in capacity-building;
- The role of the PCCB could be to make sense of a very broad landscape of nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation and then to transform it into an easy-to-understand format (repackaging of information);
- There is a need to prioritize objectives and the type of information the portal should contain because it cannot provide solutions for everything.

Suggestions related to data:

- The data currently contained in the portal may be misleading due to e.g. the differing nature of the data made available, therefore it cannot simply be aggregated; there is a need for verification of the data (e.g. through an assessment process based on volunteers, following the model of Wikipedia), to ensure the accuracy of the data;
- There is a need for a proactive approach to ensure that data continues to be fed into the portal (e.g. through awareness-raising measures to increase the pool of data providers);
- The categories used need to be consistent with the Convention, and need to be clear;
- Displaying of data should go beyond a simple presentation of raw data, there should be a possibility for filtering, grouping and interpretation of data;
- Data should be searchable.

Suggestions related to the enhancement of the portal:

- The PCCB could request for views/launch of a call for submissions on specific topics, invite specific actors such as academic communities to provide relevant background information, views, etc., which could then be incorporated into the portal;
- The PCCB could map the capacity-building needs already reported in NDCs, and the problems and barriers identified, to analyse the type of support required and define solutions to address those needs, it could also enable clustering of capacity-building needs and barriers;
- Could also give space to allow for collection of lessons learned, good practice, etc.;
- Linkages/synergies with other initiatives/bodies/portals could be explored and established to the extent possible to expand availability of data and information;
- Rather than a major revamping, the use of existing information such as the technology needs assessments (TNAs) and linking the portal to other existing portals could be a practical solution;
- The portal could be enhanced to build up a (coalition of) network of organizations/networks/entities/engaged in capacity-building; in this context, it could allow for easy identification of organizations which are engaged in capacity-building and could give space for the creation of new partnerships;

- It could include a tutorial on what type of resources are available on capacity-building portal and how the users can make use of the portal to enhance the visibility of resources on the portal and make it more user-friendly;
- The interactivity of the portal could be increased, for instance by incorporating real-time components (e.g. regular live chat);
- The portal could feature a password-protected help desk (e.g. offering a moderated site for national focal points).

Annex II. Background documents for the 1st meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

<i>Title</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
Background paper on the working modalities and procedures of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	PCCB/2017/1/3
Background paper on the implementation of the 2016–2020 capacity-building workplan and workplan of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	PCCB/2017/1/4
Background paper on the maintenance and further development of the web-based capacity-building portal	PCCB/2017/1/5
Background paper on the linkages with the constituted bodies under the Convention	PCCB/2017/1/6
Background paper on the 2017 focus area or theme of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	PCCB/2017/1/7
Background paper on the 2018 focus area or theme of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	PCCB/2017/1/8
Background paper on the annual technical progress report of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building to the Conference of the Parties	PCCB/2017/1/9
