

Submission by Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States on
Capacity-building under the Convention

Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States welcome the opportunity to submit their views on capacity-building under the Convention in response to decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 75. We are looking forward to the second session of the Durban Forum for in-depth discussion on capacity-building, and hope that this submission can help the session organization and engender fruitful discussions. Further, we note that this next session will continue to contribute to the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building activities.

In our view, it is important to keep in mind and work to implement our mandate from Durban (paragraph 144), by continuing to feature presentations from Parties, representatives of the relevant bodies established under the Convention, and relevant experts and practitioners, to share their experiences and exchange ideas, best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of capacity-building activities. In particular, we note that there were several bodies—such as the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Mechanism—which were not covered in the first session of the Forum, and these should be given the opportunity to present their perspectives. Other key contributors could be asked to provide updates on their experiences. To add to the conversation from the previous Forum, this might include representatives from engineering associations, consulting firms, research institutions, and UN agencies. Information provided by the stakeholders in the first session of the Durban Forum was widely considered useful, and enabled Parties to discuss relevant issues in a practical manner. As such, a similar arrangement for the participation by a wide range of stakeholders going forward is welcomed. In order to assist presenters in preparing for their participation, facilitation by the secretariat in an expedient way is highly appreciated.

One area where we believe it would be useful for the Durban Forum to focus at its next session is on the relationship between long-term planning and capacity-building as this relates to climate change. Recently, there have been increased efforts in developing countries toward elaborating long-term plans for climate change in both the areas of mitigation and adaptation. While the importance of such a trend is generally acknowledged in the UNFCCC process, information and experiences relevant to such

long-term planning undertakings, including those specifically requested by the UNFCCC, the relationship of capacity-building to such processes and programs—which is manifold and rich—has not yet been shared by Parties and stakeholders. It is important to take a close look at relevant practices and help Parties and other stakeholders understand how capacity-building is relevant to and an integral part of these processes. Already, many Parties and institutions have significant experience with, for instance, long-term adaptation planning or developing low-emissions development strategies, which can offer key insights on capacity-building as more countries address these challenges. We think a focus on this issue would form an interesting and useful basis for discussion in the Durban Forum.

The Durban Forum could also invite Parties and stakeholders to provide information on their practices to monitor and review the effectiveness of capacity-building at the national level. Among existing practices, including those from the broader development cooperation community, as well as national programmes, there are useful, substantive, and well-tested approaches to monitoring and evaluation. Providing a space to share such lessons learned to continue the iterative process of building capacity to address climate change issues in developing countries, will also contribute to the established objective of the Durban Forum.