



United Nations

FCCC/SBI/2016/14



Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

Distr.: General  
22 August 2016

Original: English

---

## Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Forty-fifth session

Marrakech, 7–14 November 2016

Item X of the provisional agenda

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building**

#### **Summary report by the secretariat**

##### *Summary*

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity-building was held on 20 May 2016, during the forty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. The discussions focused on: (1) enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to effectively implement the Paris Agreement, particularly to convert intended nationally determined contributions into action, to access finance and to meet the transparency requirements; and (2) assessing the state of art of capacity-building and the way forward in building capacity to support mitigation, adaptation and technology.

GE.16-14524(E)



\* 1 6 1 4 5 2 4 \*

Please recycle



## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction .....	1–4	3
A. Mandate .....	1–3	3
B. Scope of the note .....	4	3
II. Organization of the meeting .....	5–24	3
A. Preparatory activities .....	5–6	3
B. Content and format .....	7–8	4
C. Proceedings .....	9–16	5
D. Inputs from participants on improving the Durban Forum and the usability of the capacity-building portal.....	17–24	6
III. Enhancing existing national and regional capacity for the Paris Agreement .....	25–37	7
A. Capacity needs for converting intended nationally determined contributions into action .....	26–30	7
B. Capacity needs for accessing climate finance .....	31–34	9
C. Capacity needs for meeting the reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement.....	35–37	11
IV. State of art of capacity-building and the way forward .....	38–50	12
A. Capacity-building for mitigation.....	39–42	12
B. Capacity-building for adaptation .....	43–46	12
C. Capacity-building for technology .....	47–50	13
V. Conclusions .....	51–56	14

## **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 for in-depth discussion on capacity-building. It also requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the Durban Forum for consideration by the SBI.<sup>1</sup> The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), by decision 10/CMP.8, decided that the Durban Forum is an appropriate arrangement for sharing experiences and exchanging ideas, best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of capacity-building activities related to the Kyoto Protocol with the participation of Parties, representatives of relevant bodies established under the Convention and relevant experts and practitioners.<sup>2</sup>

2. By decision 14/CP.21, the COP decided that the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Durban Forum (hereinafter referred to as the meeting), which was to be held during SBI 44, would explore potential ways of enhancing capacity-building by sharing information and varied experiences. By the same decision, the COP invited Parties to submit suggestions on additional potential topics for the meeting.<sup>3</sup> By decision 9/CMP.11, the CMP decided that the meeting would explore potential ways of enhancing capacity-building by sharing information and varied experiences related to the Kyoto Protocol. By the same decision, the CMP invited Parties to submit suggestions for additional potential topics related to the Kyoto Protocol for the meeting.<sup>4</sup>

3. In addition, by decision 1/CP.21, the COP decided that the inputs to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building will include, inter alia, the reports on the Durban Forum.<sup>5</sup>

### **B. Scope of the note**

4. This report contains information on the organization of the meeting (chapter II), a summary of the substantive discussions undertaken (chapters III and IV) and conclusions (chapter V). The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this report with a view to identifying appropriate actions.

## **II. Organization of the meeting**

### **A. Preparatory activities**

5. In accordance with the relevant provisions contained in decisions 2/CP.17, 1/CP.18 and 10/CMP.8, the secretariat prepared the following documents to facilitate discussions at the meeting and made them available on the UNFCCC website:<sup>6</sup>

---

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

<sup>2</sup> Decision 10/CMP.8, paragraph 1.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 14/CP.21, paragraphs 9 and 11.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 9/CMP.11, paragraphs 2 and 3.

<sup>5</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.

<sup>6</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/9439.php>>.

(a) A synthesis report on the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7 (hereinafter referred to as the capacity-building framework);<sup>7</sup>

(b) A compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building work undertaken by bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;<sup>8</sup>

(c) A compilation of the views submitted by Parties on specific thematic issues for additional potential topics, including those related to the Kyoto Protocol, for discussion at the meeting.<sup>9</sup>

6. With a view to further enhancing the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building, and in accordance with paragraph 10 of decision 14/CP.21, the secretariat processed the submissions of information on actions undertaken in 2015 by 16 United Nations agencies and other institutions engaged in capacity-building activities. The information was uploaded to the capacity-building portal.<sup>10</sup> The number of reported activities grew from 625 activities submitted in 2015 to 681 activities submitted in 2016.

## **B. Content and format**

7. Taking into account Parties' submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above and in consultation with the Chair of the SBI, Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow, two topics were identified for discussion at the meeting, each with subtopics for more in-depth discussion. The meeting was divided into two parts, each covering one of the two main topics:

(a) Part I: enhancing capacity to effectively implement the Paris Agreement, particularly focusing on the capacity to convert (intended) nationally determined contributions ((I)NDCs)<sup>11</sup> into action, to mobilize climate finance and to meet transparency requirements;

(b) Part II: assessing the state of art of capacity-building and the way forward in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and technology.

8. In an effort to design an agenda allowing for an increased exchange of views among participants, as suggested by some Parties in their submissions, it was decided to introduce for the first time breakout group discussion modules. The dialogue within each breakout group, around the subtopics addressed in parts I and II of the meeting, was led by a representative of a Party or observer organization serving as discussion leader. A set of questions to guide the discussions on each subtopic was prepared by the secretariat and made available in advance on the dedicated UNFCCC web page. The discussion leaders reported back to the plenary sessions at the end of parts I and II of the meeting.

---

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBI/2016/4.

<sup>8</sup> FCCC/SBI/2016/3.

<sup>9</sup> FCCC/SBI/2016/MISC.1.

<sup>10</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/capacitybuilding/core/activities.html>>.

<sup>11</sup> Parties were invited to prepare their commitments to reduce emissions and address climate change for the post-2020 period through INDCs, to be communicated well in advance of COP 21 (decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 2(b)). Parties were invited to communicate their first NDC no later than when they submit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in relation to the Paris Agreement; if a Party has communicated an INDC prior to joining the Agreement, that Party does not have to communicate its first NDC unless it decides otherwise (decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 22).

## C. Proceedings

9. The meeting was held on 20 May 2016 during SBI 44. It was chaired by the Chair of the SBI. Ms. Lorena Aguilar, representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and Mr. Michael Gillenwater, representative of the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, supported him as the co-facilitators of parts I and II, respectively, of the meeting.

10. A representative of the secretariat, Ms. Dechen Tsering, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants on behalf of the Chair of the SBI.

11. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Hussein Alfa Nafo in his role as Chair of the African Group. He underlined the role of capacity-building in enabling developing countries, particularly African developing countries, to integrate climate change into their national development planning and implementation processes. He identified NDCs as the vehicle through which developing countries will implement their climate action. To set that vehicle in motion, there is a need to build the capacity to enhance access to climate finance, to strengthen national and regional financial institutions and to establish monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure transparency and effective management of results.

12. During part I of the meeting, Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya representing the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ms. Aguilar, Ms. Silvia Mancini representing the Adaptation Fund (AF) and Mr. Klaus Wenzel representing the International Partnership on Mitigation and Measurement, Reporting and Verification gave presentations on topics relevant to enhancing existing national and regional capacity to support the Paris Agreement. After a short panel discussion, which benefitted from the contribution of Mr. Edoardo Calvo, Chair of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM), the participants broke into groups assigned to discuss capacity-building related to converting INDCs into action, accessing finance and meeting transparency requirements. The breakout groups were led by Mr. Niklas Höhne representing the New Climate Institute, Ms. Mancini and Mr. Stephen Mutua King'uyu, Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, respectively.

13. Part II of the meeting opened with presentations discussing the state of art of capacity-building and the way forward given by Mr. Gillenwater, Mr. Abias Huongo, Chair of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and Mr. Florian Bauer representing the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership/Climate Knowledge Brokers Group. Following a panel discussion among the presenters, breakout group discussions on mitigation, adaptation and technology were led by Mr. John Christensen representing the UNEP DTU Partnership,<sup>12</sup> Ms. Christiana Chan representing the Adaptation Committee and Mr. Yunus Arian representing ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, respectively.

14. Climate champion Ms. Laurence Tubiana and the Chair of the SBI delivered final remarks at the closure of the meeting. Ms. Tubiana emphasized the central role of capacity-building within the new era of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as it will enable the transformation of current INDC texts into policy planning, investment plans and projects for concrete actions. Mutual support, including sharing information between countries equipped with enhanced capacity and others facing significant capacity

---

<sup>12</sup> The partnership, formerly known as the UNEP Risoe Centre, operates under a tripartite agreement between Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

challenges, will be of paramount importance. The tasks of the climate champions<sup>13</sup> will include connecting efforts among Parties and stakeholders engaged in planning and implementing investments in climate action with other non-state actors, including the business community and civil society, which will actively participate in the transformation challenge. She also underlined the importance of funding for capacity-building and noted the support provided by France to assist countries in preparing their INDCs through the creation of a facility aimed at helping countries to transform their NDCs into sectoral policies and action plans.

15. The Chair of the SBI echoed those words, underlining the pivotal role of capacity-building as a prerequisite for every step in the implementation of climate action. He concluded the meeting by emphasizing the importance of the Durban Forum as an opportunity to engage all stakeholders in sharing experiences and best practices in order to address capacity-building needs. He expressed his appreciation for the active participation and contribution of non-state actors at the meeting.

16. The agenda, presentations, guiding questions and reports of the breakout groups as well as the webcast of the meeting are available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>14</sup>

#### **D. Inputs from participants on improving the Durban Forum and the usability of the capacity-building portal**

17. The secretariat distributed a survey during the meeting on ways to improve the Durban Forum and the usability of the capacity-building portal.

18. The survey served two purposes: to address one of the objectives indicated in the terms of reference for the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the capacity-building framework,<sup>15</sup> namely to review the operation of the Durban Forum and identify potential ways to enhance it; and to gather views on the capacity-building portal, the further development of which is included in the 2016–2020 workplan on capacity-building launched at COP 21.<sup>16</sup>

19. A total of 46 participants completed the section of the survey on the Durban Forum and 26 the section on the capacity-building portal. Among the respondents, 59 per cent represented a Party and the remaining respondents consisted of representatives of non-governmental organizations (24 per cent), the United Nations (7 per cent) and others (10 per cent).

##### **1. Durban Forum**

20. The analysis of the survey conducted on the Durban Forum showed the different expectations of the respondents with regard to the organization of its meetings. The majority of the respondents agreed that the format of and time allocated to discussions during the meeting were adequate. Most respondents considered the themes and discussion topics on the agenda to be clear and appropriate and the discussions within the panels and breakout groups to be informative and useful. Among the respondents 18 per cent indicated the need for improvement by devoting more time to presentations, while some suggested inviting fewer speakers (29 per cent). Fewer topics and more focused discussions would be considered beneficial by 63 per cent of the respondents, while 24 per cent recommended

---

<sup>13</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 121.

<sup>14</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/9439.php>>.

<sup>15</sup> Decision 14/CP.21, annex.

<sup>16</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 73.

focusing on more concrete topics. It was also recommended to integrate topics currently under negotiation into the agenda of the meeting to enable more informed negotiations. Some respondents suggested introducing topics that would increase the opportunity to share best practices and lessons learned.

21. The participatory approach involving a variety of stakeholders was mentioned as one of the key strengths of the meeting. It was recommended to divide the meeting into more sections and to distribute the meeting over several days. The lack of gender balance among the panellists was raised as an issue.

## **2. Capacity-building portal**

22. UNFCCC website data show that the capacity-building portal receives approximately 165 visits per month, corresponding to 5–6 visits per day. In line with this relatively low number of visits, the survey revealed that 38 per cent of the respondents had never accessed the capacity-building portal before.

23. Respondents generally indicated satisfaction with the content and user-friendliness of the portal. With regard to the type of information that would be useful, 12 respondents suggested including information on best practices and project assessments. Five respondents remarked that more detailed information on uploaded activities would allow for the identification of successful projects that could be replicated.

24. Other suggestions for improvements included:

- (a) Widening the range of stakeholders that can submit information;
- (b) Releasing announcements when the portal has been updated and when information on new capacity-building activities has been uploaded.

## **III. Enhancing existing national and regional capacity for the Paris Agreement**

25. With the Paris Agreement having been adopted and with the possibility of its early entry into force, there was broad consensus among the meeting participants on the need to build the capacity of developing countries to allow for its implementation. In this context, participants conducted in-depth discussions on ways to build the capacity to convert INDCs into action, to access climate finance and to meet the reporting requirements under the new transparency framework. Key points that emerged from the discussions are described below.

### **A. Capacity needs for converting intended nationally determined contributions into action**

26. For developing countries to transition from the planning stages of their INDCs to the implementation of concrete actions, participants underlined foremost the importance of applying lessons learned from existing processes, such as nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs). On the basis of his experience in supporting NAPAs and NAPs, the UNDP representative identified various capacity-building needs for converting INDCs into action, which can be summarized as follows:

- (a) Establishing robust institutional arrangements to manage INDC implementation;

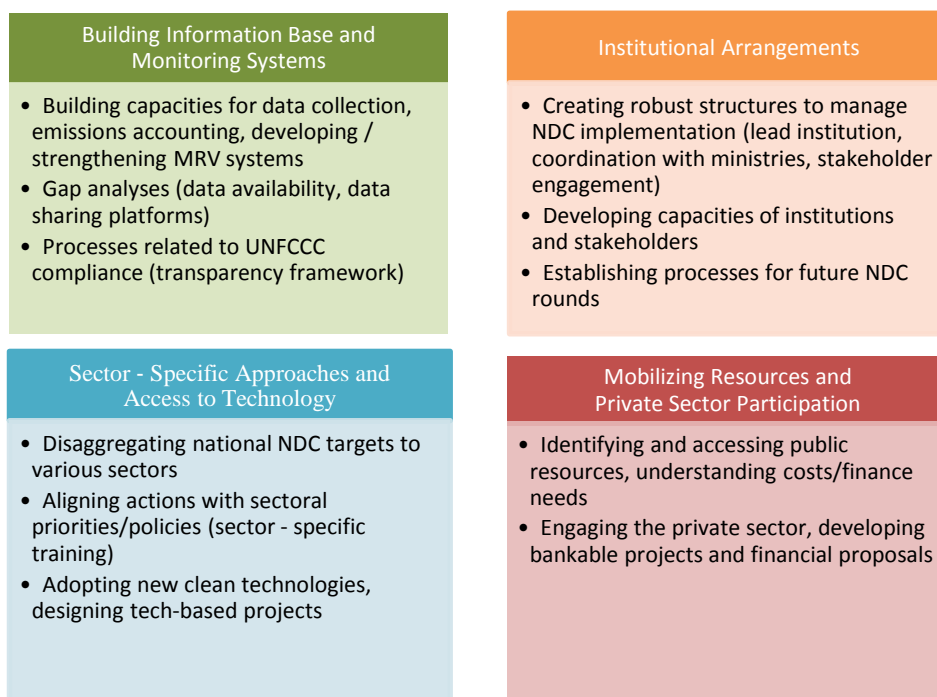
(b) Building adequate monitoring systems, in particular for data collection and analysis;

(c) Strengthening institutional and individual capacities in sector-specific areas in line with national priorities;

(d) Enhancing the ability to assess financial needs and access resources, including through the engagement of non-state actors.

27. There was broad consensus among participants on the importance of each of those elements, which are described in more detail in the figure below.

**Lessons learned from the processes of national adaptation programmes of action and national adaptation plans**



Source: Presentation made by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme.

Abbreviations: NDC = nationally determined contribution, MRV = measurement, reporting and verification.

28. Integrating climate change issues into development and financial policies was highlighted as key for the effective transition of INDCs from policy documents to bankable projects and programmes. In addition, participants emphasized the need to maintain the political momentum in countries in order to effectively implement actions to achieve the objectives of INDCs. To facilitate implementation, participants recommended breaking up projects into manageable and replicable activities, consistent with presented lessons learned from the NAPA and NAMA processes. Enhancing support for data analysis to better define socioeconomic impacts and co-benefits, and ensuring the availability of tools to better assess the impacts of options were also suggested. Another lesson learned shared among participants was the benefit of involving the public and engaging youth in the INDC process, with a view to gaining support and enhancing the ownership of programmes and projects.

29. Many participants were of the view that the capacities needed for converting INDCs into action are the same as those needed in the longer term to regularly prepare, implement



and increase the ambition of NDCs. Among the various needs, however, participants recognized that building institutional capacity is a critical enabler that would facilitate the NDC process in the future. Many participants called for investment in fortifying the institutional memory of local staff involved in NDC preparation and in ensuring intersectoral coordination among different ministries and institutions.

30. Finally, the need to account for gender considerations in the implementation of climate actions was discussed. The IUCN representative introduced an analysis of INDCs conducted by IUCN in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, within the Gender Equality for Climate Change Opportunities initiative. The analysis showed that 65 of 162 submissions referred to women or gender in the context of national priorities and ambition to reduce emissions. With a generally positive trend in integrating gender into mitigation and adaptation initiatives, there is hope that those countries that did not include any reference to gender in their INDCs will modify their approach, including through the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and all of its implementing agencies, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the AF, which have adopted gender policies. The recognition of women's meaningful participation in the CDM process was highlighted by the Chair of the Executive Board of the CDM, who provided examples of gender consideration in the CDM, including through dedicated publications and adding women's empowerment as a social co-benefit to be reported by CDM project participants in the Sustainable Development co-Benefits Tool.<sup>17</sup> He underlined the substantive capacity-building support provided by the Executive Board of the CDM to enhance CDM-related measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, with the elaboration of more than 200 methodologies and the establishment of mechanisms for verification and accreditation, technical assistance and strategic networking.

## B. Capacity needs for accessing climate finance

31. The participants deliberated on the recurring gaps in accessing climate finance and exchanged views on ways to address such gaps. The AF representative presented common capacity-building gaps encountered by developing country institutions when processing requests for funding. She also shared examples of initiatives undertaken by the AF to reduce those gaps. Such initiatives, besides building the capacity of countries at the institutional, systemic and individual levels to access funds, have contributed to enhancing countries' drive and ownership and have led to more streamlined procedures for processing requests. An overview of the gaps and examples of factors to mitigate them are presented in the table below.

### Common capacity-building gaps and examples of mitigating factors

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gap</i>	<i>Mitigating factor</i>
Legal	Difficulties in identifying the responsible entity within a ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AF allows ministry to be the designated implementing entity and to identify an executive entity that reports to the ministry</li> <li>▪ Review of the legal capacity of the applicant at the screening stage</li> </ul>
Financial management and integrity	Difficulties in identifying appropriate internal control framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Panel strongly encourages the issuance of an annual public statement signed by the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Accountant of the IE, which confirms that the internal control framework is operating satisfactorily</li> </ul>

<sup>17</sup> <<http://cdmcobenefits.unfccc.int/Pages/SD-Tool.aspx>>.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gap</i>	<i>Mitigating factor</i>
Institutional capacity	Weakness of a supervisory review of the project quality during the design, appraisal and pre-implementation stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic review of the effectiveness of these internal control elements</li> <li>▪ Entity supported in identifying areas that are missing or need improvement; defining roles and responsibilities and the appropriate course and type of corrective action required</li> <li>▪ Review of the corrective actions taken</li> </ul>
Project risk assessment	Lack of capacity of the entity to assess risk in a systematic process for identifying, evaluating and managing potential events that could occur and adversely affect the achievement of an IE's project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertake assessment of project/programme risks, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Financial, economic and political risks;</li> <li>○ Environmental and social risks;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Integrate mitigating strategies and environmental and social risk management plans into the project document</li> </ul>
Transparency, self-investigative powers, anti-corruption measures and handling complaints about harmful environmental or social impacts of projects	Non-transparent mechanisms for handling complaints about harmful environmental or social impacts of projects and/or fraud and corruption complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A public statement setting the tone from senior management</li> <li>▪ A code of conduct and ethics applicable to the staff of the entity, consultants and other parties directly or indirectly associated with the projects financed through the applicant entity</li> <li>▪ An anti-fraud policy and investigative procedures</li> <li>▪ An effective and working anti-fraud policy, process and procedures that guide the receipt, investigation and disposition of complaints/allegations of wrongdoing, including non-compliance, fraud, violation, misconduct and business conduct concerns, including how business related to its activities and projects is conducted or instances where there is a non-appropriate conflict of interest</li> <li>▪ Capacity to perform effective investigations of complaints</li> </ul>

*Source:* Adapted from the presentation made by the Adaptation Fund representative. *Abbreviations:* AF = Adaptation Fund, IE = implementing entity.

32. A major gap highlighted by many participants was the lack of developing country capacity to devise a national strategy for utilizing available climate finance resources and for attracting climate-friendly investments. To overcome that gap at the international level, participants underlined the importance of strengthening international partnerships for capacity-building and scaling up financial resources to support capacity-building initiatives. At the national level, better coordination among the national focal points across different ministries was underscored as being necessary.

33. In addition, participants noted that the complex architecture of the climate finance landscape and the differing processes and standards across climate funds are major stumbling blocks to accessing finance. It was suggested that the delivery channels of climate finance, including the AF, the GCF and the GEF, could provide more user-oriented information on the modalities and guidelines for accessing their resources.

34. Participants discussed ways to scale up finance in the context of implementing actions identified in INDCs. Finding alternative sources was an apparent option. Similarly, raising the awareness of the private sector was viewed as key to attracting scaled-up bankable products and climate-friendly investments. Many participants stressed the need to

promote information and data exchange on climate finance flows, as this can facilitate informed and evidence-based decision-making by both public and private actors.

### **C. Capacity needs for meeting the reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement**

35. Participants saw transparency as a key area under the Paris Agreement for which much capacity-building is needed. On the basis of the experience of the International Partnership on Mitigation and Measurement, Reporting and Verification in supporting the design, set-up and implementation of MRV systems, its representative presented key barriers encountered in establishing robust systems for MRV in developing countries. Examples of barriers highlighted include:

- (a) A lack of political buy-in, resulting in the MRV system being perceived as an additional burden on the country;
- (b) Ad hoc institutional arrangements without clear roles and responsibilities for the entities involved in the MRV system;
- (c) Dependence on project-funded external consultants negatively affecting the accrual of institutional memory;
- (d) Limited access to data owing to the absence of arrangements for data collection with sectoral ministries and the private sector;
- (e) Insufficient technical expertise and/or equipment combined with insufficient priority-setting;
- (f) A lack of financial support for MRV;
- (g) Limited specificity of some components of reporting guidelines.

36. During the discussions, participants repeatedly stressed that building the capacity to address such barriers is particularly challenging, and that building capacity for transparency activities is a process and not a one-time event. It was noted that the formulation of programmes to strengthen the national systems for MRV in developing countries should include:

- (a) Building institutional capacities through the designation of an MRV focal point and the enhancement of cross-ministerial coordination on data collection and analysis;
- (b) Taking stock of the capacities that already exist and further analysing needs;
- (c) Building on existing 'train the trainers' systems and applying other good practices and lessons learned from current processes, such as the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports and the CDM process;
- (d) Linking MRV systems to national planning and development goals and priorities.

37. In sharing his experience of the provision of capacity-building support for transparency-related activities from a practitioner perspective, the representative emphasized that support must be long term and driven by demand. He also underlined the advantages of regional or global programmes in facilitating the establishment or enhancement of regional networks and promoting peer-to-peer exchanges.

## **IV. State of art of capacity-building and the way forward**

38. With the third comprehensive review of the implementation of the capacity-building framework under way, part II of the meeting enabled participants to discuss and reflect on the progress made in capacity-building around the thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation and technology and to explore ways to enhance it.

### **A. Capacity-building for mitigation**

39. Participants noted good progress in building capacity for mitigation, including with regard to the increasing trend of recent support initiatives being long-term, country-driven and multilevel projects rather than ad hoc projects engaging a single ministry. Challenges were highlighted, including the increased workload for local staff resulting from new tasks and areas of work. In particular, some participants underlined the difficulty of building the capacity to prepare INDCs owing to the time constraints posed by the submission deadline. Other participants stressed the difficulty of retaining the capacity built to implement projects and programmes thereafter. To address the latter issue, participants highlighted the need to approach capacity-building support activities as a continuous process with a clear transition or exit strategy from the outset.

40. With regard to ways to further enhance capacity-building for mitigation, it was mentioned that the energy sector is currently receiving the bulk of attention and resources. Going forward, it will become increasingly important to focus on efforts to build capacity in other sectors, such as transport.

41. Participants acknowledged the innovative and effective contribution of South–South cooperation in addressing current and emerging mitigation challenges through forms of collaboration and partnership among developing countries. The strategic role of South–South cooperation in strengthening national ownership and national capacities was also recognized.

42. As a new development in the area of capacity-building, a representative of the Coalition on Paris Agreement Capacity Building introduced this global initiative, which was launched by a group of capacity-building practitioners to enhance collaboration and coordination. One of the objectives of the coalition is to support the development of a global capacity-building strategy. The coalition also aims to provide constructive and detailed input to the newly established Paris Committee on Capacity-building and the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency. While its current focus lies on transparency and more specifically on the MRV of greenhouse gases, the coalition's work will be extended over the next year to other areas, such as adaptation and climate finance.

### **B. Capacity-building for adaptation**

43. Participants shared case studies and good practices in relation to capacity-building activities that have helped to strengthen resilience. The Chair of the LEG elaborated on the work of the LEG related to the formulation of NAPs, which has contributed to promoting knowledge transfer among countries in the South and among adaptation practitioners. He shared the forward-looking vision of the LEG: by 2020, with the support of the group, the least developed countries should benefit from the establishment of a well-structured adaptation planning process, the formulation of robust and good-quality NAPs and the implementation of priority adaptation needs identified in the NAPs.

44. Successful case studies of global networks enabling exchanges of information among stakeholders engaged in the implementation of NAPs and NAPAs, as well as of

training courses on adaptation, were shared. Participants stressed the essential role of universities and the scientific community in informing stakeholders engaged in adaptation. They called for more investment in global research to increase the availability of information and tools promoting adaptive capacity.

45. The relevant role of South–South cooperation was also recognized in further enhancing the delivery of capacity-building action for adaptation. The importance of information exchange and peer-to-peer learning, in particular by participants belonging to the science and research communities, confirmed that a large portion of the technical knowledge and lessons learned on adaptation is provided by developing countries, where adaptation programmes and projects are implemented.

46. In the context of ensuring financial resources to enable sustained and continuous support for adaptation, some participants pointed out the need to promote private sector involvement in adaptation projects through targeted training opportunities. While some participants noted the challenge of involving the private sector in non-profit adaptation projects, many agreed that the private sector should be more exposed to the concept of climate resilience to encourage its engagement in adaptation initiatives.

### **C. Capacity-building for technology**

47. Participants discussed examples of capacity-building actions that have contributed to the development, deployment and diffusion of technology in developing countries. They expressed the view that the work undertaken to prepare technology needs assessments (TNAs) and technology action plans has played a key role in enabling countries to implement climate-friendly technologies for mitigation and adaptation.

48. The Director of the CTCN introduced its work, which includes providing technical assistance to accelerate the transfer of climate technologies, facilitating the provision of information, knowledge and training on climate technologies and providing support to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in operating, maintaining and adapting climate technologies. In addition to incubator programmes, webinars and regional forums that have contributed to improving developing countries' knowledge of such technologies, he underlined that most of the technical assistance provided by the CTCN at the request of developing countries involves capacity-building elements. Ethiopia, for example, requested assistance for institutional and human resource assessments and curriculum development to build the capacity to train railway professionals. In addition to detailing the technical assistance provided by the CTCN, he underscored the need in developing countries for sustained institutional and individual capacities, as well as for adequate financial support to build those capacities, which are necessary to meet the new responsibilities under the Paris Agreement.

49. Participants agreed that strengthening institutional capacity ranks first in the priority list of actions needed to address gaps and barriers related to capacity-building for technology. Sustained institutional capacity would ensure, for example, that national institutions enable experts involved in TNAs to be engaged in the INDC process and that informed guidance is provided to scale up climate technologies. Some participants observed that technical assistance is most effective and sustained when built on local capacities and when technical advice through international expertise is brought in only if necessary. Other participants pinpointed the need to better apply indigenous knowledge, to bridge finance with technology and to assess social and gender-related impacts of capacity-building programmes. The significant role of new players as drivers of technology, including youth initiatives and locally driven innovations, was recognized in the context of South–South cooperation.

50. Underlining the need to be fully informed by the best available climate knowledge when taking climate-sensitive decisions, the representative of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership/Climate Knowledge Brokers Group brought to the attention of the participants the important role of networks and regional institutions in facilitating the exchange of climate-related, sectoral information tailored to specific needs and contexts.

## V. Conclusions

51. A broad range of stakeholders from civil-society organizations and governments engaged in focused discussions during the meeting. They exchanged views on their experiences and observations of successful capacity-building efforts as well as on the capacities needed to fully engage in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which involved looking ahead to the capacity required to convert (I)NDCs into action, to mobilize climate finance and to meet new transparency requirements. In addition, participants exchanged views on how to build on good practices from existing processes related to mitigation, adaptation and technology.

52. **Capacities developed through other ongoing processes under the Convention (i.e. NAMAs, NAPAs, NAPs and TNAs) can provide a good foundation on which to build the capacity for implementing (I)NDCs.** These include, but are not limited to: engaging and utilizing existing capacities residing in focal points, experts and structures put in place for those processes; using established interministerial arrangements and committees; learning from and adapting MRV systems designed to support those processes; drawing from the technical and informational capacities built to engage in those processes; and drawing on momentum and awareness built through stakeholder engagement, including both the public and private sectors.

53. **The preparation and implementation of (I)NDCs is a participatory and multi-stakeholder process and requires the capacity to coordinate across sectors, levels of government and the private sector.** To enhance the ownership of climate change actions and promote behavioural change, more active engagement of all civil-society actors should be encouraged. In order to assure the meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, their capacities should be strengthened, particularly for local levels of government, civil society and vulnerable populations, including women and indigenous groups. Furthermore, greater awareness and capacity of the private sector are needed to increase levels of ambition under the Paris Agreement. Also, increasing the capacity of governments to engage the private sector would help to mobilize private actions in the achievement of climate change objectives.

54. **In order to fully implement the Paris Agreement, enhanced capacities are needed at both the policy and project levels.** In terms of policy, the meeting participants reflected on and discussed the integration of climate change objectives, including those identified in INDCs, into national and subnational planning processes and budgeting. This was seen as vital to harness the full range of resources and capacities required to meet the scale of the challenge. A number of capacity needs for achieving this were identified: building the capacity of policymakers to evaluate, compare and prioritize actions in and across different sectors; building the technical capacity and awareness of policymakers to draw out linkages between climate change and country-driven sustainable development objectives; and conducting socioeconomic assessments of options to achieve development and climate change objectives. In addition, a national tracking system relevant to transparency was seen as a tool that should be institutionalized through long-term support rather than developed on an ad hoc basis. Finally, a number of participants stressed the importance of building political buy-in and targeting efforts to increase awareness at that level.

55. **There is a need for enhanced efforts to build capacity related to project or programme development and implementation, including related to transparency, finance, adaptation, mitigation and technology.** The capacity to access and manage financial resources came up as a cross-cutting issue. Participants identified the challenge, particularly for smaller countries, of understanding and meeting the requirements for accessing different funds under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, national capacities for developing and meeting requirements for accessing resources require development, including national institutional building for the development and application of the robust legal, financial, oversight, safeguard-related and project risk assessment capabilities required to implement projects. A number of organizations highlighted that they are providing technical assistance to countries in that respect, often at the project level.

56. **Sustainable capacity-building for mitigation, adaptation and technology relies on long-term, continuous and demand-driven support.** The dependence on external consultants and the corresponding memory loss after the end of a project or programme was identified as a major challenge in the way of building sustainable capacity. A different approach is needed to make capacity-building sustainable: a continuous, long-term investment in building technical expertise at the national and local levels is crucial for the planning and implementation of mitigation, adaptation and technology plans and projects. Such an approach would help to promote institutional memory and retain national expert capacity. South–South collaboration provides extensive opportunities for context-specific capacity exchanges and for building capacity at the regional level.

---