

# 10th Durban Forum on Capacity-building: “Building capacity for addressing climate and development goals coherently”

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Key messages as presented by the Co-facilitators of the 10th Durban Forum during the fifth meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on June 10th.

- Decarbonization and resilience plans need to effectively support the transformation of countries’ development models. These plans approach the whole economy and need to include cross-cutting strategies.
- In order to achieve an efficient implementation of climate and development agendas, institutions should avoid working in silos. The capacities of focal points in charge of SDGs and NDCs to collaborate and coordinate among each other should be strengthened.
- There is a need to conduct analyses to identify capacity needs and gaps, which would provide a better understanding of the existing level of capacities and what key stakeholders could offer in order to integrate the implementation of climate policy instruments into development plans.
- Effective development policies need to integrate multiple and diverse actors, including the private sector, civil society, and academia, among others.
  - Engagement of academia: Policies must be built on scientific evidence. The capacity of policymakers and decision makers to apply scientific evidence (or integrate it) in their policy work needs to be strengthened to bridge existing climate policy-research-action gaps. Modelling is a key element to help to understand the status of a country and foresee scenarios of development. Knowledge gaps underscore the need for data and effective data management systems (e.g., common data portals, M&E that can support development goals). Mapping is a useful method to identify entry points to build on and integrate the Paris Agreement and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
  - Horizontal alignment: Climate action must engage several ministries, especially those in charge of the country’s national planning. This implies building capacities to enable coordination across different thematic areas as well as communication that facilitates a better understanding of the work of different departments and working groups.
- The alignment of actions implemented to support the goals of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs is key to efficiently implement both agendas. Some tools like the *NDC-SDG Connections Tool* can contribute to finding synergies amongst them. The tool fosters learning and partnerships and raises ambition of future NDCs as a basis to build capacities for addressing climate and development goals coherently.
  - The *NDC-SDG Connections Tool* can find synergies between climate and development goals, which is key to identifying entry points and capacity gaps and needs. The tool also demonstrates how many co-benefits NDC and SDG implementation can generate and promote more coherent climate and development policies.
- Enhancing country ownership is a key element to strengthen the commitment of countries to raise their climate action and ambition.
  - The need to take a participatory and whole of society approach by involving all stakeholders, including state and non-state actors, was highlighted.
  - Capacity-building should not only target experts and technical staff but also high-level decision makers.

- Retaining capacities in institutions is a major challenge for developing countries to coherently enhance their climate action and avoid knowledge losses.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has been an important barrier to continue implementing the climate agenda. Nonetheless, efforts towards a Green Recovery represent an opportunity to interlink the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and contribute to a more sustainable recovery.
- International co-operation can highly contribute to build capacities through North-South co-operation as well as through South-South cooperation, experience sharing and regional partnerships. Knowledge management systems can help to share experiences and best practices in capacity-building.
- From a climate action point of view, implementation of NDCs and NAPs are hindered by domestic budget constraints and countries' limited access to international finance. Enhancing capacity in developing countries to develop sound project proposals should be a priority so access to funding internationally can be strengthened and national finance mechanisms can be adapted.
- At the 10<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum, participants also had the opportunity to exchange directly in breakout groups, focusing on mainstreaming climate and development goals into policy, enhancing institutional arrangements and coordination, aligning climate targets and SDGs, and assessing the development benefits of climate action. Some of the outcomes and highlights of the breakout groups can be found below.

#### 1. Mainstreaming climate and development goals into policy

- Building capacities should create inclusive and participatory processes, thereby engaging all stakeholders as well as the private sector to increase national ownership of climate action.

#### 2. Enhancing institutional arrangements and coordination

- There is a disconnection between decision-makers and technicians in the field and capacity-building plays a role in institutional strengthening and climate action. Capacities of decision-makers must, therefore, be strengthened to ensure seamless coordination with practitioners who are in the field on a day-to-day basis and can demonstrate first-hand the impacts of climate change.

#### 3. Aligning climate targets and SDGs

- Peer-to-peer learning can enhance synergies between climate action and SDGs targets by opening a space to exchange experiences within similar contexts and actions as an avenue to develop innovative solutions, join forces on common objectives and facilitate retention of capacities at the institutional level.

#### 4. Assessing the development benefits of climate action

- Knowledge tends to be overly technical and there is a prioritization of certain knowledges that are not digestible at the grassroots level. Grassroot level knowledge and indigenous peoples' knowledge needs to be part of the way knowledge is presented in order to understand the gaps that are blocking progress in sustainable development co-benefits and advancing SDGs.