

11th Durban Forum on Capacity-building

Wednesday, 08th June 2022 | Room Bangkok

Key messages as presented by the Co-facilitator of the 11th Durban Forum during the sixth meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on 14th June.

The 11th Durban Forum took place from 11:00 am to 14:00 in the afternoon, gathering more than 60 participants and focusing on **Capacity-building for integrating NDC implementation into national sustainable recovery plans.**

The key takeaways from the discussions of last Wednesday include:

- To prepare complete and appropriate recovery plans, countries could consider appointing special economic advisors in different ministries to create and optimize synergies and work cooperatively in NDC planning, development, and implementation. In addition, Covid-19 measures must be integrated into such sustainable recovery strategies.
- In terms of financing, many countries do not yet have the necessary capacity to access funding comprehensively. Report generation and data availability remain a challenge for countries with limited institutional capacity and awareness of climate change. A specific measure could be a tool for integrating climate change into short- and long-term national development plans and climate budgeting.
- Financial systems need to be adjusted from within: Policies, frameworks, and standards are needed to incentivize investors to incorporate new climate criteria and labels to efficiently measure how much public and private investment is going into climate activities.
- Incorporating climate change considerations into legal systems is another useful way to strengthen governments' commitments to climate action and promote NDC implementation from a legal perspective.
- Country-specific articulation should not focus on creating or following global blueprints. Instead, it should ensure that South-South exchanges take place, that capacities are developed locally, and that learning and sharing of experiences are enhanced.
- Support is most effective when donors take a partnership and supportive role, allowing the country to take ownership, find locally tailored solutions, and disseminate them to regions and networks with similar contexts. These peer-learning networking processes allow investments to be maximized at the local level.
- The changes in the labor market need to be analyzed and discussed further to avoid economic dislocation, especially while societies are recovering from the pandemic. Due to green transactions, many workers may lose their current jobs, such as workers in the fossil fuel industry, and therefore need to be retrained to work in other sectors.

Although many NDCs recognize the need for capacity-building for workers, few of them have real skills development or analysis measures in place.

- As economies decarbonize, compensation and retraining measures in certain sectors, such as coal mining, focus only on male workers, even though many female workers in the upstream supply chain are also affected and thus remain disadvantaged.
- Special attention must also be paid to how the green transformation of the labor market will disproportionately benefit more male than female workers, and partnerships are a useful strategy for examining these dynamics and elaborating solutions.
- Further efforts are needed to better address different target groups through communication strategies, such as targeting vulnerable groups, youth, women and girls, and religious communities.
- Mainstreaming gender into climate action plans is necessary to develop public policies, NDCs, and national policies with the goal of addressing gender needs and closing gender gaps.
- Vulnerability index assessments are useful tools to support decisions about allocating more resources to the most vulnerable areas. They also help inform climate change strategies and risk mapping, helping to meet the needs of vulnerable countries and people and promote resilient, low-emission recovery.
- Capacity-building is a continuous process, and capacity retention is essential. Building capacity at the local level, as well as supporting leaders, women, and youth at the local level, allows for a greater sense of ownership that helps them retain the knowledge and skills they have acquired. In this sense, universities can act as capacity-building hubs to promote this preservation.

- At the 11th Durban Forum, participants also had the opportunity to exchange directly in breakout groups, focusing on strengthening capacities for accessing financial resources from international finance mechanisms, increasing the cross-cutting coordination and integration between different levels of government, improving evidence-based public policy by reducing data gaps, and assessing labor market information and anticipating skills needs related to NDC implementation. In the following, I will present some of the outcomes and highlights of the breakout groups.

Group 1 focused on strengthening capacities for accessing financial resources from international finance mechanisms

- The various actors involved in applying for funding need to be more interconnected so that they can share important information about access to funding. These actors include project developers, banks, various government sectors, and private investors. In addition, more capacity-building activities should be carried out for project developers to improve their knowledge of the priorities and criteria of specific funds/banks,

increase their technical knowledge on how to prepare convincing applications, and improve their English language skills.

Group 2 focused on increasing the cross-cutting coordination and integration between different levels of government

- Agencies and ministries can have at least one focal point with the necessary capabilities focused on promoting better intergovernmental communication and advancing sustainable agendas within the government. Such an action can improve not only horizontal integration, but also vertical integration. In addition, the process of creating and reviewing NDCs is itself an important process that must be open and transparent to various stakeholders to make their implementation more coherent and effective.

Group 3 focused on improving evidence-based public policy by reducing data gaps

- Capacity-building needs to focus on ensuring that responsible staff not only understand the importance of data generation and its integration into various projects, but also improve their available equipment and analytical capacity to effectively use data for better public policy. In this regard, engaging local partners, such as universities, can be a critical step in improving data collection, archiving, and analysis, as well as creating more incentives for further data studies related to gender, funding readiness, and NDC implementation.

Group 4 focused on assessing labor market information and anticipating skills needs related to NDC implementation

- Investing in human capital to develop not only technical skills, but also soft skills, is an important measure to improve the employability of people. In addition, such training and retraining can help them take on new roles needed to develop and implement climate projects or work. Annual reports that provide information on where graduates end up after their studies are another strategy to help governments adapt their policies to the skills needs and demands of the labor market.