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The 7th Durban Forum on capacity-building

Summary report by the secretariat

Summary

The 7th Durban Forum on capacity-building took place on 3 May 2018 during the forty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Under the overarching topic of enhancing capacities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement, the discussions focused on: (1) enhancing institutional, technical, relational and strategic capacities for NDC implementation; (2) building capacities for integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, into NDC implementation; and (3) building capacities for tracking and reporting on the implementation and impacts of NDC-related actions, and the finance used to support these actions.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its seventeenth session, 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 with the aim of sharing experience and exchanging ideas, best practices and lessons learned among relevant stakeholders regarding the implementation of capacity-building activities. It also requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the Durban Forum for consideration by the SBI.¹

2. COP 23 requested the SBI to thematically align the 7th Durban Forum on capacity-building with the 2017–2018 focus area or theme of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB),² namely capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement.

B. Structure of the report

3. This report is divided into five chapters. Chapter II presents the outcomes of the 7th Durban Forum, including the key messages and their subsequent consideration by the PCCB; chapter III provides information on the organization of the meeting, including its scope and objectives; chapter IV summarizes the keynote presentation delivered at the meeting, the panel discussion and the breakout group discussions; and chapter V contains concluding reflections.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

4. The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this report in its deliberations on capacity-building.

II. Outcomes of the 7th Durban Forum

A. Key messages

5. The following key messages emerged from the discussions at the 7th Durban Forum:

(a) Action related to the implementation of NDCs should not be undertaken in silos or in isolation but be integrated into the broader sustainable development agenda;

(b) To be more effective and tailored, capacity-building support needs to build on lessons learned and good practices in countries and regions;

(c) Strong domestic political will and commitment are needed to ensure the effective planning and implementation of NDCs. Experience from the NDC Partnership has shown that commitment at the highest levels of government, as well as making influential ministries such as ministries of planning and finance the focal points, can be instrumental in mainstreaming climate considerations in sectoral and budget planning, engaging all relevant ministries and driving the climate action agenda forward;

(d) The effective translation of national-level climate change plans and programmes such as NDCs and national adaptation plans into action requires capacity-building for local, regional and national stakeholders. Access to finance by local communities should be improved;

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

² Decision 16/CP.23, paragraph 9.

(e) Communication and consultation processes need to be improved to ensure access to information by and the engagement of all stakeholders, including women, local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as social actors such as workers' and employers' organizations, throughout the NDC planning and implementation process;

(f) Capacity for tracking and reporting on NDC implementation needs to be enhanced in accordance with countries' needs and priorities; national institutions need to be able to retain knowledgeable experts over the long term;

(g) South-South cooperation and regional initiatives and partnerships for capacity-building, such as the NDC hub launched in the Pacific, offer a great opportunity for countries to exchange knowledge and raise ambition; they complement rather than duplicate global platforms such as the NDC Partnership;

(h) At the international level, the PCCB should collaborate with other institutions involved in providing capacity-building for NDC implementation with a view to collecting and disseminating lessons learned and experience;

(i) Adequate attention must be paid to the social dimensions of climate change, in line with that paid so far to the technical and scientific aspects;

(j) While attention to gender aspects and indigenous peoples' knowledge in the climate change process is increasing – established processes or instruments under the Convention include the gender action plan and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform – less attention is paid to human rights. Nonetheless, capacity gaps exist with regard to integrating all three issues into NDC implementation. Better use of existing sources of information and of the expertise of relevant human rights experts and organizations in the UNFCCC process is needed;

(k) Building climate policymakers' capacity to address cross-cutting issues such as gender responsiveness, human rights, just transition and indigenous peoples' knowledge in climate action will contribute to stronger, more effective and more equitable climate outcomes and more coherent policies.

B. Consideration of the key messages by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

6. COP 21 decided that the inputs to the PCCB would include the reports on the Durban Forum.³ At its 2nd meeting, held from 3 to 5 May 2018, the PCCB took stock of the outcomes of the Forum and underscored the importance of a continued thematic alignment of the Durban Forum with the annual focus area or theme of the PCCB. As a result, the PCCB agreed to undertake the following activities:

(a) To identify options to further strengthen the Durban Forum, including through regional dialogues building on the efforts of experts on the ground;

(b) To enhance its collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the constituted bodies of the Convention and other organizations and initiatives promoting capacity-building support for NDC implementation with a view to better collecting and analysing information and diffusing lessons learned and experience;

(c) To recognize and continue to address capacity-building gaps related to cross-cutting issues such as human rights, just transition, gender responsiveness and indigenous peoples' knowledge in the context of NDC implementation;

(d) To pursue the organization of activities on the issue of human rights and climate change, in order to better understand capacity gaps and to identify actions to fill those gaps;

(e) To create an area in the capacity-building portal dedicated to the integration of cross-cutting issues into climate change plans subject to the availability of resources.

³ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.

7. The PCCB also agreed to recommend to the COP that it request the SBI to continue to ensure the thematic alignment of the Durban Forum on capacity-building with the annual focus area or theme of the PCCB.

III. Organization of the 7th Durban Forum

A. Background documents

8. In accordance with the relevant provisions of decisions 2/CP.17 and 1/CP.18, the following documents were prepared and made available on the dedicated Durban Forum web page⁴ well in advance of the meeting to facilitate discussions:

(a) A compilation and synthesis report on the capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;⁵

(b) A synthesis report on the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries.⁶

B. Scope and objectives

9. SBI 47 invited Parties and observers to submit, by 16 February 2018, their views on potential topics for the 7th Durban Forum on capacity-building that are thematically aligned with the 2017–2018 focus area or theme of the PCCB.^{7, 8}

10. Selected on the basis of an analysis of the submissions received, the overarching topic of the 7th Durban Forum was enhancing capacities for the implementation of NDCs in the context of the Paris Agreement. It was addressed through the following subtopics:

(a) Enhancing institutional, technical, relational and strategic capacities for NDC implementation;

(b) Building capacities for integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, into NDC implementation;

(c) Building capacities for tracking and reporting on the implementation and impacts of NDC-related actions, and the finance used to support these actions.

11. In line with its overarching topic and subtopics, the meeting was guided by the following objectives:

(a) To provide a platform for various stakeholders to present their experience and lessons learned and to exchange knowledge;

(b) To inform related thematic discussions of the PCCB in the context of its 2018 annual focus area or theme and its 2017–2019 rolling workplan;

⁴ <http://unfccc.int/node/29036>.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2018/3 and Add.1.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2018/5.

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraph 101.

⁸ Submissions were received from: the Center for International Environmental Law on behalf of the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Saami Council, the Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group, and women and gender constituency; Chile on behalf of the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Environmental Integrity Group; China; Ethiopia on behalf of the least developed countries; the European Union; the Group of 77 and China; India; Indonesia; Japan; the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice; and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The submissions are available at https://unfccc.int/submissions_and_statements.

(c) To generate important takeaways on how developing countries can strengthen their capacity to effectively implement, track and report on their NDCs, addressing also the important aspect of integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, into the process;

(d) To provide useful insights into how providers of capacity-building can effectively support the efforts of developing countries to implement, track and report on their NDCs while ensuring country ownership in the capacity-building process.

C. Proceedings

12. The 7th Durban Forum was held on 3 May 2018, during SBI 48. The Chair of the SBI and the Durban Forum, Mr. Emmanuel Dlamini, opened the meeting. Introductory remarks were provided by the co-facilitators, Ms. Rita Mishaan, Co-Chair of the PCCB and Senior Advisor at the Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation of Guatemala, and Mr. Russell Miles, Director of the Mechanisms and Adaptation Section of the Sustainability and Climate Change Branch in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia.

13. After the introductory segment, a keynote presentation on enhancing capacity for NDC implementation was delivered by Ms. Yamide Dagnet, Senior Country Specialist at the NDC Partnership and Senior Associate of the World Resources Institute (see the next chapter for more details).

14. The panel discussion was moderated by Mr. Ari Huhtala, an environmental expert. The panellists, Mr. Mahawan Karuniasa, member of the PCCB, Ms. Tara Shine, Special Adviser at the Mary Robinson Foundation, Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, and Ms. Miriam Hinostroza, Head of the Low Carbon Development Programme at the UNEP DTU Partnership,⁹ engaged in an interactive discussion on different aspects of capacity-building for NDC implementation.

15. Following the panel discussion, three parallel breakout group discussions, dedicated to the three subtopics referred to in paragraph 10 above, were held. The breakout group discussions were facilitated by Mr. Matti Nummelin, member of the PCCB, Mr. Benjamin Schachter, Human Rights Officer at OHCHR, and Mr. Michael Comstock, Climate Change Technical Specialist in the NDC Support Programme of the United Nations Development Programme, respectively. The forum concluded with closing remarks provided by the co-facilitators.

16. The agenda, presentations, biographies of resource persons, guiding questions and report slides of the breakout groups are available on the Durban Forum web page.¹⁰

IV. Summary of keynote presentation and discussions

A. Summary of keynote presentation

17. The keynote presentation on enhancing capacity for NDC implementation (see para. 13 above) focused on support available for NDC implementation, NDC-related capacity needs and the addressing of gaps faced by developing countries, as well as best practices in NDC implementation.

18. The presentation first provided an overview of existing support for NDC implementation, noting that at least 42 NDC-related initiatives and funds exist, and that there is consequently an urgent need for coordination so as to maximize outcomes.

⁹ 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).

¹⁰ As footnote 6 above.

19. It then focused on the needs of developing countries related to capacity-building support that were found to be common among countries in the experience of the NDC Partnership. Countries often request support for designing a road map and accompanying implementation and investment plans, and for building their measurement, reporting and verification systems to be able to track the progress of implementation of their NDCs.

20. Other needs include strengthening countries' legislative and institutional settings, raising awareness, enhancing communication, mobilizing resources for NDC implementation, linking NDCs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mainstreaming climate considerations in sectoral and budget planning, and developing long-term strategies for 2050. A need for capacity-building support related to the project pipeline, including concept development, feasibility studies and development of bankable projects, is also increasingly being articulated.

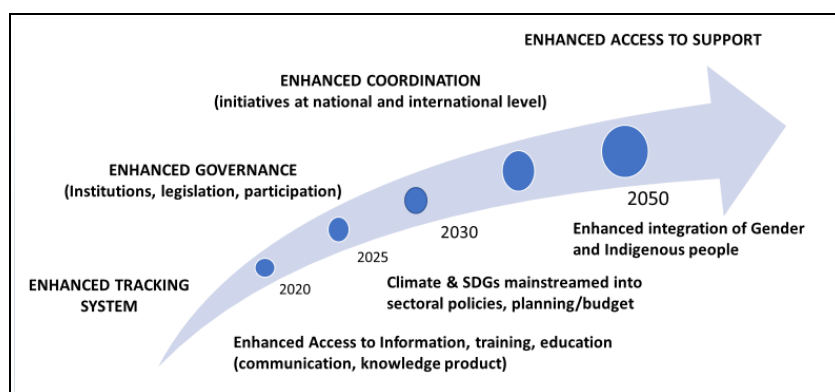
21. The different needs outlined above are driven by the need to enhance ambition in future rounds of NDCs to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement (see the figure below), which requires:

- (a) Enhanced tracking systems;
- (b) Enhanced governance, including institutions, legislation and participation;
- (c) Enhanced coordination at the national and international level, including increased coordination between donors and implementing agencies on the ground;
- (d) Enhanced access to support.

22. Elements that could help to achieve progress in those four areas include:

- (a) Enhanced access to information, training and education;
- (b) Mainstreaming climate considerations and the SDGs in sectoral and budget planning;
- (c) Enhanced integration of cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness and indigenous peoples' knowledge, into NDC implementation.

Enhanced capacity guided by the arc of ambition



Source: Ms. Yamide Dagnet, NDC Partnership and World Resources Institute, 7th Durban Forum, 3 May 2018.

Abbreviation: SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals.

23. Regarding best practices in NDC implementation, the nomination of two focal points, one from the ministry of environment and one from the ministry of finance or planning, was identified as crucial to effective NDC implementation given that the latter is key to ensuring the much-needed mainstreaming of climate considerations in sectoral and budget planning. In addition, effective facilitation on the ground is needed, coupled with a country-driven approach, which requires strong political will in the country to, inter alia, mobilize local resources and partners.

24. Strong institutional arrangements for tracking progress and multi-stakeholder engagement are also success factors, as is the facilitation of regional or peer-to-peer learning

and dialogue opportunities. Other crucial elements include matching country needs with available knowledge resources and helping to fill gaps in the resource base. Finally, while there is impetus to consider gender and indigenous peoples' knowledge, a more systematic integration of these elements into NDC implementation is needed.

25. During the subsequent question and answer session, comments and questions centred on the issues of integrating human rights into NDC implementation, ensuring the proper consultation of all relevant stakeholders regarding NDC implementation, involving social partners such as employers' organizations or workers' organizations, and ensuring the value of regional collaboration initiatives or hubs.

26. While human rights are often not explicitly addressed in NDC implementation, the experience of the NDC Partnership shows that the consideration of this issue tends to be an indirect co-benefit of projects. Concerning stakeholder consultation mechanisms, the NDC Partnership, as part of its work on strengthening institutional arrangements and participation processes in its partner countries, is encouraging the establishment of steering committees, councils and other means to steer national processes. Social partners are important in the NDC implementation process and their participation must be enhanced to bring about the transformational change needed. Regional initiatives, such as the recently launched regional NDC hubs, have the potential to add value to ongoing efforts at the global level to build capacity for NDC implementation. Data collection and assessment undertaken by such initiatives or hubs, including for example on the state of NDC implementation in a region, can be used and leveraged by global initiatives such as the NDC Partnership, which does not have the resources or capacity to conduct such assessments in many of its partner countries.

B. Summary of panel discussion

27. The aim of the panel discussion that followed the keynote presentation was to delve deeper into the three subtopics of the meeting, addressed in subchapters 1–3 below respectively.

1. Enhancing institutional, technical, relational and strategic capacities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions

28. The representative of the PCCB, an expert with long-standing experience in the areas of climate change and capacity-building, shared experience related to the support received by Indonesia to enhance its capacity for NDC implementation. Building capacity for enhancing institutional arrangements at the subnational and national level is key to Indonesia achieving its NDC targets. The establishment of the National Council on Climate Change in 2008, following the development of Indonesia's national adaptation plan in 2007, was fundamental in this regard. In 2015, the responsibilities and tasks of the Council were integrated into the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, which has the most authority to manage the forestry sector.

29. Indonesia is in the process of mainstreaming its climate change agenda in its national development plans and subnational policies, plans and programmes. The key challenge is raising awareness among sectoral and subnational political leaders, including legislators, to increase their ownership. These actors are key to successfully mainstreaming climate change from the policy guidance level to the operational activities on the ground. Raising awareness and enhancing ownership are key elements of the Indonesian national strategy for NDC implementation and are to be achieved by promoting long-term engagement and an inclusive process.

30. A national process to assess capacity-building gaps and needs in Indonesia indicated some critical capacity gaps related to governance systems and institutions, monitoring emissions and resiliency gaps, the registry system, subnational and sectoral communication and reporting, resource mobilization and technology transfer. In addition, the different components of the country's capacity-building system, such as capacity-building forums, expert groups or networks, capacity-building centres and supporting entities, need to be better connected.

2. Building capacities for integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, into NDC implementation

31. The next part of the panel discussion focused on the importance of building capacity for integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, into NDC implementation. The representative of the Mary Robinson Foundation highlighted that work on gender equality and climate change under the UNFCCC started before work on human rights and is more mature. For example, the increased capacity of Parties to address the gender dimensions of climate change is demonstrated in their NDCs and national adaptation plans, but there is considerable room for improvement. Notably, only 65 Parties (40 per cent of the submitting Parties) made at least one reference to gender equality or women in their intended NDCs, and all of them were developing countries. Significant capacity gaps remain, and actions to address them are reflected in the gender action plan adopted at COP 23.¹¹

32. Research conducted by the Mary Robinson Foundation revealed that most reports to the UNFCCC and to the Human Rights Council for its universal periodic review do not address the links between human rights and climate change. In reports submitted to the UNFCCC and the Human Rights Council between 2010 and 2015, only 14 (16 per cent) made the link between human rights and climate change, signalling a possible disconnect between climate and human rights policies and competencies at the national level. However, by 2017, this figure had risen to 26, which indicates increasing awareness. The Mary Robinson Foundation published *Rights for Action: Putting People at the Centre of Action on Climate Change*¹² in 2015 as an accessible policy brief that describes the links between climate change, climate action and human rights.

33. Capacity-building providers need to balance the attention that they give to the technical aspects of climate change on the one hand and the social aspects of climate change impacts and action on the other hand. They should start by building their own capacity in relation to the social dimensions of climate change. The representative of the Mary Robinson Foundation further noted that establishing a UNFCCC human rights focal point to work alongside the gender focal point and the proposed indigenous peoples' focal point would help given the demonstrated effectiveness of the gender focal point in advancing work on gender, not just through the agenda item on gender but across agenda items and in the context of national actions.

34. Providers of capacity-building should link with experts in the fields of gender equality and human rights to access up-to-date guidance and information and to co-produce knowledge and training products for climate change negotiators and policymakers. In addition, specific training on people-centred and rights-based climate action would help to prepare countries for implementing the Paris Agreement in line with the principles set out in its preamble.

35. It was suggested that the COP request the PCCB to address the capacity gaps related to gender and human rights identified at the 7th Durban Forum and to consider how to incorporate some of the actions identified into its workplan. Concerning gender responsiveness, it is critical for the PCCB to engage actively in the gender action plan; and, concerning human rights, the PCCB should recognize human rights as a capacity gap and consider hosting a workshop on human rights as a capacity gap in NDC implementation with the aim of better understanding existing capacity gaps and needs and proposing recommendations on how they can be addressed in the work of the PCCB.

36. The representative of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change highlighted that NDC processes often do not consider indigenous peoples' rights or knowledge, or they violate the rights of indigenous peoples, in part due to projects often being designed in a rush without proper consultation mechanisms. The major challenge is to ensure the inclusion of indigenous experts in the implementation of existing NDCs.

¹¹ Decision 3/CP.23, annex.

¹² Available at <https://www.mrfcj.org/resources/rights-for-action-putting-people-at-the-centre-of-action-on-climate-change/>.

37. The needs of indigenous people must be considered in the design and implementation of NDCs and their perspectives and traditional knowledge used as a valuable resource to address causes of and solutions to climate change. Importantly, consultations need to take place in a language that is understandable to local stakeholders. While the term NDC may be abstract and difficult to understand for local communities, they have very specific knowledge on how to sustain their environment.

38. In the case of Chad, for example, local communities were consulted in the NDC design process and clearly articulated their priorities related to NDC implementation, particularly emphasizing social dimensions such as human rights, gender responsiveness and environmental protection. The subsequent communication of these priorities to the Minister of Environment of Chad and the experts responsible for drafting the NDC resulted in the inclusion of these social and environmental dimensions in the NDC.

39. Building the capacity to ensure the integration of cross-cutting issues into NDC implementation remains of utmost importance: firstly, capacity-building is needed at the community level to increase communities' awareness and understanding of NDCs; secondly, government capacity to address cross-cutting issues needs to be enhanced. In this context, the representative of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change also noted that human rights approaches require tools to enable the participation of all stakeholders, and that capacity within the UNFCCC process needs to be increased, including of negotiators and the secretariat, by, inter alia, establishing a focal point on indigenous peoples' issues.

3. Building capacities for tracking and reporting on the implementation and impacts of actions related to nationally determined contributions, and the finance used to support these actions

40. The final part of the panel discussion was dedicated to the issue of tracking and reporting on NDC implementation. The representative of the UNEP DTU Partnership noted that, while many Parties have made great progress in enhancing their institutional capacity for reporting under the Convention, individual technical capacity within relevant government institutions is often still lacking.

41. In addition, with respect to organizational structures, fragmentation and lack of articulation can be observed in many developing countries. In this context, long-term low-emission development strategies are the foundation for comprehensive, inclusive, sustainable and articulated institutions, for reviewing and adjusting legal and regulatory frameworks and for integrating climate change into development planning. Long-term low-emission development strategies facilitate the matching of bottom-up initiatives with top-down actions, for example, by using legal instruments to facilitate enforcement, accountability and complementarity.

42. For NDC implementation and tracking, countries need to be able to:

- (a) Launch an integrated governance process that incorporates the roles and responsibilities of existing relevant agencies, including non-State actors;
- (b) Integrate NDC goals into sectoral and cross-sectoral actions and programmes to prevent them undermining the NDC goals;
- (c) Increase their technical and managerial skills by training relevant government agency staff;
- (d) Engage and seek input from subnational agencies and consult relevant stakeholders throughout the entire process;
- (e) Revise their legal and regulatory framework, strengthen governmental processes and entities and streamline and complement existing protocols, regulations and laws;
- (f) Monitor progress and report using accurate and official data.

43. It was stressed that capacity-building should be conducted in a country-driven manner, responding to countries' needs and priorities, with a view to strengthening national

institutions' ability to retain knowledgeable experts over the long term. Capacity-building support should build on previous efforts and initiatives in countries to draw on lessons learned and good practices for its more effective and tailored implementation.

44. The UNEP DTU Partnership is providing support to the Global Coordination Platform of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency. The web-based platform¹³ will enable coordination, maximize learning opportunities and enable knowledge and information sharing with a view to enhancing transparency. The platform engages Parties, Global Environment Facility partner agencies and other relevant entities and institutions undertaking related programming activities to enhance the partnership of national, multilateral and bilaterally supported capacity-building initiatives. Additional elements of the Platform include a self-assessment tool for transparency capacity needs and achievements in participating countries. Global technical workshops aiming to strengthen national transparency capacities are also part of the Platform. The first technical workshop took place in Copenhagen in April 2017 and the second in Berlin in April 2018.

4. Question and answer session

45. Once all panellists had spoken, the floor was opened for questions and comments. A participant from Ethiopia reiterated that functioning institutional arrangements for NDC implementation are essential and provided insights into the institutional arrangements established in Ethiopia in support of the NDC process. In Ethiopia, the Government created an interministerial steering committee headed by the Prime Minister, a management committee under the authority of both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation, and a climate-resilient, green economy facility that serves as a single-window operational facility for finance and technical input. Moreover, the Government seeks to ensure that planning processes are conducted in a bottom-up manner.

46. Another participant, speaking on behalf of Costa Rica and the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed agreement with the remarks made on the issues of human rights, gender and indigenous peoples and on the need to recognize human rights as a capacity gap. He noted that, to fill this gap, the production of guidelines on human rights and climate change, for instance to support countries in upgrading their NDCs and reporting on the integration of human rights into their NDCs, should be given priority. He also stressed the need for support for creating a human rights focal point under the UNFCCC to be able to connect different efforts in this area. Since the understanding of human rights differs across stakeholders, the organization of a workshop on human rights and climate change under the UNFCCC was suggested as a way forward.

47. In response to a final question from the floor regarding whether any existing NDCs include indicators related to cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, the representative of the Mary Robinson Foundation noted that Costa Rica and Mexico, for example, address these issues more comprehensively in their NDCs, and that it would be worth looking at them to explore how good practices could be emulated.

C. Summary of breakout group discussions

1. Enhancing institutional, technical, relational and strategic capacities for nationally developed contribution implementation

48. The first breakout group focused its discussion on the following questions:

(a) How can internationally supported NDC implementation programmes best assist developing countries in strengthening their relevant technical, institutional, relational and strategic capabilities?

(b) How can participatory approaches and long-term engagement be introduced to ensure ownership of processes and outcomes?

¹³ <https://www.cbitplatform.org/about>.

49. The group discussed the need to focus on increasing awareness and ownership among the relevant actors, which requires the empowerment and engagement of stakeholders at all levels, including the local level. The importance of increasing the capacity of domestic capacity-building providers, such as universities, colleges and teachers' unions, was raised. In this regard, capacity-building related to the establishment of knowledge transfer processes or internal databases to maintain knowledge over time was suggested. The inclusion of the issue of climate change in civil servant training was mentioned as another possibility.

50. The group also discussed the need to communicate voters' interests to political decision makers through political parties and to build the capacity to enable this. There was agreement on the need to broaden the scope of capacity-building support away from short-term technical input towards establishing a long-term focus, for example through curricula in schools, universities and colleges. Moreover, the usefulness of a multi-donor exercise that, instead of focusing on one group of beneficiaries, would be able to address the needs of multiple stakeholders was discussed. Finally, the need for capacity-building support aimed at changing the mindset of stakeholders to overcome thinking in mitigation or adaptation silos and to achieve more integrated thinking was emphasized.

2. Building capacities for integrating cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge, into nationally developed contribution implementation

51. The second breakout group focused its discussion on the following questions:

(a) What is the experience of developing countries with regard to assessing capacity-building needs and gaps related to the integration of cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous knowledge, into NDC implementation, and how can such assessments be enhanced?

(b) From these assessments (or from experience of NDC development and implementation), what are the gaps in the integration of these cross-cutting issues into NDC implementation (or development, as applicable)?

(c) How can capacity-building providers effectively support developing countries in building their capacity to integrate these cross-cutting issues into NDC implementation?

52. The group agreed that gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples' knowledge are capacity gaps, also articulated as gaps in relation to a just transition, participation, inclusivity and access to information. It was noted that building the capacity of policymakers to better address these cross-cutting issues in climate action will lead to more effective and coherent policies.

53. While some countries are taking initial steps to consider the cross-cutting issues in their NDCs, it was a challenge for the group to identify good practice examples of integrating these issues into climate policy. Examples shared include the benefits of integrating indigenous peoples' knowledge into weather forecasting, and a newly established Just Transition Commission in Scotland.

54. The group identified connections that could help Parties to drive more people-centred climate action between Action for Climate Empowerment; the gender action plan; the SDGs; regional conventions like the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement).

55. Several issues relating to participation and inclusion were raised, including language as a barrier to participation; the need to deliver capacity-building at the local and district level; the need to enable the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including parliamentarians, decision makers, indigenous peoples and local community representatives, in capacity-building activities; the role of non-governmental organizations in delivering capacity-building to local communities; and the need to enable access to finance at the local level to support community-level activities. The importance of interaction between decision makers and representatives of front-line communities was raised, as the sharing of real-life experience increases the capacity of decision makers and allows for two-way learning. The

group discussed the need to involve all UNFCCC constituencies in providing capacity-building support for integrating cross-cutting issues into NDC implementation.

3. Building capacities for tracking and reporting on the implementation and impacts of nationally developed contribution related actions, and the finance used to support these actions

56. The discussion of the third breakout group was guided by the following questions:

(a) What are the specific types of capacity gap that countries are facing with regard to tracking and reporting on NDC implementation and progress, and how can capacity be effectively enhanced in a way that benefits the country's planning process (i.e. not only for reporting to the UNFCCC)?

(b) How can providers and recipients of capacity-building support ensure that lessons learned are integrated into subsequent actions within NDC implementation and that good practices are effectively scaled up?

57. The group identified gaps related to collecting, centralizing and reporting data and information. It was noted that the Paris Agreement work programme, which is currently being developed, needs to be finalized before the needs of countries for capacity-building with regard to developing standards and metrics for reporting on progress towards NDC implementation can be identified. The group agreed that availability of data for decision makers is critical and that there needs to be a mandate for data collection and data sharing among ministries at the national level. The critical role of subnational actors and institutions was highlighted, with the group agreeing that capacity-building needs to go beyond national actors to ensure that subnational and local actors are empowered to ensure high-quality data collection.

58. The group stressed the need for a mechanism for capturing lessons learned, highlighting that the sharing of experience among countries is very useful. It was also discussed that, at the international level, the PCCB should work with other institutions involved in the delivery of capacity-building support to improve the collection and dissemination of lessons learned and experience. The importance of overcoming silo approaches to NDC and SDG implementation and enhancing linkages and synergies in implementing the two agendas was noted.

V. Conclusion

59. The 7th Durban Forum successfully provided an opportunity for Parties and other stakeholders to openly and constructively discuss the enhancing of capacity for the implementation of NDCs, as pointed out by several participants. At the same time, the need for additional time and space for the discussion of capacity-building related matters was highlighted.

60. With regard to the programme of the 7th Durban Forum, several participants expressed their appreciation that the meeting spotlighted the issue of integrating cross-cutting issues into the implementation of NDCs, and underlined the need to strengthen such integration in the next round of NDCs.

61. The 7th Durban Forum, which brought together a broad range of stakeholders, delivered clear messages on key factors in enhancing capacity for the implementation of NDCs, as outlined in chapter II.A above. Furthermore, the thematic alignment of the 7th Durban Forum with the annual focus area of the PCCB allowed the PCCB to effectively leverage the outcomes of the Forum. Besides actively participating in the Forum, the PCCB took stock of the outcomes of the Durban Forum at its 2nd meeting and agreed on concrete follow-up actions and recommendations, as outlined in chapter II.B above.