

# **Coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and in other relevant processes under the Convention**



Paris Committee on Capacity-building

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Technical Paper

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)  
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**United Nations Climate Change**  
Paris Committee on Capacity-building

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## Executive summary

Capacity-building is a critical means of implementation that underpins a country's ability to address climate change and its impacts. Capacity-building is embedded across numerous activities and sectors and involves many actors. There are also many interlinkages between the Convention and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and frameworks. Enhancing coherence and coordination of climate-related capacity-building is becoming increasingly important as the work of bodies under the Convention leads to ever greater cooperation across climate-relevant areas and frameworks.

This technical paper analyses coherence and coordination practices related to capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and operating entities and in other relevant processes under and outside the Convention. It utilizes existing documents, particularly capacity-building reports by the UNFCCC secretariat, to analyse existing coherence and coordination practices, supplementing them with information gathered from the 8th Durban Forum on capacity-building, the discussions at the 3rd meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) and a stakeholder survey on coherence and coordination practices.

It is noted herein that coordination across constituted bodies, operating entities and other processes is already occurring; however, there is room for improvement. As interlinkages between other MEAs and frameworks and climate action increase, cross-coordination of capacity-building activities with other MEAs and frameworks is an emerging area that may require examination by the PCCB. Activities are likely to intensify over the next few years, and avoiding duplication across MEAs and frameworks will be important.

The need for increased communication was a common finding from the analysis. As a strategic body, the PCCB is well placed to build on existing practices in order to improve the level and types of communication with stakeholders, including with constituted bodies and operating entities. A key element of building communication is creating opportunities for dialogue.

Recommendations provided in this paper centre on a proposed workshop on coherence and coordination to be undertaken by the PCCB involving representatives of constituted bodies, operating entities and processes under the Convention. The workshop would focus on achieving three outcomes: the development of a forward-looking overview of bodies' workplans for 2020–2022; a paper on the synergies of climate-related capacity-building activities implemented by bodies and in processes under the Convention, identifying options for coordination; and the development of methods aimed at increasing coordination between UNFCCC focal points.

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Mandate

The PCCB agreed intersessionally to prepare an analysis of coherence and coordination gaps related to capacity-building activities under the Convention. At its 3rd meeting (20–22 June 2019), the PCCB considered and endorsed the concept note for this technical paper.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2. Scope

This technical paper relies on the interactions and collaborations of the PCCB with other relevant bodies and processes under the Convention to date, as well as on the information contained in the annual compilation and synthesis report on the capacity-building work of relevant bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and the addendum thereto.<sup>2</sup>

The objectives of this technical paper are to:

- Provide recommendations on utilizing synergies, avoiding duplication of work and concrete areas and methods of collaboration between different bodies and processes;
- Analyse the coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities undertaken by constituted bodies and operating entities to support the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which is the current focus area of the PCCB;
- Identify ways to enhance coherence and coordination across bodies and processes of work related to means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity-building);
- Highlight ongoing work aimed at understanding synergies between the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other relevant MEAs, and provide insight into the impact of this work on capacity-building activities under the Convention.

## 1.3. Approach

### 1.3.1. Sources of information

Information gathered for the analysis presented in this paper was obtained primarily through a desk review owing to time constraints. Dialogue and statements from the 3rd meeting of the PCCB, information on the UNFCCC website and information provided by PCCB stakeholders also served as inputs to the paper.

Stakeholders presented additional information through a survey on coherence and coordination practices. The results of the survey are presented in chapter **Error! Reference source not found.**

# 2. Background

Building the capacity of developing countries is a long-established need under the UNFCCC process. In 2001, the Conference of the Parties (COP) adopted, at its seventh session, a capacity-building framework for developing countries, recognizing that capacity-building is essential to enable developing country Parties to “participate fully in, and to implement effectively their commitments under, the Convention”.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> PCCB document PCCB/2019/4, available at <https://unfccc.int/pccb/pccb-meetings-and-documents#eq-4>.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBI/2019/2 and Add.1.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 2/CP.7.

The framework acknowledges the importance of building capacity in national systems, as well as at the subnational, national and regional level. Capacity-building activities related to the implementation of the Convention should build on work already undertaken by developing countries, as well as on work undertaken with support from multilateral and bilateral organizations. The framework also recognizes that capacity-building, as a continuous, progressive and iterative process, should be based on developing country priorities, and activities undertaken within the framework should maximize synergies between the Convention and other global environmental agreements, as appropriate.<sup>4</sup>

Fifteen priority areas are identified in the framework, including institutional capacity-building, enhancing and creating enabling environments, national communications, national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, adaptation and technology. In order to provide Parties with information on the implementation of the framework, the secretariat produces, on an annual basis, a synthesis report on the information reported by Parties. The secretariat collects, compiles and synthesizes capacity-building information annually against the 15 priority areas as well as on new and emerging areas. Additionally, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) regularly monitors and periodically reviews progress in the implementation of the framework. Three reviews have taken place to date, with a fourth concluding at COP 25.

The first three reviews identified areas related to coherence and coordination. The first review noted the need to strengthen institutional arrangements at the national level to coordinate the implementation of the framework, promoting the integration of climate change issues into national planning processes to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of outcomes. The second review noted the importance of ensuring stakeholder consultation throughout the entire process of project planning and implementation; enhancing the integration of capacity-building needs into national development strategies and plans; increasing country-driven coordination of capacity-building activities; and strengthening networking and information sharing, especially through South–South and triangular cooperation. The third review identified the need to enhance reporting on the impacts of capacity-building activities and to enhance support for capacity-building in developing countries. The PCCB was invited to consider linkages and synergies with other actors under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including work on capacity-building indicators and ways to report on capacity-building activities.

## 3. Coherence, coordination, and capacity-building

### 3.1 Capacity-building and the Paris Agreement

Capacity-building plays a prominent role in the Paris Agreement. It cuts across several Articles, including Article 11 on capacity-building, Article 12 on education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, and Article 13 on enhanced transparency. It is also embedded in the architecture of the Agreement through mandates of constituted bodies and operating entities. Understanding how capacity is built is sometimes difficult since it is entrenched in projects and activities across the full range of actions, from adaptation and technology to finance and transparency requirements. Without access to

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<sup>4</sup> Decision 2/CP.7, annex, para. 8.

capacity-building, meeting the Paris Agreement goals would be challenging, and increasing ambition unlikely.

Capacity-building is a critical means of implementation, and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement requires enhanced, sustained and long-term capacity if countries are to close the gap between ambition and implementation. Effective implementation also requires coherence and coordination, including of climate-related capacity-building. In decision 1/CP.21, the COP noted the importance of coherence and coordination of capacity-building in its establishment of the PCCB.

## 3.2 Paris Committee on Capacity-building

### 3.2.1. Role

The PCCB was established in 2015, prior to the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. It aims to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging, in implementing capacity-building in developing country Parties and further enhancing capacity-building efforts, including with regard to coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities under the Convention.<sup>5</sup> The creation of the PCCB was an acknowledgment of the need for coordination and coherence of support for developing countries in relation to NDCs.

### 3.2.2. Coherence and coordination activities to date

The PCCB mandate implies that the PCCB does not undertake capacity-building as its primary activity since it is, by design, a strategic body. Rather, it coordinates and cooperates with constituted bodies and operating entities through, for example, dialogue, provision of support on thematic issues, analysis of information, and information-sharing.

To date, capacity-building activities undertaken by the PCCB that are relevant to coherence and coordination have focused on:

- Raising the awareness and building the capacity of representatives of constituted bodies and operating entities through the sharing of good practices, lessons learned and experience by developing countries and others, as well as by facilitating coordination between actors;
- Ensuring alignment with existing efforts through strategic collaboration with other actors when undertaking activities (e.g. the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the NDC Partnership);
- Bringing local and regional perspectives and experience into activities at the global level.

Experience and outcomes from PCCB activities feed into PCCB analyses to develop policy recommendations that support countries in enhancing their climate action. For instance, the PCCB undertook a national-level pilot exercise on capacity gaps and needs related to the implementation of NDCs. The results of the exercise are contained in a technical paper, which highlights numerous good practices and recognizes the value of developing a toolkit for assessing capacity gaps and needs systematically, which should assist in enhancing coherence and coordination at the national level.<sup>6</sup> The purpose of an assessment toolkit is to guide a national-level assessment of capacity gaps and needs relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, taking into account lessons learned from existing national capacity needs assessments.

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<sup>5</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, para. 71.

<sup>6</sup> PCCB document PCCB/2019/6, available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB\\_TP\\_capacity%20gaps%20and%20needs\\_NDCs\\_final.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_TP_capacity%20gaps%20and%20needs_NDCs_final.pdf).

Building on its experience of coordinating with stakeholders at the first Capacity-building Hub, hosted by the PCCB at COP 24, the PCCB expanded its coordination activities with various stakeholders in 2019 through its Capacity-Building Knowledge to Action Days, full-day workshops held during the 2019 UNFCCC Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week and Asia-Pacific Climate Week targeting regional stakeholders. The experience and knowledge gathered at these events is expected to be fed into a follow-up event at COP 25 and a policy brief or discussion paper. In addition, the PCCB will coordinate with constituted bodies and operating entities during the second Capacity-building Hub, to be held at COP 25. Cooperation with bodies will centre on thematic days, including on means of implementation and transparency. The PCCB is also cooperating with the secretariat for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in preparing for a Transparency Day at the COP 25 Capacity-building Hub.

### **3.2.3. Coherence and the Strategic Plan for Stakeholder Engagement, Communications and Resource Mobilization**

In the third review of the capacity-building framework, it was noted that “capacity-building is generally integrated in projects and programmes promoting low-carbon, climate-resilient development” and therefore “isolating it for reporting purposes can prove difficult”. The PCCB Strategic Plan for Stakeholder Engagement, Communications and Resource Mobilization<sup>7</sup> further states that gaining an overview of climate-related capacity-building has been challenging due to its cross-cutting nature. Additionally, many actors and initiatives fall within the capacity-building architecture, which further complicates the enhancement of coherence and coordination.

For the PCCB, one of the first steps in enhancing coherence and coordination is the continued development of its multi-stakeholder engagement and the PCCB Network (see section 2.5 of the PCCB Strategic Plan for Stakeholder Engagement, Communications and Resource Mobilization), to be launched at COP 25. The process of building coherence and coordination requires a stepwise approach focusing on its closest constituents and working outwards. Given the increased coordination and cooperation among bodies and processes under the Convention, analysing coherence and coordination among constituted bodies and operating entities and, to the extent possible, among United Nations agencies, is a natural starting point.

### **3.2.4. Practices for coherence and coordination**

As a strategic body focused on a cross-cutting issue, the work of the PCCB entails cooperation with a broad range of constituted bodies and institutions. This practice provides the PCCB with greater insight into multiple areas related to capacity-building, enabling it to build a body of guidance, lessons learned and good practices. As it is not tied to a specific climate-related theme, but rather to a practice, its work transcends silos, which is critical for the implementation of NDCs in cases where governments have an increased need to work across sectors, actors and governance levels in order to have a coherent impact on climate action.

Within the mandate of the PCCB, addressing coherence and coordination is carried out through several elements of its workplan,<sup>8</sup> including:

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<sup>7</sup> PCCB document PCCB/2019/2, available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20190715-Strategic%20plan%20FINAL%20Version.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb/workplan-paris-committee-on-capacity-building>.



- Assessing how to increase synergies through cooperation and avoid duplication among existing bodies established under the Convention that implement capacity-building activities, including through collaborating with institutions under and outside the Convention;
- Identifying and collecting good practices, challenges, experience and lessons learned from work on capacity-building by bodies established under the Convention;
- Fostering dialogue, coordination, collaboration and coherence among relevant processes and initiatives under the Convention, including by exchanging information on capacity-building activities and strategies of bodies established under the Convention;
- Promoting and exploring linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate, that include capacity-building in their scopes.

Current PCCB practices include a focal point system for liaising with other constituted bodies and operating entities, which is common to many constituted bodies. The majority of communication between the PCCB and other bodies occurs through the secretariat, the Co-Chairs of the PCCB or the leads of the four PCCB Working Groups. Experience of the PCCB with the focal point system is limited and, owing to time constraints, it was not possible to examine its effectiveness for this paper.

Participation by representatives of constituted bodies and operating entities at PCCB meetings and events is formalized. Each year, bodies and entities are asked to nominate members to attend the PCCB meeting in that year as well as to nominate representatives for one year to liaise and coordinate with the PCCB on specific issues.

The PCCB utilizes four Working Groups that operate intersessionally. They are Working Group I: Coherence and coordination on capacity-building under and outside the Convention; Working Group II: Cross-cutting issues (i.e. gender responsiveness, human rights, indigenous people's knowledge, youth, Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and the role of cities); Working Group III: Awareness-raising, communications and stakeholder engagement; and Working Group IV: Identifying capacity gaps and needs.<sup>9</sup>

Each of the four Working Groups focuses on specific elements of enhancing coherence and coordination at the global, regional, national and sub-national level. Working Group I leads activities focused on increasing coherence and coordination. In addition to serving as the lead for this technical paper, Working Group I also organizes the structured dialogues at PCCB meetings, issued the call for submissions by various stakeholders in 2017 and created the open call for submissions in 2018. It also analyses inputs received from stakeholders, incorporating findings into the work of the PCCB. Furthermore, together with Working Group III, Working Group I prepared the web page on the capacity-building work of constituted bodies that was added to the portal by the secretariat.<sup>10</sup>

Activities led by the other Working Groups ensure coherence and coordination through collaborating with relevant actors and bringing relevant stakeholders together. Examples of relevant outputs from the Working Groups are the technical workshops; sharing relevant work on the capacity-building portal; the technical paper on gaps and needs, for which key actors were consulted; the Capacity-building Hub; and the Capacity-building Knowledge to Action Days.

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<sup>9</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/pccb/pccb-working-groups>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/groups-committees/paris-committee-on-capacity-building/capacity-building-constituted-bodies-and-operating-entities>.

## 4. Cooperation and coordination under the Convention

This chapter examines reports provided by the secretariat related to cooperation and coordination. The first is a report produced by the secretariat compiling and synthesizing information on capacity-building work of relevant bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.<sup>11</sup> The second is a synthesis report by the secretariat on the implementation of the capacity-building framework for developing countries, which includes an assessment of gaps and needs identified by developing country Parties through various reporting mechanisms under the Convention.

### 4.1 Coherence and mandates of constituted bodies and operating entities under the Convention

Coherence, increasing synergies and avoiding duplication are embedded to varying degrees in all mandates of constituted bodies and operating entities under the Convention. For instance, the Adaptation Committee is mandated to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation coherently under the Convention. The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts has a more direct charge from the COP. It is to draw on the work, information and expertise of bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as international processes, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The newest body, the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group, is to fulfil its three functions through collaboration with other bodies under and outside the Convention, as appropriate, to enhance coherence of action under the Platform under the Convention.

To date, the main method of assessing coherence and coordination among constituted bodies and operating entities is through the synthesis and compilation reports on capacity-building activities of constituted bodies prepared by the secretariat in preparation for the Durban Forum on capacity-building. The compilation and synthesis report provides an overview of activities undertaken by bodies during the previous year as set out in their mandated reports to the presiding body. The report identifies five categories of coordination or collaboration activities:

- Events, technical meetings and forums;
- Web-based seminars, tools and courses;
- Training and workshops;
- Tools and handbooks;
- Technical assistance and support.

#### Box 1

#### **Capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol**

Compilation and synthesis report by the secretariat

#### **Key findings and emerging trends**

- Bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol undertook a wide range of capacity-building related activities in 2018 and continue to identify synergies across their work and to translate this into collaboration. Examples include:

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<sup>11</sup> FCCC/SBI/2019/2.

- Enhanced linkages between the Technology and Financial Mechanisms;
- Collaboration on adaptation planning by several constituted bodies and operating entities;
- Continued collaboration on climate finance, such as the joint Adaptation Finance Bulletin of the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).
- Activities by constituted bodies and operating entities build on previous work within their mandates, for example the Technology Executive Committee on endogenous capacities and technologies and South–South cooperation, and the work of the Adaptation Committee on facilitating access to the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for financing adaptation.
- Many activities undertaken were implemented in collaboration or partnership with external stakeholders. United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations and initiatives were mentioned most frequently, as well as multilateral and regional development banks, research institutions, academia and civil society organizations.
- Few activities targeting private sector collaboration or with private sector stakeholders as the primary target were reported, but they include:
  - An Adaptation Committee workshop, in collaboration with the International Trade Centre, on fostering private sector engagement in building climate resilience;
  - The collaboration of the SCF with private sector institutions in preparing the 2018 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows;
  - The collaboration of the PCCB with several private sector organizations in the context of the COP 24 Capacity-building Hub.
- Activities in 2018 were aligned with the 15 priority areas for capacity-building in the framework for capacity-building in developing countries.
- Several topics emerged as trending or new, in the synthesis of 2018 capacity-building activities by constituted bodies and operating entities:
  - Climate finance and readiness;
  - Implementation of NDCs;
  - Linkages between climate action, the SDGs and the Sendai Framework;
  - South–South cooperation.

The compilation and synthesis report includes information on activities contained in the reports of nine bodies, with an addendum capturing specific activities in tabular format.<sup>12</sup> While the main report covers capacity-building activities undertaken by the nine bodies, the tables in the addendum do not include details of activities undertaken by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, except as reported by other bodies.<sup>13</sup> The GCF and GEF undertake substantial climate-related capacity-building activities, but the omission of those activities from the addendum makes it difficult to determine potential coherence, synergies and duplication. A dedicated analysis of the detailed capacity-building activities of the operating entities should be considered so as to enable greater coherence and coordination of activities.

The compilation and synthesis report provides a basis for understanding the numerous activities that constituted bodies and operating entities are either undertaking or participating in, as well as the types of activity prevalent under each category. It also shows that bodies are collaborating with a wide range of actors both within and outside the Convention process. The technical paper prepared for the third comprehensive review of the framework noted that “information on capacity-building is made challenging by the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building. Information on capacity-building and the effectiveness

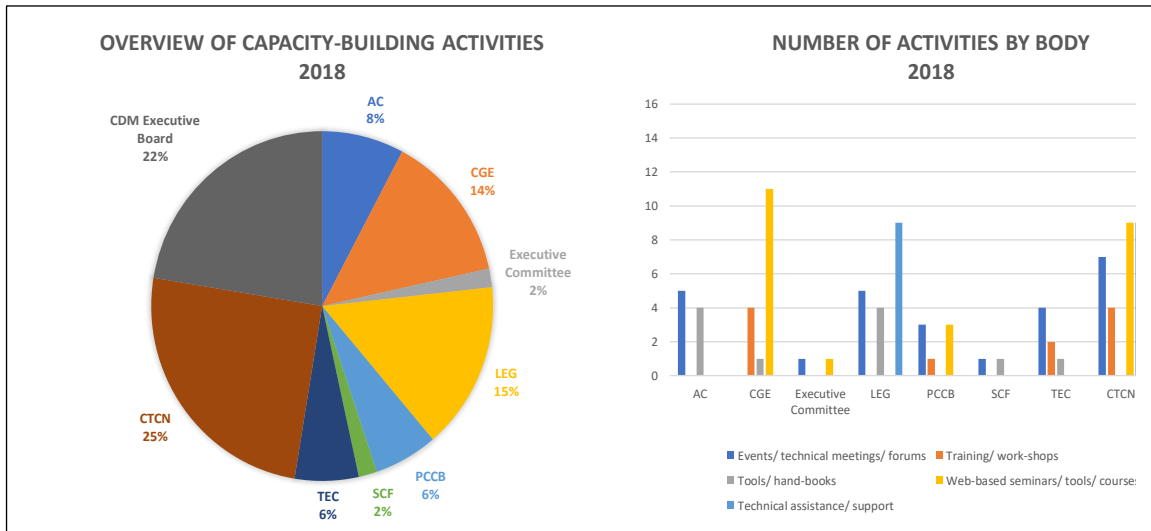
<sup>12</sup> FCCC/SBI/2019/2/Add.1.

<sup>13</sup> See FCCC/SBI/2019/2/Add.1, annex II.

of the implementation of the capacity-building framework is not easily aggregated, making it difficult to perform a quantitative and qualitative analysis and to draw general conclusions on enhancing the implementation of capacity-building”.<sup>14</sup>

The information contained in the addendum, while incomplete, serves as an approximation of the activities, as well as the methods and tools that the bodies use in their operations. As the categories of activities are broad and do not specify topics or themes, it is also difficult to ascertain levels of overlap or synergy involved in individual activities. There is also the potential for reporting similar activities under different categories given the overlap in the reporting categories.

Figure 1: Capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and operating entities under the Convention



## 4.2 Capacity-building framework for developing countries

The secretariat is tasked with producing an annual report for the SBI synthesizing information on the implementation of the capacity-building framework. The 2019 report<sup>15</sup> draws from available reports published between March 2018 and February 2019 and includes information from 30 national communications, 20 biennial update reports, three national adaptation plans (NAPs), five biennial reports, and the 2018 annual report of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism.

The synthesis report is an important resource highlighting capacity-building gaps and needs of developing country Parties, as well as emerging trends and needs. Additionally, the report serves as a solid basis for dialogue between the PCCB and other bodies, building on the information it contains and supplementing it with on-the-ground experience of constituted bodies and operating entities.

### Box 2

#### Implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries

Synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary findings:

<sup>14</sup> FCCC/TP/2016/1, para. 5.

<sup>15</sup> FCCC/SBI/2019/3.

- Countries highlighted direct capacity-building efforts, provided in the form of training, workshops, programmes and education initiatives. However, they also described how capacity can be built indirectly through the implementation of UNFCCC activities.
- Information provided by Parties was not structured using the 15 priority areas, but reports indicate those areas continue to be relevant. Areas receiving the most attention were GHG inventories, reporting, implementation of adaptation measures, research and systematic observation, development and transfer of technology, and education, training and public awareness. The analysis also indicates that a number of the 15 areas are complementary and cross-cutting: institutional capacity-building is relevant to many other areas, such as GHG inventories, adaptation, and research and systematic observation.
- The adoption of new UNFCCC instruments in recent years has led to the emergence of new areas of capacity-building and to countries adapting their efforts to those new realities. Emerging or new areas for capacity-building indicated by developing countries include:
  - Capacity-building for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and NDCs, with a focus on measures already in place, regional and cooperative activities, and capacity-building needs for strengthening NDCs;
  - Linkages with sustainable development, including how capacity-building can be integrated into, for example, the SDGs, development plans, sectoral plans, and efforts to reduce poverty;
  - Involvement of stakeholders in capacity-building efforts, with a focus on the role of different stakeholder groups such as subnational governments, civil society, youth, private sector and labour movements;
  - South–South and regional cooperation, including a focus on regional networks and cooperative projects on risk management and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV);
  - MRV of action and support, in particular the development of domestic MRV systems for various sectors;
  - Reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (decision 1/CP.16, para. 70) (REDD+), in particular in terms of creating capacity for monitoring and reporting, as well as for strengthening institutions;
  - Access to and availability of finance, with a focus on ways to build capacity and readiness to access international finance, as well as barriers thereto.

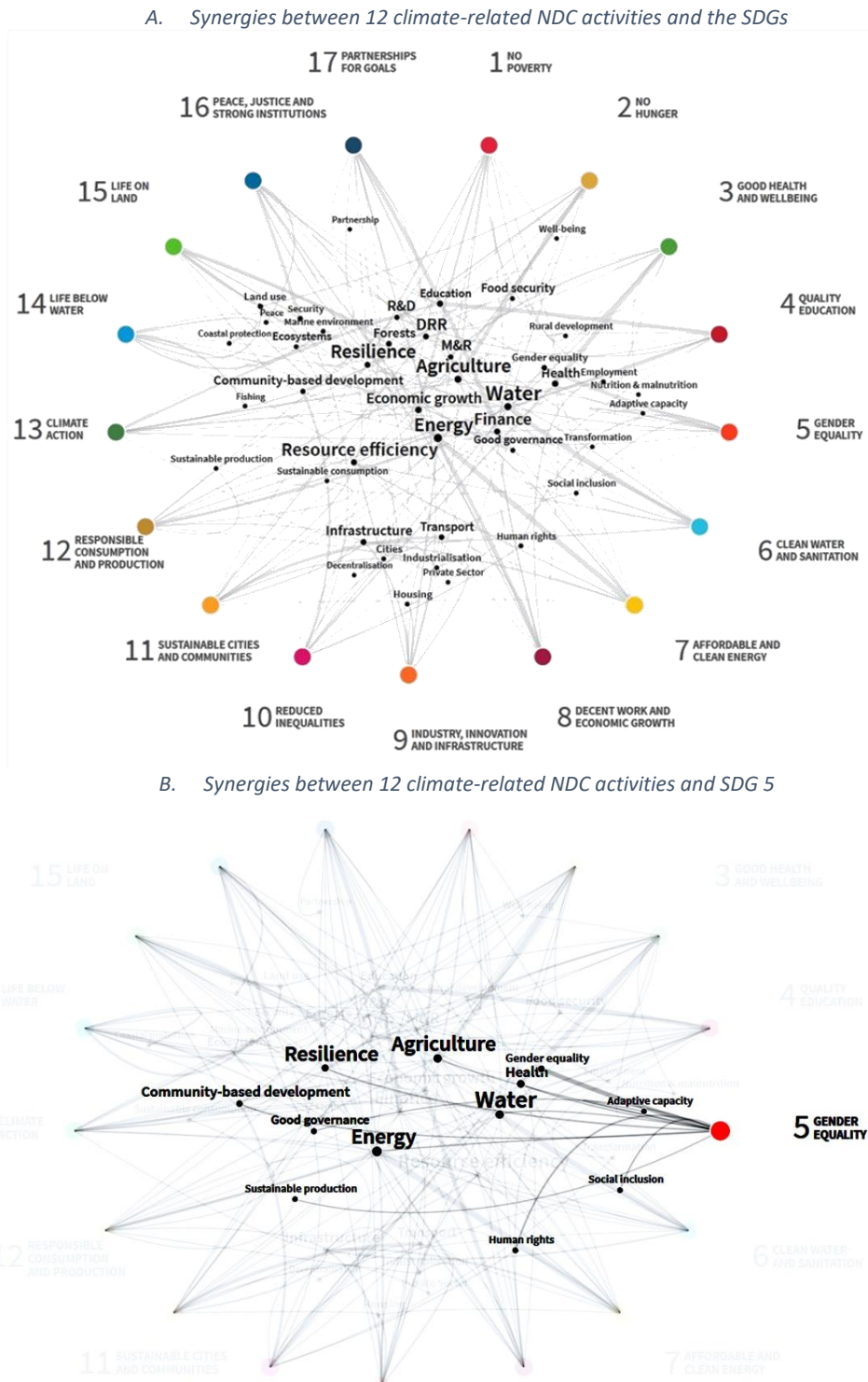
### 4.3 Coherence and coordination across climate-related areas and frameworks

Enhancing coherence and coordination of climate-related capacity-building is becoming increasingly important as the work of bodies and processes under the Convention leads to ever greater cooperation across climate-related areas and frameworks. Understanding coherence in terms of capacity-building, however, is a critical first step in developing guidance. SDG 17.14 addresses the need to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development by promoting synergies between economic, social and environmental policies, managing potential conflicts among diverse policy objectives, building the capacities of policymakers to set objectives and balancing or minimizing trade-offs and addressing spillover effects between policy areas.

Analysis undertaken by the German Development Institute and the Stockholm Environment Institute looked at 161 NDCs and their connections to the 17 SDGs and their targets. In total, the project mapped 7,000 NDC climate activities against the SDGs.

The analysis revealed numerous synergies between NDCs and the SDGs. Figure 2 provides a snapshot of a tool for making connections between NDCs and the SDGs, produced through the analysis.<sup>16</sup> Twelve climate-related thematic areas for each SDG are shown (A), as well as the identified synergies for a specific SDG (B). The analysis and its accompanying tool highlight the importance of coherence and coordination between the development and implementation of NDC and SDG commitments.

Figure 2: Synergies between nationally determined contributions and sustainable development goals



<sup>16</sup> Snapshots in Figure 2 taken from: <https://klimalog.die-gdi.de/ndc-sdg/synergies/Average/12>.



Additionally, the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda all contain a common element: capacity-building. SDG 17.9, which covers capacity-building, is to “enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation”.<sup>17</sup> The Addis Ababa Action Agenda addresses a range of capacity-building issues and notes that capacity-building is integral to achieving the post-2015 development agenda.

The need for coherence in policies has become increasingly urgent as MEAs, development agendas and developing country needs coalesce, and the impacts of climate change accelerate. As noted in the Outcome Summary for the Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, “a better understanding of how to exploit synergies and co-benefits in implementing climate action and SDGs at local, national, regional and global scales can catalyse more focused action and inclusive collaboration”.<sup>18</sup>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has showcased the need to enhance coherence over multiple environmental and sustainability areas, as well as the complexity involved in achieving greater coherence. The 2019 IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land<sup>19</sup> demonstrates that climate change drives desertification and land degradation, which, in turn, can affect food production and influence food security. The report notes that “delivering food security has implications for GHG emissions and climate since agriculture is a significant emitter of GHGs and demand for different foods greatly impacts GHG emissions. Sustainable land management, on the other hand, can help to deliver food security, to reduce GHG emissions (and create carbon sinks), and to reduce desertification and degradation – but climate change might affect the sustainability of land management”. Coordination will have to occur at several levels, across policy areas and with numerous stakeholders to avoid duplication, increase synergies and minimize trade-offs. The PCCB is well placed to develop guidance on coherence and coordination for climate-related capacity-building across MEAs and frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework.

#### 4.4 Preliminary findings based on existing reporting requirements

Mandated reporting on capacity-building activities provides a significant amount of information. The compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and the report on the implementation of the capacity-building framework for developing countries show emerging trends and new topics that roughly correspond between the two reports. The absence of GCF and GEF climate-related capacity-building activities in the compilation tables somewhat limits the overall usefulness in assessing coherence, coordination, synergies and duplication of activities in the addendum, since both bodies undertake extensive capacity-building activities.

As noted above, linkages with other MEAs and development agendas are becoming increasingly important, focusing on building the capacity to integrate or create coherence between the SDGs, development plans, sectoral plans and efforts to reduce poverty. Cooperative projects on risk reduction under the Sendai Framework represent another area

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<sup>17</sup> See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>.

<sup>18</sup> See

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/22398Summary\\_document\\_Copenhagen\\_FINAL\\_for\\_website.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/22398Summary_document_Copenhagen_FINAL_for_website.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srcl/>.

with linkages to Convention processes. A cross-cutting issue related to linkages with MEAs and implementation of NDCs is institutional capacity-building, which can enhance implementation efforts in these areas through better coordination at the national level.

South–South and regional cooperation with a focus on regional networks and cooperative projects on MRV could also be explored. Capacity-building for MRV action and support, including domestic MRV systems for various sectors, is another area listed in the report synthesizing information on the implementation of the capacity-building framework but not specifically in the report on the capacity-building activities of bodies, which is also the case for the issue of capacity-building for transparency. Further investigation of activities undertaken versus gaps and needs identified by developing country Parties would need to be carried out to determine what the difference in information means.

Another area highlighted in the compilation and synthesis report is the involvement of stakeholders in capacity-building efforts, and understanding the role of different stakeholder groups. The PCCB could provide guidance on assessing capacity-building needs and gaps at the national level by collecting and disseminating information on best practices and lessons learned.

Given the role that ACE plays in climate action, the PCCB could work with ACE focal points to gain a better understanding of developing country needs and develop good practice guidance on incorporating diverse stakeholders. This guidance could cut across several of the above-mentioned issues.

## 5. Dialogue on approaches to enhancing coherence and coordination

Coherence and coordination were discussed during the 8th Durban Forum and the 3rd meeting of the PCCB. As noted during the 3rd meeting of the PCCB, constituted bodies and operating entities undertake capacity-building as part of their work. Bodies such as the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group have capacity-building built into their mandates. It was also noted that capacity is built indirectly through implemented activities in the UNFCCC process. Coordination of capacity-building activities occurs between bodies, but on an ad hoc or thematic basis. While the process of reviewing activities helps explain what has occurred, addressing coherence and coordination requires an interactive and proactive approach.

The 8th Durban Forum focused on “strengthening institutions at the national level to support capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs in developing countries”. One session focused on enhancing coherence and coordination among national and international stakeholders for the design and delivery of capacity-building activities supporting NDC implementation. The results of discussions at the Forum feed into the ongoing work of the PCCB, such as its Capacity-building Knowledge to Action Days, as well as its potential future work, including the PCCB focus area for 2020, “Strengthening coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities on NDC implementation”, which is subject to the outcome of the review of the PCCB at COP 25.

Several challenges in enhancing coherence and coordination at the national level were identified in the Forum discussions, particularly in the breakout discussions. The challenges, which focus on the design and delivery of capacity-building activities supporting NDC implementation include:



- Coordination, because of the number of actors involved. Participants noted that incentives could run against coordination, particularly given that they relate to the delivery (or efforts to deliver on) donor outcomes by international agencies. In this regard, it is the responsibility of the donor to ensure it puts in place incentives to encourage coordination with agencies and with the full spectrum of ministries within the country receiving capacity-building;
- Coherence and coordination within developing countries owing to competing mandates of ministries;
- That capacity-building needs to be viewed as a long-term process, to ensure that capacity is built in line with implementation projects that are ongoing in developing countries. Successful and sustainable capacity-building requires monitoring and evaluation in order to reach outcomes and maintain results over time.

Three models for building coherence and coordination in processes under and related to the Convention were highlighted during Forum discussions:

- The Adaptation Fund, which communicates the activities it is undertaking to its stakeholders and is partnering with the PCCB and CTCN to raise awareness on readiness and the available capacity-building support for adaptation. The Adaptation Finance Bulletin will increase the accessibility of information on available support, as well as provide information from organizations providing support;
- The GCF Readiness Support Programme;
- The NDC Partnership, which coordinates extensively among agencies and government ministries.

Coherence and coordination were the primary areas of focus during the PCCB dialogue session with invited representatives of constituted bodies and operating entities at its 3rd meeting. The dialogue focused on four specific areas:

- Lessons learned and best practices from the experience of the constituted bodies on the theme of enhancing coherence and coordination with other Convention bodies and processes;
- Concrete ideas and suggestions for the PCCB to enhance coherence and coordination in capacity-building activities under the Convention;
- Updates, views, suggestions or questions about previously planned collaborative activities with the PCCB;
- Views and comments on the concept note for the technical paper on coherence and coordination gaps in capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and relevant processes under the Convention.

Table 1 presents an overview of key aspects of coherence and coordination discussed at the interactive dialogue with constituted bodies, operating entities and observers at the 3rd meeting of the PCCB. It is mapped against the four coherence and coordination themes of PCCB Working Group I, which will, in turn, be used to inform the work of the PCCB for 2020.

*Table 1: Key aspects highlighted during the dialogue on coherence and coordination at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the PCCB*

<b>Increasing synergies through cooperation and avoiding duplication</b>	<b>Identifying and collecting good practices, challenges, experience and lessons learned</b>	<b>Fostering dialogue, coordination, collaboration and coherence among relevant processes and initiatives</b>	<b>Promoting and exploring linkages with other constituted bodies</b>
Better coordination when developing workplans	Clearly defined roles of constituted bodies, operating entities and processes in collaborative activities are necessary	The PCCB should increase the time devoted to the exchange of ideas and information. Ideally, it should occur outside of PCCB mandated meeting times (in session) or outside negotiating hours, enabling stakeholders to attend and participate more fully	Joint work on thematic issues has increased the effectiveness of constituted bodies and operating entities, but there is room for improvement

Better coordination when implementing activities	Technology transfer, climate finance and capacity-building are interlinked and mutually supportive	Defining areas of common interest could help increase synergies and reduce duplication	Joining or linking platforms could be useful, linking activities to highlight potential duplication
Better coordination during follow-up and next steps	Sharing experience of work or activities that have been implemented would facilitate the collection of good practices	Providing opportunities for UNFCCC focal points to meet and engage with one another strengthens their abilities to coordinate across policy arenas	Strengthening national focal points leads to a harmonized approach at the national level, enabling countries to identify gaps and prioritize them in order to address them through various means of implementation
A forward-looking workplan; an event calendar would be useful for creating coherence and coordination	National institutions serving as focal points require further strengthening in order to increase effectiveness	Establishing the co-benefits for climate action across the SDGs can help countries to understand the need to reach out across ministries to help embed climate priorities and sustainable development principles across economic and social policies and programmes. Better coordination reduces duplication of efforts	
Open communication is critical	Enabling countries to understand the co-benefits for climate action across the SDGs can help coordination of policies and programmes across ministries	Strengthened national focal points under the Convention lead to harmonized country-driven priorities and coordinate efforts at the country level to implement NDCs, which also reduces duplication of efforts and can increase synergies	

Capacity-building, technology transfer and climate finance are inextricably linked and mutually supportive; enhancing coherence and coordination across work related to these means of implementation is critical. Because of the number of actors involved in capacity-building, technology transfer and climate finance, coordination is challenging. The increasing number of focal points and the lack of coordination among various thematic bodies, operating entities, implementing agencies and other organizations outside the Convention involved in capacity-building is a key limitation of the current capacity-building infrastructure.

Strengthening existing forms of communication is a necessary step in enhancing coherence and coordination, as well as in enabling developing countries to act on the synergies between addressing climate action and the SDGs. Strengthened communication can be achieved through several specific activities. One area of focus was the capacity-building portal and its need to be revamped in order to increase its usability, content and functions, including through increased collaboration such as the information-sharing initiative of the PCCB, the CTCN and the Adaptation Fund. Work on upgrading the portal is ongoing and will be presented at COP 25.

Another area of focus was how the work of the CTCN on strengthening national focal points under the Convention should be replicated and scaled up to coordinate efforts related to capacity-building at the national level. This should be addressed at the level of constituted

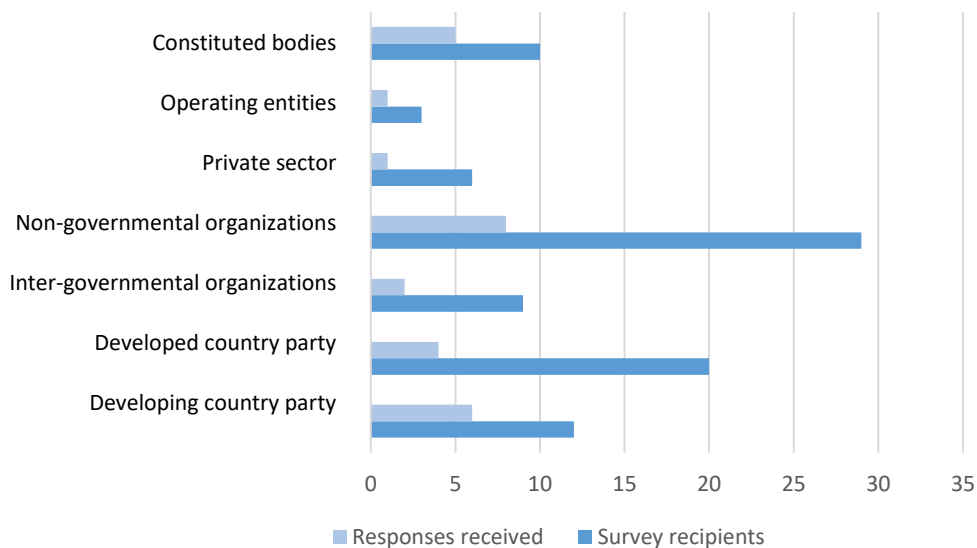
bodies, operating entities and other processes under the Convention. A third area of focus was on the time that should be allocated to coordination meetings across different bodies and processes, with the objective of identifying activities among the means of implementation to strengthen coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities on NDC implementation. Finally, there is a need for clarification of the roles and responsibilities of bodies and processes for collaborative activities related to means of implementation.

## 6. Survey

A survey on coherence and coordination was conducted to solicit additional information on capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and in relevant processes under the Convention and, time permitting, to seek specific further details from the survey respondents. The information gathered will inform the work of the PCCB in addressing the needs and gaps in developing countries in the implementation of capacity-building.

The survey was sent to 89 participants drawn from those at the COP 24 Capacity-building Hub, the 8th Durban Forum and the 3rd meeting of the PCCB. In addition, the survey was made available on the PCCB social media channels and website. The survey was open for approximately three weeks and by 9 August 2019, which was the closing date for receiving responses for consideration for this paper, 36 responses had been received. Of those, 21 submitted surveys were fully completed and one was partially completed. The remaining 14 surveys provided contact details for follow-up interviews. Figure 3 provides an overview of the survey recipients and the responses received.

Figure 3: Survey recipients versus responses received



See the annex for the survey.

### 6.1 Survey results

The survey, despite the low number of respondents, provided useful insight into several areas and paralleled findings from the 8th Durban Forum and the documents reviewed for this paper. Table 2 provides an overview of the key takeaways from the survey.

Table 2: Key takeaways from the survey

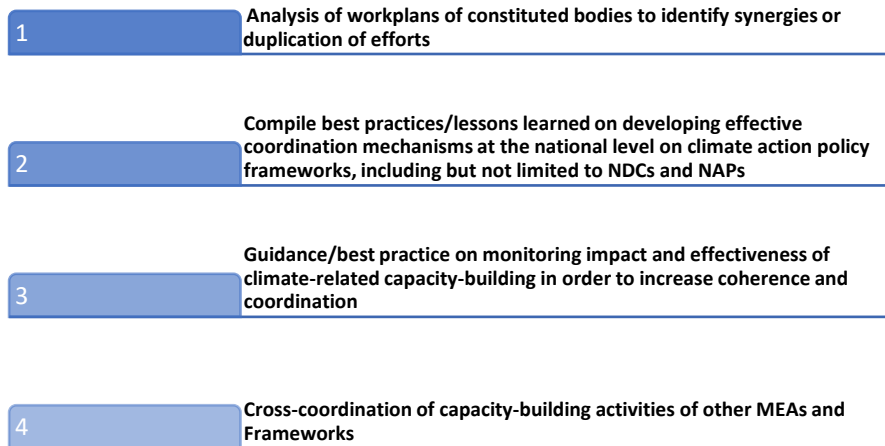
<b><i>Aspects the PCCB should focus on to improve coherence and coordination</i></b>	<b><i>Experience of coordinating climate-related capacity-building and important aspects for the PCCB to consider</i></b>	<b><i>Capacity-building portal –elements to enhance</i></b>	<b><i>Mechanisms for establishing or strengthening coherence and coordination of capacity-building and increasing collaboration</i></b>
Coordination is needed among donors as well as capacity-building recipients in order to increase synergies, reduce overlap and duplications and increase recipient-country ownership and sustainability of capacities	Developing-country focal points and associated offices are often overwhelmed by the number of initiatives. To ensure that this recurrent capacity issue is addressed, national institutions serving as focal points need to be strengthened, and a national mechanism for greater coordination among focal points needs to be put in place	The capacity-building portal provides a list of events and projects in each country, but the level of detail provided is not always sufficient to give an exhaustive overview of capacity-building activities in that country. For example, it would be interesting to have information on sectors (such as energy, transport and agriculture), budget, duration, and a link to additional information	There is a need to align country-driven-ness across processes and UNFCCC focal points. What an national designated entity puts forward as a priority may not be the same as what the focal point from the Adaptation Fund or GCF puts forward. Making space for dialogue and coordination among and between focal points should be a core responsibility of any organization involved in capacity-building
There is a need to align objectives and understanding of capacity needs by countries	An informal coordination mechanism similar to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Voluntary Cooperation Programme may be a useful model for the PCCB to examine	The portal could highlight South-South cooperation including good practices and failures	Increased communication with constituted bodies, including through meetings for cross-body sharing
Compiling and analysing lessons learned by bilateral and multilateral development agencies	There is a need to examine how to identify, measure and close capacity gaps	The portal needs to be updated, with interactive maps, less text, more digestible infographics and animations	Increased dissemination of results
Skills development and on-the-job training are important aspects for the PCCB to examine	There is a need to look at the different roles and responsibilities of bodies to gain a better understanding of commonalities	The portal should be capable of integrating measurable, achieved results with gender indicators	Building stronger linkages between Parties and other actors that provide cooperation and develop tools
PCCB could examine new and innovative approaches to capacity-building	Gender should be mainstreamed into capacity-building projects and practices	Webinars that can be accessed at the user's own pace	Cross-referencing information with the biennial report and biennial update report, and future biennial transparency reports to gain a better understanding of capacity-building activities in developing countries
The PCCB and Facilitative Working Group should coordinate and collaborate	The PCCB should be an advisory body for capacity-building under the UNFCCC	Development of interactive maps and forums to guide the exchange of information	External experts could provide outcome-focused online training sessions

The use of social media by PCCB is important but could be improved, including through enabling civil society to showcase its efforts	The PCCB should, with assistance from experts, develop monitoring and evaluation indicators for capacity-building projects and programmes requiring long-term investments	The portal should post analytical pieces on capacity-building activities with a focus on overlaps, synergies and best practices	Building on existing forms of communications among co-chairs and members
Coordination with constituted bodies and operating entities on workplan development to avoid duplication of efforts	The PCCB should act as a hub of knowledge-sharing during and after events	Portal needs to become “live” with inputs from stakeholders, newsletters and open calls for submissions	Reporting framework for capacity-building recipients
Consistent follow-up on side-events and other forms of communication	It should be a conduit between organizations with follow-up to extend capacity-building activities	Dynamic portal with activities by bodies, and where possible incorporating information from other MEAs	Translation of documents
PCCB could provide guidance on integrating gender into capacity-building activities	Joint outreach events to enable constituents to understand the complementary roles of the constituted bodies working on capacity-building issues and how to contribute and benefit	Establishing systematic gender training for members and staff of Convention bodies	Strengthening stakeholder consultations at all levels, including women
Policy guidance to constituted bodies and operating entities on new and emerging capacity-building issues	Consider joint or consolidated reporting on activities of the constituted bodies working on capacity-building	Making tools for gender impact assessment and monitoring accessible through the portal	A funding mechanism to enable the participation of women in capacity-building activities
The PCCB could review mechanisms to provide support and long-term impacts	Knowledge transfer to people on the ground	The capacity-building portal provides a list of events and projects in each country, but the level of detail provided is not always sufficient to give an exhaustive overview of capacity-building activities in that country. For example, it would be interesting to have information on sectors (such as energy, transport and agriculture), budget, duration, and a link to additional information	PCCB could map activities of constituted bodies and operating entities and the activities they undertake and identify gaps in policy or implementation and hold a dialogue on how to address them with constituted bodies and operating entities
The PCCB could map efforts including work undertaken by non-State actors and bilateral development cooperation agencies, then build a repository of good practices	Capacity-building materials need to be user-friendly and accessible		

Respondents were asked to rank four coherence and coordination practices that can be undertaken by the PCCB. Analysis of workplans of constituted bodies and operating entities to identify synergies or duplication of efforts was the first choice of the majority of respondents (68 per cent). The results correspond to the outcomes of discussions at the 3rd

meeting of the PCCB with bodies and observers. The remaining three topics were all fairly closely grouped in terms of preference. Compiling best practices was identified as the second preference at 41 per cent, while guidance and cross-coordination were ranked third and fourth at 41 and 45 per cent respectively.

Figure 4: Preferences for coherence and coordination practices



## 6.2 Detailed findings

### 6.2.1. Aspects of coherence and coordination that the Paris Committee on Capacity-building should focus on

Respondents stated that the PCCB should build on its existing practices. Coordination is already occurring among bodies, but there is room for improvement. PCCB activities could include coordinating with constituted bodies and operating entities on workplan development and providing guidance to bodies on new and emerging capacity-building and cross-cutting issues, such as integrating gender responsiveness into capacity-building activities. Compiling and analysing lessons learned by bilateral and multilateral development agencies was also seen as an activity that could help improve coherence and coordination. Skills development and on-the-job training were also identified as something for the PCCB to consider examining since they are key enablers of climate action across several important areas, including under the SDGs, and as such an area of cooperation among constituted bodies, operating entities and processes under the Convention could be to develop coherent and coordinated approaches in this area.

#### Box 3

##### Excerpt from survey responses

##### Experience of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Consultative Group of Experts

The CTCN launched a new series of workshops to mainstream technology in national climate agendas and support implementation of NDCs. The workshops bring together national focal points (of climate change, technology needs assessments, nationally appropriate mitigation actions and NAPs, as well as CTCN national designated entities, GCF national designated authorities and GEF operational focal points) from selected countries of the various climate initiatives under the UNFCCC to discuss countries' priorities and strengthen synergies to scale up and deploy priority climate technologies at the national level. They will help to achieve a



harmonized approach to identifying capacity and technology gaps and prioritization to address those gaps through various means of implementation.

The CGE has developed resource materials to assist developing countries in preparing and reporting on their climate action, including on GHG inventories, mitigation actions, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, capacity-building, and financial and technological support. The CGE also organizes workshops and webinars to address any capacity gaps. The CGE further conducts surveys of developing countries to understand their gaps and needs in order to prepare their national communications and biennial update reports.

Communication was highlighted as another important aspect, including through continued and strengthened use of the social media channels of the PCCB and expanding its availability to allow efforts by civil society to be showcased. Communication with stakeholders in follow-up events should be consistent. The PCCB should also examine new and innovative approaches to capacity-building, although the respondents did not provide examples.

### **6.2.2. Experience of coordinating climate-related capacity-building and important aspects to be considered**

Respondents identified experience of coordination with other bodies that the PCCB could consider. One example is an informal coordination mechanism used by the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme. Given that it is voluntary and an informal process, it may provide a flexible and open format in which constituted bodies and operating entities, as well as other stakeholders, can engage freely in dialogue on many important capacity-building issues. One respondent stated that there is a need to look at different roles and responsibilities of bodies to better understand commonalities. Another respondent stated the PCCB should examine how to expand its role as a hub of knowledge-sharing during and after events. In a related comment, one respondent stated that the PCCB should serve as a conduit between organizations, including in following up on activities.

Other respondents stated a need to make capacity-building materials user-friendly and accessible. Some also identified the need to translate documents for use on the ground and suggested that the PCCB could consider preparing a joint or consolidated report on activities of constituted bodies and operating entities working on capacity-building.

### **6.2.3. Capacity-building portal**

The PCCB has been providing detailed guidance to the secretariat on the capacity-building portal since 2018. The survey sought to gain additional information for the PCCB on ways to enhance the portal. Comments on enhancements to the portal included the need to enhance its functionality, including through interactive maps, more precise information and digestible information graphics and animations. The portal should also include newsletters and analytical pieces focusing on synergies and duplication, and host inputs from stakeholders. Additionally, the portal should highlight South-South cooperation, good practices and lessons learned, including from failures, and contain webinars and other training and tools for access at the user's own pace.

Two final areas mentioned include the need to incorporate information from other MEAs and to host tools for gender impact assessment and monitoring on the portal.

### **6.2.4. Mechanisms for establishing or strengthening coherence and coordination of capacity-building and increasing collaboration**

Several mechanisms were identified for strengthening coherence and coordination. Mechanisms focused on practical methods, such as cross-body meetings, for increasing

coherence as well as enhancing the capacity of UNFCCC focal points to increase coherence at the national level. One respondent felt that cross-referencing information against biennial reports, biennial update reports and future biennial transparency reports would provide a better understanding of capacity-building activities in developing countries.

Communication was again a focus of respondents' comments, including the need for increased communication with constituted bodies and operating entities and increased dissemination of results.

Box 4

**Excerpts from survey inputs from representatives of constituted bodies and operating entities on mechanisms for establishing or strengthening coherence and coordination of capacity-building and increasing collaboration**

We need to see our mandates through cooperation inside the UNFCCC instead of working in silos. We are so afraid of going beyond the mandates that sometimes we cannot do our job.

Not all constituted bodies are conducting capacity-building activities. Some bodies may be looking at needs for a specific thematic area or providing policy guidance. The PCCB could map out where the gaps are – in policy or in implementation – and have a dialogue on how the bodies could address this.

One of the biggest obstacles we face is in aligning a country-driven focus across processes. What the national designated entity puts forward as a priority may not be the same as what the focal point from the Adaptation Fund or GCF puts forward. Making space for dialogue and coordination among and between focal points should be a core responsibility of any organization involved in capacity-building.

Organizing meetings or workshops together to ensure familiarity with targeted activities, explore areas of priority for work, and build on the commitments of regular communication among co-chairs as well as members for effective implementation.

## 7. Conclusions

In examining the responses to the survey and comments received during the 8th Durban Forum and 3rd meeting of the PCCB, two broad categories of comments are easily identifiable: first, general comments on capacity-building; second, more specific comments on the role of the PCCB in enhancing the coherence of constituted bodies, operating entities and processes under the Convention. From these two categories of comments, it was possible to identify potential coherence and coordination activities for the PCCB.

### 7.1 General comments on capacity-building

Communication remains a critical element of capacity-building. General capacity-building related issues centre on the need for stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of actors collaborating within activities. Understanding the different roles and associated responsibilities could lead to an understanding of commonalities between actors and contribute to achieving coherence. Related to this is the need to build stronger linkages between Parties and other actors that provide cooperation and develop tools. Some survey respondents felt that it was important to strengthen stakeholder consultation at the subnational, national and regional level, as well as to ensure the inclusion of women.



Enabling countries to understand the co-benefits for climate action across the SDGs is an emerging issue and one that the PCCB can help to address through various methods, including providing space on its portal for guidance and information. Survey respondents felt that this could help the coordination of policies and programmes across ministries in developing countries. Continued strengthening of national institutions serving as focal points is another area on which the PCCB, in conjunction with other constituted bodies and operating entities, could focus.

Gender was also raised as an issue, with one respondent stating that there should be a funding mechanism to enable the participation of women in capacity-building activities. The need to mainstream gender into capacity-building projects and practices was also identified. However, these aspects relate more to how projects are developed and implemented than to coherence and coordination between constituted bodies and operating entities.

## **7.2 Role of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building**

Comments and discussions on the role of the PCCB focused on high-level functions such as the need for it to serve as an advisory body and as a conduit between organizations, including for follow-up on activities.

Strengthening communication among stakeholders, including constituted bodies and operating entities, was raised several times as an important role for the PCCB. A key role for the PCCB is in ensuring coordination among constituted bodies and operating entities when developing workplans and implementing activities. Increased communication with constituted bodies and operating entities before, during and after activities will also help to ensure that the next steps of any new activities are developed in a coherent and coordinated manner. The PCCB should continue to build on its existing forms of communication, including among co-chairs and members of constituted bodies and operating entities as well as through the capacity-building portal.

## **7.3 Potential activities for enhancing coherence and coordination**

Several activities identified through the analysis could be taken on by the PCCB to increase coherence and coordination among constituted bodies and operating entities:

- Developing a forward-looking workplan and events calendar;
- Holding cross-body sharing meetings. Appropriate meeting formats could be examined, such as informal coordination mechanisms similar to the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme;
- Increasing the time devoted to the exchange of ideas and information at PCCB meetings, ideally outside of mandated meeting times (in session) or negotiating hours of the PCCB. Greater flexibility in when and where the PCCB meets would enable representatives of bodies and processes to attend and participate in meetings more fully;
- Defining areas of common interest among constituted bodies and operating entities, which could help increase synergies and reduce duplication;
- Working with ACE representatives and their focal points to gain a better understanding of developing country needs and developing good practice guidance on incorporating diverse stakeholders;
- Organizing joint outreach events to enable constituents to understand the complementary roles of bodies and processes under the Convention working on capacity-building issues and how to contribute and benefit;
- Developing, with assistance from experts, indicators for monitoring and evaluation to determine the impact of capacity-building projects and programmes.

Activities either build on existing practices such as joint outreach events with other constituted bodies and operating entities (UNFCCC focal points) or are new activities that are in line with what was discussed at the 8th Durban Forum and 3rd meeting of the PCCB.

Based on the ranking of the four coherence and coordination practices for the PCCB, stakeholders consider the analysis of the workplans of constituted bodies and operating entities for the identification of synergies and duplication to be a priority activity for the PCCB. This analysis should also examine relevant processes under the Convention. The second- and third-ranking preferences were to compile best practices and lessons learned on developing effective coordination mechanisms at the national level on climate action policy frameworks, including but not limited to NDCs and NAPs, and to develop guidance and best practices on monitoring the impact and effectiveness of climate-related capacity-building in order to increase coherence and coordination, respectively. They will, in part, be captured in the further development of the capacity-building portal, but will also be addressed by the PCCB Working Groups. The fourth area, cross-coordination of capacity-building activities under other MEAs and frameworks, is an emerging area that may require examination by the PCCB as activities are likely to intensify over the next few years and avoiding duplication across MEAs and frameworks will be important.

Information related to enhancing the capacity-building portal will be utilized by the PCCB as it continues to develop the PCCB Network and provide guidance on enhanced features of the capacity-building portal; therefore, this information will not be addressed in the recommendations.

## 8. Recommendations

Based on the information contained in this paper, one activity with three specific outcomes has been identified as a priority. The PCCB should develop a coherence and coordination workshop to coordinate with constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant processes under the Convention. The workshop should be held as soon as possible, preferably early in 2020. The objectives of the workshop would be to:

1. Develop a forward-looking overview of workplans of bodies for 2020–2022. An analysis of published workplans could be undertaken and used as a basis for discussion among the bodies, updated during the meeting and subsequently made available. A detailed overview of capacity-building activities should help to capture synergies and identify any duplication of efforts.  
As part of this activity, the event calendar of the activities of constituted bodies and operating entities, agreed to at the 3rd meeting of the PCCB, could be used to discuss potential areas for cooperation on events in which potential synergies have been identified.
2. Develop a paper on the synergies of climate-related capacity-building activities implemented by bodies and in processes under the Convention that identifies options for coordination. The basis for this paper would be existing reports produced by the secretariat, in particular the synthesis report on the implementation of the capacity-building framework, which identifies capacity-building gaps and needs identified by developing countries.
3. Develop methods aimed at increasing coordination among UNFCCC focal points. The discussions could be informed by existing work of bodies designed to increase coordination among focal points. Providing space for discussion provides an opportunity to address the capacity gaps of focal points holistically and enables a coherent approach to addressing them to be established.

# Annex

## **PCCB Stakeholder Survey on coherence and coordination of constituted bodies and operation entities**

Access to effective capacity-building is a critical means of implementation that underpins a country's ability to effectively address climate change and its impacts. Climate-related capacity-building, however, cuts across numerous areas. As noted in FCCC/SBI/2019/2, emerging climate-related capacity-building topics include "implementation of NDCs, linkages between climate action and the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and South-South cooperation," with climate finance and readiness another important focus.

Enhancing coherence and coordination of climate-related capacity-building is increasingly important as work of bodies under the Convention leads to ever-greater cooperation across several environmental and developmental areas and frameworks. Understanding the meaning of coherence in capacity-building, however, is a critical first step in developing guidance.

This survey is designed to provide input into the PCCB's technical paper on coherence and coordination in capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and in relevant processes under the Convention, as well as to inform the PCCB as it continues its work to address needs and gaps of developing countries in implementing capacity-building.

### Part 1.

Please provide your contact details

- Name
- E-mail
- Phone number

Would you be available to participate in a follow-up interview or consultation to provide additional information related to coherence and coordination needs and gaps?

- Yes
- No

In what context are you responding to this questionnaire?

- PCCB member
- Member of a constituted body under the UNFCCC
- Party
- Civil society
- Intergovernmental organization
- Other Government (Non-Party)
- Private Sector
- Other

Please identify your institution and country

- Institution
- Country

### Part 2.

1. The mission of the PCCB is to identify capacity gaps and needs and potential solutions, including enhancing the coherence and coordination of capacity-building efforts related to climate change. The PCCB fosters collaboration between actors at all levels (local,

national, regional and global), strengthening networks and partnerships to enhance synergies and promote knowledge- and experience-sharing.

Have you had experience in coordinating activities with constituted bodies and other actors in the context of means of implementation (finance, technology, and capacity-building)? Please provide a brief summary of relevant experiences.

2. Based on your experiences, are there specific aspects on which the PCCB should focus to improve coherence and coordination as regards capacity-building activities under the Convention? Please explain.
3. Please provide information on any experiences you have coordinating climate-related capacity-building between climate action under the Convention and other frameworks or processes outside of the UNFCCC (such as the SDGs, Sendai Framework or other multilateral environmental agreements (MEA)) that can be applied by the PCCB.
4. What are the most important aspects for the PCCB to consider based on these experiences?
5. What are the key areas the PCCB should examine in addressing coherence and coordination in capacity-building activities under the Convention? Rank in order of preference.
  - a. Analysis of workplans of constituted bodies to identify synergies or duplication of efforts
  - b. Cross coordination of capacity building activities of other MEAs and Frameworks
  - c. Compile best practices/lessons learned on developing effective coordination mechanisms at the national level on climate action policy frameworks, including but not limited to NDCs and NAPs
  - d. Guidance/best practice on monitoring impact and effectiveness of climate-related capacity-building in order to increase coherence and coordination
6. Based on your experience using the capacity-building portal, what elements do you feel could be enhanced or added to improve its ability to assist in providing greater coherence and coordination of capacity-building?
7. What mechanisms could be established or strengthened to enhance coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention as well as to increase collaboration across Convention bodies and other processes.



**United Nations** Climate Change  
Paris Committee on Capacity-building

United Nations Climate Change Secretariat  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113  
Bonn, Germany  
<https://unfccc.int/pccb>  
Email: [pccb@unfccc.int](mailto:pccb@unfccc.int)