

Submission by Fundación Avina to the First Global Stocktake process under the Paris Agreement

Insights from Impulsouth Project on enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to implement the Paris Agreement

Background

1. Impulsouth is an alliance of organizations working collaboratively to increase knowledge and capacities on climate action in developing countries. The initiative is funded by the International Development and Research Centre and implemented by Fundación Avina in partnership with FLACSO Ecuador, United Nations University (UNU-ViE) and in 6 countries: Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Uganda, Zambia, Madagascar and Niger.
2. The initiative aims to promote south-south cooperation to strengthen the southern engagements with the Paris Agreement in a way that is reflected at the 2023 Global Stocktake. It looks to strengthen the role played by young climate leaders through research, training and innovation. Therefore, Impulsouth is supporting country research around climate change, is building capacity through a virtual training course for young climate professionals and is launching a solutions lab to tackle key climate challenges in each of the countries.
3. In that context, [Impulsouth](#) has organized a series of exchanges between global and national stakeholders regarding capacity building for climate action with an emphasis on youth and gender, which can inform the Global Stocktake process in the question of “What is the collective progress in terms of the state of current implementation of, and ambition in, enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to implement the Paris Agreement? How effective has been the implementation of capacity-building efforts?”. The inputs are detailed below.

Inputs by Impulsouth partners on enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to implement the Paris Agreement

4. It is clear from discussions held by Impulsouth that capacity building is a key enabler in developing countries to increase ambition and implementation of climate commitments. The NDCs will not be able to be implemented without substantial increase and enhancement in national, subnational and sectoral capacities to formulate and carry out

mitigation and adaptation actions, and international calls for raised ambition are not an enabler for improved capacities.

5. Capacity Building is one of the three means of implementation that developing countries require for climate mitigation and adaptation, which also include finance and technology development and transfer. However, it is the least measured in terms of baseline – that is the type and amount of capacities needed in developing countries, particularly at the local level, as well as progress. There is little to none information required by BURs, BRs and National Communications, and developing countries do not have enough data to assess their needs and the ways in which they are being addressed.
6. In addition to this, current reporting requirements do not envisage any assessment as to whether capacity building support and initiatives are efficient and generate capacities that are retained over time or that are reflected institutionally or at a sector level, regardless of individuals. Measuring progress and effectiveness of capacity building for climate mitigation and adaptation is challenging and there is little progress within or outside the UNFCCC framework to support these efforts at the national or subnational level.
7. Therefore, transparency efforts and support at the international and national levels should enhance tracking of needs, offers and impacts of climate capacity building, as well as identifying and producing diverse and equitable data on assessing capacity building. Indicators cannot be limited to funds spent when measuring capacity building provided, or to the number of people who have participated in a capacity building programme. There is a need for methodologies by which effectiveness and sustainability of capacity building efforts can be measured.
8. Furthermore, educational approaches to climate action should not be taken for granted as effective and more work should be carried out to learn from and enhance current offers.
9. Another issue that has been identified in our discussions as an obstacle to guaranteeing capacity building effectiveness is staff turnover in the public sector. To address this, support should focus on helping internalize the responsibilities of the public sector beyond the individuals that work in public institutions.
10. On the other hand, support often overlooks the importance of local stakeholders and non-governmental actors to implement and monitor climate action in developing countries.
11. The availability and use of science has also been noted as a key issue in our discussions. This includes access to key scientific research findings by policy makers and other stakeholders in accessible formats and local languages, for which there is usually no

budget at the national level. International cooperation could support making climate information and knowledge accessible.

12. It has also been noted in our discussions that the design and implementation of the many tools and policies required to fulfill the objectives of the Paris Agreement, which include not only NDCs, but also long term strategies, economic diversification plans, modeling analysis and predictions, a wide stakeholder involvement and participation and are heavily dependent on local capacities, which are often not in place.
13. The work of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building is welcomed by Impulsouth and advancements towards enhancing the coherence and coordination of capacity building has been noted.