

3RD CAPACITY-BUILDING HUB

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United Nations Climate Change
Paris Committee on Capacity-building



THE 3RD CAPACITY-BUILDING HUB

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

At the first meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), held in May 2017, Parties and non-Party stakeholders suggested the Committee provide a space for the participation of different actors in the capacity-building dialogue.

The following year, at the 7th Durban Forum on capacity-building, Parties and non-Party stakeholders reiterated the need for more time and space for informal and formal discussions on capacity-building related matters. Responding to these requests, the PCCB established the Capacity-building Hub at COP24 in Katowice as a space of representation and collaboration for a wide array of stakeholders active in capacity-building related activities.

The 1st Capacity-building Hub in Katowice, and the 2nd Capacity-building Hub organized at COP25 in Madrid accommodated a total of 100 sessions, with close to 400 experts and 300 institutions on board. While the 1st Capacity-building Hub laid the foundation for an inclusive and engaging platform for the flourishing community of capacity-building actors, the 2nd Hub broadened the range of involved actors even more. It succeeded in representing a rich diversity of voices, experiences, success stories and lessons learned on how best to support capacity-building in developing countries.

The success and significance of the Capacity-building Hubs were acknowledged by a wide array of actors during COP25, placing capacity-building in the spotlight of the conference. As Parties reviewed the work of the PCCB and agreed on its extension at COP25, they also decided for the Hub to become a mandated annual event. Building on the successful experience of previous years, the 3rd Capacity-building Hub will continue to be a space for sharing experiences, solutions, and ideas that can enable greater climate action as the world gathers speed towards 'a climate for a sustainable world'.



3RD CAPACITY-BUILDING HUB

The 3rd Capacity-building Hub was envisioned to take place in November 2020 at COP26 in Glasgow. However, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, COP26 was postponed to November 2021. The 3rd Capacity-building Hub, therefore, will take place in November 2021 and will showcase recent efforts made towards greater climate action through the lens of capacity-building. 2021 is a defining year, dubbed as the make-or-break year of climate action. It is time for all actors involved in addressing climate change to pick up the pace in delivering results that have the capacity to bring lasting and sustainable change and positive impacts for people and the planet in the face of a changing climate.

The 3rd Capacity-building Hub welcomes all interested individuals, initiatives, and organizations involved in climate action across sectors and regions to join debates and contribute to focused capacity-building discussions by sharing:

- Experiences and achievements related to building and retaining capacity at different levels to support the enhancement of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and recent climate action efforts
- Lessons learned and knowledge gained in identifying capacity gaps and needs and the solutions for addressing those gaps and needs
- Opportunities for innovation and scaling up actions through connecting with other actors and combining efforts in support of climate actions at all levels

Besides government actors and international entities, non-state actors are particularly encouraged to join the 3rd Capacity-building Hub. The PCCB hopes to engage a multitude of such actors – with academics, experts from the private sector, representatives of philanthropic organizations and foundations, climate champions, youth representatives, indigenous peoples' and women's organizations, local artists, activists, media figures and influencers, journalists, and storytellers being only some examples.

This year the PCCB seeks to mainstream four cross-cutting issues - gender responsiveness, indigenous peoples' knowledge, youth voices, and human rights - across the programme of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub. To this end, the PCCB has invited four external experts on cross-cutting issues to join the Steering Committee of the Hub, alongside the four leads of the PCCB working groups and UNFCCC secretariat staff members.



OBJECTIVES

The Capacity-building Hub is a direct response to the mission of the PCCB in enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, addressing current and emerging capacity gaps and needs, and facilitating greater awareness of the scope and impact of capacity-building efforts. By hosting the Hub as a meet-up for the capacity-building community, the PCCB strives to:

- Amplify a rich diversity of voices, experiences, and topics relevant to the PCCB's work, and facilitate the exchange of experience, knowledge, and insights on the role of capacity-building to support enhanced climate efforts in 2021 and beyond
- Synergize the knowledge and experience of experts at local, national, regional and global levels; engage with relevant actors from across sectors, regions, and institutions; and encourage their participation in the PCCB Network
- Strengthen the ties with relevant bodies under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement to enhance coherence and coordination in capacity-building efforts
- Connect actors to step-up collective and collaborative efforts and to build on existing synergies in different areas of work
- Strengthen collaborations among bodies under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement and across institutions, sectors and regions, in order to boost collective capacity-building efforts
- Enhance exchange of knowledge and information - including case studies, good practices and lessons learned - on capacity-building gaps and needs and on solutions to address them
- Encourage the promotion and dissemination of tools and methodologies for implementing capacity-building
- Enhance stakeholder awareness and engagement of the scope and impact of capacity-building efforts



FORMAT & STAGING THEMES

Building on the success of the 2nd Capacity-building Hub, the 3rd Capacity-building Hub will be organized through thematic days on issues directly linked to capacity-building, to support enhanced ambition in climate action at all levels. The topics will highlight key areas of capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

CAPACITY-BUILDING DAY

Universities, as historically powerful arbiters of knowledge in societies, have the ability and minimum logistics needed to generate both generic and specific capacities, creating a synergy for building overall human resources for development and climate change. They have a ripple effect across all segments and sectors, from reaching students (through curricula) to supplying the world with graduates, experts, thought leaders, and policymakers.

As efforts to implement the Paris Agreement move forward, it is crucial to consider how the existing capacity-building patterns can be reshaped so that funding earmarked for capacity-building does not constitute disparate expenditures without lasting effect, but investments that build local capacities for decades and generations to come. In this regard, it is imperative to explore and explicate the role of universities, research institutes, and experts on traditional and indigenous knowledge in contributing to the sustainability of capacity-building efforts.

Following the legacy started from COP23, COP26 will once again include a one-day long capacity-building day organized by non-state actors led by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and overseen by a Planning Committee whose members include PCCB members, academics, UN staff, negotiators, development practitioners and researchers. Highlighting the importance of universities stated above, the capacity-building day this year will focus on the role of universities and research organizations in creating long term climate-related capacity-building.



PCCB FOCUS AREA DAY

The Paris Agreement mandates that countries carry out climate actions in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Yet, despite great opportunities for synergies, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement are still insufficiently linked up. Particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts by countries to recover from the impacts of this current crisis provide an opportunity for better integrating climate and sustainable development goals into national recovery plans and policies in a coherent manner.

The PCCB's focus area for 2021 is "Building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of national development plans" and, aligned with this focus area, the 10th Durban Forum on capacity-building convened by the SBI in June 2021 also explored how to build capacity for addressing climate and development goals coherently.

The PCCB Focus Area Day will feature discussions on the 2021 PCCB focus area and will enable a deep dive into some of the findings and key messages that emerged from the 10th Durban Forum. It will do so by providing space for capacity-building stakeholders to share relevant experience, good practices, tools and methodologies, and lessons learned.

UNFCCC BODIES, ENTITIES, AND PROCESSES DAY

Climate-related capacity-building must be approached in a more systematic and coherent manner to ensure that capacity-building initiatives are targeted, consistent and continuous, and bring about long-term effects. The PCCB has a mandate to foster coherence and coordination in the capacity-building activities implemented by bodies, entities, and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

The UNFCCC Bodies, Entities, and Processes Day aims to increase the visibility of capacity-building efforts undertaken under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and showcase coherence and coordination efforts supported by the PCCB, particularly the work of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (ICG).



ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE DAY

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only exemplified the complexity and interconnectivity of risks but also exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. This has further underlined the need for greater attention to building capacities for coherent and coordinated approaches for adaptation and resilience building. Calls for transformative adaptation to climate change require attention to the type of capacity-building that can support it.

The Adaptation & Resilience Day will provide a space to showcase experience, good practices, tools and methodologies, and lessons learned with regard to building capacities to deliver climate action focused on climate adaptation and resilient development pathways.

FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY DAY

Article 11 of the Paris Agreement makes specific reference to the need for capacity-building under the Agreement to facilitate technology development, dissemination and deployment and access to climate finance.

The Finance & Technology Day will provide a platform for capacity-building stakeholders to showcase experience, good practices, tools and methodologies, and lessons learned with regard to building the capacity of countries and relevant actors to develop, disseminate and deploy technology, and/or to access and manage climate finance with a view of implementing effective climate action.



COP26 CATALYST FOR CLIMATE ACTION DAY

The Paris Agreement provides a truly global framework for climate ambition and action. To unlock its full potential, it is important that all countries can participate to their maximum potential and that a lack of capacity does not hold them back. In its role as the incoming COP26 Presidency, the UK has been committed to better understanding the capacity-building challenges faced by developing countries, particularly those most vulnerable to climate impacts, and has provided opportunities to share positive experiences and lessons learned during the UN Regional Climate Weeks.

During the COP26 Catalyst Day at the Capacity Building Hub, there will be thematic events focusing on capacity-building for adaptation communications, access to finance, carbon markets participation, and the enhanced transparency framework. The COP26 Catalyst partners will also reflect on what they have heard throughout the UN Regional Climate Weeks and put forward recommendations for practical solutions to ensure the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and catalyze climate action more widely.

SESSION MODALITIES

As recommended and emphasized by partners and stakeholders of previous Hubs, each thematic day will accommodate a diversity of modalities to foster interactive exchanges and effective dialogues among the participants onsite and online. While the modalities of sessions are at the discretion of the organizers, the Steering Committee of the Hub would ensure a minimum number of different modalities in each day, when assessing the expressions of interest.

The COVID pandemic has brought a certain level of uncertainty pertaining to the modalities of the events and the extent of engagement at this year's Hub. Being conscious of the time required to successfully reach the different milestones of the planning processes of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub, the PCCB and the Steering Committee (supported by the UNFCCC Secretariat) have decided to move forward by planning an in-person Hub. Regardless of this in-person nature of the Hub, online interactions with off-site audiences and/or speakers and innovative forms of capacity-building through visual and digital media are greatly encouraged. Additionally, based on an assessment of the previous hubs and participant feedback received, long classroom-style presentations are not encouraged.



In addition to conventional panel discussions, technical sessions and expert-led trainings, organizers are asked to conduct their sessions in-person through other engaging modalities that fit the purpose of their session, such as:

- Roundtable dialogue
- Fishbowl discussions
- World café
- Consultations
- Workshops & training
- Stand-up talks
- Lightning talks
- Storytelling
- Ceremonial and launch events
- Marketplace
- Networking sessions
- Poster or photo exhibition
- Video projection

For in-person events with extensive hybrid aspects, organizers are welcome to engage in the following modalities:

- Digital Storytelling
- Online communication platforms
- Social media challenges and Forums
- Impulse speeches
- Open mic
- Vignettes, Portraits and Illustrations
- Workshops & training
- Pre-recorded videos & Podcasts
- Speed networking & Pre-session chatrooms
- Online games

SCHEDULING

This section was developed based on the experience of previous years, including feedback received from participants and organizers of the previous Hubs. Though it provides general recommendations for action, the Steering Committee of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub may amend the organizational arrangements as appropriate.

ON THE PROGRAMME

Once the thematic focuses of the Hub are determined, the Steering Committee will ensure the avoidance of scheduling conflicts with activities of similar focus at the COP in the design of the Hub's programme, to the extent possible. Depending on the number and type of proposals received, the 3rd Capacity-building Hub will take place in-person over 6 days, tentatively scheduled between 1st - 12th November. Covering days of both weeks at the COP, this arrangement would allow for a broader range of participants to take part in the Hub.

ON THE THEMATIC DAYS

In order to ensure adequate participation and active engagement of audiences, the thematic days will be scheduled not earlier than 10:00 am and not later than 17:00 local time.

ON THE SESSIONS

The sessions vary in type and length, they can be conducted in 45 to 60 minute-time slots, with shorter slots for discussion-based events and longer ones for training and workshops. If variants on this are requested, the Steering Committee will consult with the organizers to accommodate the proposed sessions as appropriate.

If the number of qualified proposals exceeds the time available on the day, the Steering Committee may advise the organizers of sessions with the same or similar focus to join forces and merge their proposals into one focused block. Depending on the number of submissions, it may not be possible to integrate all qualified proposals into this year's Hub programme.



IMPLEMENTATION

LEADING UP TO COP

SEPTEMBER

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The 3rd Hub will follow the successful practice of the previous one, opening a call for expressions of interest to organize events in the Capacity-building Hub at COP26. The call will be opened on 1st September and closed on 15th September. All interested organizations, initiatives, and entities are welcome to submit their proposals. Interested organizations are encouraged to express their interest in leading the thematic days when submitting their expression of interest, assuming they fulfill the provided requirements.

ASSESSMENT

The Steering Committee of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub will assess the proposals received and allocate those that are accepted to the thematic days. The assessment is to ensure the relevance of proposed activities to climate-related capacity-building and the Hub, promoting innovative approaches and engaging elements in the proposed activities, and guaranteeing gender, regional, and sectoral inclusiveness and balance in the Hub.

OCTOBER

AGENDA SETTING

Once the expressions of interest are assessed, successful applicants will be notified of the decision. The Steering Committee will appoint lead partners who will develop the agenda and narrative of each thematic day in close consultation with the successful applicants and under the guidance of the Steering Committee. To ensure a coherent flow of activities under each thematic day as well as the overall programme of the Hub, possible additions or amendments to the initial proposals are to be expected. Outreach including webpages, flyers and social media campaigns will be launched, and logistics will be prepared.



AT THE COP

NOVEMBER

LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT

The PCCB and the UNFCCC Secretariat are not able to provide any financial support or cover travel and accommodation expenses for organizers and resource persons of the Hub. However, if requested, the Secretariat will support the organizers and resource persons with daily accreditation to access the venue. In addition, technical support, and common stationary items can be provided for the sessions, if feasible and communicated in advance by the organizer(s).

In terms of the hybrid modality of this year's Hub, events will be livestreamed with space to include the online participation and engagement through Q&A forums for the virtual audience. There will also be provisions made for speakers to join in virtually.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The programme of the Hub as well as additional information on thematic days will be available and kept updated on dedicated webpages on the UNFCCC website. Announcements and further information will be regularly posted on the UN Climate Change Capacity-Building LinkedIn Group, PCCB Facebook page and the Hub webpage.

Interested individuals, initiatives, and organizations are welcome to participate in the Hub on-site, follow the live-streamed discussions online (links will be provided on the corresponding webpages), receive updates on the outcomes of discussions through social media channels using the #CB_Hub, and where possible, engage with the speakers through provided means online and on-site.

Outcomes of activities, including information received from stakeholders, possible recordings of events, summary reports and interviews will be disseminated on the PCCB-related webpages and social media channels as well.

AFTER THE COP

DECEMBER

POST-EVENT EVALUATION

Following the practice of other PCCB activities, participants of the Hub will be asked to voice their opinion about their experience in the Hub through online post-event surveys -whether as an organizer or audience member. A compilation of suggestions received will be included in the summary report of the Hub, and duly noted by the PCCB for future iterations of the event.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Capacity-building Hub is an engaging platform to bring together different actors involved in climate-related capacity-building. Under the priority area of the PCCB on promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement with bodies and relevant actors under and outside the Convention, the expected results of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub are:

- The successful fostering of collaboration among bodies under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement and across institutions, sectors and regions to boost collective capacity-building efforts, coordinate actions and build on synergies
- The targeted sharing of knowledge and information (including case studies, good practices and lessons learned) on capacity-building gaps and needs, and solutions to address them
- The effective promotion and dissemination of tools and methodologies for implementing capacity-building; and
- Increased stakeholder awareness of the scope and impact of capacity-building efforts.

By enabling fruitful dialogues and encouraging innovation, the PCCB seeks to foster a shared vision of priorities for climate-related capacity-building within the PCCB Network and the global community of capacity-building actors.



The Paris Committee on Capacity-building is ready to welcome climate change-related capacity-building organizations, experts, practitioners, and enthusiasts to the 3rd Capacity-building Hub at COP26.

Visit [3rd Capacity-building Hub | UNFCCC](#) for more information and updates.



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