

Informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (ICG)

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Summary report of the fourth meeting

(held on 16 November 2022, 13:00-14:30 EGY)

I. Background

ICG establishment and objective

In line with the workplan of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) for 2021-2024¹, the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (ICG) was established in early 2021.

The ICG currently meets twice per year on the margins of existing sessions. A first meeting² was held virtually in June 2021 in conjunction with the fifth meeting of the PCCB. The second³ and third⁴ meetings were both held in a hybrid format in conjunction with COP 26 in November 2021 and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in June 2022 in Bonn, Germany, respectively.

The purpose of the ICG is to create a conducive space for representatives of constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to coordinate climate change-related capacity-building plans and activities, and allow for better sharing of information, coherence, and identification of opportunities.⁵

ICG membership

The ICG currently (as December 2022) comprises 26 members from 15 constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant UNFCCC processes. The full list of members is available on the dedicated ICG website.⁶

¹ Available here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/267207>.

² Summary of the first meeting available here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/283488>.

³ Summary of the second meeting available here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/392416>.

⁴ Summary of the third meeting available here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/550200>.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2020/13 Annex II

⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/PCCB-ICG>.

Fourth ICG meeting

The fourth ICG meeting (ICG 4) was held on Wednesday, 16 November 2022, 13:00–14:30 (Egypt Standard Time), in conjunction with COP 27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid manner with virtual participants connected through MS Teams. The agenda of the meeting can be found in the annex to this document. ICG 4 was moderated by Roberta Ianna, PCCB co-chair and lead of PCCB working group 1 on coherence and coordination of capacity-building.

Anticipated participants were the members of the ICG, including members of PCCB working group 1 and nominated representatives of the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) process, Adaptation Committee (AC), Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) secretariat, Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM ExCom), Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), Global Environment Facility (GEF) secretariat, Green Climate Fund (GCF) secretariat, Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI), Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), Lima Work Programme on Gender, Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), and Technology Executive Committee (TEC). The final list of participants of ICG 4 is contained in the annex of this report.

To aid members in preparing for the meeting, the PCCB updated the forward-looking overview of capacity-building activities undertaken by constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant processes represented in the ICG. ICG members actively contributed to the updating of this document, which is available on the ICG webpage.

II. Meeting Summary

Update on developments since ICG 3

Following welcoming remarks by Roberta Ianna, the ICG members turned to agenda item 2, which focused on an update provided by the PCCB on major developments with regard to coordination and collaboration in the context of capacity-building related work since ICG 3 in June 2022.

Ms. Ianna noted that the PCCB had continued with the implementation of feasible suggestions made by ICG members in their responses to an ICG-wide survey circulated in 2021, and, for instance, dedicated a large thematic segment at its 4th Capacity-building Hub at COP 27 to capacity-building for implementing Article 13, thereby addressing a suggestion made by the GEF secretariat for the PCCB to raise awareness on Article 13 of the Paris Agreement as well as on support needs and opportunities related to the enhanced transparency framework.

As another notable development, Roberta Ianna highlighted the recent collaboration of the PCCB with the TEC and the CTCN in the context of the PCCB's 2022 Durban Forum Deep Dive follow-up webinar to the 11th Durban Forum on capacity-building. This webinar was

held in September and both the TEC and CTCN shared findings and lessons from their work in the area of building capacity for green skills and climate innovation. Prior to this event, the PCCB had also coordinated with the KCI and received relevant resources from this constituted body for circulation among the webinar's participants. Ms. Ianna also informed ICG members that in order to contribute to the further strengthening of coordination of ICG members on capacity-building in the area of climate technology, the PCCB had invited the TEC to provide an input on promoting endogenous capacities at ICG 4 (agenda item 3).

In terms of bilateral coordination with other constituted bodies, Roberta Ianna noted that the PCCB appointed its member Yousif Muayad Yousif to serve on the expert group on action and support under the WIM Excom following the end of PCCB membership of the previous participant, Mahawan Karuniasa.

At the invitation of the SCF, the PCCB had also virtually supported the second part of the SCF Forum on finance for nature-based solutions held in September in Cairns, Australia. Ms. Ianna underlined the appreciation of the PCCB for being able to contribute to the forum's outcomes through facilitating a discussion on financial and technical support and necessary tools to scale-up nature-based solutions actions in developing countries.

Regarding further bilateral coordination developments, Roberta Ianna highlighted recent agreements between the PCCB and FWG to collaborate on an FWG training workshop in 2023, as well as on an activity focused on the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the capacity-building related work of constituted bodies. The FWG co-chairs' kind agreement to support the PCCB in further promoting the PCCB Network to indigenous and local organizations to enhance the number of Network members with community and indigenous background was also noted.

With regard to the most recent collaborations, Ms. Ianna drew attention to fruitful collaborations at COP 27 between the PCCB and the AC, LEG, KCI and GEF in the context of the 4th Capacity-building Hub, as well as PCCB contributions to the Joint LCIPP/GAP dialogue on enhancing indigenous women climate leadership in the UNFCCC process and to the LCIPP Annual Youth Round Table.

At the end of her update, Ms. Ianna recalled the proposal made by CGE representative Victoria Novikova at ICG 3, for the ICG to explore in 2023 the production of short brochures on different thematic areas that showcase capacity-building-related products and activities of the bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG. Ms. Ianna inquired whether ICG members were supportive of pursuing this joint work and received no objections from the ICG members present at the meeting.

Input on promoting endogenous capacities by the TEC

ICG members were then invited to turn to agenda item 3, which covered an input by the TEC on the topic of promoting endogenous capacities. Roberta Ianna highlighted the urgent need for developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing

States to build or enhance and find ways to maintain adequate systemic, institutional and individual capacities to carry out climate change adaptation and mitigation actions at large. This requires the development of endogenous capacity, meaning capacity that is locally and nationally owned and that ultimately can be maintained and enhanced independent from international support. Ms. Ianna noted that since all bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG are involved in capacity-building-related work in different forms, the PCCB felt that promoting endogenous capacities is a topic of concern for everyone in the ICG and that the findings from the TEC's work could thus be of great value to all ICG members.

Mareer Mohamed Husny from the TEC started his presentation by noting that the TEC has been working to promote a shared understanding of the concept of endogenous capacities and technologies and to analyze measures that facilitate countries in enhancing enabling environments. In its initial scoping, the TEC explored the concept of endogenous capacities and technologies. Findings of this work indicated a lack of a common understanding of what constitute endogenous capacities and technologies and an absence of common strategies on how they could be developed or enhanced. The TEC undertook a survey and released a report featuring stakeholders' views on elements and features to describe endogenous capacities and technologies. The report found that several general strategies may help to enhance endogenous capacities and technologies if tailored to specific country contexts, including: participatory approaches; understanding internal conditions; facilitating partnerships and connections to funding; incorporating local and indigenous knowledge; tailored training for actors at different levels; enhance capacities of NDEs; tracking progress using indicators; and sharing knowledge broadly.

Mr. Husny described that, following the publication of this first report, the TEC conducted further work from 2020 to 2021 focused on identifying needs, gaps, enabling environments, challenges and other issues relating to promoting endogenous capacities and technologies. To this end, three surveys were developed for and distributed to three target groups, respectively:

- NDEs and TNA focal points;
- TEC, CTCN, and PCCB members and observers;
- Practitioners who have worked on projects on the ground.

With regard to current endogenous capacities and identified gaps, the surveys asked respondents to rate national capacities in different climate technology areas, and responses were fairly diverse across the three surveys. All groups reported relatively high levels of weakness in national capacities relating to climate technologies for mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting issues, with national entities reporting the highest levels of weakness and practitioners the lowest. At the individual level, NDEs and TNA focal points described more than 60 personal capacity-building needs ranging from adaptation, mitigation and data collection and management to monitoring and evaluation, financing, gender and support for UNFCCC negotiations. As regards measures to enhance endogenous capacities, access to funding, training in research, development and implementation, educational programs, and collaboration were seen as highly important by all three groups. Other measures included

collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, public private partnerships, access to peer reviewed literature, exchange programmes or fellowships.⁷

Mr. Husny concluded his presentation by providing an overview of the report's conclusions and recommendations. With regard to capacity needs and gaps, the report concludes that countries have many context-specific weaknesses in their capacities to deal with climate technologies for mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting issues, and provides several recommendations that are specific to addressing capacity-building issues:

- Ensure that NDEs and TNA focal points have the necessary capacities to assess technology needs, identify appropriate technologies, develop endogenous technology, understand the demands and implications of existing processes, and engage stakeholders;
- Customize capacity-building based on local needs and levels of skills and knowledge;
- Consider targeting groups such as young people and workers in local capacity-building projects, training and educational programs.

Coordination efforts in the ICG

Under agenda item 4, ICG members had a coordination-focused discussion on the basis of the forward-looking overview of capacity-building-related activities of bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG.

In the first intervention of the discussion, Hansol Park from the **GCF secretariat** noted that the GCF's support for capacity-building is centered around the support provided through the Readiness Programme. Reflecting recommendations and feedback the GCF collected during the previous COP, the GCF secretariat has launched an internal effort to create a readiness action plan that addresses the challenges raised by Parties. In addition, he noted that the GCF secretariat will be organizing several outreach programming events, with an emphasis on its capacity-building support, through its regular structured dialogues. Mr. Park also pointed to a decision taken at the 33rd GCF board meeting, requesting the secretariat to revise the fund's readiness strategy to further strengthen the GCF's support modalities. The revised strategy will be tabled at the 35th board meeting in March 2023 and, in this context, Mr. Park issued an invitation for ICG members to join a readiness consultation taking place on 17 November at the GCF Pavilion at COP 27. He concluded by thanking the PCCB for joining the GCF's annual meeting with constituted bodies at COP 27, noting that all points made by the PCCB at the meeting would be duly reflected and followed up on.

The representative of the **AFB secretariat**, Farayi Madziwa, expressed the appreciation of the AF for the work of the PCCB in the context of the ICG and the connections and linkages resulting from this work. Several organizations have reached out to the AF with concrete

⁷ For detailed results visit: <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/endogenous/index.html>.

interest to collaborate or partner with the fund on the basis of the information made publicly available through the forward-looking overview of capacity-building related activities of ICG members. The regular updating and publication of this document is thus very much appreciated by the AFB secretariat and Mr. Madziwa encouraged the PCCB to continue providing this helpful resource.

Patricia Marcos Huidobro from the **GEF secretariat**, informed ICG members that the new GEF-8 cycle started in July 2022 and that capacity-building continued to be at the center of the programming and strategy. She highlighted the continuous support for capacity-building through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), noting that under GEF-8, the resource allocation to CBIT has been increased by over 36% compared to GEF-7. The GEF also supports the CBIT Global Coordination Platform to provide global streamlined support, capacity-building and coordination to help developing countries meet the enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement. The platform is designed as a one-stop shop for countries in need of support for capacity-building related to transparency.

KCI representative Peter Govindasamy, in his intervention, noted that with greater mitigation ambition, there could be more pronounced economic and social impacts and that the potential adverse impacts of mitigation must be addressed urgently in order to incentivize climate actions. He then explained that the KCI, through its work programme, seeks to raise awareness and understanding of Parties, particularly developing countries, on the economic and social impacts and ways these impacts can be addressed. Noting that capacity-building is a fundamental tenet of the KCI's work, Mr. Govindasamy pointed to the KCI's new Communication and Engagement Strategy (CES) adopted in June 22 at SB 56. Pursuant to the CES, the KCI has proactively organized capacity-building events at UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks and other workshops, including at SB56 and at COP27. Further capacity-building events are foreseen to be organized in 2023.

With a view to promoting complementarity across the work of different bodies, entities and processes under the UNFCCC and to avoiding duplication of work, Peter Govindasamy drew the attention of ICG members to relevant work undertaken by the KCI related to mitigation ambition and implementation and just transition, respectively. Concerning the former, the KCI recently published a technical paper on new industries (i.e. Hydrogen/CCUS) and submitted recommendations to the Forum/COP on this activity, which may also serve as a useful reference for experts and bodies involved in the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation. Concerning the KCI's work on just transition, Mr. Govindasamy issued an invitation to ICG members to attend the KCI outreach event "Report from the field: Just Transition Stories" on 17 November at COP 27.

The representative of the **LEG**, Laurie Ashley, highlighted that in 2023 the LEG will be continuing much of its ongoing work, with many activities being integrated under the Open NAP Initiative. This includes direct country engagement through regular country dialogues and NAP writing workshops in different regions. The LEG is engaging directly with 35 countries to formulate and implement NAPs and facilitates a peer-review process for draft NAPs, which

allows for global input to help inform countries' NAPs. Ms. Ashley further pointed to several new processes the LEG is supporting, including a roster of LDC experts on NAPs for which the LEG has recently issued an open call for applicants. A second process that is being launched relates to guidance on the implementation of NAPs. Information and consultations on this topic are being solicited by the LEG and the guidance is foreseen to be published in 2023. Ms. Ashley concluded by drawing attention to the forthcoming NAP Expo in April 2023, as a space for exchange and networking. Reacting to the intervention from the LEG representative, Dorji Tshewang from the GEF secretariat noted that the GEF has launched a new adaptation strategy, under which concrete and solid capacity-building actions to support LDCs and SIDS are envisaged.

The representative of the AC, Rita Mishaan, commended the PCCB for the achieved advancements with regard to coherence and coordination of capacity-building and emphasized the need for constituted bodies to continue supporting these efforts and the PCCB's work on capacity-building more generally, as capacity-building constitutes an important issue that is linked to all other issues under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Ms. Mishaan assured the PCCB the continuous support of the AC going forward. Given the numerous persisting capacity-building gaps and needs across the different work areas and sectors, she urged all ICG members to continue increasing the joint effort of interlinking the work of the various bodies, entities and processes, as well as to disseminate the cross-cutting work that the PCCB is undertaking on capacity-building via the different portals hosted by bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG.

Hyunjin Chang, representing the UNFCCC ACE team, expressed gratitude to the PCCB for joining forces and hosting the 'Building Capacities for ACE Day' at the 4th Capacity-building Hub at COP 27. Highlighting the focus on capacity-building of ACE focal points and youth under the Glasgow Work Programme on ACE and the new ACE Action Plan, he noted that the ACE team will support this focus through the annual ACE Dialogue as well as other in-person and virtual means at the international and regional level. Specifically, with regard to youth, Mr. Chang pointed to the new Youth4Capacity initiative, supported by the Italian Government and implemented by the UNFCCC secretariat, under which capacity-building activities targeted at young people will be implemented. In 2023, the ACE team will also be seeking guidance, inputs and contributions from constituted bodies mainly on mandated ACE events, including the ACE Dialogue. Guidance will specifically be sought on the topic of monitoring, evaluation and reporting based on experiences bodies have already gathered in this area. Furthermore, once the topic of the forthcoming in-session mandated ACE event at COP 28 has been agreed, specific UNFCCC bodies, entities and processes will be contacted for contributions, similar to the COP 27 event, where the ACE team collaborated with the FWG in light of the event topic of the role of civil society in adaptation.

Sergio La Motta, the TEC representative in the ICG, informed members that the TEC recently approved its new rolling workplan for 2023-2027, in consultation with technology stakeholders

and coordination with the CTCN. The workplan sets out activities under four workstreams⁸ and identifies potential partners for their implementation, including other constituted bodies under the Convention. On innovation, he noted that the TEC will soon finalize a compilation of good practices and lessons learned in setting up and implementing national systems of innovation, and conduct regional events and create knowledge products and tools to inform on the results of the compilation and identify country needs for innovation. The TEC would be keen to explore collaboration opportunities with the PCCB and the Regional Collaboration Centres to further strengthen national systems of innovation. Mr. La Motta also explained that, building on TEC's initial work on innovative financing, the committee seeks to explore ways to support country readiness and enhance capacity-building processes to facilitate access to finance from climate funds. In this context, the TEC looks forward to engagement and collaboration with the Adaptation Committee, Adaptation Fund Board secretariat, the GCF and the GEF. Another area of work includes support for strengthening climate technology RD&D through partnerships, strengthening the role of innovators and accelerators, and the participation of developing country Parties in collaborative approaches. In this regard, the TEC seeks to engage with various partners, including CTCN, GEF and GCF, to define the scope of work and achieve cross-cutting objectives.

Sergio La Motta then also pointed to previous work by the TEC on innovative approaches on adaptation technologies, based on which the TEC aims to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience through enhanced collaboration with the Adaptation Committee, the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat, the GCF and the GEF. Another collaboration is foreseen with the GCF to promote the role of long-term technological pathways to implement NDC actions on mitigation and adaptation as well as transformative innovative technology practices and solutions related to water-energy-food systems in collaboration with the LCIPP. Last but not the least, Mr. La Motta highlighted the collaboration with the CTCN on the development of the new Joint Work Programme 2023-2027, a significant milestone for the Technology Mechanism that signals a new era work for climate technology under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. To that effect the TEC undertook a list of joint activities with the CTCN, which includes collaboration with other actors supporting the NDC process, and looks forward to having collaborative dialogues with the PCCB, LCIPP and NDC Partnership to identify technology capacity needs, particularly for indigenous people, youth and grass-root communities.

For the **PCCB**, Roberta Ianna drew attention to a call for submissions on coherence and coordination of capacity-building that the PCCB had just completed, noting that the synthesis of submissions would be shared with ICG members for their information and consideration in due course. She also highlighted a new technical paper on developing country ownership of building and maintaining capacity for climate action that the PCCB launched at COP 27, which includes a set of actionable recommendations. Ms. Ianna further noted that the PCCB

⁸ The four workstreams are: National Systems of Innovation, Collaborative Research, Development and Demonstration and General-Purpose Technologies; Technology needs assessment and technology planning tools to support NDC implementation; Transformative and innovative solutions; Collaboration and Engagement with UNFCCC processes and constituted bodies, and other UN agencies.

successfully secured support for the translation of the ‘PCCB toolkit to assess capacity gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement’ into various UN languages. Once the translated versions are published, the PCCB would appreciate any support of other constituted bodies in promoting this resource further, including through their own networks and knowledge portals.

As regards upcoming work, Roberta Ianna informed ICG members that the agreed PCCB focus area for 2023 is ‘Capacity-building support for adaptation, with a focus on addressing gaps and needs in formulating and implementing national adaptation plans.’ This focus area was selected following an invitation by the AC for constituted bodies to jointly scale up support in this area. Much of the PCCB’s work in 2023 will be aligned with this focus area, including for instance, a new PCCB regional event series at the 2023 UNFCCC climate weeks. Also, as per the COP’s request to the SBI, the Durban Forum on capacity-building in June will be thematically aligned with the PCCB focus area and the PCCB will not only support the forum itself but also conduct several follow-up activities. Ms. Ianna concluded by noting that the new PCCB focus area provides many opportunities in 2023 to collaborate not only with the AC, but also with the LEG and other constituted bodies that focus on capacity-building for adaptation as part of their work. The PCCB’s work will be kicked off with a call for submissions to Parties and non-Party stakeholders on information and resources related to the focus area in January 2023 and submissions from bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG are warmly invited.

Other matters

No matters were raised under this agenda item.

Closing

Roberta Ianna closed the meeting by thanking the participants for their attendance and noting that the ICG 4 summary report will be shared with ICG members in due course for their review.

The fifth meeting of the ICG is planned to be held in a hybrid format on the margins of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in June 2023 in Bonn, Germany. Further information will be shared with ICG members in due course.

Annex: Agenda and List of Participants of the fourth ICG meeting

Agenda

1. Welcome remarks.
2. Update on developments since ICG 3.
3. Input on promoting endogenous capacities.
4. Informal coordination based on the forward-overlooking overview of activities.
5. Other matters.
6. Closure of the meeting.

List of Participants

Name	Body/entity/process
Laurie Ashley	LEG
Hyunjin Chang	ACE
Marzena Chodor	PCCB
Arif Goheer	CGE
Peter Mari Govindasamy	KCI
Mareer Mohamed Husny	TEC
Roberta Ianna	PCCB
Sergio La Motta	TEC
Farayi Madziwa	AFB secretariat
Alisher Mamadzhonov	GCF secretariat
Patricia Marcos Huidobro	GEF secretariat
Rita Mishan	AC
Renilde Ndayishimiye	PCCB
Victoria Novikova	CGE
Hansol Park	GCF secretariat
Dorji Tshewang	GEF secretariat
Ambrosio Yobànolo del Real	TEC
Yongxiang Zhang	PCCB
Capacity-building Team	UNFCCC