

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

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Summary report of the fifth meeting

(held on 6 June 2023, 13:15-14:45 CEST)

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 in a hybrid format on the margins of existing sessions. Information on the agendas and outcomes of all meetings is available on the dedicated ICG website.²

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.³

ICG membership

The ICG currently (as at July 2023) comprises 28 members from 16 constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant UNFCCC processes.⁴

Fifth ICG meeting

The fifth ICG meeting (ICG 5) was held on Tuesday, 6 June 2023, 13:15–14:45 CEST, in conjunction with SBI 58, in Bonn, Germany. 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 5 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

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

² See <https://unfccc.int/PCCB-ICG>.

³ FCCC/SBI/2020/13 Annex II

⁴ For the membership list refer to: <https://unfccc.int/PCCB-ICG>.

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, Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change (NWP), Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), and Technology Executive Committee (TEC). The final list of participants of ICG 5 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

Discussion on the ICG e-brochures/booklets

Following welcoming remarks by Roberta Ianna, the ICG members turned to agenda item 2, which focused on discussing the e-booklets to be produced by the ICG for publication at COP 28, including an initial presentation of the first two draft booklets prepared on capacity-building resources for mitigation and for transparency, respectively.

Ms. Ianna recalled the agreement by ICG members in early 2023, responding to the proposal by an ICG member from the CGE, to develop joint thematic booklets on the capacity-building related products and activities of the bodies, entities and processes represented in the group. Following this broader agreement, the ICG also approved a concept note and agreed to develop a total of eight e-booklets in 2023, focusing on capacity-building for:

1. Climate Action (i.e. capacity-building activities supporting climate action more broadly and/or on climate-development linkages);
2. Adaptation and Resilience;
3. Accessing, Mobilizing and Scaling up Climate Finance;
4. Climate Technology Development, Deployment and Transfer;
5. Integrating Human Rights, Gender, Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge, Education and Youth in Climate Action;
6. Sustainable Land Use and Management;
7. Mitigation;
8. Transparency.

She also recalled the agreement to include the following categories of resources:

- Technical assistance/support;

- Tools and methodologies; handbooks, manuals and guides; case studies and technical reports/publications;
- E-courses/training (ongoing courses; time-bound training courses to be included only if they are being regularly offered);
- Other relevant online resources (i.e. portals, platforms or databases that help build capacity).

After presenting the two draft booklets on screen, Ms. Ianna concluded by inviting all ICG members to submit all relevant resources across as many booklets as possible to ensure the comprehensiveness of the resources shared and to showcase the whole range of UNFCCC bodies, entities and processes that are working on specific thematic areas.

In the ensuing feedback round, several ICG members commended the first two draft booklets, and some members suggested additional resources to be added to these two drafts. As requested by several ICG members and given that not all members were able to participate in ICG 5, it was agreed that the PCCB share the two draft booklets again via email to collect written feedback after the SB session.

Members then also agreed to the proposal, made by a CGE representative in the ICG prior to ICG 5, to organize an event to launch all eight e-booklets at COP 28. The PCCB will explore the option to organize the event during its 5th Capacity-building Hub at the COP.

Coordination efforts in the ICG

Under agenda item 3, 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. During the discussion, several ICG members commended the continued usefulness of the forward-looking overview for planning and coordination purposes, as well as for informing external stakeholders of all the capacity-building-related activities that are ongoing or planned.

In addition, various capacity-building-related activities that were regarded as directly relevant or of key interest to other ICG members were highlighted during the discussion, including:

- The adoption of the second five-year running work plan of the **WIM ExCom**, that will have a stronger focus on capacity-building, including activities relating to the development of several technical guides, their dissemination and facilitating capacity-building and training on their application; as well as relating to responsiveness to needs related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage at various levels, including compiling information, identifying gaps and preparing guidance tools and methodologies, and developing tools for integrating information on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage and/or mainstreaming them in national planning and policy making processes.

- **AC** activities, including:
 - A dialogue on progress in addressing capacity gaps identified in accessing adaptation funding, to be conducted in two parts: the first part virtually soon after the SB 58 session with other adaptation-related constituted bodies and the second part with participation of key external adaptation stakeholders;
 - Working sessions during the regional climate weeks in 2023 to co-create an understanding of the region-wide and transboundary adaptation action and support – in collaboration with regional organizations, development banks and other key actors – to advance coherent implementation towards a resilient future. The meeting will aim to facilitate an exchange of ideas on how the different stakeholders can work together to step up adaptation in the region, including capacity-building, that could be addressed by the AC and within the wider UN system;
 - A project contributing to understanding the broader state of adaptation and enhancing coherence and the fragmentation of adaptation actions across the board, based on both national data and information on efforts across the multilateral system.

- **LEG** activities, including:
 - The facilitation of the development and implementation of project ideas to improve accessing the GCF and other funding through the NAP Implementation Pipeline Development initiative;
 - A recent NAP writing workshop for African LDCs and Haiti from 21 to 24 February 2023, in Moroni, Comoros and further workshops under preparation for Asia and Pacific LDCs for 2023-24 (*since 2022, 40 of the 46 LDCs developed a total of 89 project ideas, which will be further developed into concept notes for submission to the GCF and other funding agencies. Four project ideas have already been submitted to the GCF and GEF*);
 - The NAP Data initiative, which assists LDCs in addressing data gaps related to formulating and implementing NAPs;
 - Continued application of the PA-ALIGN tool, which supports LDCs to navigate and address the many adaptation-related provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement efficiently and effectively;
 - Technical guidelines on the implementation of NAPs to support LDCs in the development of implementation strategies and roadmaps based on the adaptation priorities identified in their NAPs.

- **KCI** activities, including:
 - The development of regional, country and sector specific case studies on just transition economic diversification and impact assessment analysis;

- A technical paper on engaging the private sector to facilitate the creation of decent work and quality jobs in low gas emission sectors;
 - Promoting the availability and use of guidelines and policy frameworks to assist parties in promoting just transition within and across sectors;
 - A paper announcing the capacity and understanding of parties, particularly developing countries, collaboration and input from stakeholders on impact assessment and facilitating undertaking of diversification and just transition;
 - An outreach session at SB58 on 8 June on the KCI's work on just transition in the energy sector (*invitation to ICG members to attend was issued*);
 - Plans for engagement at the UNFCCC regional climate weeks.
- Activities under the **Technology Mechanism**, including:
- First ever joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism (outlines thematic areas of focus for the work of the **TEC and CTCN**, that the bodies may pursue jointly or through distinct yet complementary activities in their respective line of work) - significant step for enhancing coherence and coordination in the work of the Technology Mechanism and the interaction with other bodies and processes under and outside the UNFCCC;
 - CTCN focus to support the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions as well as apply its matchmaking function. Innovation and digitalization are seen as key enablers where capacity-building has strong role to play;
 - Launch of joint TEC and CTCN initiative to explore the potential role of artificial intelligence as a powerful technological tool in advancing and scaling up transformative climate solutions for mitigation, adaptation and resilience, particularly for the most vulnerable communities;
 - New modality for implementing TEC's activities: open-ended 'Activity Groups', co-led by TEC members and open to all observer constituencies of the UNFCCC, replacing the TEC task forces. Other relevant partners may also be invited to the activity groups, at the discretion of the co-leads. Could be useful modality for other bodies and processes under the UNFCCC who look to strengthen their efforts related to engagement with stakeholders;
 - TEC has concluded its work in compiling examples of good practices and lessons learned in setting up and strengthening national systems of innovation. Summary for policy makers that translates the findings from this exercise into a useful guide for action on the ground launched at SB58 (*invitation to ICG members to attend side event on 10 June was issued*);
 - TEC collaboration with Future Cleantech Architects in launching a survey on future needs of climate technology research, development and demonstration,

to fundamentally decarbonize human activity in line with the targets of the Paris Agreement –*ICG members invited to share with TEC information on relevant experts in their networks and processes that could be invited to take the survey;*

- TEC is assessing gaps in the existing guidance for technology needs assessments (TNAs) and their associated technology action plans and submitted a brief piece on insights and transferrable lessons learned from the TNA process that could inform the development and implementation of NAPs, in response to the call for inputs by the PCCB earlier this year;
 - TEC work on accelerating innovation and climate technology solutions in water-energy-food systems (*invitation to ICG members to attend a dialogue on June 08, in collaboration with FAO, and with contributions from UNIDO was issued*);
 - Regarding emerging and transformational adaptation technologies, TEC focuses on early warning systems, and joins forces with other actors in this space, in particular under the umbrella of the UN Secretary General’s Early Warning for All Initiative.
- **ACE** activities, which include:
- annual ACE dialogues and other in-person and virtual global and regional events, which aim to build the capacity of ACE focal points, Youth and other stakeholders on different elements of how the six elements of ACE as a toolbox can help implement the Convention and Paris Agreement;
 - The 2023 ACE Dialogue at SB58, which focuses on the priority area of monitoring, evaluation and reporting of ACE implementation (*invitation was issued for ICG members to attend*);
 - Plans for engagement at the UNFCCC regional climate weeks;
 - Guidelines and learning materials that will be published as part of the ACE Hub;
 - Events under the Youth4Capacity initiative, funded by the Government of Italy and implemented jointly with the UNFCCC capacity-building subdivision;
 - Launch of a LinkedIn group, establishing a Community of Practice;
 - Support to constituted bodies in enhancing understanding of how ACE and youth are integrated in their work.
- **PCCB** activities, including:
- A recent call for submissions on capacity-building support for NAPs, to which several ICG members had contributed – the synthesis report had been shared

with the AC's NAP Taskforce; findings were also shared at a joint event with the LEG at the NAP Expo and at the 12th Durban Forum on capacity-building on 7 June at SBI 58;

- The PCCB's regional thematic dialogues at the 2023 regional climate weeks, which will focus on capacity-building support for NAPs, and the 5th Capacity-building Hub at COP 28, which both provide ample opportunity for collaboration with ICG members;
- In accordance with the PCCB workplan for 2021-2024, the evaluation of progress of the ICG in 2023. The approach for the evaluation was to be agreed at the 7th meeting of the PCCB on 12-14 June 2023 - *ICG members will be consulted during the evaluation period on their views and perspectives on the progress that the ICG has made since its establishment in 2021.*

In the context of strengthening matchmaking, the **AFB secretariat** representative mentioned their participation in the Needs-based Finance (NBF) Project implemented by the UNFCCC secretariat, and asked whether other relevant constituted bodies, such as the TEC, are part of this project. The secretariat briefly provided some context on the NBF project, which aims to support the mobilization of climate finance, by, among other things, providing training at regional level jointly with AFB, GEF and GCF secretariats, for government officials and other relevant stakeholders on designing project proposals. It further suggested that due to the participation of some ICG members in this project, its activities could be integrated into the ICG's forward-looking overview of capacity-building activities, if the relevant members would like to provide that information when the document is being updated next. Other interested members could then pick up on this information and explore options for their own involvement in NBF activities.

The **NWP** representative thanked the PCCB for the invitation to join the ICG. NWP focuses on knowledge brokering in the adaptation space under the UNFCCC. With its 450 stakeholders, it seeks to provide knowledge to address knowledge gaps identified by bodies, entities and processes under the UNFCCC. The linkages to capacity-building are very strong and NWP seeks to strengthen synergies and coordination with the capacity-building work undertaken under the process.

In their interventions, several ICG members appreciated ongoing coordination efforts and collaboration of their body, entity or process with others represented in the ICG across different capacity-building-related activities. Having listened to ICG members' interventions, the ACE representative and the CTCN representative expressed interest in liaising with the KCI and LEG representatives, respectively, noting the potential for collaboration and synergies.

Following the closing of ICG 5, PCCB co-chair Roberta Ianna held an informal meeting with the ICG members from the **SCF**, who were both unable to attend the ICG meeting, to discuss a potential collaboration between the two constituted bodies on the effectiveness of the capacity-building activities undertaken by UNFCCC climate funds in response to a suggestion

made by the GCF secretariat's ICG members in response to an ICG-wide survey in 2021.⁵ A draft concept note for an activity was then shared with the SCF in July for its consideration at SCF 31.

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 5 summary report will be shared with ICG members in due course for their review. She also noted that the outcomes of ICG 5 would be discussed at the 7th meeting of the PCCB from 12-14 June 2023 during SBI 58 and invited ICG members to attend that meeting.

The sixth meeting of the ICG is planned to be held in a hybrid format on the margins of COP 28 in Dubai. Further information will be shared with ICG members in due course.

⁵ The findings from the survey are captured in this summary:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB%20briefing%20note_Findings%202021%20ICG%20Survey.pdf.

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

Agenda

1. Welcome remarks.
2. Discussion on the ICG e-brochures/booklets, including comments on the initial two draft brochures/booklets.
3. Informal coordination based on the forward-overlooking overview of activities.
4. Other matters.
5. Closure of the meeting.

List of Participants

Name	Body/entity/process
Ashwaq Almessabi	COP 28 Negotiation Team, UAE (observer)
Karina Barrera	AC
Stella Brozek-Everaert	WIM ExCom
Arif Goheer	CGE
Peter Mari Govindasamy	KCI
Roberta Ianna	PCCB
Omedi Moses Jura	CTCN Advisory Board
Suil Kang	CTCN secretariat
Bianka Kretschmer	AFB secretariat
Kunzang	PCCB
Sergio La Motta	TEC
Richard Mfumu Lungu	LEG
Silvia Mancini	AFB secretariat
Rita Mishaan	AC
Joanna Post	NWP
Dorji Tshewang	GEF secretariat
Maria Laura Vinuela	ACE
Capacity-building Team	UNFCCC