

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

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**Summary Report of The Eighth Meeting  
(held on 11 November 2024)**

**I. Background**

*ICG establishment and objective*

In line with the workplan of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) for 2021-2024<sup>1</sup>, 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.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

*ICG membership*

The ICG currently (as of November 2024) comprises 24 members from 15 constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant UNFCCC processes.<sup>4</sup>

*Eighth ICG meeting*

The eighth ICG meeting (ICG 8) was held on Monday, 11 November 2024, 10:15–11:45 AZT/UTC +4, in conjunction with COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. 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

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

<sup>2</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/PCCB-ICG>.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/13 Annex II.

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

to this document. ICG 8 was moderated by Abze Djigma and Rohemir Ramirez Ballagas, PCCB Co-Chairs and members of PCCB working group 1 on coherence and coordination of capacity-building.

The final list of participants of ICG 8 is contained in the annex of this report.

## II. Meeting Summary

### *Reflection on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Focus Area 2024*

Following welcoming remarks and words of gratitude shared by Abze Djigma, PCCB Co-Chair, addressed to all ICG members for engaging with the ICG in the past and the invitation to all ICG members to join the 6<sup>th</sup> Capacity-building Hub holding during COP29, the ICG members turned to agenda item 2, which focused on the reflection on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Focus Area 2024- “Capacity-building support for adaptation, with a focus on addressing gaps and needs related to accessing finance for national adaptation plans (NAPs)”.

Abze Djigma started with thanking the AC who has collaborated with the PCCB on the Focus Area 2024, including on the 13<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum, the Durban Forum Deep Dive Webinar on de-risking strategy to enhance adaptation finance which took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> October, a series of events under the focus area, and the annual report.

Rita Mishaan, representing the AC, expressed the AC’s willingness to continue collaborating with the PCCB and other constitutive bodies in order to **avoid the duplication of efforts** between bodies and to further build on knowledge that each committee has under their mandate. She agreed that the Durban Forum and the follow up deep dive webinar were important milestones in the collaboration and highlighted two important lessons learned from events, including:

1. Capacity building elements focusing on building national in-house and long-term capacity can enable countries to take **ownership** in their adaptation finance and investment planning for implementing NAPs.
2. Many countries and representatives communicated that they would appreciate **having more opportunities to learn and exchange with other countries**. They also mentioned that it was important to **go beyond the classroom setting**, while bringing in more lively collaborations and activities.

Outlook on the activities under the new focus area for 2025 and potential collaboration with all ICG members

Rohemir Ramirez Ballagas, PCCB Co-Chair, introduced the new focus area 2025 - “capacity building for designing holistic investment strategies, bankable projects and stakeholder engagement to strengthen the implementation of NDCs and naps in developing countries.” by delving into the three different components:

1. **Investment strategies:** How can developing countries be equipped with the capacities to create robust investment plans tailored for climate goals, balancing risk, time horizon and market conditions to attract and manage funding efficiently.
2. **Bankable projects:** What are capacities needed to effectively support the development of projects that meet financial viability and climate impact criteria, ensuring projects attract investment while aligning with NDC and nap priorities.
3. **Stakeholder engagement:** How to strengthen collaboration with governments, the private sector and communities to foster institutional capacity and CO create an enabling environment for climate action, for more effective capacity building in these areas, in order to fill this focus area with life.

Rohemir Ramirez Ballagas announced the activities which were currently anticipated:

- PCCB Focus Area Launch Event at COP 29
- Call for submission on the focus area in the beginning of 2025
- 14<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum during SB 62 sessions
- Deep Dive Webinar around September or October in 2025
- A series of events during 7<sup>th</sup> Capacity-building Hub at COP 30
- Potential regional events, for example, during the NDC regional dialogs in 2025 and the regional climate weeks

The PCCB Co-Chairs then opened the floor to all ICG members for potential collaboration ideas and sharing of ongoing activities.

Gabriel Kpaka, representing the LEG, acknowledged that capacity-building is at the heart of LEG and they are happy to provide technical support to the PCCB. The representative of the LEG then shared the work they have been doing in collaboration with other bodies and partners and looking forward to more collaboration with the PCCB to implement their activities.

- **On-going work:**
  - **NAP Implementation Pipeline Development Initiative** (Finance for NAPs): In 2022, 66 out of 93 LDC's project ideas are to be further developed into concept note for submission to the GCF and other funding agencies. These project ideas can be picked up by the following PCCB work;
  - **Technical guidelines** for developing countries;
  - **Open NAP Initiative:** forming direct dialogue with LEG countries;
  - **NAP Data Initiative:** a set of tools to help countries to formulate NAPs
  - Policy briefs
- **Potential Collaboration:**
  - All on-going work stated above, especially updating the existing tools including the **technical guidelines and the Open NAP Initiative.**

Cecile Schneider (PCCB) expressed her support of the agreement on the focus area 2025 and looking forward to the launching event at the Capacity-building Hub where stakeholders can further discuss this topic including the planning of the events next year.

Lilian De Leon (PCCB) reiterated that while the SDGs are not binding, the member states have to **take ownership** in establishing framework and doable mechanisms and initiatives addressing climate change. She highlighted the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms could serve as the guides for member states and entities to use on proposing activities and programmes that support the focus area 2025. The PCCB member also emphasized that local, national and regional **networks should be maximized** in the coming five years and good practices should be shared for replication among developing countries and LDCs in partnership with INGOs and other development partners.

Sameera Sheikh (PCCB) expressed her anticipation of the rolling out of Focus Area 2025 and underlining that coordination efforts among different constituted bodies, as well as non-party stakeholder would be needed in the topic.

*Overview of upcoming capacity-building activities, with a view to exploring concrete collaboration opportunities*

The Co-Chairs moved forward to the fourth agenda item which welcomed all ICG members to share activities that have potential for collaboration or coordination with other bodies or their views on perceived coordination gaps and how they might be addressed. The Co-Chairs added that members can

share their views on how the members could strengthen each other's position regarding the ongoing negotiation process.

Rita Mishaan, representing the AC, pointed out that the focus of the AC is creating enabling conditions for climate and adaptation decisions, and she shared some on-going work by the AC.

- **On-going work:**

- Implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)
  - Supporting the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience through technical guidance and training materials.
  - Mapping existing resources and training materials.
  - Incorporating feedback from surveys and events (e.g., SB 60).
  - Developing a strategy paper for next steps.
- Preparing recommendations on reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)
- Interactive Country Profiles Portal
  - Showcasing adaptation actions for all 198 UNFCCC parties.
  - Providing information on adaptation finance and strategies.
  - Highlighting good practices and examples for learning and inspiration.

- **Potential Collaboration:**

- Development of technical guidance and training materials
- **Leveraging the interactive portal** as a resource for adaptation learning and knowledge-sharing.

Rita Mishaan also emphasized the importance of the PCCB in addressing capacity-building gaps and praised its efforts to bring diverse actors, including NGOs, youth, and financial institutions, to the table through the hub. She highlighted the **challenges faced by small delegations** in navigating UNFCCC negotiations and stressed the need for **capacity-building to support their participation**. Recognizing the valuable role of youth, she shared Guatemala's approach of **involving young people in national delegations** to gain hands-on negotiation experience. She underscored the importance of **combining theoretical training with practical engagement** and called for countries to create opportunities for youth within delegations, while also commending the collaborative efforts between the PCCB and the AC in advancing capacity-building initiatives.

Angelica Romero, representing the KCI, agreed that it is very important for KCI to collaborate with other constitute bodies and shared several undergoing works for potential collaboration.

- **On-going work:**
  - **Several knowledge products** aim at building the capacity for parties to manage the impacts on the response measure, which includes maximizing the positive impacts but also reducing or addressing any adverse impacts. The products covered diverse topic such as:
    - Impact assessment
    - Impact of emerging industry
    - Impact of people and vulnerable situations
  - Events where KCI invited experts to brainstorm on topics surrounding social and economic aspect of climate actions
  - 2 recent KCI activities
    - **Technical Paper:** aims to enhance capacity and an understanding of parties on the assessment and analysis of the social economic and environmental impacts of the implementation of climate action.
    - **Capacity-building Programme:** aims to assist parties in undertaking impacts assessment of climate action.
  - First Global Dialogue
- **Potential Collaboration:**
  - **The training modules** on stakeholder engagement, impact assessment and analysis and just transition, economic diversification, data and information management system and transparent reporting as a part of the training course.

Gabriel Kpaka, representing the LEG, shared some key gaps and needs findings from the LDC groups, including:

- Capacity building for implementation of NAPs: **the NAPs' formulation process** and how to **articulate** it.
- Access to finance: **expand the fund mapping**, not only within the UNFCCC funding mechanism but also outside of it (philanthropies, private sectors etc)
- Develop a generic Capacity Building Initiative: to minimize funding needed and speak to various mandates

Rafik Aini, representing the WIM ExCom, asked about the link between PCCB and other ICG members, as well as the action on the ground of the PCCB. Abze Djigma and Alejandro Kilpatrick (PCCB)

responded to the question by stating that PCCB is amplifying capacity-building activities and programmes within UNFCCC with an aim to provide coherence and avoid duplications.

Wenxin Li, representing the GEF, added that capacity-building is a very important element for GEF activities, for example:

- **Country engagement:** national dialogues, country workshops, introductory seminars for countries to understand how to access GEF funding and what type of support they can get to access GEF.
- **Dedicated funding for Capacity-building Initiatives for Transparency (CBIT):** as of October 2024, the funding has supported about 100 projects covering 90 countries with about 168 million on these capacity building activities.
- Capacity-building across all projects and programmes: to tackle specific gaps and needs for different stakeholders, including different countries, regions, ages, and focus.

Eva Huttová, representing the CGE, shared some information on the CG work which focus on providing the technical assistance and support to developing country parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations to the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement and its article searching the enhancement of transparency framework.

- **On-going work:**
  - Technical advice and support to countries in preparing the NDCs, General Transparency Reports (**Focus on BTRs**).
  - Providing additional technical advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the training of technical experts and review team.
  - Regional preparatory webinars and hands on training workshops on the general transparency report (using ETF reporting tools: promote peer learning and peer review of info of the report)
- **Potential Collaboration / Linkage:**
  - Reporting linkage: make good use of the **feedback summary** of BTRs to capture **financial and technical gaps and needs** for implementing NDCs.
  - Support linkage: the BTRs can serve as an important vehicle for **highlighting support needed** for countries to effectively mobilize the resources and strengthen the implementation of NAPs.
  - Learning linkage: From the **feedback mechanism**, the CG captured that **countries would like to have more case studies** on the global goal on adaptation, improving

techniques, knowledge and communication on adaptation. They are looking also for **more materials** on tracking and explaining narratively their climate action's results and access to more in-depth knowledge on NDC, tracking, smart indicators, creation etc.

Wiebke Bender, representing the Gender Team, introduced the capacity elements in the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its Gender Action Plan, as well as how these engaged with constituted bodies.

- Key Capacity-Building elements under the work programme:
  - Building capacity for **national gender and climate change focal points**.
  - Capacity-building across **thematic streams**, including for the UNFCCC Secretariat.
  - Strengthening capacity for **women delegates**, with specific focus on **young women and indigenous women**.
- Current activities under the work programme:
  - **Workshop on Gender Data:** Focused on prioritization and transparency in NDCs and BTERs.
  - **Training on Climate Finance:** Organized for national gender and climate change focal points, in collaboration with the Adaptation Fund, GCF, and GEF.
- Gender Action Plan is currently under review

Hyunjin Chang, representing the ACE, gave an overview of ACE, shared the recent activities and initiatives under ACE and introduced the events held by the Youth Climate Champion.

- Recent Activities and Initiatives:
  - **ACE Focal Points Academy, ACE Hub Youth Events** and informal **networking events for ACE focal points** during SB sessions in June.
- Potential Collaboration on Focus Area 2025: **stakeholder engagement, youth engagement**
- The Presidency Youth Climate Champion (Ms. Leila Hasanova of Azerbaijan) Activities:
  - Summer camp for young educators in August 2024
  - Various consultations with youth in party delegations and observer constituencies
  - High level roundtable next Monday during Children and Youth Day

### Closure of the meeting

The Co-Chairs expressed gratitude to participants for their commitment and hard work, emphasizing the importance of translating ideas into concrete actions by the next meeting. Appreciation was extended to



colleagues and the Secretariat for their efforts despite limited resources, with a call for increased funding to support capacity-building work. The meeting was adjourned with well wishes for a successful COP and future collaboration.

## **Annex: Agenda and List of Participants of the Eighth ICG meeting**

### Agenda

1. Welcome remarks and round of introductions (PCCB)
2. Reflection on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Focus Area 2024 (AC/PCCB)
3. Outlook on the activities under the new focus area for 2025 and potential collaboration with all ICG members (all ICG members)
4. Other matters (all ICG members)
5. Closure of the meeting (PCCB)

### List of Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Body/entity/process</b>
Abze Djigma	PCCB
Alejandro Kilpatrick	UNFCCC secretariat
Angelica Romero	KCI
Cécile Schneider	PCCB
David Oehmen	UNFCCC secretariat
Eva Huttová	CGE
Gabriel Kpaka	LEG
Hyunjin Chang	UNFCCC secretariat
Julian Hodgkin	UNFCCC secretariat
Korinna von Teichman	UNFCCC secretariat
Lilian De Leon	PCCB
Rafik Aini	WIM ExCom
Rita Mishaan	AC
Rohemir Ramirez-Ballagas	PCCB
Sameera Sheikh	PCCB
Wenxin Li	GEF
Wiebke Bender	UNFCCC secretariat
Yingting Lau	UNFCCC secretariat