

## Concept Note

### **In-Person Pilot Training: Capacity Building for Negotiators** **Tentative Dates: 17 - 20 September in Nairobi, Kenya (TBC)**

#### **1. Background**

With the implementation of the Paris Agreement gaining momentum, there is a growing need to translate global climate commitments into concrete national actions. Achieving this requires empowered stakeholders adept in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) intergovernmental process and capable of engaging effectively in international negotiations. Since the seventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP 7) in Marrakech (2001), strengthening capacity of negotiators has been a core focus of the UNFCCC's framework.

The UNFCCC secretariat through its Regional Collaboration Centres (RCCs), as the regional arms, are vital in delivering targeted capacity-building activities. The RCCs engage a broad range of actors, including policymakers, negotiators, legal experts, and legislators among others, aligning regional nuance with global commitments, as outlined in the 2024 - 2025 RCC workplan.

The knowledge and understanding of the UNFCCC process, including its legal basis, structure, rules of procedures, negotiations and decision-making within meetings is key to ensuring that negotiators can meaningfully engage in the process and to ensure its inclusivity and legitimacy. Recognizing this, SBI 62 acknowledged the need to make the organization of work under the UNFCCC process more efficient and requested the secretariat to support Party delegates, in particular youth delegates, in building their capacity to engage in the negotiation process, and to make training and other relevant materials available on the UNFCCC website (AIM conclusions paragraph 35. (b)).

In this context, a pilot training program will be held from 17 - 20 September in Nairobi Kenya, in collaboration with the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES), a think tank that has trained over 1,700 African experts in climate governance, diplomacy, and negotiations. The training will also be delivered in partnership with the Centre for Multilateral Negotiations (CEMUNE), which will collaborate with UNFCCC to jointly deliver some of the modules.

The pilot will adopt a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) approach, serving as a platform to enhance the capacities of African negotiators and the validation of the proposed capacity building approach and methodology. Feedback obtained will inform refining future programming and support online resource development, a crucial step toward formally establishing the training and strengthening national and regional implementation of the Paris Agreement.

#### **2. Objectives of the Pilot Training**

- Enhance the capacities of African negotiators.
- Exchange knowledge on the UNFCCC process.
- Validate the proposed approach and methodology for the capacity-building project.
- Test key training modules with a representative group of stakeholders.
- Assess regional needs and gather feedback to tailor the full-scale programme.
- Strengthen RCC involvement through the Train-the-Trainer (ToT) approach.

#### **3. Participants**

- A selected group of Negotiators from Africa as proposed by AGNES and RCC (max 20 pax)
- UNFCCC secretariat staff (RCC, ISCP, LA and other relevant divisions).

#### 4. Tentative Agenda

| Day   | Session Title                                              | Objectives                                                                                                                                   | Format                                     |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Day 1 | Welcome & Objectives                                       | Set the tone, clarify goals and structure of the pilot training                                                                              | <b>Plenary</b>                             |
|       | Module 1: Climate Science Basics                           | Understand climate science, IPCC data, and relevance for negotiation framing                                                                 | <b>Presentation + Hands-on Exercise</b>    |
|       | Exchange & Reflections – Module 1                          | Discuss how science informs positions and arguments                                                                                          | <b>Group Discussion</b>                    |
|       | Module 2: Legal and Procedural Issues                      | Gain understanding of the legal architecture of the UNFCCC process, draft rules of procedure, negotiating groups,                            | <b>Presentation + Q&amp;A</b>              |
|       | Exchange & Reflections – Module 2                          | Discuss insights, challenges and connect to participant experience                                                                           | <b>Plenary</b>                             |
| Day 2 | Module 3: Training of Co-Facilitators                      | Technical/procedural considerations, reflection and facilitation tools                                                                       | <b>Interactive ToT Session</b>             |
|       | Exchange & Reflections – Module 3                          | Peer discussion and co-facilitation practice feedback                                                                                        | <b>Peer Review + Role Play</b>             |
|       | Module 4: Managing the Negotiation Process                 | Explore pre-, in-, and post-conference planning, info management, document drafting, and coordination                                        | <b>Training Workshop + Case Study</b>      |
|       | Exchange & Reflections – Module 4                          | Share practice from the field and discuss coordination challenges                                                                            | <b>Roundtable / Peer Exchange</b>          |
|       | Module 5: Climate Negotiation Fundamentals & Communication | Communication in climate negotiations, Understand core negotiation skills, tools, and the role of negotiators, practice real-world scenarios | <b>Presentation, Simulation, Role Play</b> |
|       | Exchange & Reflections – Module 5                          | Discuss insights, challenges, and lessons learned                                                                                            | <b>Group Discussion</b>                    |
| Day 3 | Module 6: Artificial Intelligence in Negotiations          | Introduce AI tools supporting negotiation tracking and strategy                                                                              | <b>Tool Demo + Simulation</b>              |
|       | Exchange & Reflections – Module 6                          | Evaluate usefulness, risks, and future application                                                                                           | <b>Debate or Feedback Panel</b>            |
|       | Next Steps & Wrap-Up                                       | Define roles, follow-up, and training package finalization                                                                                   | <b>Plenary</b>                             |