

Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)

Call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders:

Annual PCCB focus area

Background

The PCCB aims to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging, in implementing capacity-building in developing country Parties and further enhance capacity-building efforts.

Current priority areas are:

- a) Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention;
- b) Identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and recommending ways to address them;
- c) Promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing and stakeholder engagement.

To learn more about the work of the PCCB, you can access its annual reports and other documents [here](#).

Topics for submissions

The PCCB annually focuses on an area related to enhanced technical exchange on capacity-building. It determined, in its 2021-2024 workplan, to make calls for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the annual PCCB focus area.

Submissions form

We thank you in advance for filling out this template with concise, evidence-based information and for referencing all relevant sources. There are 2 sections in this template:

- *Details about your organization*
- *Guiding questions about implementing NDCs and national development plans in developing countries*

How will the inputs be used?

The inputs will feed into the PCCB's workplan activities in 2021, including a focus area day at the 3rd Capacity-building Hub at COP 26, and envisaged regional activities and webinars. The inputs will also inform the design and preparations of the 10th Durban Forum on capacity-building envisaged to be held during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2021. Responding to the request of the COP for the SBI to align the theme of the Durban Forum on capacity-building with the annual focus area of the PCCB, the PCCB has been working to ensure alignment between discussions at the annual Durban Forum and the work of the PCCB related to its annual focus area.

Further information:

You are welcome to provide any other information that your organization thinks would highlight suggestions made in response to this call for submissions.

Address for submission: pccb@unfccc.int

Deadline for submissions: 30 March 2021

Please only fill out sections that are relevant to the work of your organization. Please note that no section is mandatory.

Organization or entity name:

Aether

Type of organization:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Development bank / financial institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International network, coalition, or initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> Research organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional network, coalition, or initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> University/education/training organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public sector entity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private sector entity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropic organization |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ |

Organization Location

City: Oxford

Country: UK

Scale of operation:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local | <input type="checkbox"/> Subregional |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary |

City(ies)/Country(ies) of operation (if appropriate):

Middle East, Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe

The annual PCCB focus area

At its fourth meeting in June 2020, the PCCB agreed on the following focus area for 2021:

*‘Building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs
in the context of national development plans’*

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change through the implementation of NDCs and national development plans, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. This presents ample opportunities for synergies and the PCCB, with its strong mandate to engage with other bodies under and outside the Convention, is well positioned to promote coherence in achieving climate and development objectives.

To foster coherence in the implementation of NDCs and national development plans, an enhanced understanding of the key barriers and capacity-building gaps and needs hindering their coherent implementation, as well as of existing solutions is needed.

In implementing NDCs and national development plans in a coherent manner, in your experience, what are:

the key interventions?

- Developing nationally focused skills, expertise and institutional understanding around opportunities and threats of climate change and the actions needed to respond:
 - Climate change mitigation (e.g. NDC targets)
 - Climate change adaptation (e.g. NDCs or NAPs)
 - Linking economic development plans
 - Understanding wider impacts on other areas such as gainful employment, health, well-being, gender equality and rights for marginalized groups
- A country can take decisive, well balanced action with the support of a national transparency system. This system engages stakeholders around outcomes using gathered evidence of climate related challenges and constraints and gaps and opportunities for effective, broad-reaching action. Aether has good experience in this area through its work scoping out national transparency systems for several countries (e.g. Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, the Republic of North Macedonia and Azerbaijan).
- Alignment of national development plans with NDCs: The process of 'climate proofing' is a helpful tool/methodology that can help to align national development plans with NDC outcomes. Aether and Vivid Economics have experience in delivering this in Lebanon. This included a process of:
 - Review of actions, policies and measures in national development plans
 - Mitigation and adaptation assessments of the actions to evaluate projected impact against NDC targets
 - Suggestion of enhancements to 'climate-proof' individual actions that would bring overall direction of national economic development in line with national climate commitments.
 - Cost-benefit analysis of climate-proofed scenarios to ensure holistic approach and present the full range of benefits (and drawbacks) to implementing the climate proofed scenario to meet NDCs in terms of impact on jobs, health and the economy
 - Stakeholder engagement and capacity building around the process of climate proofing to support its integration into mainstream policy development
- To support this process it is important to build up and maintain the evidence base of national actions, policies and measures to better understand current initiatives and better track progress against defined outcomes.
- Development of clear, tangible NDC investment roadmaps with support needs fully resolved and identified, to provide clarity for coordinators and confidence for investors.

the enabling conditions?

- Strong institutional arrangements for transparency support decisive, well balanced climate actions that maximize benefits to other national policies, strategies and SDGs. These transparency arrangements include:
 - Good governance
 - Well defined data flows
 - Sufficient expertise and succession
 - Appropriate systems and tools
 - Effective stakeholder engagement

- Establishing these institutional arrangements will put in place the right mechanisms that will enable countries to be able to effectively monitor, report and verify (MRV) progress against NDC, national development and other social (such as on gender equity, empowerment of marginalized groups, and rights for all tranches of society) outcomes.
- Aether has written guidance on this subject for the UNFCCC Consultative Group of Experts in: The Handbook on Institutional Arrangements for Transparency/MRV of Climate Action
- Good understanding of key national stakeholders, potential and active funders and supporters

the key institutional barriers?

- Lack of high-level buy in and political will
- Lack of experience in coordination to identify overlap between NDC outcomes and national development plans
- Lack of integration of climate change MRV into mainstream development and policy processes based on a lack of awareness / understanding of the synergies and co-benefits of climate action
- Staff-turnover, 'brain-drain' and loss of institutional memory due to inadequate career progression pathways for national experts
- No or poor tools available for data gathering, analysis, stakeholder engagement, tracking and monitoring implementation
- Poorly defined processes for integrating evidence of the 'challenges' (e.g. rising emissions from specific sectors or climate change risks, vulnerabilities and impacts), and information on progress into mainstream policy making processes
- Lack of data on support needs, institutional and practical barriers for investors to support NDC implementation – no data available on progress of implementation of PaMs reduces transparency and confidence for investors. Need well defined investment opportunities, with full scope of costs and benefits well resolved, to provide clear pathway for investors

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

- Monitoring, reporting and verification systems and their outputs (e.g. key indicators, action plans, narratives and stakeholder engagement activities) for developing and tracking balanced climate policies.
 - Ground-level data collection and regular data supply processes
 - A clear picture of sectoral (energy including transport, industrial, agricultural, land use and waste) projections and models
 - Tools and methodologies for mitigation assessments of climate action – to develop emissions estimates and projection scenarios
 - Tools and methodologies for vulnerability assessments and adaptation impact assessments
 - Tools, methodologies and models for cost-benefit analysis of policies and measures
 - Integrating model and scenario outputs into policy making processes
 - Accessing and enabling green finance and support

The knowledge and skills priorities?

- Data management and tracking system architecture skills
- IPCC and GHG protocol Guidelines, and other, methodologies for mitigation assessments
- Projection scenario modelling and modelling tools (e.g. LEAP)

- Risk and vulnerability assessments, quantification of loss and damage
- Identification of co-benefits of climate action and cost-benefit analyses
- Climate finance tagging methodologies, integration of climate finance into mainstream budgeting processes
- Communication of policy and stakeholder engagement for policy implementation

To enhance coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans, who should be the target recipients of capacity-building (e.g. national government officers, local government officers, environmental agencies, civil society)?

- High level government offices and decision makers and national government officers responsible for tracking progress against national development plans – understanding the value of MRV/Transparency systems for them
- National government officers responsible for coordinating climate action MRV – Developing their own transparency systems
- Policy experts
- Sectoral experts from line ministries to better understand how to develop these approaches at the sector level
- Local government and city-level representatives to encourage implementation at the local level
- Representatives from industry and community leaders for grass-roots level engagement

To support NDC implementation and planning in developing countries, what are your suggestions on how to improve capacity-building efforts?

At the national level:

Developing national transparency systems institutional arrangements comprising 1) Good governance, 2) Well defined data flows 3) Sufficient expertise and succession, 4) Appropriate systems and tools, 5) Effective stakeholder engagement:

- Focus on a holistic approach to developing institutional arrangements that will support the institutionalization of any capacity building. Using the framework elements outlined above develop both the ‘soft’ institutional and ‘hard’ IT systems that will result in sustainable, long-term incremental progress of the national system to measure, track and report progress against NDCs and national development plans.
- Align NDC implementation and planning capacity building outcomes with mainstream and departmental goals and objectives
- Working with national focal points to identify training needs, a list of development projects (the Improvement Plan) and a pipeline of opportunities and funding for continued capacity building (a Roadmap) over a longer period of time (3-5 years) to provide some continuity and better coordinate the myriad of different opportunities available to developing countries.
 - Often, a short scoping mission that provides cross-cutting support for national coordination teams can help set up this continued pipeline of support and coordinate activities to ensure the right experts are receiving the right training.
- Identify ‘champions’ - motivated and proactive teams and individuals within the national system who can drive progress and integrate the outcomes of capacity building into day-to-day processes.

At the regional level:

Development of regional hubs that bring together experts from a range of different countries and government and non-government backgrounds. These hubs can support the collective development of approaches, systems and tools as well as providing peer to peer learning and independent transparency system verification.

Good case studies, best practices, tools and methodologies, lessons learned, or examples of support:

Please describe any that build capacity to align NDC implementation with national development plans and/or to mainstream NDCs into national development plans

- Overlap with national development plan evaluation, NDC mainstreaming and MRV system development (Aether and Vivid Economics collaboration):
 - Climate Proofing Lebanon's economic development strategies
 - Belize Low Emission Development Strategy and Action Plan Consultancy
- Coordination of MRV activities for low carbon, climate resilient development (Aether):
 - Designing North Macedonia's MRV system
 - Supporting Azerbaijan in building an MRV Improvement Plan
 - Serbia MRV Specialist
 - Support to Albania for MRV system
 - Honduras NDC Implementation pathways
 - Development of St Lucia's MRV system
 - Antigua and Barbuda MRV consultant
 - Pakistan and Mongolia GHG inventories and MRV support

Useful sources:

Please give examples of useful sources relevant to this topic

(e.g. webpages and portals, publications, fora, organizations working on this issue)

- <https://www.aether-uk.com/Case-studies>
- https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Hand%20book_EN.pdf