

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

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:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Type of organization:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Development bank / financial institution |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private sector entity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropic organization |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ |

Organization Location

City: Geneva

Country: Switzerland

Scale of operation:

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

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

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?

National climate commitments should include a commitment to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, including the right to development, across all actions related to the development and implementation of national climate commitments. States should provide information about how they comply with these obligations. Specifically, periodic NDCs and ACs should highlight priorities, implementation, and support needs for addressing relevant human rights obligations, including: efforts to fulfil the rights of children to education on matters related to climate change, efforts to fulfil the right to an adequate standard of living (housing, food security, water and sanitation, livelihoods and health), and efforts to preserve cultural rights.

Fulfilling human rights obligations with respect to climate change requires higher mitigation ambition in line with parties’ common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and the principle of equity. Explicitly aligning ambition with human rights objectives drove the push for a 1.5°C target in the Paris Agreement. States should explicitly align their mitigation ambition with their obligations under international human rights law to take effective action to prevent foreseeable human rights harms. NDCs should promote concrete actions to pursue the highest possible ambition such as elimination of subsidies for fossil fuels and guaranteeing effective regulation and accountability for private actors.

National climate commitments should include firm commitments with respect to international cooperation in line with human rights obligations and the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. Under core human rights treaties, States acting individually and collectively are obligated to mobilize and allocate the maximum available resources for the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as for the advancement of civil and political rights and the right to development. The failure to adopt reasonable measures to mobilize available resources to prevent foreseeable human rights harms caused by climate change breaches this obligation. The mobilization of resources should complement and not compromise other efforts of Governments to pursue the full realization of all human rights for all, including the right to development. Innovative measures, such as carbon taxes, with appropriate safeguards to minimize negative impacts on the poor, can be designed to internalize environmental externalities and mobilize additional resources to finance mitigation and adaptation efforts that aim to benefit the poorest and most marginalized.

National climate commitments should also include information about efforts to protect the rights of those in particularly vulnerable situations from the adverse effects of climate change and ensure that they are the primary beneficiaries of climate action. This could include impact assessments, social and environmental safeguards, a clear commitment to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in the context of any cooperative approaches (i.e. mechanisms under article 6, REDD+) and efforts to promote access to justice and effective remedy (i.e. independent grievance mechanisms). National climate commitments should promote a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders.

States have obligations under international human rights law and the Paris Agreement to mainstream women's rights and gender equality in climate action. In their NDCs, States should commit to mainstreaming women's rights and gender equality throughout climate action and they should identify specific, gender-related actions that they will carry out. These should include a commitment to mainstream women's rights and gender equality across all policy areas covered by the NDC (including mitigation, adaptation and support). Linkages between national climate commitments, national gender action plans, programmes and policies should be clearly identified in NDCs promoting policy coherence and gender-responsive action in all areas. Women and girls, gender focal points, institutional gender equality frameworks and coordination mechanisms should have a clearly defined role in the design, and implementation of national climate commitments

Moreover, States have obligations under international human rights law and the Paris Agreement to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and to ensure their free, prior and informed consent. The right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making related to and benefit from the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices must be protected, including in relation to adaptation and mitigation and building on guidance developed by the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

National climate commitments should clearly indicate the measures taken to ensure that the commitment was developed through transparent, participatory and inclusive processes, and include a commitment to participatory and inclusive implementation. National climate commitments must be based on the best available science, include a commitment to periodically increase ambition, ensure accountability for those responsible for climate harms, and guarantee access to effective remedy for those affected by climate change and/or climate action. The inclusion of National Human Rights Institutions in the planning and implementation of national climate commitments, including the development of appropriate consultative processes, can contribute to more effective integration of human rights in climate commitments.

the enabling conditions?

Ensuring rights-based environmental governance grounded in international cooperation and solidarity is an important enabling condition for implementing NDCs and national development plans in a coherent manner. Such governance should be in line with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and promote a holistic approach to the 2030 Agenda.

The importance of policy coherence is also highlighted in the context of the implementation of NDCs taking into consideration the broader sustainable development agenda. There are strong synergies between the NDCs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – all of the seventeen SDGs as well as the large majority of the SDG targets are reflected in some of the NDCs.

A [joint 2020 submission by 8 UN entities to the UNFCCC regarding Action for Climate Empowerment](#) suggests that the work of the PCCB “be closely linked to that on ACE in order to promote a coherent

approach to quality training and systematic capacity-building for more effective climate action under the UNFCCC. This work should necessarily reflect efforts to build capacity to implement the human rights commitments of States in the context of climate change.” In particular, elements of the ACE agenda such as education, access to information and meaningful participation in climate action are human rights in their own right, and can moreover be enabling factors for effective and sustainable climate action.

the key institutional barriers?

Institutional barriers to effective and rights-based and coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans include lack of coordination, lack of transparency, lack of meaningful and informed participation and lack of accountability to rights-holders.

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

As noted by a [joint 2020 submission by 8 UN entities to the UNFCCC regarding Action for Climate Empowerment](#), “there is a need for additional training and capacity-building with respect to human rights and climate change”. The Paris Committee on Capacity-building is currently working with support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to develop a joint online module on climate change and human rights. This module was mandated during the technical meetings of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies in 2019 (more information [here](#) and [here](#)), and will be an important element in responding to the needs identified. OHCHR is also developing materials and guidance on integrating human rights in NDCs.

the knowledge and skills priorities?

Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of science and its applications. States should actively support the development, dissemination and transfer of new climate mitigation and adaptation technologies, including technologies for sustainable production and consumption. Technology transfers between States should ensure a just, comprehensive and effective international response to climate change in line with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as outlined in Article 3 of the UNFCCC. Moreover, the right of indigenous peoples to participate in decision-making related to and benefit from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices should be protected, including in relation to adaptation and mitigation and building on guidance developed by the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

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)?

National climate commitments should promote capacity development of different groups, including for rights-holders including indigenous peoples, local communities, women’s organizations, civil society organizations, and government officials at the national and subnational levels.

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

At the national level:

Capacity-building on existing human rights norms and standards in relation to climate change and on rights-based climate action at the national level would contribute to support NDC implementation and planning in developing countries. Adequate resources should be mobilized to support relevant capacities, planning and consultation processes and implementation.

At the regional level:

Several regional treaties focused on human rights and the environment could guide capacity-building efforts on climate change and human rights. For instance, as noted in the joint OHCHR-ECLAC publication [Climate change and human rights: contributions by and for Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (December 2019): “As an environmental and human rights treaty, the Escazú Agreement aims to ensure the right of present and future generations to a healthy environment and to sustainable development through the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice”. As noted in a [joint 2020 submission by 8 UN entities to the UNFCCC regarding Action for Climate Empowerment](#): “Work under the Aarhus Convention has supported capacity-building of public officials on effectively providing the public with access to environmental information, as well as how to organise inclusive and meaningful public participation on climate-related decision-making.” Implementation of existing laws, norms and standards on participation, access to information and access to justice including Rio Principle 10, the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement should be part of capacity-building efforts to support NDC implementation and planning in developing countries.

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

A number of NDCs explicitly refer to capacity building in the context of climate change and human rights. For instance, the NDC of Georgia notes that “It is fundamental to incorporate a gender- and human rights-sensitive approach in adaptation planning capacity building, prioritizing the most vulnerable sectors and regions in order to reduce social inequality and the gap between women and men rights.” The NDC of South Sudan states “Furthermore, it is fundamental to incorporate a gender and human rights approach into capacity building, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups in order to reduce social inequality”, and the NDC of the Marshall Islands notes that “Women, men, and youth should be included and engaged as valuable stakeholders in identifying and addressing the climate change concerns of their communities and to share knowledge for responses to ensure their strengthened resilience. Further support should also be commissioned from gender organizations in RMI, as well as gender and human rights experts in advocacy, engagement and capacity building, and for enhancing sector-specific gender considerations”.

In addition, regarding the importance of mainstreaming NDCs into national development plans in the context of climate change and human rights, the NDC of Guatemala notes that: “The contributions contained in the INDC will be incorporated into the National Development Plan –KATUN 2032- of the country in an articulated, coherent and systemic effort with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, with a low emission focus. The foregoing, complying with the mandates of the National Climate Change Policy (Government Agreement 329-2009), the Framework Law on Climate Change and its safeguards (Art. 3), human rights, gender equity, the rights of indigenous peoples and the principles recognized internationally by the country” (translated from original Spanish).

Useful sources:

Please give examples of useful sources relevant to this topic (e.g. webpages and portals, publications, fora, organizations working on this issue)

OHCHR Information Materials on Climate Change and Human Rights:
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/HRAndClimateChange/Pages/Information-Materials.aspx>

OHCHR Factsheet on Climate Change and Human Rights, including references to NDCs, sustainable development and capacity building:
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet38_FAQ_HR_CC_EN.pdf