

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:

Sustainable Development Initiative (SDI), by Gold Standard Foundation and UNEP DTU

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 checked="" 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 (for Gold Standard)

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):

Capacity Building Activities of the SDI are linked to the locations of Article 6 pilots (voluntary cooperation)

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.

About the SDI:

Parties to the Paris Agreement are able to cooperate in the implementation of their NDCs through market and non-market-based approaches, under Article 6. Article 6.1 of the Paris Agreement states that the objective of this is (underlining added) “to allow for higher ambition in their mitigation and adaptation action and to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity.” Article 6 therefore presents a clear path for Parties to coherently implement their NDCs while promoting sustainable development. However how this will be operationalized in practice is not yet certain, and there is mixed experience of the promotion of sustainable development under the market-based mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol.

The Sustainable Development Initiative (SDI) is a joint activity of Gold Standard and UNEP DTU. The initiative explores Party and other stakeholder views on options to assist with the implementation of sustainable development provisions in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Based on technical work, research and analysis, the SDI regularly presents options for guidance, rules, modalities and procedures to operationalize the Article 6 sustainable development provisions.

The implementation of Article 6 is part of the NDC process and is also relevant for national development plans, in particular in developing countries. These plans can provide guidance on how to promote sustainable development through Article 6.

The responses to the questions below are intended to provide answers and information that relate to the SDI’s mandate, to support Parties and other stakeholders in the implementation of sustainable development provisions in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. For this reason, not all questions have been answered, and the responses given are focused primarily on Article 6-related considerations.

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

the key interventions?

NDC related policies and measures should align with national development plans. **Regular exchanges** between competent authorities that oversee implementing NDCs and national development plans is crucial. **Outcomes** of these exchanges should be **shared with relevant stakeholders and** wherever possible **with other Parties**. With respect to the activity scope of the SDI, both NDC implementation and national development plans may determine objectives in relation to sustainable development (and SDG

if applicable). This, in return may become relevant for Parties that host Article 6 activities. A key intervention method for SDI is to **support early movers** (e.g. parties that implement Article 6 **pilots**) in realizing mitigation co-benefits which will contribute to setting a good practice benchmark right from the start.

the enabling conditions?

The awareness of relevant stakeholders in and outside UNFCCC discussions is crucial for a successful implementation of NDCs and development plans.

The tools, frameworks and methodologies to enable governments to quantify and track progress towards sustainable development goals, and attribute this to particular climate policies or interventions as part of NDC implementation. The SDI, among other stakeholders, is working to strengthen these.

the key institutional barriers?

Unclear competences and untransparent processes

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

For Parties that wish to engage in market-based cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement as 'sellers' (i.e. transferring mitigation outcomes for use by other parties), it presents an opportunity to attract finance into sectors that are strategically important for the Party's national climate and/or development plans.

As the use of Article 6 is nascent, greater capacity-building is required for officials within host governments (expected to primarily be developing countries in the short-term) to ensure that Article 6 participation is consistent with and helps to promote their climate and development plans. Capacity is also required on the part of those developing projects (typically private sector actors) to ensure that sustainable development impacts of projects are effectively and accurately monitored.

the knowledge and skills priorities?

Greater understanding of Article 6 across national governments would be beneficial, to ensure it is considered as a potential source of finance alongside traditional sources of public and private finance.

There is value, as highlighted above, in national government's having access to tools that can quantify and track the sustainable development benefits of climate-related projects and policies, in order to inform and enable a more coherent approach to national climate and development plans. The SDI is developing and piloting such tools, and other stakeholders are taking similar steps.

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 and local government officers, civil society, project developers

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

At the national level:

Strengthening the relationships between relevant stakeholders (DNAs, project developers, verifiers, statistic agencies), providing space for exchange of lessons learned. For instance the SDI is exploring the

development of a community of practice to promote sustainable development and ambition through the use of market-based mechanisms, bringing together interested stakeholders to advance work and share knowledge and best practice. This initiative, and similar ones, can enable capacity-building and help to drive action.

At the regional level:

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

Good Practice Guidance, a simple guidance that may be used to conduct a 'preliminary assessment' of a potential Article 6 activity <https://unepdtu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/11-sdi-2020-good-practices-preliminary-assessment-guidance-v11-final.pdf>

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.goldstandard.org/blog-item/sustainable-development-initiative-sdi>

<https://unepdtu.org/project/sustainable-development-dialogue-on-the-implementation-of-article-6-of-the-paris-agreement-under-the-unfccc-process/>