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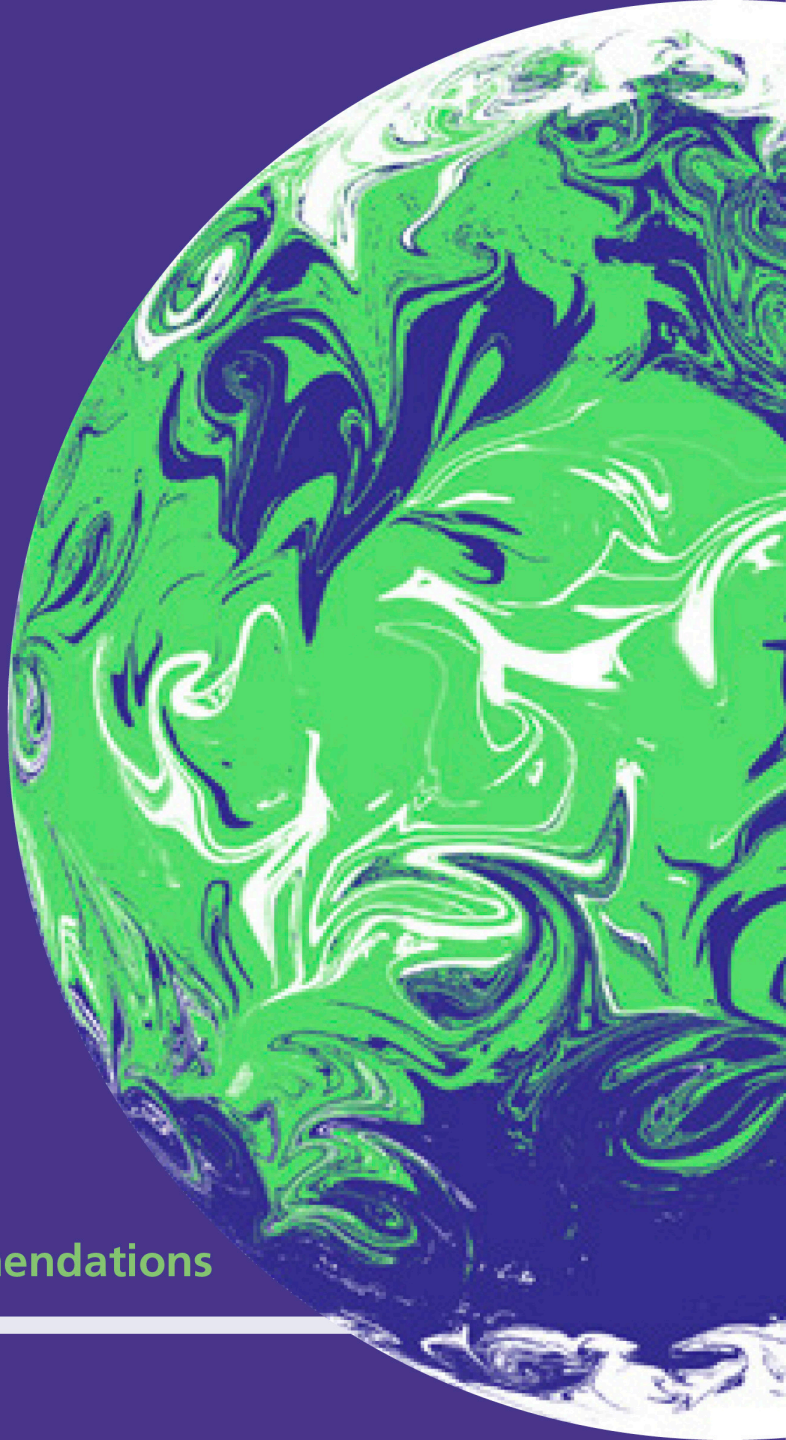
Action Recommendations on Capacity Building for

Adaptation Communications



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Challenges Identified

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- What, if any, is the purpose of ADCOMs at the national level?
- How can capacity building for ADCOMs be delivered in a way that:
  - It is **long-term and iterative**, rather than sporadic, and can be **retained** over time.
  - Ensures that capacities to contribute meaningfully to ADCOMs are built across **sectors and scales**.
  - Ensures that the ADCOMs are **inclusive**, particularly of the voices of the most vulnerable.
  - Ensures **synergies between ADCOMs and other adaptation-related activities and reports** (national and global).
  - Ensures the capacity to **rapidly revise and reorient** ADCOMs, and adaptation planning and implementation, in the aftermath of climate-related extreme events, or as climate projections evolve
- What are the “new” capacities that are needed for ADCOMs (and other reports with overlaps, such as the Biennial Transparency Reports)?

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General Recommendations

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- Capacity building for ADCOMs should be part of a bigger, nationally owned and driven process of capacity building for adaptation more broadly, **anchored in national institutions and processes**; and **targeted at all levels, sectors, and stakeholders**.
- National decisions on whether to prepare ADCOMs, and their content and periodicity, should be **based on both national and global benefits** of preparing such a communication.
- Finance for capacity building for adaptation in general, and for Adaptation Communications specifically, should be delivered in a way that **facilitates national ownership, anchoring, inclusion, and long-term sustainability**.

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General Recommendations

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- For the ADCOMs to be useful at the national and local levels**, information should flow both ways** – from the national to local, and local to national – and included in the Communications.
- All potential capacities – government and non-government – should be strengthened and deployed, for **strong, inclusive, and meaningful partnerships**.
- **"New" (or pre-existing and unaddressed) ADCOM-related capacities may need special focus** – for instance, the capacity to assess finance needs for adaptation, and to report on finance/ support received; or even local capacity to access technical information for short and long-term adaptation planning.

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Specific Recommendations

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- **Funders** should provide **coordinated, adequate, predictable, flexible, targeted** funding for long-term capacity building for producing the ADCOMs and for adaptation in general.
- **UNFCCC/ Adaptation Committee** should provide **guidelines and tools in local languages**, encourage **knowledge sharing platforms**. **NFPs for adaptation** are needed.
- **National governments** should invest in **long-term, integrated and coordinated systemic, human, and institutional capacity, across sectors and levels**. Specific capacities needed include **fundraising for ADCOMS**, ensuring **a truly inclusive process**, using the ADCOMs to generate **political and public support**.

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- Capacity building is also needed for **sectoral ministries and departments**, to **understand impacts** on the sector, and **ensure inclusive planning and implementation** of responses.
- Capacity building of **local governments** is critical – including **to understand local impacts**; **identify the most vulnerable** and prioritise their needs; ensure **inclusion**; **track and report** progress, needs and gaps; **assess local financial needs**; **access funding**; and **report on funding received** for adaptation.
- Finally, capacity for **stakeholders** is essential, to enable them to **engage, participate** and **contribute**, and to **ensure accountability**.

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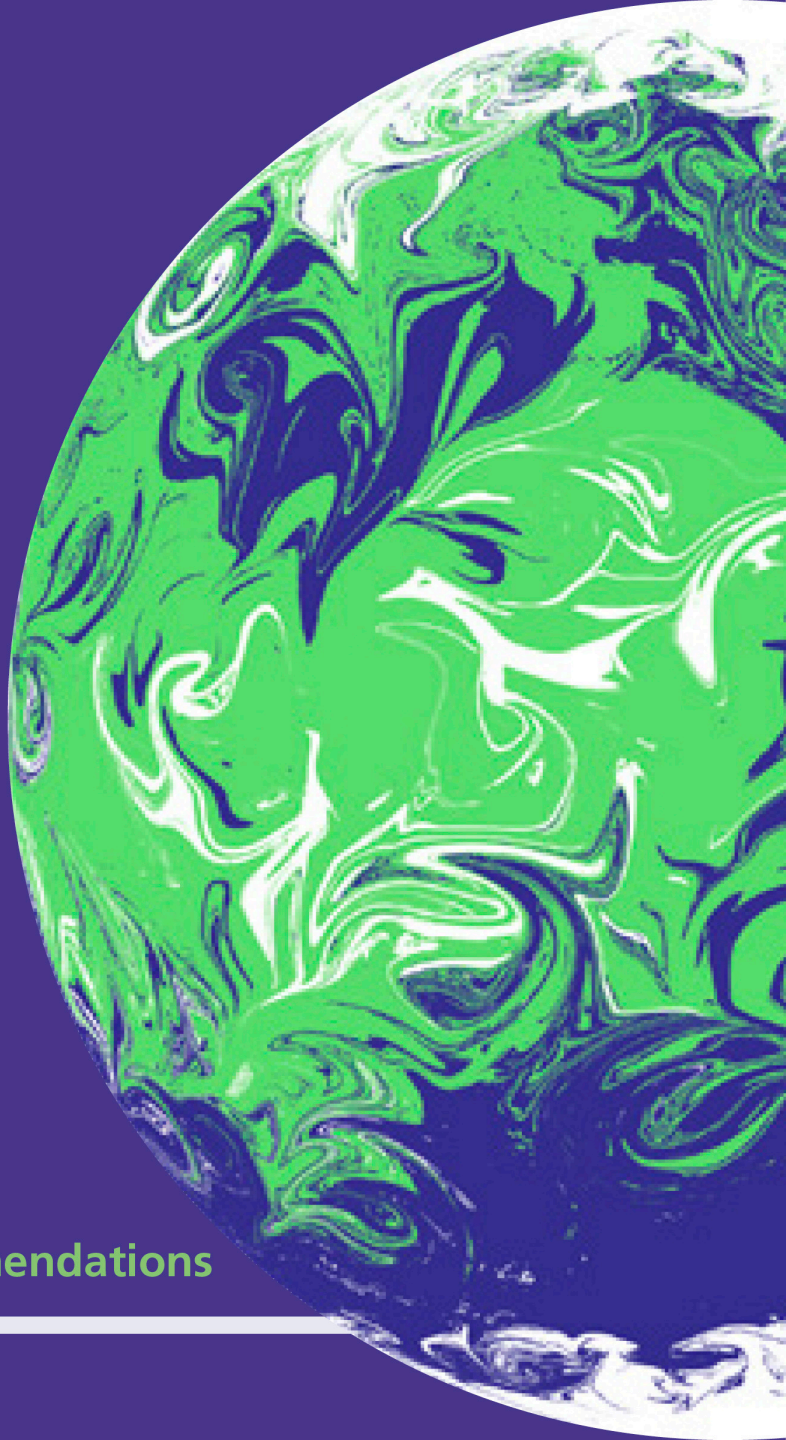

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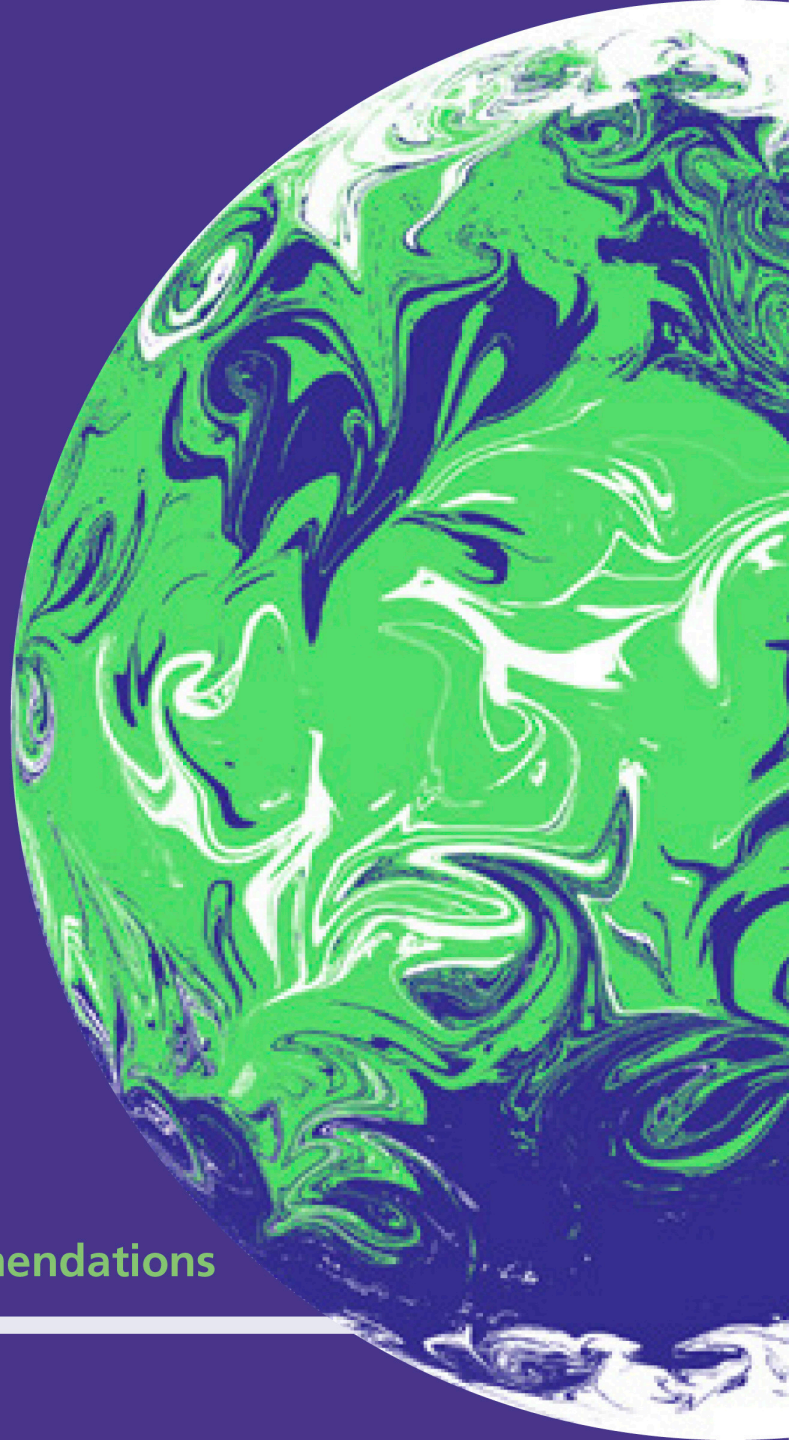
Action Recommendations on Capacity Building for

Participation in Carbon Markets



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Challenges Identified

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Lack of awareness

- on the opportunities & benefits of engaging in PA carbon markets in public and private sector.

Lack of clarity and understanding

- on how carbon market instruments can be integrated in NDCs/LT-LEDS planning and implementation.

Stricter participation and capacity requirements under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

- KP experiences and institutions thereof may exist (e.g., from CDM) but lack human and financial resources.

Lack of locally available expertise for carbon market activities

- e.g., consultants, DOEs/auditors, financial institutions, commercial partners.

Capacity building is often done ad-hoc and does not trickle down

- There is a challenge in ensuring that capacities built in a sustainable manner and that capacity building extends to the subnational level non-state actors.

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1. **Raising awareness of the benefits of international carbon markets drives political will, as a precondition for effective capacity building.**

- Awareness raising and demonstration activities required to turn political interest into political will.
- Training of technical staff to assess opportunities and risks and communicate them to national decision-makers.
- Needed to mobilise and mainstream Article 6 capacity building to ensure sustained and country-driven interest in carbon market participation.

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2. **Support national and regional actors to establish and oversee inclusive institutional frameworks for carbon market participation.**

- Increasingly complex participation requirements under the Paris Agreement.
- Institutional capacity needed to establish **required governance functions and procedures** related to NDC implementation, accounting, and reporting; as well as to enhance inter-ministerial coordination and improve external stakeholder engagements.
- Technical assistance provided by multilateral and bilateral and relevant stakeholders, coupled with regional peer-to-peer learning for an inclusive approach to capacity building.

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3. **Deliver capacity building in a pragmatic learning by doing approach.**

- '**Learning by doing**' is based on implementing real-world activities and leveraging on existing carbon market activities.
- Capacity building must be country focused and responsive to evolving requirements.
- Multilateral Development Banks, bilateral agencies and leading host countries can support early pilot activities that establish best practices and nurture communities of practitioners.

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4. Improve knowledge management through broadly accessible knowledge products, combined with tailored long term technical assistance

- Efficiency of delivering capacity building can be greatly improved by developing standardized training courses, tools, and guidance documents for common challenges relating to institutional, procedural and methodological aspects.
- Tools and guidance can be disseminated through digital formats, and training courses provided through multilateral and bilateral institutions.
- Tailored support provided through long-term technical assistance via helpdesks or expert staff in regional institutions.

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5. Ensure that capacity building for participation in international carbon markets is integrated into a comprehensive "toolbox" for climate action.

- Capacity building must be embedded in, and build upon, more comprehensive support for implementing and updating NDCs & LT-LEDS, related resource mobilization strategies, and complying with the Enhanced Transparency Framework.
- Cross-linkages need to be utilised.

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6. Build local and regional carbon market expertise.

- Limited number of government experts has slowed the ability to implement carbon market activities.
- Accumulation of carbon market expertise in the Global North has increased the costs of implementation.
- Ensuring the long-term availability of government experts as well as developing local and regional expertise, in cooperation with research institutions, industry, finance and business associations.

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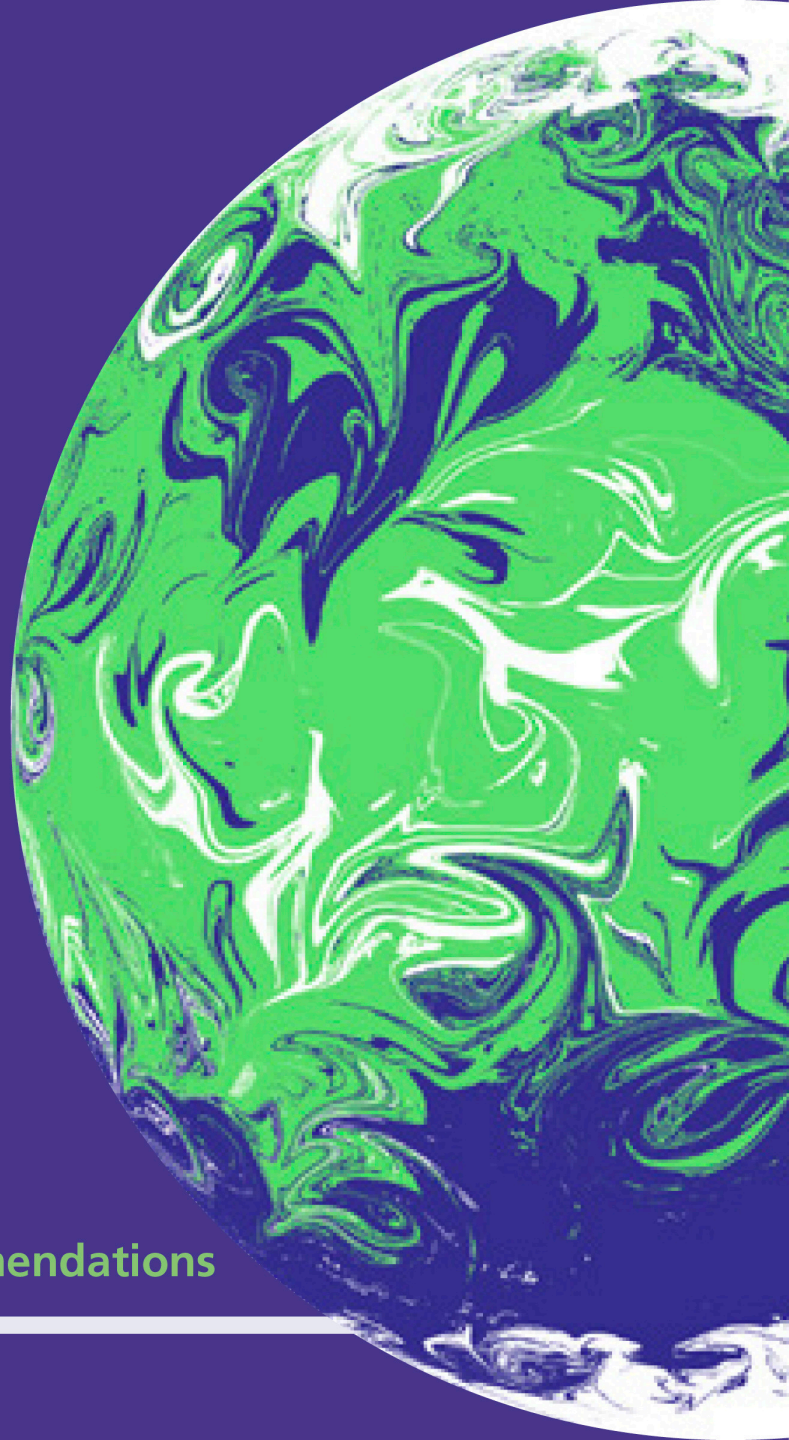

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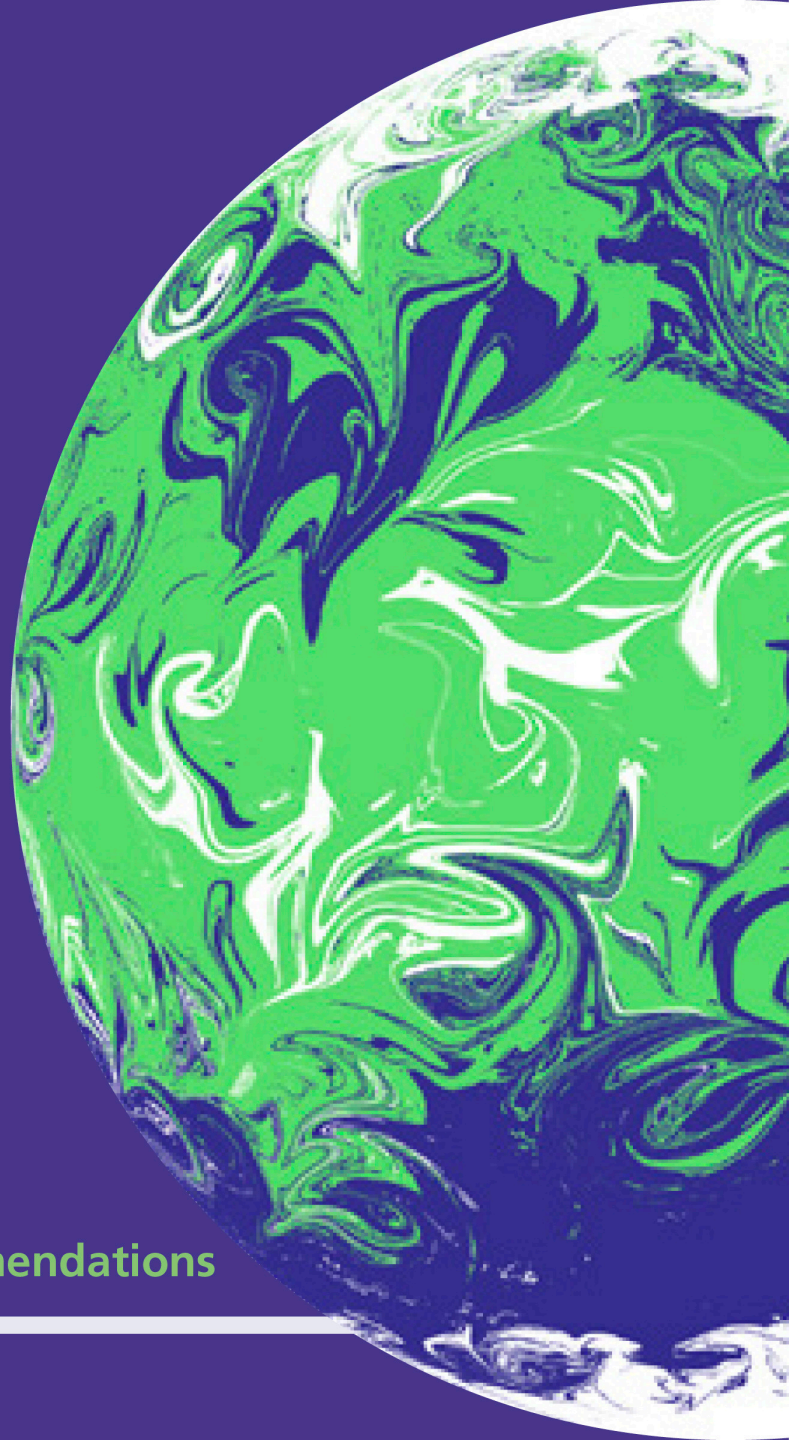
Action Recommendations on Capacity Building for

Access to Finance



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Challenges Identified

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Scope: building capacity in a sustainable manner requires a focus on the institutional, as well as the individual level, and also requires addressing the enabling environment.

Capacity building approaches: In many cases these have been focused on short term approaches (such as workshops or fly-in fly-out consulting) vs long term approaches that sustainably build capacity in country.

Holistic Approach: a whole of society approach needs to be taken by providers of capacity, allowing access to finance across the spectrum, involving governments, civil society organisations and the private sector at the local, regional and global level.

Regional context matters: Many partners noted that there is a need to avoid a one size fits all approach - regional contexts matter and there needs to be an awareness that approaches will differ to deliver different projects in different contexts.

Access to funds: The mechanisms to access funds, the accreditation process and reporting can be too burdensome, with many countries not having the capacity nor knowledge to go through these processes.

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Access to Finance

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1.Develop guidance to support planning and implementation of capacity building initiatives, to turn the principles for sustainable and transformative capacity building into actionable steps, addressed at both providers and recipients of capacity. This could build on the work of the PCCB and its Network.

2. **Develop an initiative that can identify and match the demand and supply of capacity building**, at the international level, to improve the provision of capacity by matching the needs of those seeking climate finance with the existing offer of capacity from providers. This could build on the work of the PCCB and its Network.

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3. Improve coordination for the implementation of transformative capacity-building processes to improve access to finance by strengthening coordination mechanisms at the international level through reviewing existing mechanisms, or, if needed, establishing coordination mechanisms at the international level (between providers, and between providers and recipient countries) as well as at the national level (whole of society approach, including coordination at the local level), while ensuring coordination and cross learning between these two levels, through dialogue and consultations. This could build and improve on the work of the PCCB and its Network.

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4. Promote the process of climate mainstreaming in MDB-financed projects, programmes and operations that is adapted to the specific contexts of developing countries. This can be done through capacity building for, and knowledge exchange between, MDBs and government agencies in developing countries, allowing them to share tools and methodologies and adapt them to local contexts.

5. Promote initiatives that support mainstreaming of climate into planning, budgeting and governance processes of developing countries, by building enabling environments (policies, legal frameworks, institutional processes) and supporting the implementation of new processes, systems, etc. for mainstreaming.

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6. Organise a forum for climate and development finance providers to start a dialogue between providers, at the level of governing bodies, and recipients of climate finance. This dialogue would address the fragmentation of the current model of climate finance provision and try to reach agreements on how to balance the priorities, objectives and needs of both providers and recipients of finance, and its implications for capacity building. It would also promote buy-in from providers and recipients for other recommendations included here.

7. Promote peer learning for access by strengthening existing communities of practice, particularly south-south networks, and expanding their work including through coordination between them. This work could build on the work of the PCCB Network.

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8. Address the "brain drain" in developing countries, through a stronger focus on the institutional and systemic levels by:

i. Strengthening developing countries' national institutions that can build capacity in a sustainable manner, including universities, research centres, etc., as well as regional centres;

ii. Strengthening the organisational capacities of relevant institutions to create, retain and transfer the knowledge acquired and created;

iii. Supporting the review of procurement processes and manuals, to ensure the hiring of more national experts when external services are needed;

iv. Addressing incentives to retain personnel;

v. Addressing the brain drain requires the engagement of developing countries' governments, as well as that of the different providers of capacity building, in line with the type of support they provide.

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9. **Develop approaches that focus on the local level and non-government stakeholders to increase the levels of climate finance that reach the local level**. Both providers and recipients of capacity building and finance need to work on developing these approaches, based on existing examples like Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) and other approaches that focus on devolution of decision making on funding at the most appropriate level.

10. Build the capacity of climate finance providers to address the gaps in their models of provision of climate finance, including elements like readiness support, simplification of processes, tailoring of financial instruments to the needs and realities of developing countries, etc. Guidance could be developed and broken down by donor type, including all bilateral and multilateral sources. This could build on the work developed in the first recommendation, as well as on an assessment of providers' capacity gaps.

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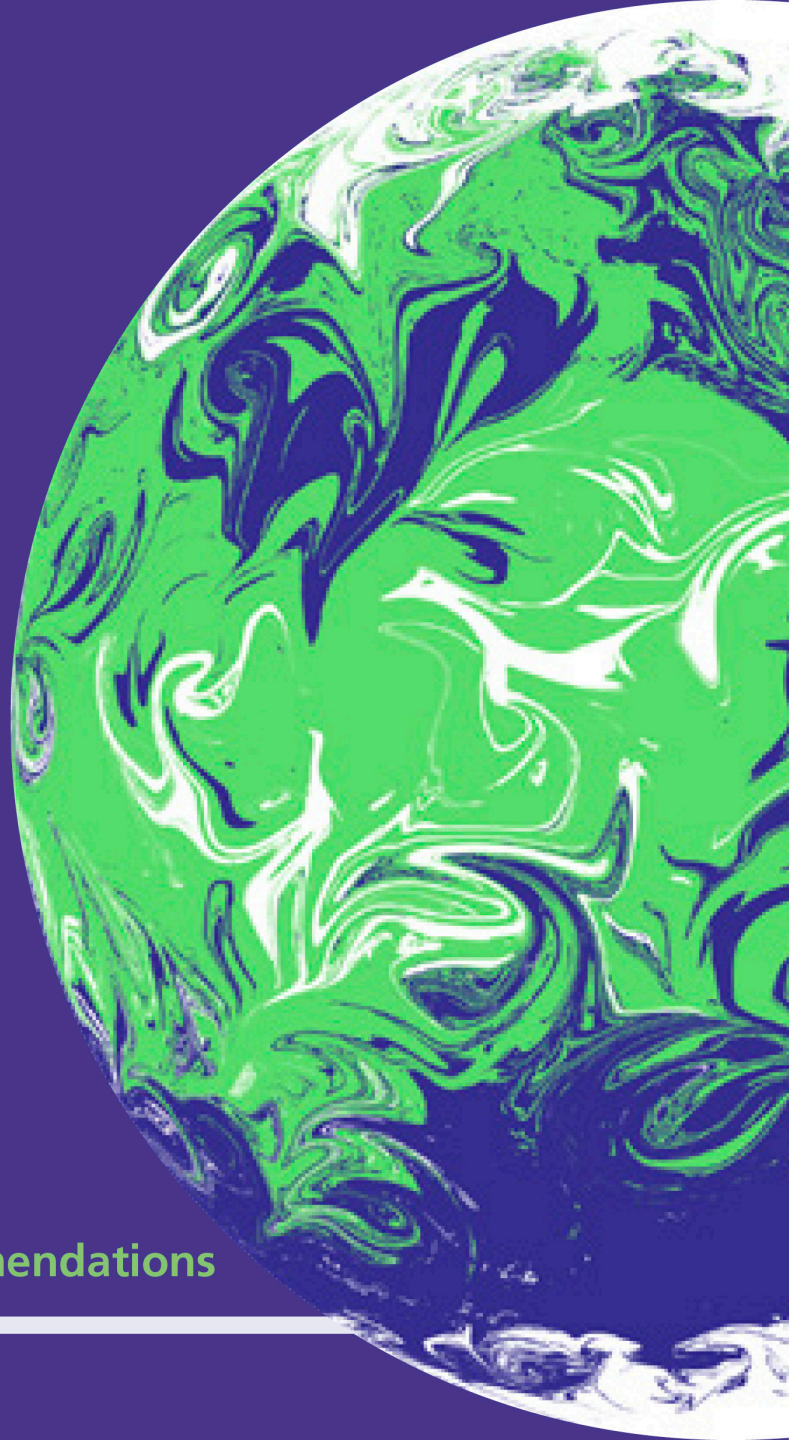

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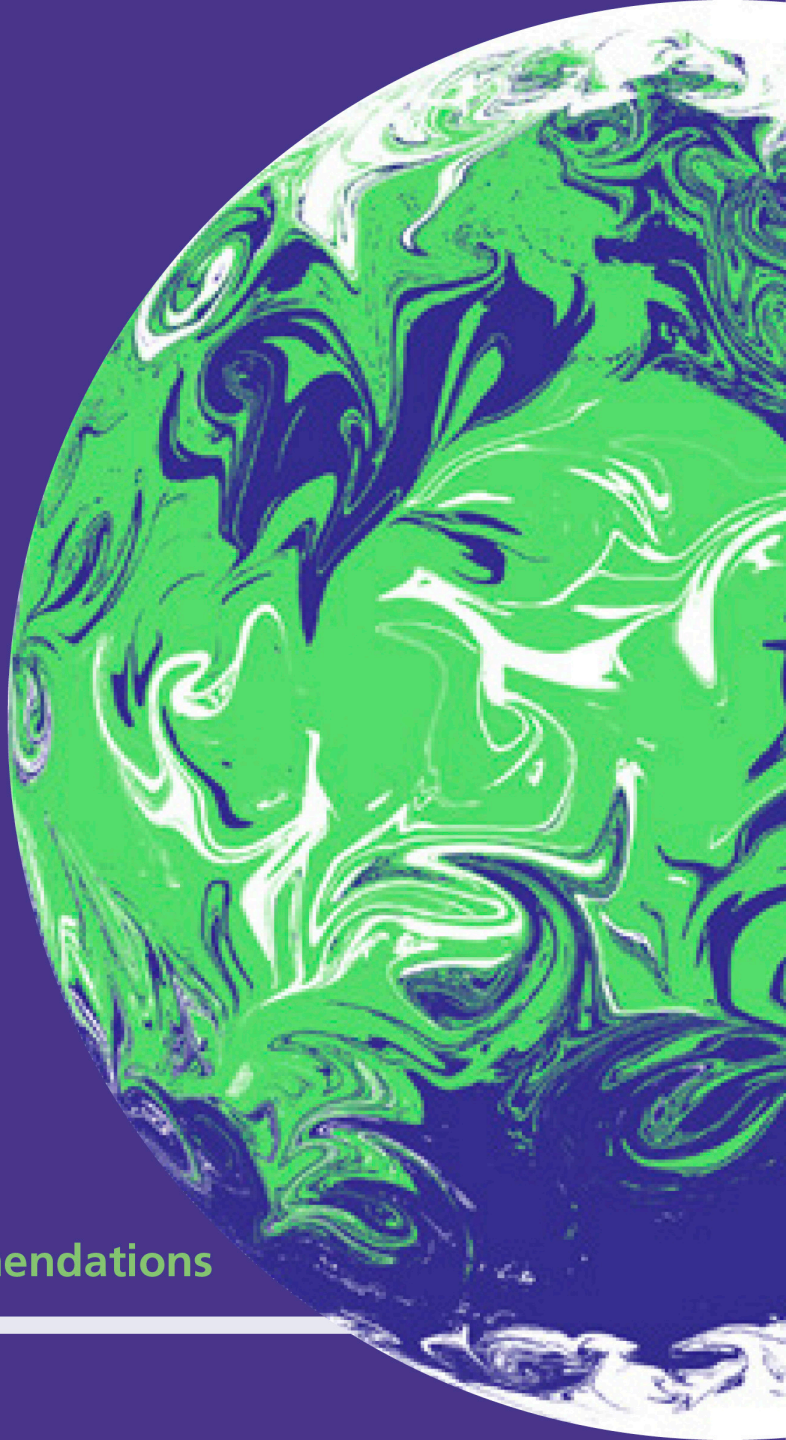
Action Recommendations on Capacity Building for

Transparency and Reporting



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Context

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- All countries must start reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) by 2024.
- Many countries have not yet submitted a Biennial Update Report under the existing Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework
- For all countries, the ETF represents a considerable stepping up of reporting requirements.

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Challenges Identified

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- Growing concern that transition to ETF is too slow – lack of preparedness.
- Many countries lack human and technical capacity to be ready by 2024.
- Low profile of transparency amongst politicians and public.
- Need to rapidly expand data collection capacity in many countries.
- Onerous application processes and other barriers to accessing support.

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Our recommendations

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1. Governments need to significantly raise the profile and visibility of climate transparency and recognise its additional benefits.

- Emphasising linkages with other national priority issues can help to build or strengthen political will and national ownership.

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2. Capacity building providers should commit to programmatic support packages with a long-term perspective.

- Empower countries to identify and assess their own needs and priorities.

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3. All stakeholders would benefit from improved coordination at national, regional and international levels

- Streamline application procedures to make initiatives more accessible and inclusive

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4. Capacity building programmes should widen their scope to integrate support for reporting on new elements under the ETF, including tracking of progress against both adaptation and mitigation components of NDCs.

- As the ETF develops over time, so should the capacity building around it.

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5. Capacity building providers need to improve the accessibility and searchability of online resources.

- We need a single entry-point for online resources that is well-publicised, interactive and easy to search.

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6. Continuous reporting requires a strong institutional framework, which in some cases will need new legal mandates.

- Relationships between data providers need to be strengthened, creating networks of technical experts across contributing institutions.

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7. Governments and capacity-building providers should support whole-of-society participation in the transparency process.

- This includes statistical agencies, finance and economic departments, academia, non-governmental actors, subnational governments, and the private sector.

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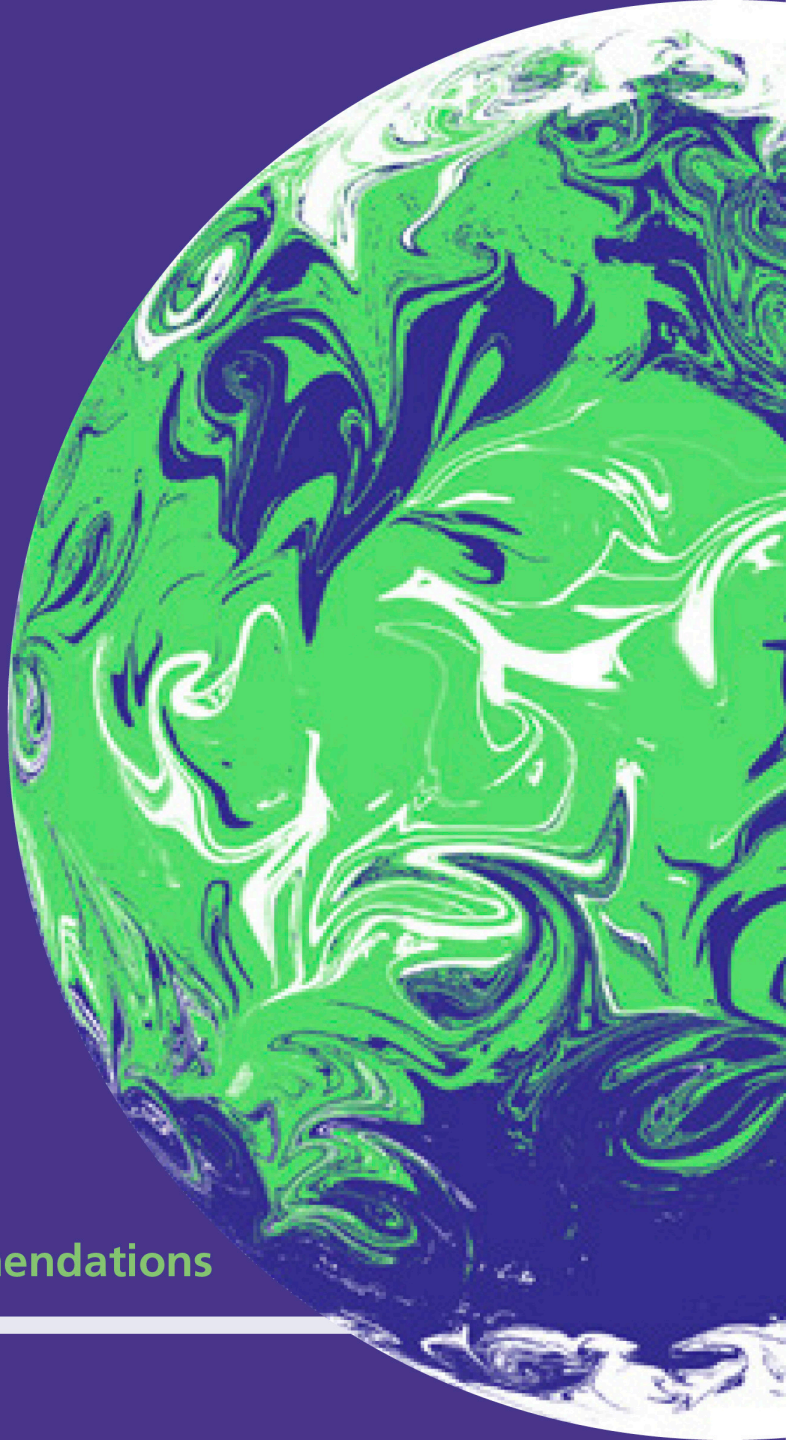

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