



Concept Note

**Capacity-Building for Negotiators (CB4N) Initiative**

**Global Virtual Webinar Series**

Format: Three Online Webinar Series (90 minutes each)

Dates: Tuesday 30 June 2026, 14:00 - 15:30 (CEST), August & October 2026 (tbc)

## **1. Introduction**

Effective participation in the intergovernmental process of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requires a combination of technical knowledge, procedural understanding and practical negotiation skills.

Climate negotiations have become increasingly complex, requiring negotiators to engage with evolving negotiating texts, respond to shifting political dynamics, and navigate multiple parallel negotiation tracks under significant time constraints. Building these skills is particularly important for young and emerging negotiators, who are assuming increasingly active roles in supporting national delegations and contributing to climate policymaking at the national, regional and international levels.

This need was formally recognized by Parties at the sixty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 62), which mandated the UNFCCC secretariat to support Party delegates, in particular youth delegates, in building their capacity to engage in the UNFCCC intergovernmental negotiation process. The Capacity-Building for Negotiators (CB4N) Initiative was formally launched in February 2026 in direct response to this mandate.

As one of the flagship activities under the CB4N Initiative, the Global Virtual Negotiation Webinar Series will be delivered through three webinars between June and October 2026. The series will provide participants with a structured learning programme, covering the fundamentals of the UNFCCC process, key thematic negotiation areas, and emerging priorities and dynamics in the lead up to COP 31. It will bring together negotiators, legal experts, and practitioners to share practical experience, lessons learned, and tools that can enhance the preparedness, confidence and effectiveness of the next generation of climate negotiators.

## **2. Objectives**

The webinar series aims to:

- Strengthen participants' understanding of the legal, procedural and institutional foundations of the UNFCCC process.
- Enhance participants' ability to prepare for and engage effectively in climate negotiations.



- Provide practical guidance on negotiation planning, coordination and information management before, during and after UNFCCC sessions.
- Strengthen participants’ understanding of key thematic negotiation areas under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- Provide an overview of key mandates, substantive negotiation topics and emerging political dynamics leading to COP 31.
- Foster peer learning, dialogue and networking among negotiators, experts and practitioners engaged in the UNFCCC process.

### 3. Target Audience

The webinar series is intended for:

- Young and emerging climate negotiators;
- Youth delegates participating in UNFCCC processes;
- Government officials supporting climate negotiations;
- Technical experts and advisors to Party delegations;

### 4. Format

Each webinar will be conducted online and will include expert presentations, interactive discussions, practical case studies, and dedicated question-and-answer sessions.

### 5. Webinar Overview

<b>Webinar</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>
Webinar - 1	Understanding the UNFCCC Framework and Processes: Legal and Procedural Issues and Negotiation Management	Tuesday, 30 June 2026
Webinar - 2	On the Road to COP 31: Key Negotiation Themes under the UNFCCC	August 2026 ( <i>tbc</i> )
Webinar - 3	On the Road to COP 31: Presidency Priorities, Global Climate Action Agenda, and Emerging Negotiation Dynamics	October 2026 ( <i>tbc</i> )



## **Webinar 1 - Understanding the UNFCCC Framework and Processes: Legal and Procedural Issues and Negotiation Management**

**30 June 2026 | 14:00 CET**

### **Overview**

This introductory webinar will provide participants with a practical overview of the legal and procedural foundations of the UNFCCC process, including institutional arrangements, rules of procedure, decision-making practices and negotiation formats. Drawing from the CB4N pilot training modules on legal and procedural issues and negotiation management, the session will also introduce practical approaches for preparing and navigating negotiations, including information management, drafting processes and coordination during sessions.

Participants will gain a better understanding of how the different bodies of the UNFCCC process operate, how negotiations are organized, and how delegates can effectively navigate the intergovernmental process.

Interactive discussions and open Q&A will offer opportunities to engage directly with experts and exchange perspectives on participation in climate negotiations.

### **Learning objectives**

- Gain an overview of the institutional structure of the UNFCCC process;
- Understand key legal and procedural elements governing climate negotiations;
- Explore practical aspects of preparing for and participating in negotiation sessions;
- Understand the role of coordination, information management and drafting within the negotiation process;
- Strengthen their understanding of how negotiations are organized and conducted within the UNFCCC process.

*This session lays the procedural and operational foundation for the series and prepares participants for Webinar 2, which focuses on key thematic negotiation areas under the UNFCCC.*

## **Webinar 2 - On the Road to COP 31: Key Negotiation Themes under the UNFCCC**

**August 2026 (tbc) | 14:00 CET**

### **Overview**

Building on the legal and procedural foundations introduced in Webinar 1, this session will provide participants with an overview of the key thematic areas under negotiation within the UNFCCC process and their relevance in the lead-up to COP 31.



The webinar will explore major negotiation themes under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, including mitigation, adaptation, finance, transparency, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and loss and damage. Participants will gain a better understanding of the mandates, institutional arrangements and ongoing discussions associated with these agenda items, as well as their significance within the broader climate negotiation process.

Interactive discussions and question-and-answer sessions will provide opportunities for participants to engage with experts and exchange perspectives on key negotiation issues and developments across the UNFCCC process.

**Learning objectives:**

- Gain an overview of the principal thematic areas under negotiation within the UNFCCC process.
- Understand the mandates and institutional arrangements underpinning key negotiation topics under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
- Explore current discussions and challenges across major negotiation themes, including mitigation, adaptation, finance, transparency, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and loss and damage.
- Strengthen understanding of the interlinkages among different negotiation tracks and agenda items.
- Enhance awareness of key substantive issues likely to shape discussions in the lead-up to COP 31.

*This session deepens participants' understanding of the substantive issues at the heart of climate negotiations and prepares them for Webinar 3, which examines the political context, emerging priorities and negotiation dynamics leading into COP 31.*

**Webinar 3: On the Road to COP 31: Presidency Priorities, the Global Climate Action Agenda, and Emerging Negotiation Dynamics**

**October 2026(tbc) | 14:00 CET**

**Overview**

As Parties move closer to COP 31, this webinar will provide participants with an overview of the major discussion areas and emerging priorities leading into COP 31. The session will explore key topics under consideration across the UNFCCC process, including developments related to the Global Climate Action (GCA) Agenda, priorities highlighted by the COP 31 Presidency, and other relevant areas expected to receive attention in the lead-up to the conference.

Participants will gain a better understanding of the broader landscape of discussions leading towards COP 31, including how negotiation processes evolve throughout the year, the role of negotiating groups and Presidencies, and the various factors that contribute to shaping the outcomes of a COP.



Interactive discussions and question-and-answer sessions will provide opportunities for participants to engage with experts and exchange perspectives on current developments and expectations for COP 31.

### **Learning objectives**

- Gain an overview of major discussion areas expected to be considered at COP 31;
- Explore the role of the Global Climate Action Agenda and its contribution to the broader UNFCCC process;
- Understand how COP Presidencies shape the organization and focus of a conference;
- Strengthen awareness of emerging priorities, developments and negotiation dynamics leading towards COP 31.

### **Conclusion**

The CB4N Negotiation Webinar Series will equip a new generation of climate negotiators with the knowledge, skills and networks needed to engage confidently and effectively in the UNFCCC process. By bridging legal and procedural foundations, substantive negotiation issues and political awareness, the series provides an integrated and forward-looking preparation for COP 31 and beyond.