



Paris Committee on Capacity-building

07 June 2026

Tenth meeting
Bonn, 15–17 June 2026

Concept note on the first State of Capacity-building for Climate Action Report

Expected actions by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) will be invited to:

- a) Consider the draft concept note on the state of capacity-building report
- b) Agree on appropriate next steps regarding the planning and organization of the development of the state of capacity-building report

I. Possible actions for consideration by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

1. The PCCB may wish to consider and discuss the draft concept note on the state of capacity-building report, with a view to advancing this work intersessionally, in accordance with the phases mentioned below.

II. Introduction

A. Background and objectives

2. The mandate of the PCCB, as established in decision 1/CP.21 (para. 71), is to address current and emerging gaps and needs in capacity-building in developing country Parties and to enhance capacity-building efforts, including strengthening coherence and coordination under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. As set out in the PCCB workplan for 2025–2029¹ under Priority Area A: Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention and Paris Agreement, the PCCB is designing and preparing a comprehensive strategic overview of the of the capacity-building landscape, including recommendations for future capacity-building efforts. More specifically, to publish the first state of capacity-building report, that will serve as a foundational reference for coordinated, high-impact capacity-building efforts, reinforcing the leadership role of the PCCB and strengthening its mandate with regard to enhancing coherence across capacity-building efforts.

3. Existing reports, including the annual synthesis report on capacity-building framework implementation and relevant sections of the NDC and BTR synthesis reports, offer partial insights into capacity gaps, needs, and support efforts in developing countries, but fall short of providing a comprehensive, consolidated overview of the capacity-building landscape in climate action under the Convention and the Paris Agreement across all developing countries.

4. The state of capacity-building report will be guided by the following objectives:

(a) Provide a comprehensive picture of current and emerging capacity-building gaps and needs across developing countries, examining how existing international support mechanisms respond to and align with those needs

(b) Identify elements and characteristics of effective capacity-building interventions, including institutional and systemic enablers that support links to tangible climate action outcomes;

(c) Provide an overview of institutional arrangements, and support mechanisms, at the international/global level to support capacity-building for climate action in developing countries at the national level;

(d) Generate evidence-based recommendations to enhance coherence, coordination, and impact under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;

(e) Serve as the input to inform Global Stocktake 2 (GST 2) comprehensively.

5. The scope of the report will capture the capacity gaps and needs related to climate action in developing countries, as identified in their latest national submissions to UNFCCC processes. The ways to address the gaps and needs will predominantly focus on the topics of the annual focus areas of the PCCB for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

6. The report's target audience includes (1) National and subnational governments in developing countries; (2) Bilateral and multilateral donors and cooperation agencies; (3) Operating entities of financial mechanisms; (4) Multilateral development banks; (5) Representatives of the constituted bodies and representatives of relevant processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement; (5) Research institutions, academia and think tanks and (6) Other stakeholders and practitioners in the capacity-building field, including civil society organizations benefiting or supporting capacity-building efforts, and technical partners. Across all audiences, the report serves three broad functions: (a) understanding where capacity-building gaps and needs exist; (b) informing decisions about where and how to provide capacity-building support or engage; and (c) providing a baseline against which progress can be revisited and built upon in future editions.

III. Proposed Outline and Structure

7. The State of Capacity-Building Report is structured as a strategic assessment document that combines analytical, evidence-based, and forward-looking elements. Its proposed outline is intended to provide a coherent narrative from the global policy context and conceptual framing of capacity-building, through assessment of current gaps, needs, and ongoing efforts, to recommendations for strengthening coherence, coordination, and impact across capacity-building efforts.

The report may be organized around the following chapters and indicative contents:

(a) *Acknowledgements*: Recognition of contributors, partners, experts, and institutions that supported the preparation of the report through inputs, data, review, or consultation.

(b) *Executive summary*: This section provides a concise overview of the report's key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, enabling readers to grasp the state of capacity-building for climate action in developing countries without engaging with the report in its entirety;

(c) *Introduction*: This section establishes the context and rationale for the report, including the capacity-building landscape it seeks to address. It defines the scope and analytical approach, acknowledges key challenges and limitations, and guides the reader through the structure of the report;

(d) *Overview of capacity-building gaps and needs*: This section presents a comprehensive overview of capacity-building gaps and needs as articulated by developing countries, drawing out observed patterns and themes emerging from the analysis;

(e) *Findings and analysis*: This section analyses the relationship between capacity-building gaps and needs, available international support, and climate action outcomes within the PCCB focus areas for 2025–2026 and 2026–2027, identifying the conditions under which capacity-building interventions have demonstrated effectiveness.

(f) *Conclusions and recommendations*: Drawing on the report's analysis, this section presents conclusions on the state of capacity-building for climate action in developing countries and

puts forward recommendations to enhance the coherence and impact of capacity-building support that can be taken forward in the context of the work of the PCCB and/or by Parties.

IV. Methodological framework

8. This section provides a proposed approach to undertaking the work. While the stages identified below provide a structure to the approach, it is likely that some of the activities and actions may be undertaken in parallel.

A. Developing the analytical framework phase

9. Noting that the background note on the taxonomy of the capacity-gaps needs, including the proposal to use the observed themes as a working thematic reference to inform the State of Capacity-building Report, remains pending while it is being considered in parallel to this concept note, the evidence base developed through that research has nevertheless been drawn upon to inform this work, without prejudice to the Committee's consideration of the matter. Any steps identified through this process should be understood as provisional.

10. To capture the capacity gaps and needs, the proposed analytical approach will be to undertake a thematic analysis capture and synthesize capacity gaps and needs as reported by developing country Parties in their national submissions under the UNFCCC processes and contained in other external sources, as relevant and as appropriate.

11. The thematic analysis will be informed by the observed themes outlined in the background note¹ as the evidence base for how the information on capacity gaps and needs are captured and synthesized for the state of capacity-building report. The analysis will draw on the following sources in line with their most recent reporting cycle:

(a) *Primary sources*: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs),² and the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs)³ based on the most recent submissions available at the time of analysis, recognizing differences in reporting timelines and data availability;

(b) *Secondary sources*: most recent submissions of National Communications, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDs).

(c) *Complementary sources*: reports on capacity gaps and needs by UN organizations, reports by PCCB Network members; other Party and non-Party submissions, as relevant and as appropriate;

12. Given the different reporting timelines and available resources, the work will prioritize sources in line with the sequence outlined above, focusing first on the primary sources, complemented by the secondary and complementary sources as submissions become available.

13. In parallel, a structured literature review will ground the report's analytical framework, drawing on existing research and knowledge to establish common criteria for case study selection and to identify the factors and conditions associated with effective capacity-building initiatives. These criteria will also be used to design the call for submissions of case studies from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, as relevant.

14. The expected outputs from this first phase are the following:

(a) An outline of the section (ZOD draft) referred to in III.7(d) for consideration by the PCCB intersessionally, in Q4 2026;

(b) An analytical framework and a set of criteria that will guide the selection and assessment of case studies, ensuring a consistent and evidence-based approach to identifying and presenting effective capacity-building initiatives throughout the report for consideration by the PCCB, intersessionally in Q3 2026;

¹ PCCB/2026/X

² Latest submitted since 01 January 2024.

³ Expected BTR submissions, as of 31 December 2026.

- (c) A call will be opened for submission of case studies guided by on the criteria developed under this phase, Q4 2026 – Q1 2027.

B. Analysis Phase

- 15. This phase will undertake the qualitative analysis to compile, analyze information on capacity gaps and needs from the additional sources to complement the first order draft prepared in the previous phase.
- 16. In parallel, it will undertake a desk review of submitted case studies, and those sourced in the course of the PCCB focus area-related research, informed by the analytical approach developed in the analysis phase.
- 17. In preparation for the stakeholder review of the report, terms of reference for stakeholders as well as a plan for the stakeholder review will be developed.
- 18. The expected outputs for this second phase are the following:
 - (a) Agree approach and terms of reference on engaging stakeholders in the review process, January 2026;
 - (b) A first draft version of the report, for review and consideration by the PCCB for submission to the GST synthesis report, March 2027;
 - (c) A second draft of the report for PCCB review and consideration, in June 2027.

C. Review phase

- 19. This final phase will focus on the stakeholder review and finalization of the report.
 - 20. Following the review and consideration of the first draft report by the PCCB in June 2027, the draft report will be shared for further review and validation by the stakeholders in accordance with the terms of reference in accordance with the approach for stakeholder engagement.
 - 21. A third draft will be shared for review and consideration by the PCCB, with the exact timing to be agreed by the PCCB, intersessionally.
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