

# **8th Durban Forum on Capacity-building**

Room Nairobi, Bonn | Thursday, 20 June 2019

Key messages as presented by the Co-facilitators of the 8th Durban Forum on Friday, 21 June during the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

The 8<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum took place from 14:00 to 17:00, gathering more than 80 participants and focusing on strengthening institutions at the national level to support capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs in developing countries.

With the intention of integrating the discussion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum with the PCCB workplan, all its main topics were related to the current working groups of the PCCB:

1. The role of academia, research institutions and other national or subnational institutions in strengthening and retaining capacities in developing countries;
2. Enhancing coherence and coordination amongst national and international stakeholders (such as inter alia. government institutions support providers, civil society organizations, sub-national authorities, academia and research institutions and the private sector) for the design and delivery of capacity-building activities supporting NDC implementation;
3. Best practices and available tools or methodologies for assessing the impact and effectiveness of capacity-building activities.

The first and last topics fed into PCCB working group four which focuses on identifying capacity gaps and needs, whereas the second topic feeds into PCCB working group one on coherence and coordination.

The key takeaways from the discussions include:

## **1. A big highlight on the important role played by academia in retaining capacities within developing countries**

It is important to understand the role and relevance of local, national and regional research institutions and universities in providing effective and context-driven solutions, even more in the context of NDC implementation.

Countries and non-Party stakeholders should bridge the existing gaps between policy, practice and research at the national, sub-national and regional level. Encouraging more evidence-based, local and interdisciplinary research and teaching is key.

Research methods are culturally and contextually responsive. Local research should be able to empower countries to develop result-based and actionable solutions.

Training and involving local citizens in research would support and enhance capacity at local level.

**2. Enhancing coherence and coordination among the different capacity building providers and users was mentioned as a key aspect throughout the three breakout groups.**

Currently, there are different organizations with partly similar mandates providing capacity-building support. It is important that bodies and committees like the PCCB identify, organize and build on the current work done in order to avoid duplication of efforts, especially in the delivery of readiness and capacity building support to developing countries.

Incentives and challenges on enhancing coherence and coordination vary among different countries and regions. However there are good examples on what to do or not to do.

It is crucial to focus on supporting efforts at national level to achieve long-term capacity in developing countries as well as to strengthen collaboration, coherence, and coordination through the UNFCCC process.

**3. It is crucial to understand the importance of developing a clear baseline to assess capacity-building efforts and activities.**

In order to assess capacity building actions, the participants highlighted the importance of setting up a clear baseline or benchmark, with concrete goals that could improve over time and, in addition, defining clear outputs. The choice of which methodologies to use will depend on the type of capacity being assessed.

In this assessment, it is important to consider retaining national capacities, as well as looking into how to replicate and scale them up.

In addition, participants stressed the importance of coherence and coordination in the support offered and the necessity of responding to national and local capacity-building needs already identified.

These takeaways hardly showcase the richness of the discussions throughout the forum. However they summarize and at least reflect the essence and spirit of the dialogue.