

7th Durban Forum on Capacity-building

Thursday 3 May, 2018 | Room Nairobi

Key messages as presented by the Co-facilitators of the 7th Durban Forum during the second meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on 4 May¹

1. Action related to the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) should not be undertaken in silos or in isolation but should be integrated within the broader sustainable development agenda.
2. Capacity-building support needs to build on previous efforts and initiatives in a given country to draw on their lessons learned and good practices for a more effective and tailored implementation of the support.
3. Capacities for the tracking of and reporting on NDC implementation need to be enhanced in a country-driven manner, responding to countries' needs and priorities, and with a view to strengthening lasting national institutions able to keep knowledgeable experts in the long term.
4. Strong domestic political will and commitment is needed to ensure effective planning and implementation of NDCs. Experience from the NDC Partnership has shown that political commitment at the highest levels of Government, as well as appointing powerful ministries, such as for planning and finance, as focal points can be crucial to convene relevant ministries, drive the agenda in the right direction, and mainstream climate considerations into sectors and budget planning.
5. The effective translation of national-level climate change plans and programmes, such as NDCs, national adaptation plans (NAPs), and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), into action requires capacity-building for local stakeholders and organizations, and access to finance at the local level to support community-level activities.
6. Communication and consultation processes need to be improved to ensure access to information and comprehensive stakeholder engagement throughout the NDC planning and implementation process, including particularly women, subnational actors, such as local communities, and indigenous peoples.
7. The matching of bottom-up initiatives with top-down actions needs to be facilitated, for example, by using legal instruments to facilitate enforcement, accountability and complementarity.
8. South-south cooperation and regional initiatives and partnerships, such as the NDC hub launched in the Pacific, offer great opportunity for collaboration across countries on knowledge exchange and raising ambition, and complement rather than duplicate coordination work undertaken globally, for example through the NDC Partnership.

¹ A comprehensive summary report of the 7th Durban Forum will be prepared by the UNFCCC secretariat for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its forty-ninth session.

9. The capturing of lessons learned and the sharing of experiences on capacity-building among countries needs to be further enhanced. At the international level, the Paris Committee on capacity-building (PCCB) should collaborate with other institutions involved in capacity-building support for NDC implementation in order to better collect and diffuse these lessons learned and experiences.
10. Building capacity to enable climate policy makers to better address cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, human rights, just transition and indigenous peoples' knowledge, in climate action will contribute to stronger, more effective, and more equitable climate outcomes, as well as more coherent policies.
11. Notably, the social dimensions of climate change have not been given the same level of attention as the technical and scientific aspects of climate change. Human rights, gender responsiveness and indigenous peoples' knowledge are capacity gaps – and these are also articulated as gaps in relation to not just transition, but also participation, inclusivity, and access to information.
12. While awareness on gender aspects and indigenous peoples' knowledge is increasing, and there are established processes or instruments under the UNFCCC – e.g. the Gender Action Plan and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform – the inclusion of human rights considerations in climate change action is comparatively lacking. The Durban Forum therefore recognized a capacity gap in the area of human rights in particular.
13. In this context, there is a need to make better use of existing sources of information and include the expertise of relevant human rights experts and organizations in the UNFCCC process.
14. Concrete suggestions on this issue that were made include:
 - The PCCB should formally recognize human rights, gender responsiveness and indigenous peoples' knowledge as capacity gaps;
 - Co-produced tools and trainings on human rights and climate could help meet the demands posed in the pre-ambles of the Paris Agreement;
 - The production of guidelines on human rights and climate should be given priority;
 - Co-organizing a workshop with the office of the high-commissioner of human rights to better understand capacity gaps and to identify actions to fill those gaps could be considered by the PCCB;
 - The UNFCCC should establish focal points on human rights and indigenous peoples (a gender focal point already exists);
 - The PCCB should consider adding a specific page on the Capacity Building Portal to capture experiences and good practices related to the integration of human rights, gender equality and indigenous peoples' rights in climate change plans (including NAPs, NAMAs, NDCs) and actions.