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Outcomes Article



OECD-PCCB Network Workshop Series **#3 Partnerships with academia, the private sector, and peer networks**



The third virtual [OECD-PCCB Network](#) workshop, in collaboration with the [National Adaptation Plan Global Network](#), took place on 17th October 2022 and gathered over 70 stakeholders from donor and partner countries, international organisations, multilateral development banks, funds, academia and civil society. The workshop focused on partnerships for capacity development in the area of climate change and included a technical panel at the current climate-related capacity bottlenecks that academia, the private sector and governments engaged in partnerships across the South face, with a particular focus on the experiences of Latin America and the Caribbean. The panel also explored how donors can help partner countries overcome these barriers, and provides concrete, practical solutions in this space.

Introductory Session

Representatives from the OECD and [UNFCCC PCCB](#) highlighted that there is scope for stronger engagement between providers and other domestic actors, such as academia, the private sector and South-South peer networks when developing the capacity of partner countries in the area of climate change. On behalf of the UNFCCC PCCB, the PCCB Network is helping identify concrete capacity-related bottlenecks and look for ways to help countries lift them; while a recent [OECD report](#) shows how international organisations, donors, consultants, and NGOs tend to be the main centres of capacity development, knowledge building and dissemination in partner countries. In fact, the lack of engagement of research institutions and universities in climate-related capacity development activities is a recurring issue. The private sector, in turn, is a major source of employment in developing and emerging economies. Despite their relevance, knowledge is limited on the needs, gaps and types of capacity development efforts required for the private sector to address climate change. Another key entry point for donors consists in supporting peer-to-peer knowledge exchange across partner countries and triangular co-operation.

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Technical Panel

A technical panel included representatives from the NAP Global Network, [LEDS LAC](#), [ArticuLAC](#), the [Ministry of Environment of Peru](#), [SouthSouthNorth](#) and [ICIMOD](#). Panelists highlighted the following issues:

- A vast majority of NAPs mention capacity development ([97% of them according to the NAP Global Network](#)), in some cases as a cross-sectoral or strategic priority, and in many cases as a priority adaptation measure. Moreover, NAPs often target private sector actors, the academic community and communities/local actors on capacity development. Peer learning has an important role to play to accelerate progress on national adaptation and capacity building as it creates space for policymakers and practitioners to share experiences.
- Engaging with a diverse set of stakeholders, while promoting peer learning, can be both an advantage and a challenge. Moreover, responding to the evolving climate change context means that partner countries are required to adapt to a fast-paced environment, and so, that priorities need to shift faster than do capacities. This requires having a variety of spaces for the various types of stakeholders that want to learn from each other and to share good practices.
- We need strong collaboration to explore synergies across stakeholders. Moreover, it is important to capitalise on what has been done already and share it to scale up action, reinforce knowledge management and communication efforts, and move from the planning to the implementation stages. There is a lot to learn from what has already been done (e.g. specific cases or general good practices) and all stakeholders have relevant knowledge and experiences to share.
- Communication is one of the main elements that will contribute to improving capacity building and addressing climate change. Countries with similar characteristics should communicate with each other to explore new opportunities for capacity building (e.g. Peru's peer exchanges in Saint Lucia, Tanzania and Fiji). Communication should not always be framed in a pessimistic way; it is important to also highlight opportunities, milestones and good practices.
- South-South research usually faces a challenge when it comes to generating knowledge flows across the world. It is necessary to better connect experts globally. Peer learning works better when people face similar challenges because it leads to lasting networks and permanent relationships, which may provide impact sustainably over time. Because climate change is a crisis that impacts various actors, it also creates new kinds of collaborations between stakeholders that face similar challenges.

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- Peer learning is not only about sharing knowledge but also sharing hope and motivation.
- Peer learning processes work best when they are managed by those needing to strengthen capacity development (ownership). The processes that the recipients need to go through when applying for a project might be too complicated, which does not work for partner countries. This requires ownership and for that, to spend time to build trust and invest in sustainable/long-term relationships.
- To ensure ownership, platforms that connect peers ought to be seen as neutral spaces for all to engage. Engagement needs to go beyond the usual suspects and try to take the extra step of engaging, e.g. sub-national actors.
- Capacity development actions have been taking place for a long time but have evolved over the last decade – from awareness raising and communicating on climate change in general terms, to more specific and targeted practical and demand-driven type of actions. There is today enough evidence and literature on challenges and bottlenecks on capacity development; it is time to act.
- The North-South learning model has been evolving along a South-South model where all participants are experts. Horizontal and vertical partnerships are both equally valuable, working across levels of government and sectors. Partnerships and peer learning imply giving up control and investing in scoping to ensure the learning exercise is meaningful for all – this requires flexibility, an iterative approach and ensuring that all activities are demand-driven.
- Inter-regional organisations have the advantage of promoting cross-country peer learning which enables them to advise actors on replicating successful capacity development activities in other partner countries. Having a regional scope and being representative of a region is helpful to find solutions and have the critical mass for stakeholders to exchange.
- Working with the private sector may not always be difficult – [ArticuLAC](#) is a community of practice that provides a platform whereby the private sector is able to participate and engage with public representatives, through a number of thematic groups. This help avoids duplication of work, enhancing on-going action, and private sector alignment with public goals. At the same time: there is not one private sector but myriad types of actors, with different capacities and needs – hence the need to engage with them in different ways, reach out to them to understand their decision-making processes and language, and convey that to colleagues in the public sector.

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Conclusion & Next Steps

- Triangular co-operation is a key element to ensure peer learning across North and South actors – and also a way to ensure that silos are broken across communities. The OECD organised the 6th International Meeting on Triangular Co-operation, which acknowledged the relevance of triangular co-operation for climate change and featuring a number of activities.
- A Global Partnership Initiative on Triangular Co-operation is a way forward to exchange knowledge on these types of partnerships.
- Strengthening networks and partnerships to enhance synergies and promote knowledge- and experience-sharing between various stakeholders across sectors at all levels is a crucial step in moving forward. At the upcoming COP27, the PCCB will launch its technical paper on enhancing ownership of developing countries regarding building and maintaining capacity for climate action in order to foster collaborations. The recently published [PCCB toolkit](#) will be featured as a tool to support the assessment of capacity gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement to a wide audience.

For further information on the workshop, its recording and materials, please visit its [event webpage](#).