



Capacities needed for the horizontal and vertical integration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Outcome Article

side event series at the Regional Climate Weeks 2022

AFRICA

The horizontal and vertical integration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are acknowledged as transformative in providing opportunities for policy dialogues, efficiency and coherence. The second event of the side event series titled “Capacities needed for the horizontal and vertical integration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)” organized by the [Paris Committee on Capacity-building \(PCCB\)](#), in collaboration with the [PCCB Network](#), took place at the [UNFCCC Africa Climate Week in Libreville, Gabon](#).

This second event in a series of regional side events, following the first event at the [UNFCCC Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week](#), had a panel discussion format to provide a platform for stakeholders to collaborate and share their experiences and best practices related to climate change capacity-building at the regional and thematic levels, with a focus on the horizontal and vertical integration of NDCs. Likewise, this event series allows for knowledge-sharing among participants from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and many other interested stakeholders.

NDCs are key aspects for countries to achieve their respective goals related to the Paris Agreement, but the priorities of each NDC and how they are designed and implemented by individual governments vary from country to country. Horizontal and vertical integration are at the heart of good implementation of NDCs in this regard. In this context, capacity-building is also needed to mobilize the opportunities associated with the different approaches to integration. Aligning climate and development agendas and integrating NDCs across the board could improve horizontal policy coherence. At the same time, integrating NDCs at different levels of government, namely regional, national, and local, could improve vertical policy coherence.

The PCCB side event first examined the current situation of horizontal and vertical integration of NDCs in the African region and the role of capacity-building in this context. Gabriel Malunga, the Regional Program Officer for Anglophone Africa with the [NDC Partnership](#) highlighted Uganda's efforts in this regard, noting the steps taken for capacity-building through the implementation of its National Climate Change Act which a focus on NDCs. Likewise, it was noted that capacity-building efforts have allowed for the inclusion of NDCs in Eswatini's national budget. Elizabeth Njoki Wanjiru, Associate Programme Officer for Sub-Saharan Africa at the [International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\)](#), recognized that African states have limited access to information and resources, highlighting the importance of engagement with governments in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, it was noted that the efforts by IRENA to work towards renewable energy targets and implementing NDCs take place through cost mitigation and financing.

Dr. Mallé Fofana, the Director for Africa and Head of Programs at the [Global Green Growth Institute \(GGGI\)](#), recognized a capacity gap in training and knowledge management, as the long-term application of knowledge management is often overlooked. Likewise, there are language gaps and limited mutual understanding particularly in high-level ministerial positions, which requires a top-down approach integrated with technical knowledge to maintain sustainable knowledge and long-term strategy developing. Within that discussion, Dr. George Wamukoya, co-chair and team leader for the [Africa LEADS Partnership](#) and [African Group of Negotiators Experts Support \(AGNES\)](#), acknowledged that capacity-building takes place at both the institutional level and technical level; the challenge is whether these institutions – on a national and subnational level – have the capacity to reach NDC targets.

The panel discussion focused on cross-cutting issues in capacity-building efforts where panellists were asked what considerations should be made for inclusive and just horizontal and vertical integration of NDCs. In response, an example was presented regarding the revision process for Eswatini's NDC policies to include gender as a focal point. Elizabeth added that the focus is placed on a just and inclusive transition by enhancing youth involvement in decision-making at the international level. Emphasis was likewise placed on all vulnerable groups across Africa, particularly women, youth, and smallholder farmers. In the same discussion, Dr. Fofana brought attention to filling knowledge gaps in civil society to ensure governments are held accountable in terms of reaching NDC targets. Finally, an example of gender mainstreaming was the collaboration between the African Development Bank and the government of Rwanda dedicated to a project on mapping climate vulnerability hotspots for women, bringing attention to the policy implications of gendered climate vulnerability.

The key takeaways of the discussion were as follows:

Agriculture, with particular focus on smallholder farmers, are a focal point for NDC implementation and capacity-building across African states. Likewise, there is a focus on streamlining NDCs and capacity-building efforts at the parliamentary level across the continent, as well as at the subnational, local level, specifically through budgeting for climate action. Lastly, speakers acknowledged the need for greater capacity in spaces dedicated to negotiation for decision-makers across the continent.

Regional Climate Weeks 2022

Hosted by
The Government of Gabon



United Nations Climate Change
Paris Committee on Capacity-building

29 Aug - 02 Sep

Capacities needed for the horizontal and vertical integration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

31st August, 10:30-11:30 GMT+1

L'eau - Tent, Radisson Blu Okoumé Palace Hotel, Libreville



Farhat Mbarouk
Moderator
Member, Paris Committee on
Capacity-building (PCCB)



Roberta Ianna
Opening Remarks
Co-chair, Paris Committee on
Capacity-building (PCCB)



Dr. Mallé Fonfana
Director for Africa and
Head of Programs,
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)



Gabriel Malunga
Regional Program Officer for
Anglophone Africa,
NDC Partnership



Elizabeth Njoki Wanjiru
Associate Programme Officer, Sub-
Saharan Africa,
International Renewable Energy
Agency (IRENA)



Dr. George Wamukoya
Co-chair & team leader at Africa
LEDS Partnership & African Group of
Negotiators Experts Support
(AGNES)

PCCB Network



United Nations Climate Change
Paris Committee on Capacity-building