



REGIONAL
CLIMATE
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Building capacities for national adaptation plans (NAPs) implementation strategies

Outcome Article

PCCB Regional Thematic Dialogue at ACW 2023



United Nations Climate Change
Paris Committee on Capacity-building

in collaboration with



**NAP
Global
Network**

The thematic dialogue at Africa Climate Week 2023, organized by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), witnessed a spirited dialogue on the vital topic of "Building capacities for national adaptation plan (NAP) implementation strategies." During this engaging panel discussion, five speakers delved into the challenges and opportunities faced by African countries in implementing effective adaptation strategies and plans.

Understanding the Key Capacity Needs and Gaps

The first question focused on the crucial capacity needs and gaps faced by African nations when it comes to implementing their adaptation strategies and plans. The insights from the panelists shed light on the multifaceted nature of this issue.

All speakers emphasized the importance of gender-sensitive approaches and the ability to fill the absence of a NAP in many countries. They stressed the need for technical needs assessments as essential tools in this endeavor. They also highlighted the knowledge gap among civil servants and national representatives implementing adaptation strategies, emphasizing the importance of capacity-building as a means to bridge this gap.

One panelist brought attention to the challenges of "silo," which refers to the compartmentalization of efforts and resources between different government departments, hindering effective technology transfer and funding for adaptation. They stressed the need for institutional coordination and synergy between national designated entities (NDE) and national designated authorities (NDA) in technology transfer and financial support to NAP.

Another speaker emphasized the importance of grassroots engagement, advocating for investigations and community-based awareness-raising workshops on climate change. They highlighted the significance of involving all stakeholders in NAP preparation.

It was also emphasized that NAPs should not overly rely on external expertise, stressing the central role of local communities with their deep understanding of the local context, language, and knowledge.

In addition, the challenge of narrow funding sources covering a wide range of issues beyond climate change was brought up. Speakers discussed the allure of relatively short-term investments in mitigation compared to long-term adaptation investments. Regulatory frameworks, institutionalizing capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and feedback mechanisms were all identified as crucial capacities to be addressed.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) for Effective NAP Implementation

The second question focused on the significance of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) processes in tracking progress in adaptation efforts. Panelists offered valuable insights on this front.

The panelists all agreed with the importance of internal evaluation and learning, asserting that relying solely on external expertise is not sustainable. They urged investing in internal capacities and inclusive participation, especially of ethnic minorities who may face language barriers.

Cross-departmental coordination within governments was also brought up, highlighting that climate change is not a standalone issue but one that requires collaboration across all government sectors. Speakers underlined the pivotal role capacity-building plays in achieving this.

Inclusive Governance and Capacity-Building for Vulnerable Groups

The third question addressed the importance of inclusivity, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups, in NAP implementation. Panelists offered recommendations on capacity-building measures to facilitate their meaningful engagement.

One panelist drew attention to the high illiteracy rates in sub-Saharan Africa and emphasized the role of individuals in addressing climate change through family, trade, and education. Policymaking was called for to prioritize awareness-raising and climate action education to empower citizens.

Another speaker acknowledged the challenges of promoting gender-equal climate action, and proposed to use assessment tools to ensure the quality of social inclusion, emphasizing that social inclusion should be built upon financial inclusion.

Panelists also underscored that gender equality goes beyond providing opportunities and should be mainstreamed into NAP efforts

Open Questions and Future Considerations

The audience also raised important open questions for consideration. One such question pertained to the consideration of human mobility in NAPs. While one panelist noted that human mobility is indeed considered in some cases, others pointed out that it is often grouped under urban-rural or demographic topics in NAPs.

The dialogue highlighted the pressing need for comprehensive capacity-building efforts that address not only technical aspects but also foster inclusive and participatory approaches to adaptation. As African nations continue their journey toward building resilience in the face of climate change, these insights serve as valuable guideposts for shaping future NAP implementation strategies. The 2023 Africa Climate Week has certainly illuminated the path forward in the pursuit of a climate-resilient Africa.