



Paris Committee on Capacity-building

Fifth meeting

Virtual meeting, 9–11 June 2021

Report

Attendance

Tumasie Blair
Abdelrhani Boucham
Marzena Chodor (outgoing Co-Chair)
Crispin d’Auvergne
Jeniffer Hanna Collado
Roberta Ianna (incoming Co-Chair)
Mahawan Karuniasa
Mfumu Richard Lungu
Hannah Lyons
Kakhaberi Mdivani
Renilde Ndayishimiye
Yongxiang Zhang (Co-Chair)

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The 5th meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) was opened at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 June 2021, by the Co-Chairs of the PCCB, Marzena Chodor and Yongxiang Zhang.
2. The virtual etiquette for the meeting was outlined, for both PCCB members and observers.

2. Organizational matters

(a) *Adoption of the agenda*

3. The PCCB adopted the provisional agenda contained in document PCCB/2021/1 as proposed.

(b) *Organization of work*

4. The PCCB took note of the proposed schedule, as contained in document PCCB/2021/2, and the order of work for the meeting. Seven documents had been prepared and made available on the meeting web page¹ several weeks prior to the meeting to facilitate the preparation and participation of members and observers.

5. Ms. Zhang announced that, to continue to ensure the overall transparency of, and broad participation in, the proceedings of the PCCB, the meeting was open to all observers registered for the 2021 sessions of the subsidiary bodies (May–June). The UNFCCC secretariat had made an effort to ensure that the meeting was broadcast live on the PCCB meeting page and could thus be followed by observers not registered for the sessions. As there was no objection from members, the meeting was broadcast in this manner. The recording of the meeting is available on the meeting web page. Observers were given the opportunity to make written submissions on all the agenda items via a digital survey, in addition to being able to make comments from the floor. The survey was accessible throughout the meeting, and observers could make multiple submissions.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/event/pccb5>.

6. The Co-Chairs welcomed the observers attending the meeting, who included Party representatives, representatives of intergovernmental organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

7. The Co-Chairs noted that, as per previous practice, constituted bodies under the Convention and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism had been invited to participate in the meeting.

3. Election of the Co-Chairs

8. Under this agenda item, the PCCB was invited to elect its Co-Chairs, in accordance with its rules of procedure, to serve for a period of one year, effective from this meeting. Ms. Chodor reminded members that the Conference of the Parties (COP), in decision 23/CP.18, adopted a goal of gender balance in bodies established under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, she recalled decision 3/CP.25, which highlights the importance of achieving and sustaining the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the UNFCCC process. The PCCB elected Ms. Zhang to continue serving as Co-Chair and Roberta Ianna to act as Co-Chair until the 6th meeting of the PCCB in 2022. The Co-Chairs provided short statements and thanked the PCCB members for putting trust in their leadership.

4. Implementation of the 2021–2024 workplan of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

9. This agenda item was discussed in a plenary setting in multiple sessions over all three days of the meeting.

10. The discussions under agenda item 4 were organized into three agenda sub-items in accordance with the three priority areas of the PCCB workplan for 2021–2024:²

(a) Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention with a focus on avoiding duplication of efforts, including through collaboration with bodies under and outside the Convention that engage in activities related to capacity-building;

(b) Identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and recommending ways to address them;

(c) Promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement.

(a) *Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention*

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11. Regarding priority area (a), Ms. Ianna noted that the PCCB is undertaking a range of activities aimed at enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Owing to time constraints, these activities were not presented at the meeting, but participants were informed that a presentation of recent and upcoming activities under this priority area had been made available ahead of the meeting on the meeting web page.³

12. The main action points regarding the implementation of priority area (a) of the PCCB workplan for 2021–2024 were:

(a) Discuss the outcomes of the 1st meeting of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (ICG) and agree on next steps, as appropriate;

(b) Consider background note PCCB/2021/3 on the synthesis report by the PCCB on the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1 to be prepared as input to the global stocktake and agree on the steps and timeline for preparing the report, as appropriate.

13. The first segment of agenda sub-item 4(a) focused on the outcomes of the 1st meeting of the ICG. Ms. Ianna, lead of PCCB working group 1, provided a summary of the ICG meeting, which took place on 8 June 2021. She recalled that the ICG was established to contribute to the mandate

² The three priority areas of the PCCB workplan for 2021–2024 workplan are defined in decision 9/CP.25, para. 9.

³ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB5_activities_under_priority_area_A.pdf.

of the PCCB as regards enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. More specifically, the ICG responded to a request from representatives of other constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) process who participated in the round table on coherence and coordination of capacity-building at the 4th meeting of the PCCB to create a conducive space for relevant bodies to coordinate capacity-building efforts under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. As at June 2021, the ICG had 32 members from 14 constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant processes, including the PCCB members of working group 1. A list of ICG members is available on the ICG web page.⁴

14. After sharing the background information, Ms. Ianna turned to a summary of the meeting outcomes. She explained that the ICG meeting started with a discussion on the forward-looking overview of capacity-building activities and plans of bodies, entities and processes under the ICG. This document provides an overview of the various capacity-building related activities that ICG members plan to undertake and forms the basis for coordination efforts at the ICG. Members agreed that the document should be updated twice yearly, prior to the regular meetings of the ICG. Members concurred that a broad definition of capacity-building should be applied when curating this overview to avoid omitting potentially relevant activities. In terms of coordination, several promising collaborative efforts were discussed:

(a) A representative of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) suggested to explore the possibility of organizing a joint event with the PCCB, building on the SCF's needs determination report due to be available prior to COP26, and pointed to potential opportunities for coordination and collaboration in relation to the SCF Forum.

(b) A representative of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) highlighted that the outcomes of the LCIPP training series on building capacities to meaningfully engage with indigenous peoples and local knowledge are potentially relevant to all ICG members;

(c) A representative of the Consultative Group of Experts identified opportunities for coordination with the PCCB in its work related to needs assessments;

(d) A representative of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts identified opportunities for collaboration and coordination with the PCCB in relation to enhancing relevant action and support for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage through the work of the expert group on action and support, of which the PCCB is a member;

(e) The PCCB offered to assist all ICG members in disseminating capacity-building related activities and outcomes.

15. Beyond these opportunities for coordination and collaboration, the ICG briefly discussed a survey that will be distributed among ICG members to collect information on efforts to address capacity gaps and needs.⁵ The ICG also briefly discussed possible recommendations that the PCCB could provide to Parties this year related to enhancing coordination and coherence of capacity-building activities. ICG members agreed that it was somewhat premature to develop detailed recommendations, as the group is just starting its work. Nevertheless, some themes emerged from the discussion, such as the importance of institutional capacity-building, engaging external stakeholders and knowledge management. The ICG meeting was concluded with a forward-looking overview of upcoming PCCB activities, including the organization of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub. The report of the 1st meeting of the ICG is available on the ICG web page.

16. PCCB members welcomed the establishment of the ICG, and there was broad consensus on the value of this new space for coordination. Members highlighted that more systematic coordination and collaboration across constituted bodies is an important step forward. Members noted that the ICG and the forward-looking overview allow for better mapping of capacity-building activities

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/PCCB-ICG>.

⁵ In line with activity B.1 of the 2021–2024 PCCB workplan.

under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and that this mapping can be valuable to ICG members and external stakeholders.

17. Observers, including Parties and non-governmental organizations, also welcomed the establishment of the ICG and the outcomes of its 1st meeting. In terms of collaboration in the context of the ICG, observers highlighted the potential for further engagement of the PCCB in the ACE process, the gender action plan and the FWG of the LCIPP. With regard to the forward-looking overview, an observer representing the women and gender constituency argued that capacity-building should be defined broadly to include building the capacities of civil society organizations. A representative of the indigenous peoples organizations constituency coined the idea of developing guidance or a toolkit to build capacities to effectively engage indigenous peoples in processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

18. The second segment under agenda sub-item 4(a) concerned the synthesis report by the PCCB on the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1, to be prepared as input to the global stocktake. Ms. Zhang reminded all participants of background note, which was prepared for this sub-item.⁶

19. A representative of the UNFCCC Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress division gave a presentation⁷ outlining the expected contribution of the PCCB to the global stocktake. He recalled that the PCCB was invited by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)⁸ to prepare a synthesis report as an input to the global stocktake. This report could include both backward- and forward-looking information. The following guiding question contained in the non-paper by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies⁹ is particularly relevant to the PCCB: “To what extent has progress been made on enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to implement the Paris Agreement?” In addition to the synthesis report, the PCCB is invited to participate in one or more of the technical dialogues by, inter alia, organizing one or multiple webinar(s).

20. Ms. Ianna suggested that the PCCB liaise with the other constituted bodies to gather information on what reports they are planning to produce in response to the mandate, noting that all constituted bodies are requested to provide inputs and that there may be room for coordination and collaboration.

21. One comment relating to the synthesis report was received from an observer representing the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean (AILAC) via the dedicated survey available for observers to make written submissions. This submission highlighted the importance of the global stocktake and encouraged the PCCB to take stock of its work and assess the implementation of Article 11 of the Paris Agreement. AILAC expressed the view that this assessment should be both backward- and forward-looking and should be used as a tool to explore how the PCCB can accelerate capacity-building efforts related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Outcomes and next steps

22. PCCB working group 1 will draft recommendations on coherence and coordination of capacity-building based on inputs from the ICG meeting and other relevant PCCB work and will share the draft recommendations with ICG members for further input in July. The latest recommendations will then be included in the annual technical progress report of the PCCB to the COP and the CMA.

23. From August onward, the PCCB will analyse the inputs from the PCCB survey on efforts to address capacity gaps and needs so as to identify key efforts, tools, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations. Outcomes will be shared, as appropriate, with the ICG and the PCCB Network and on the capacity-building portal.¹⁰

⁶ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2021_3_synthesis%20report.pdf.

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/global%20stocktake%20under%20the%20Paris%20Agreement%20-%20PCCB%20contribution.pdf>.

⁸ See decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

⁹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/274746>.

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/workstreams/capacity-building-portal>.

24. Upcoming PCCB activities will seek the engagement of ICG members, including in:
- (a) The 3rd Capacity-building Hub, which is expected to take place during COP 26;
 - (b) The development of a toolkit to assist developing countries in assessing their capacity gaps and needs;
 - (c) The two calls for submissions to be published in July 2021 on methodologies and tools for implementing capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and on enhancing ownership of capacity-building.
25. With regard to the synthesis report by the PCCB on the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1, the PCCB agreed to liaise with the other constituted bodies to gather information on what reports they are planning to produce in response to the mandate.
26. The PCCB requested the secretariat to prepare, under the guidance of the PCCB, an annotated outline of the synthesis report by 15 October 2021 for intersessional consideration, with a view to finalizing the report by February 2022.
- (b) *Identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and recommending ways to address them*

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27. Regarding priority area (b), Ms. Zhang noted that the PCCB is undertaking a range of activities aimed at identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and recommending ways to address them. As with priority area (a), owing to time constraints, these activities were not presented at the meeting, but participants were informed that a presentation of recent and upcoming activities under this priority area had been made available well in advance of the meeting on the meeting web page.¹¹
28. The main action point regarding the implementation of priority area (b) was for the PCCB to consider the draft outline of the toolkit for assessing capacity-building needs and gaps related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and agree on next steps for developing the toolkit. Ms. Zhang noted that the draft outline of the toolkit is contained in background note PCCB/2021/4¹² and handed the floor to Mahawan Karuniasa, lead of working group 4, to moderate this segment.
29. Mr. Karuniasa explained that developing a toolkit was a recommendation in a 2019 technical paper by the PCCB. He recalled that the PCCB considered the concept note for the toolkit during its 4th meeting, taking into account comments and suggestions made by meeting observers, and that the toolkit concept note was finalized intersessionally earlier this year. Upon completion of the concept note, PCCB working group 4, together with consultant Scott Willis, developed the draft outline of the toolkit.
30. The floor was then given to Mr. Willis to present the draft outline of the toolkit. The toolkit will be based on a series of case studies to allow for broad geographical and thematic coverage and to leverage existing best practices while avoiding strict guidance. In addition to the case studies, the toolkit is expected to have a dedicated section with additional resources that address cross-cutting issues to be integrated into the capacity-building portal. In terms of logistics, Mr. Willis noted that the toolkit is expected to be published prior to COP 26. He invited constituency groups to submit best practices, tools and experience that would benefit the toolkit, and further noted that PCCB members, the PCCB Network and ICG members will be involved in the process of gathering information for the toolkit.
31. There was consensus among PCCB members that the draft outline as contained in background note PCCB/2021/4 forms a good basis for the further development of the toolkit. Members also underlined the importance of the toolkit in fulfilling the mandate of the PCCB under priority area (b). In response to a question from a PCCB member about case study selection, Mr. Willis explained that there is no formal selection process for the case studies. The selection process is contingent on the number of case studies gathered and the quality and diversity of approaches,

¹¹ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB5_activities_under_priority_area_B.pdf.

¹² Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2021_4_toolkit%20outline%20draft%20200526.pdf.

sectors and regions. In terms of the input-gathering process, there was consensus among members on the importance of engaging the PCCB Network and the ICG. One member pointed to the SCF needs determination report as being particularly relevant to the development of the toolkit.

32. Observers welcomed the draft outline of the toolkit and considered it to provide a good basis for further development. An observer representing AILAC noted that AILAC would like to see a stronger focus on assessing capacity gaps and needs in relation to nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation and, if possible, long-term strategies, adaptation communications and national adaptation plans. Moreover, AILAC noted that the toolkit could also take into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), nature-based solutions and national development plans. The same observer stressed the importance of using the SCF needs determination report as an input to the toolkit. In a written submission received through the survey, AILAC highlighted, among other things, the different dimensions of capacity needs, such as the financial, human and technical dimensions, and expressed the wish that the toolkit will cover them all. The women and gender constituency noted that it has a large network and is willing to contribute to the toolkit, especially because gender is one of the cross-cutting themes therein. A Party observer from Japan noted that, while the toolkit is focused on the national level, there may be a wealth of information from international cooperation initiatives and subnational- and local-level initiatives. The observer also highlighted that it would be useful if the toolkit could distil key methodologies and the underlying logic of the case studies in order to ensure that best practices can be replicated. A written submission by a Party observer from Bhutan underscored that the toolkit should be practical and help developing countries to ascertain real and on-the-ground capacity-building needs and gaps. The observer noted that the toolkit should not be portrayed as a universal metric for assessing gaps and needs, acknowledging diversity among countries. Finally, the observer expressed a preference for the toolkit to include information on how, in the different case studies, particular attention was given to the assessed gaps and needs. PCCB members took note of all the contributions from observers and highlighted that these will be taken into account, as appropriate, in further intersessional work.

Outcomes and next steps

33. PCCB members agreed to use the draft outline of the toolkit for assessing capacity-building needs and gaps related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement as contained in background note PCCB/2021/4 for the further development of the toolkit with the aim of publishing the toolkit ahead of COP 26.

(c) *Promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement*

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34. Regarding priority area (c), Ms. Zhang noted that the PCCB is undertaking a range of activities aimed at promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement. Owing to time constraints, these activities were not presented in the meeting, but participants were informed that a presentation of recent and upcoming activities under this priority area had been made available prior to the meeting on the meeting web page.¹³

35. The main action points regarding the implementation of priority area (c) of the PCCB workplan for 2021–2024 were to:

(a) Discuss the outcomes of the 10th Durban Forum, held on 2 June 2021, to advance its work on the 2021 focus area of the PCCB;

(b) Consider the synthesis of submissions on the 2021 focus area of the PCCB and agree on next steps for implementing the focus area, as appropriate;

(c) Consider the final review report on the implementation of work under its strategic plan for stakeholder engagement, communications and resource mobilization, and the draft communication and stakeholder engagement strategies for the PCCB for the period of the 2021–2024 workplan, and agree on appropriate next steps;

¹³ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB5_activities_under_priority_area_C.pdf.

(d) Discuss the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the PCCB Network, held in April 2021, and any pending priority issues with regard to the implementation of the PCCB Network in 2021, the engagement of the PCCB in the UNFCCC regional climate weeks in 2021, and the organization of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub, expected to be held in conjunction with COP 26.

36. The first segment took the form of a plenary session to take stock of the outcomes of the 10th Durban Forum on capacity-building, held on 2 June 2021, and of how the outcomes could be addressed by the PCCB. PCCB members had actively participated in the Forum and provided inputs to the discussions held by the four breakout groups. PCCB member Crispin d’Auvergne moderated this segment and recalled that COP 24 requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to thematically align the meetings of the Durban Forum with the annual focus area of the PCCB. With this in mind, the topic of the 10th Durban Forum was building capacity for addressing climate and development goals coherently.

37. The co-facilitators of the 10th Durban Forum, Shehnaaz Moosa and Makoto Kato, reported in plenary on the key messages of the Forum. They highlighted, as emerging themes, building institutional capacity for horizontal and vertical integration, identifying capacity gaps and needs, building capacity to link climate actions with the SDGs, the importance of ownership and a whole-of-society approach in capacity-building efforts, the potential of peer-to-peer learning and South–South cooperation as capacity-building approaches, capacity-building for green recovery, and the role of indigenous and local knowledge in capacity-building efforts.

38. The presentation was followed by a discussion among PCCB members and observers on ways and means for the PCCB to address the outcomes of the Durban Forum. The PCCB acknowledged the rich discussions held during the Forum. Two members highlighted that green recovery was an important theme that emerged at the Forum, meriting further work. Another theme that PCCB members picked up on was the importance of institutional capacity. One member noted that, while the Forum touched on many interesting themes, it remained distanced from implementation on the ground. Another member added to this by suggesting that the PCCB Network could follow up on discussions at the Forum. Several members noted that the Forum helped to identify capacity gaps and needs as experienced by policymakers, practitioners and grass-roots organizations.

39. Observers congratulated the co-facilitators on the successful Durban Forum. An observer from the women and gender constituency welcomed the participatory design of the Forum, particularly the breakout groups, which allowed for peer-to-peer learning. The same observer also welcomed the fact that one of the key messages emerging from the Forum was to ensure greater focus on local and indigenous grass-roots knowledge. A representative from AILAC highlighted the importance of enhancing institutional capacity across all sectors and levels of government. The same representative suggested that national adaptation plans and adaptation communications should be considered in concert with efforts to coherently address NDCs and national development plans. Finally, one observer highlighted capacity to access climate finance as key to ensuring coherent implementation of climate and development goals.

40. The second segment under agenda sub-item 4(c) featured a discussion on the synthesis of submissions on the 2021 focus area of the PCCB as contained in document PCCB/2021/5.¹⁴ Mr. d’Auvergne recalled that the PCCB agreed, at its 4th meeting, on the following focus area for 2021: building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans.

41. PCCB members welcomed the large number of submissions and the diversity of submitting organizations and engaged in discussion on how to use the insights for further implementation of the focus area in 2021. One member proposed using the list of best practices and case studies as contained in the synthesis report in combination with the expertise in the PCCB Network to organize a webinar to identify good practices, lessons learned and case studies that respond to the challenges identified at the Durban Forum. Another member provided reflections on the six key messages of the synthesis report. He proposed that the PCCB should recommend to Parties that they ensure that national focal points to the UNFCCC are well connected with relevant sectoral ministries. In terms of linking global agendas, it was noted that, beyond the SDGs, the biodiversity and disaster risk

¹⁴ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB5_2021_5_synthesis_focus_area.pdf.

reduction agendas should be considered. Furthermore, capacities to access finance and implement transparency requirements were highlighted as important. Finally, a member noted that the key message in the synthesis report highlighting the importance of holistic approaches in capacity-building efforts should be considered in the development of the toolkit.

42. A Party observer representing Bhutan and the least developed countries welcomed the synthesis report. In particular, the representative underlined the importance of following up on the interventions identified in the synthesis report in a way that ensures impact at the local level.

43. The third segment under agenda sub-item 4(c) focused on communication and stakeholder engagement. Ms. Ianna handed the floor to PCCB member Hannah Lyons to moderate this session. PCCB members had a rich discussion on the final review report on the implementation of work under the strategic plan for stakeholder engagement, communications and resource mobilization developed by the PCCB, which is contained in document PCCB/2021/6,¹⁵ and the draft communication and stakeholder engagement strategies for the PCCB for the period of the 2021–2024 workplan, contained in document PCCB/2021/7.¹⁶ The communication and stakeholder engagement strategies include a results-based assessment framework and criteria for opening PCCB working groups to external experts in the current workplan period.

44. PCCB members and observers welcomed both documents and engaged in rich discussions on communication and stakeholder engagement. Several themes emerged in the discussion. The PCCB Network was widely recognized as an important vehicle for engaging stakeholders and enhancing the visibility of the PCCB. The Capacity-building Hub and the engagement of the PCCB in the regional climate weeks were also acknowledged in this regard. Most discussions centred on using social media to reach interested stakeholders. PCCB members and observers welcomed the expansion of social media activities and the intended move from Facebook to LinkedIn. However, several observers noted that challenges in relation to connectivity, accessibility and language barriers should be taken into account. Some added that outreach activities should reach the local level, including grass-roots organizations. Youth were recognized by various observers and PCCB members as a particularly important stakeholder group. The youth constituency highlighted its large network and experience with social media and offered to support the PCCB in outreach activities where needed. Other stakeholders were also emphasized in the discussion, including indigenous and local communities, women and gender organizations, and workers and trade unions. In the context of enhancing visibility and social media outreach, the idea of having a PCCB ambassador was put forward.

45. The fourth segment under agenda sub-item 4(c) focused on outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the PCCB Network and any pending priority issues with regard to the implementation of the PCCB Network in 2021, the engagement of the PCCB in the UNFCCC regional climate weeks in 2021 and the organization of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub. Ms. Chodor moderated this segment and provided a brief summary of the 2nd PCCB Network meeting and the engagement of the PCCB and PCCB Network in the regional climate weeks, in addition to an update on the planning for the 3rd Capacity-building Hub.

46. PCCB members welcomed the active participation of a large number of organizations in the 2nd meeting of the PCCB Network and noted that this illustrates the growth of the Network. One member underscored the active role of the PCCB Network in the Capacity-building Hub. Members also underscored that the PCCB Network can be leveraged for developing the toolkit and disseminating calls for submissions. One member recalled that, during the 2nd PCCB Network meeting, members expressed the need for, and importance of, regional and thematic events. The PCCB could explore ways to support members who want to organize such events.

47. A Party observer from Ethiopia proposed setting up a dedicated youth network and organizing activities aimed at building the capacities of young people. Other observers echoed the importance of involving youth, gender and indigenous stakeholders. For example, an observer from the FWG stressed the importance of building the capacities of indigenous peoples and proposed that the PCCB should collaborate with the FWG in organizing activities at the 3rd Capacity-building Hub. Also, the theme of inclusivity was discussed, with an observer stressing the importance of

¹⁵ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB5_2021_6_ReviewReport%20.pdf.

¹⁶ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB5_2021_7_CommsEngStrategies%20.pdf.

overcoming language barriers and a member suggesting providing support to PCCB members who experience challenges in attending the Capacity-building Hub.

48. PCCB members welcomed all comments by observers and noted that these would be taken into account during further intersessional work. On the comment about establishing a separate youth network, PCCB members stressed that the PCCB Network already has many youth organizations among its members and that youth engagement is being actively promoted across PCCB activities, most prominently at the Capacity-building Hub and in PCCB activities during the regional climate weeks. Members cautioned that creating a separate network for youth may actually be detrimental to the integration of youth in all PCCB activities.

Outcomes and next steps

49. The PCCB agreed to organize a webinar to identify good practices, lessons learned and case studies that respond to the challenges identified at the Durban Forum, using, inter alia, the synthesis of submissions as contained in document PCCB/2021/5 and available expertise within the PCCB Network.

50. The PCCB also agreed to publish, on its web page, the final review report on the implementation of work under the PCCB strategic plan for stakeholder engagement, communications and resource mobilization, as contained in document PCCB/2021/6.

51. PCCB members agreed to adopt the proposed PCCB communication and stakeholder engagement strategies for the period of the 2021–2024 PCCB workplan, as contained in document PCCB/2021/7, to publish them on the PCCB web page and to update them over time if and as needed.

52. PCCB members also agreed to use the background note on the 3rd Capacity-building Hub agreed on at the 4th meeting of the PCCB as a basis for organizing the 3rd Capacity-building Hub at COP 26.¹⁷ Taking into account the final logistical arrangements to be adopted at COP 26, the PCCB will define intersessionally whether the 3rd Capacity-building Hub will be designed as an in-person event series, a virtual event series or a hybrid event series with in-person and virtual elements. The concept note may further be adjusted intersessionally as appropriate. The PCCB will provide additional information on the modalities of the 3rd Capacity-building Hub as soon as possible on its web page.

5. Focus area of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2022

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53. Agenda item 5 was introduced and discussed in a plenary setting on 11 June. PCCB member Abdelrhani Boucham moderated discussions on this agenda item. Under this agenda item, the PCCB was invited to discuss and agree on its 2022 focus area with a view to including this information in its 2021 technical progress report. Mr. Boucham invited the PCCB to consider the following three options:

(a) Extend the 2021 PCCB focus area, namely building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans, either exactly as is or with some amendment;

(b) Reconsider one or both options that the PCCB discussed at its previous meeting but did not select as the 2021 focus area:

(i) Enhancing the monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building activities;

(ii) Increasing climate ambition through capacity-building among youth and educators;

(c) Discuss and agree on a new focus area.

¹⁷ The background note on the 3rd Capacity-building hub is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2020_9_CB%20Hub.pdf.

54. There was consensus among members to extend the 2021 PCCB focus area with minor amendments. Members noted that the large number of submissions on the 2021 focus area and the engaging discussions at the Durban Forum showed that the topic is timely and merits extension.

55. In terms of amending the focus area, members considered taking into account the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and related recovery aspects. After extensive deliberations, members agreed that the focus area should be sufficiently broad and future-proof. In this context, members agreed to use the term ‘sustainable recovery’. Members further discussed whether the focus area should make explicit reference to the pandemic. After deliberation, members agreed that the link with the pandemic is self-evident and that the focus area should also be broad enough to cover recovery from other impacts, for example extreme weather events.

56. Members also exchanged views on whether to use the term ‘national development plan’, ‘national development agenda’ or ‘national development’. Members agreed to use ‘national development plan’, as this is a well-established term.

57. The floor was then opened to observers, who agreed with the approach taken by the PCCB to extend the 2021 focus area with an amendment to refer to recovery efforts. While observers agreed with the broad terminology used in relation to recovery efforts, some highlighted that the PCCB should, in the implementation of the focus area, give due attention to low-emission development strategies, long-term strategies and building resilience, emphasizing that resilience should be interpreted broadly to include resilience to environmental, social and economic impacts.

58. One alternative proposal for the 2022 focus area that was put forward by an observer via the survey was building the capacities and responding to the needs of local and indigenous women’s groups and gender rights groups, in order to enhance their informed and active engagement in climate policies and actions. The proposal was welcomed but not further considered at this stage, given the consensus of the PCCB to extend the current focus area with some amendment.

59. No changes were discussed regarding the implementation of the 2022 focus area, which entails the active participation of PCCB members in the Durban Forum, at least one follow-up webinar relating to the topics or subtopics of the Durban Forum and a dedicated focus area day at the annual Capacity-building Hub at the COP.

Outcomes and next steps

60. The PCCB agreed that its 2022 focus area will be building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans and sustainable recovery.

6. Other matters

Proceedings

61. Agenda item 6 was introduced and discussed in a plenary setting on 11 June. Discussions were organized in four segments and were facilitated by Ms. Ianna.

62. The first segment under agenda item 6 concerned the election of a gender focal point for the PCCB in line with the provisions of the gender mainstreaming standard.¹⁸ The roles of the gender focal point are to champion the integration of gender considerations in the work of the PCCB, liaise with the gender focal points of other constituted bodies, the secretariat and stakeholders who can support the integration of gender, and identify and share challenges and successes of implementation. PCCB members expressed their gratitude to Jeniffer Hanna Collado for having successfully served as PCCB gender focal point for one year, since being elected at the 4th meeting of the PCCB.

63. The second segment under agenda item 6 concerned the annual technical progress report of the PCCB. The secretariat presented the proposed schedule for preparing and finalizing the report. There were no comments by members on this agenda item or the proposed schedule.

64. The third segment under agenda item 6 concerned the adoption of a provision on conflict of interest in the rules of procedure of the PCCB. Ms. Ianna recalled that the issue of a lack of provisions

¹⁸ The PCCB gender mainstreaming standard was agreed by the PCCB in 2019 and annexed to its 2019 technical progress report (FCCC/SBI/2019/13).

on conflict of interest in the rules of procedure of certain constituted bodies of the UNFCCC was raised by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2019 during its assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control pertaining to the UNFCCC constituted bodies. The audit found that, although the mandates of some constituted bodies did not deal with financial matters, conflict of interest safeguards cover other potential situations that may put organizations, their mandates and reputations at risk. The audit concluded that the rules of procedure of certain constituted bodies that did not have explicit provisions to safeguard against potential conflicts of interest and situations in the working of these bodies needed to be remedied by including a harmonized conflict of interest provision in the rules of procedure. The audit's recommendation, which is published on the website of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, was accepted by the secretariat of the UNFCCC and reported at COP 25 as being set for completion by COP 26. PCCB members considered the amendment to the language of the rules of procedure as proposed by the Legal Affairs division of the UNFCCC secretariat.

65. The fourth segment focused on other matters. Several observers expressed their appreciation for the work of the PCCB and the ample room provided for observers to participate. One observer representing the women and gender constituency and the constituency of youth non-governmental organizations expressed a desire to participate as an observer in PCCB working groups 2 and 3, if possible, noting that these working groups could benefit greatly from the knowledge and experience of observers. Observers from AILAC and the FWG supported this request.

Outcomes and next steps

66. Regarding the election of a gender focal point for the PCCB, there was complete agreement to elect Ms. Chodor as gender focal point.

67. Regarding the 2021 technical progress report of the PCCB, there was agreement on the following timeline for reviewing and clearing the report:

(a) Share the unedited draft report with members by 9 August 2021, allowing members five working days to review it and provide feedback;

(b) Share the revised unedited draft report with members by 17 August 2021, allowing members five working days to review it and provide feedback;

(c) Share the final, edited report with members by 30 August 2021 for approval on a no-objection basis by 3 September 2021.

68. Regarding the conflict of interest provision, the PCCB agreed by consensus to adopt the following provision on the prevention of conflicts of interest in its rules of procedure: "Committee members must promptly disclose, and recuse themselves from, any deliberations or decision-making where their personal or financial interests may be affected, in order to avoid a conflict of interest or the appearance of one".

69. The PCCB will further discuss engagement of external experts in PCCB working groups intersessionally, in line with the criteria for opening PCCB working groups to external experts, as contained in the annex to the PCCB communication and stakeholder engagement strategies for 2021–2024, which were agreed by the PCCB at this meeting.

7. Closure of the meeting

70. The 5th meeting of the PCCB was closed on Friday, 11 June, at 5 p.m.

Annex

Background notes for the 5th meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

<i>Title</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
Provisional agenda and annotations	PCCB/2021/1
Tentative meeting schedule	PCCB/2021/2
Background note on the synthesis report by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1	PCCB/2021/3
Draft outline of the toolkit for assessing capacity-building needs and gaps	PCCB/2021/4
Synthesis of submissions on the 2021 focus area of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building	PCCB/2021/5
Final review report on the implementation of work under the strategic plan for stakeholder engagement, communications and resource mobilization (2020–2021)	PCCB/2021/6
Draft communication and stakeholder engagement strategies for the PCCB for the period of the 2021–2024 workplan	PCCB/2021/7