



Paris Committee on Capacity-building

Seventh meeting
Bonn, 12–14 June 2023

Report

Attendance

Farhat Mbarouk
Hayrapet Hakobyan
Kayah Ward
Kerricia Hobson
Kunzang
Lily Bermel
Roberta Ianna
Rosibel Martínez
Yousif Muayad Yousif (online)

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The 7th meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 June 2023, by the Co-Chair of the PCCB, Roberta Ianna.
2. The Co-Chair welcomed the PCCB members, including the three new members whose terms on the PCCB commenced at PCCB 7, and the meeting observers. Two positions on the PCCB were vacant at the time of the meeting for the Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe group. Roberta Ianna, who moderated the meeting, also thanked the three departing PCCB members for their dedication and support during their terms on the Committee.

2. Organizational matters

(a) *Adoption of the agenda*

3. The PCCB adopted the provisional agenda contained in document PCCB/2023/1 as proposed.

(b) *Organization of work*

4. The PCCB took note of the proposed schedule, as contained in document PCCB/2023/2, and the order of work for the meeting. Nine 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. Roberta Ianna announced that, to continue to ensure broad participation and overall transparency in the proceedings of the PCCB, the meeting registration had been open to all observers registered for the fifty-eight sessions of the subsidiary bodies. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat had made an effort to ensure that the meeting was broadcast live on the meeting web page and could thus be followed by interested stakeholders not registered for the meeting. 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

¹ Available at: <https://unfccc.int/pccb/pccb-meetings-and-documents#Seventh-PCCB-Meeting-12-14-June-2023>.

digital survey in addition to being able to make comments from the floor. The survey was accessible throughout the meeting and for several days after, and observers could make multiple submissions.

6. Roberta Ianna welcomed the observers attending the meeting, including representatives of Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

3. Election of the Co-Chairs

7. 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. Roberta Ianna 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 Roberta Ianna to continue serving as Co-Chair and newly elected Rosibel Martínez as Co-Chair. Their terms will extend until the 8th meeting of the PCCB, in 2024. The Co-Chairs provided short statements and thanked the PCCB members for placing trust in their leadership.

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

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

9. The discussions under agenda item 4 were organized into three 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*

Proceedings

10. The discussion under agenda item 4(a) was moderated by Roberta Ianna. The main action points at the 7th meeting regarding the implementation of priority area (a) of the PCCB workplan for 2021–2024 were to:

(a) Report on activities under the relevant priority area since its 6th meeting and on upcoming activities;

(b) Discuss the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and Paris Agreement (ICG) and upcoming intersessional work;

(c) Evaluate the progress of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and Paris Agreement (ICG).

11. Under the first segment of agenda item 4(a), Roberta Ianna noted that the PCCB has been undertaking a range of activities aimed at enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement since the 6th meeting of the PCCB in June 2022. She briefly presented recent and upcoming activities under this priority area and noted that the presentation slides had also been made available ahead of the meeting on the meeting web page.

12. Activities conducted since the 6th meeting of the PCCB include:

(a) Convening two meetings of the ICG and the production of two ICG meeting reports, as well as updating the forward-looking overview of the capacity-building activities of the constituted

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

bodies, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant processes under the Convention and Paris Agreement;

(b) Follow-up exchanges on collaborative activities, and the implementation of the latter, with various bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG such as the Adaptation Committee (AC), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform;

(c) A call for submissions issued from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on experience, best practices and lessons learned regarding improving coherence and coordination of capacity-building efforts.

13. Roberta Ianna reported that, since the 6th meeting of the PCCB, members of the Committee actively participated in more than 15 events engaged with over 200 entities and bodies under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement to advance the discussions on capacity-building and contribute to greater coherence and coordination. With regard to upcoming activities, the PCCB will further advance work under the ICG, will develop a new set of recommendations to the COP and CMA for enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building and avoiding duplication of efforts, as well as host a technical session at the 5th Capacity-building Hub focusing on key aspects of enhancing coherence and coordination.

14. In the ensuing exchange with observers, representatives from Zambia, South Africa, India and Nigeria praised the progress made by the committee in terms of enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building, while stressing the significance of involving national focal points to enhance visibility, expand coverage, and ensure better understanding of the PCCB's work. While the UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks (RCWs), used by the PCCB for outreach purposes, were highlighted as an important platform, it was suggested that the PCCB establish direct contact with UNFCCC national focal points to further expand its outreach and the relevance of its work to Parties. Additionally, the need to further enhance its communication efforts at both national and global levels to bridge gaps and foster collaboration was highlighted by representatives from India, the Philippines, and the Gambia. The importance of integrating gender perspectives into capacity-building initiatives, as emphasized by a representative from the Women & Gender Constituency (WGC) and the representative from Nigeria, was also a shared point.

15. One PCCB member reflected positively on the coordination of PCCB with other bodies and individual connections through the ICG, as well as the stability and institutionalization of PCCB activities. Members reacted positively to the proposal of liaising with the UNFCCC national focal points, seeing it as a means to increase the impact of PCCB's work at the national level and encourage more inputs from Parties to the regular PCCB calls for submissions.

16. The second segment of agenda sub-item 4(a) focused on the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the ICG and upcoming intersessional work. Roberta Ianna, lead of PCCB working group (WG) 1 on coherence and coordination, presented the outcomes of the meeting held on June 6th, 2022, which counted 16 representatives from across 12 UNFCCC bodies, entities and processes. In line with previous agreements the ICG is pursuing the promotion of capacity-building resources by UNFCCC bodies, entities, and processes through the creation of e-booklets. These e-booklets, focusing on themes such as climate action, adaptation and resilience, climate finance, climate technology development, human rights, gender, indigenous knowledge, education, youth, sustainable land use, and management, mitigation, and transparency, are scheduled for publication at COP28. During the meeting, initial drafts of two booklets on mitigation and transparency were presented, and feedback will be gathered via email to assess the need for adjustments in the information-gathering process for the remaining six booklets. The ICG meeting then continued with an informal coordination discussion based on the updated forward-looking overview of capacity-building activities and plans of bodies, entities and processes under the ICG³. ICG members shared relevant information on recent or upcoming capacity-building-related work and outlined proposed coordination or collaboration activities. Following a summary of the content of the discussion, it was noted that the full summary of the 5th ICG meeting would soon be available on the ICG web page.

³ Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Forward%20looking%20overview_June%202023.pdf

17. A discussion followed where observers acknowledged the collaborative work within the ICG, noting the progressive ideas and agreements made. A representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) expressed interest in supporting the development of the human rights booklet. Additionally, a Research and Independent Non-Governmental Organizations (RINGO) constituency representative proposed an additional booklet on participatory governance, stakeholder engagement, and conflict management, with the suggestion that RINGOs could assist in its creation. An observer from Timor Leste proposed additional e-booklets on Loss and Damage (L&D) and Article 6 to enhance the capacity of Least Developed Countries (LDC). Representatives from the WGC voiced concerns about technology barriers preventing grassroots women's organizations in Africa and the Global South from accessing the booklets and raised issues regarding the dissemination process. In response, a member of the PCCB underlined that the booklets would be promoted through the RCWs in 2024 and via the PCCB Network, relying on practitioners to disseminate them effectively and linking participation in RCWs to local civil society groups. A representative from Zambia highlighted the importance of disseminating the e-booklets effectively to developing countries and proposed involving national focal points during the launch event of the e-booklets at the 5th Capacity-building Hub and in the further dissemination process of these resources.

18. The third segment of agenda sub-item 4(a) focused on the evaluation of progress of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and Paris Agreement (ICG). The PCCB discussed how to conduct the upcoming evaluation of the progress made by the ICG since its establishment in early 2021, considering the potential timeline, elements and sources of information for evaluating the ICG as outlined in the annex of the relevant meeting background note⁴.

Outcomes and next steps

19. Regarding the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and Paris Agreement and consideration of intersessional work, the PCCB agreed to:

- (a) Follow-up with OHCHR and RINGO on the e-booklets prepared under the ICG;
- (b) Consider the future development of additional ICG e-booklets on topics suggested by observers (i.e. participatory governance, stakeholder engagement, and conflict management, and Article 6);
- (c) Organize the launch event on the ICG e-booklets at the 5th Capacity-building Hub and consider involving national focal points in the event and in the further dissemination process of these resources.

20. In terms of the scope of the evaluation of progress of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and Paris Agreement, the PCCB agreed on the following elements:

- (a) Timeliness, quality and added value of outputs, including how they were received by the bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG, Parties and non-Party stakeholders;
- (b) The level, nature and effectiveness of members' engagement;
- (c) Assessment of whether the working modalities of the ICG, including its member composition, number and frequency of meetings, have adequately served the objective of the group;
- (d) Identification of any gaps in the work of the ICG, taking into account emerging priorities and mandates relating to capacity-building.

21. Regarding sources the evaluation could draw on, the PCCB agreed on the following: survey responses from ICG members; survey responses from Parties and observers; direct and indirect outcomes of the ICG; meeting documents; annual technical progress reports of the PCCB; relevant decisions of the COP and CMA referring to the ICG and the workplan of the PCCB for 2021-2024.

⁴ Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2023_3%20ICG%20evaluation.pdf

22. Regarding the timeline for the evaluation, the PCCB agreed to conduct the evaluation between August and September, with a view to ensuring a timely documentation of the outcomes of the evaluation and their presentation at the sixth meeting of the ICG to be held in conjunction with COP 28.

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

Proceedings

23. Agenda item 4(b) was moderated by Roberta Ianna. The main action points at the 7th meeting regarding the implementation of priority area (b) of the PCCB workplan for 2021–2024 were to:

(a) Report on activities under the relevant priority area since its 6th meeting and on upcoming activities;

(b) Discuss the PCCB's efforts to gather and promote the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies, including consideration of the background note containing the draft call for submissions on tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance;

(c) Discuss the planning of the technical session focusing on enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity at the 5th Capacity-building Hub.

24. Under the first segment of agenda item 4(b), Roberta Ianna noted that the PCCB has been undertaking a range of activities aimed at identifying capacity gaps and needs under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and recommending ways to address them since the 6th meeting of the PCCB in June 2022. She briefly presented recent and upcoming activities under this priority area and noted that the presentation slides had also been made available ahead of the meeting on the meeting web page.

25. Activities conducted since the 6th meeting of the PCCB include:

(a) The publication of the toolkit to assess capacity gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement in French, Spanish and Arabic to disseminate the toolkit at a regional level and reach wider stakeholders. Translated by the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Center for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and South Asia as well as PCCB Network member, Impulsouth;

(b) The publication of the technical paper “Enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity for climate action” and a corresponding launch event during the Capacity-building Day at the 4th Capacity-building Hub in COP27;

(c) The continuation of the PCCB and the OHCHR free, self-paced online training titled “An Introduction to Climate Change and Human Rights” with a total of 18,000 learners as of December 2022;

26. Upcoming activities under this priority area include:

(a) The gathering of information on efforts to address capacity gaps and needs by preparing e-booklets on capacity-building resources under the ICG;

(b) A call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance;

(c) The translation of the technical paper “Enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity for climate action” in French, Spanish and Arabic, supported by members of the PCCB Network;

(d) Recommendations to the COP and CMA on enhancing developing country ownership of building and maintaining capacity to be included in the 2023 technical progress report.

27. The PCCB and meeting observers highlighted the importance of translation in overcoming language barriers for effective capacity-building. They particularly emphasized the role of the PCCB Network in expanding the PCCB's reach and coordination with other institutions. A representative from Zambia raised the need for a mechanism to track the uptake of the annual recommendations of

the PCCB to Parties and suggested initiating a dedicated program to address identified gaps. Representatives from the WGC and the OHCHR praised the accomplishments of the PCCB, specifically highlighting the ongoing online course, and expressed interest in supporting additional courses.

28. The second segment of agenda item 4(b) focused on the efforts to gather and promote the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies, including a call for submissions on tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance. Roberta Ianna started by recalling the background and context of this activity, highlighting the agreement on the proposed topic. This focus aimed to align with Article 11.1 of the Paris Agreement and enable the PCCB to support developing countries in addressing critical capacity gaps related to accessing climate finance. The objective also included updating and expanding the accompanying resources in the PCCB toolkit for assessing capacity gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement. She then invited PCCB members and observers to turn to background document PCCB/2023/4 and share their views on the draft call for submissions as well as suggested next steps contained in the annex to this document.

29. PCCB members expressed their satisfaction with the topic and draft call for submissions. A PCCB member proposed expanding the list of potential submitters to include UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement Parties, and relevant bodies to ensure inclusivity. Another member emphasized the importance of having indicators or criteria for measuring effectiveness of capacity-building and identifying gaps and needs, and suggested allowing sufficient time for submissions. Another PCCB member proposed launching the call in September and closing it before the start of COP 28 to ensure maximum participation. This proposal received support from other PCCB members and meeting observers. A representative from Singapore supported the draft call for submissions but advised that the PCCB refrain from defining climate finance in the call for submissions given the lack of an operational definition of climate finance in the UNFCCC process.

30. As regards the PCCB toolkit to assess capacity building gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement, a representative from Timor Leste proposed making the toolkits available in Adobe formats, allowing for automatic translation into other languages and accommodating the member states of the community of Portuguese language.

31. Under the third segment of agenda item 4(b), the PCCB discussed a planned technical session focusing on enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity at the 5th Capacity-building Hub during COP28. To inform the discussion, Rosibel Martínez briefly presented the findings of the PCCB technical paper “Enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity for climate action”, touching upon the challenges at the provider and at the domestic level with regard to capacity-building. A representative from Japan suggested the importance of inviting a range of relevant stakeholders as speakers to the event, particularly representatives from developing country Parties, noting that the focus should be on those individuals who are either coordinating capacity-building within the government or implementing capacity-building projects or project-based approaches. Additionally, the representative emphasized the possibility of engaging constituted bodies and members of the PCCB Network in the technical session, to highlight the significance of establishing a network of practitioners and entities on the ground in developing countries. There was an interest in the technical session being solution-focused on addressing the challenges presented.

Outcomes and next steps

32. The PCCB agreed to launch the call for submissions in September and close it in November 2023 as well as to adjust the draft call for submissions on tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance contained in the annex of PCCB/2023/4, by:

(a) Replacing references to “UNFCCC” in the “Who can submit” section with “under the Convention and the Paris Agreement”

(b) Removing the definition of climate finance owing to a lack of an operational definition in the UNFCCC process;

33. The PCCB agreed to analyze submissions received and prepare and disseminate an overview of relevant submitted tools and methodologies in the first quarter of 2024 and use the overview document as an input for the technical session on tools and methodologies to be held at the 6th Capacity-building Hub at COP 29;

34. The PCCB agreed to forward relevant tools and methodologies to the secretariat for publication on the capacity-building portal, add relevant resources to the list of resources accompanying the PCCB Toolkit to assess capacity gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement and consider the suggestions made by observers at the meeting regarding further efforts to gather and promote the development of tools and methodologies.

35. Regarding the technical session focusing on enhancing the ownership of developing countries of building and maintaining capacity at the 5th Capacity-building Hub, the PCCB agreed to:

(a) Promote the participation of members of the PCCB Network in the technical session;

(b) Consider the suggestions made by observers, such as highlighting relevant work of the ICG and the PCCB Network at the session; engaging representatives from developing country Parties, implementing agencies and practitioners among the key stakeholders of the event; showcasing good practice examples of country-owned capacity-building, including long-term/programmatic capacity-building activities and considering the asset mapping technique among the possible modalities for the event.

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

Proceedings

36. Agenda item 4(c) was moderated by Rosibel Martínez. The main action points regarding the implementation of priority area (c) of the PCCB workplan for 2021–2024 were to:

(a) Report on activities under the relevant priority area since the 6th meeting and on upcoming activities;

(b) Discuss the outcomes of the 12th Durban Forum, held on 7 June 2023, in relation to work in the 2022 focus area of the PCCB, and the scope of the 2023 Durban Forum Deep Dive webinar. Preliminary key messages from the 12th Durban Forum were prepared by the Secretariat and provided to the PCCB to guide the discussion;

(c) Consider preliminary findings from the ongoing synthesis of the submissions received on the PCCB focus area for 2023 and agree on next steps with regard to implementing the focus area, as appropriate;

(d) Consider the background note on the coordination of the PCCB Network post-pilot phase, contained in document PCCB/2023/6⁵, and agree on next steps, as appropriate;

(e) Consider the draft concept note for the PCCB regional thematic dialogues in 2023, contained in the document PCCB/2023/7⁶ and agree on the next steps with regard to the planning and organization of the dialogues;

(f) Consider the draft concept note for the 5th Capacity-building Hub, contained in document PCCB/2023/8⁷, and agree on next steps, as appropriate;

37. Under the first segment of agenda item 4(c), Rosibel Martínez noted that the PCCB has been undertaking a range of activities aimed at promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement since the 6th meeting of the PCCB in June 2022. She briefly presented recent and upcoming activities under this priority area and noted that, similar

⁵ Available at:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2023_6%20Coordination%20of%20the%20PCCB%20Network%20post-pilot%20phase.pdf

⁶ Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2023_7_RCW.pdf.

⁷ Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2023_8_CB%20Hub_draft.pdf.

to the presentations under sub-items 4 (a) and (b), the presentation slides had also been made available ahead of the meeting on the meeting web page.

38. Activities conducted since the 6th meeting of the PCCB include a deep dive in September 2022 to build on the outcomes of the 11th Durban Forum; the 4th Capacity-building Hub, during COP 27; a call for submissions by Party and non-Party stakeholders on the PCCB focus area for 2023 and the synthesis of these submissions; the PCCB Network; the thematic dialogues series focused on the capacities needed for the horizontal and vertical integration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the Latin America & Caribbean and Africa Climate Week (CW) in July and August, respectively; and recommendations to the COP and CMA. In addition, the PCCB supported the dissemination of various capacity-building related knowledge products, tools, and other resources through the UNFCCC capacity-building portal and utilized communication channels of interested partners for broader outreach. In terms of key upcoming activities, these include the follow-up work to the 12th Durban Forum, the organization of the 5th Capacity-building Hub, the new series of thematic dialogues at the RCWs, and the coordination of the PCCB Network post its pilot phase evaluation, all of which are addressed under the different segments of agenda item 4(c).

39. PCCB members and observers praised the success, impressive track record, and the number of participants and attendees at the 4th Capacity-building Hub, as well the richness of discussions, engagement, networking, and overall experience at the event. A representative from South Africa praised the awareness-raising efforts through the PCCB regional thematic dialogues and suggested expanding the mandate of promoting awareness and knowledge-sharing to reach a wider audience, making it a priority for future efforts to promote the work the PCCB is doing.

40. The second segment took the form of a plenary session to take stock of the outcomes of the 12th Durban Forum on capacity-building, held on 7 June 2023, and of how the outcomes could be addressed by the PCCB. Several PCCB members had actively participated in the Forum by providing the scene-setting presentation or providing inputs to group discussions. The topic of the 12th Durban Forum, aligned with the focus area of the PCCB for 2023, was opportunities and challenges for enhancing capacities for formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

41. The co-facilitators of the 12th Durban Forum, Pemy Gasela and Makoto Kato, reported in plenary on the key messages of the Forum. They highlighted that the formulation and implementation of NAPs remains challenging for many developing and least developed countries due to capacity gaps and needs in various areas and at different levels. To address those challenges the following were proposed: starting capacity-building at the planning phase of NAPs; establishing clear linkages between planning and implementation for effective capacity enhancement; continuously assessing and addressing capacity needs as countries progress through the NAP implementation stages; engaging NAP stakeholders in implementation to identify bottlenecks and determine the necessary capacities to overcome them; establishing a fair and robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system for NAPs; empowering local structures to develop their own strategies; addressing macro-level challenges by implementing targeted actions at community-level; considering the vulnerabilities and specific needs of marginalized communities; and incorporating early identification and preparedness measures for potential disasters into the NAP process.

42. 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, particularly through its deep dive webinar. A PCCB member expressed appreciation for the forum as an interactive platform for capacity-building stakeholders to discuss best practices, challenges, and solutions, but raising concerns about dissemination. Other members highlighted the lively discussions at the Durban Forum and the importance of Parties and observers interacting on the focus area of the PCCB, encouraging more contributions to advance its mandate. A representative from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) commended the choice of emergent topics during the breakout groups at the forum as a good practice for future events. The importance of following up on the forum outcomes was highlighted, with the GIZ representative offering support given GIZ's experience in supporting developing countries implement their NAPs. Another representative from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) highlighted work under way to support countries in having an integrated approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) management, suggesting the sharing of countries' experiences on how they are approaching their NAPs through a

comprehensive lens. Partners suggested to engage at the deep dive were UN4NAPs, UNDRR or the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA).

43. During the second segment under agenda sub-item 4(c), the PCCB was invited to consider and discuss the findings from the pilot phase evaluation report of the PCCB Network and agree on working modalities for its coordination and next steps post-pilot phase. Rosibel Martínez recalled that the pilot phase of the PCCB Network, which occurred from March 2020 to December 2021, was guided by an internal task force. An evaluation report was later launched and the PCCB Network was subsequently integrated into the activities of WG3. She later presented the key findings from the findings and recommendations contained in the annex of the document PCCB/2023/6⁸. The evaluation report highlights the importance of aligning PCCB Network activities with the workplan, adopting a participatory approach, and assessing member retention rates for sustained engagement. It also emphasizes enhancing inclusivity, leveraging regional collaboration, organizing flagship events, and maintaining ongoing monitoring and evaluation processes for accountability and progress assessment. This was followed by an open plenary discussion on the modalities for coordination and next steps of the PCCB Network post its pilot phase.

44. A PCCB member emphasized the significance of the network for collaborative effort, innovation, and equity, and stressed the need to address access and linguistic barriers. Another member acknowledged the exceptional performance of technical exchanges and peer learning activities and pointed out underperformance in communication and outreach activities and suggested exploring modalities to improve output. An Education, Communication & Outreach Stakeholders Community (ECOS) representative emphasized increased visibility through PCCB Network flagship events and the benefits of partnerships for broader capacity-building opportunities. Another representative from GIZ echoed the importance of the annual flagship event for networking and proposed thematic breakout sessions. A representative from the youth and children constituency of the UNFCCC (YOUNGO) highlighted limited funding hindering stakeholder engagement, which pose challenges for in-person participation, stressing the use of digital technologies and funds for inclusive participation. Another representative from RINGO proposed a capacity-building field trip led by PCCB Network members, an idea which was welcomed by other PCCB members.

45. The third segment under agenda sub-item 4(c) focused on the organization of the regional thematic dialogues. Prior to opening the floor for a discussion, Rosibel Martínez recalled that the PCCB engages with stakeholders at the regional level by organizing an annual event series at RCWs. The next dialogues, scheduled to be held in conjunction with the four UNFCCC RCWs in 2023, will be thematically aligned with the PCCB focus area for 2023 on the overarching theme of “capacity-building support for NAPs”. PCCB members then briefly shared views on the planning and implementation of the thematic dialogues at RCWs, particularly around its sub-themes and which stakeholders to engage.

46. In the open discussion, various points were raised regarding the sub-themes and regional stakeholders for the regional thematic dialogues on capacity-building for NAPs. A PCCB member suggested referring to submissions received in response to the PCCB call for submissions on the 2023 focus area, and highlighted the importance of the regional thematic dialogues for PCCB Network members who are unable to attend the COP. Participation of PCCB members was noted to have been very useful at these events and beyond in terms of connecting stakeholders. Another member emphasized the significance of NAPs and encouraged PCCB members to circulate information within their networks. The secretariat pointed out that the RCWs would contribute to the Global Stocktake (GST) process by identifying region-relevant actions to accelerate progress. A GIZ representative mentioned the importance of institutional arrangements and budget allocation under different areas of NAPs, while a YOUNGO representative proposed food security, data insecurity, and gender as potential regional sub-themes. A representative from Zambia highlighted the opportunity to elevate the dialogue at the Africa Climate Week in light of the Africa Climate Summit, being hosted in parallel, and suggested focusing on financing for NAPs and the bridging of financing gaps. A representative from the Philippines suggested considering the role of national and subnational levels, non-state actors (NSA), capacity-building for sustainable development, and

⁸ Available at:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2023_6%20Coordination%20of%20the%20PCCB%20Network%20post-pilot%20phase.pdf.

enhancing the capacity of national focal points. A PCCB member mentioned gender inclusion, social inclusion, funding for NAPs as possible sub-topics.

47. In terms of the key stakeholders to engage with to present and discuss the outcomes of the regional thematic dialogues at the 5th Capacity-building Hub, observers underscored the importance of targeting stakeholders such as academia, NGOs, and broadening engagement with civil society and regional groupings. An ECOS representative suggested engaging political figures and UN leaders in roundtable discussions to present the findings at the 5th Capacity-building Hub event. A representative from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) expressed interest in collaborating with regional unions to identify capacity-building needs at the national level across the regions. A YOUNGO representative proposed including stakeholders like city and local bodies, with a world café-style format for the thematic dialogues wrap-up event, followed by a high-level stakeholder meeting. A PCCB member emphasized the importance of NAP writing workshops and taking stock of progress in completing NAPs, involving a balance of Parties as custodians of NAPs and exploring connections at the national and subnational levels.

48. Under the fourth segment of agenda item 4(c), the PCCB discussed its forthcoming 5th Capacity-building Hub, to be held during COP 28. Rosibel Martínez recalled the successful organization of the four previous Hubs and thanked the external experts on cross-cutting issues, which include gender responsiveness, indigenous peoples' knowledge, youth voices, and human rights and ACE. who served on the Steering Committee during the preparation of the 4th Capacity-building Hub. She noted that the tentative dates for opening and closing the call for expression of interest are 1 September 2023 and 15 September 2023, respectively, and invited all interested stakeholders to respond to the call. She proposed repeating the approach from the previous year of inviting cross-cutting issue experts to serve on the steering committee of the Hub and to consider collaborating with the COP Presidency, through the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA), on climate action events. She then invited the PCCB to consider the draft concept note for the 5th Hub, contained in meeting document PCCB/2023/89. One PCCB member proposed to appoint WG3 to lead the organization of the Hub and WG2 to support the integration of cross-cutting issues across the Hub programme, as done in previous years. Observers congratulated the PCCB on the organization of the previous hubs, with several observers stressing that this activity is very useful and that the hubs are a highlight of the conference for many stakeholders.

49. Members and observers then discussed the different options for thematic days at the hub proposed in the draft concept note. A member from the WGC welcomed the "Capacities for Rights-based Climate Action Day", "capaCITIES Day" and "Private Finance Capacities Day" and suggested exploring good practices and lessons learned but also safeguards related to climate action funded with private finance at the latter day. Other observers emphasized the importance of financing NAPs and welcomed the topic on private finance due to its high relevance. An ECOS representative suggested integrating knowledge mobilization into the "Effective Capacity-building Day". In terms of which stakeholders the PCCB could engage with and what modalities the Hub could strive to promote, a PCCB member suggested engaging stakeholders such as private finance investors and implementing partners, while another member proposed engaging UN country offices. Observers from the YOUNGO and WGC highlighted the importance of engaging women, indigenous peoples, youth, and local communities in need of capacity-building as well as the private sector, knowledge builders, and policymakers. Innovative and creative modalities such as Open Space Design, were encouraged by all observers with a RINGO representative emphasizing the need for submitters, in their expressions of interest, to showcase how their event is innovative and seeks to promote interaction. In terms of communications and outreach, an ECOS representative suggested lightning talks by lead partners in the beginning of the day, or posters highlighting the day, so they learn about the day and attract participants into the hub. A representative from the GIZ proposed having creative note-takers similar to the GST roundtables at SB58 that would help people who couldn't attend to follow.

Outcomes and next steps

50. The PCCB agreed to use the discussion outcomes under the first two segments of agenda item 4(c) and of the PCCB synthesis report on the 2023 focus area submissions as sources of

⁹ Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2023_8_CB%20Hub_draft.pdf.

information for the follow-up work to the 12th Durban Forum, including the development of recommendations to the COP and CMA, the design of a follow-up webinar, and the design of the focus area day at the 5th Capacity-building Hub.

51. The PCCB agreed to host a hybrid PCCB Network annual flagship event in the margins of COP and to further work on its conceptualization by considering the different design options suggested by meeting observers.

52. The PCCB agreed to increase the PCCB Network's output in communications and outreach in its post-pilot phase, as well as seek to address linguistic and technology gaps with support from members of the PCCB Network for increased inclusivity and engagement.

53. The PCCB approved the draft concept note for the regional thematic dialogues and agreed for WG3 to take the lead on ensuring that the regional expertise of the PCCB itself, as well as of relevant PCCB Network members is mobilized at each of the regional thematic dialogues. It was also agreed to link the regional thematic dialogues with the GST, as per the framing of the RCWs, and consider the sub-themes and modalities proposed by observers in preparing the programs.

54. The PCCB agreed to consider organizing a (high level) round-circle event with global and regional stakeholders during the 5th Capacity-building Hub to feed the findings from its regional thematic dialogues into the discussions at global level.

55. PCCB members also agreed to finalize the draft concept note for the 5th Capacity-building Hub intersessionally, including determining the thematic days on the basis of inputs provided by members and observers at the meeting and move the call for EOI to 21st August – 1st September 2023.

56. The PCCB agreed that WG3 is to lead the preparation of the 4th Capacity-building Hub, supported by WG2 and the Hub steering committee, including five external experts on cross-cutting issues.

5. Recommendations of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building to Parties

Proceedings

57. Under agenda item 5, the PCCB was invited to consider the draft recommendations to Parties for consideration by COP 28 and CMA 5 contained in the annex of the background document PCCB/2023/5¹⁰, and to collect inputs and feedback from observers and agree on the next steps to finalize the recommendations. Roberta Ianna provided some background information on the PCCB recommendations to Parties, mandated by the COP and CMA on the following topics:

- (a) Improving coherence and coordination of capacity-building and avoiding duplication of efforts;
- (b) Enhancing developing country ownership of building and maintaining capacity;
- (c) Enhancing the sharing of good practices, experience and lessons learned related to capacity-building among relevant bodies under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- (d) Identifying potential areas of collaborative work with bodies whose work is relevant to the PCCB and its workplan;
- (e) Determining how information from the Durban Forum can be utilized by bodies under and outside the Convention.

58. Meeting attendees were divided into breakout groups to discuss the draft recommendations for topics (a), (b), and (c). Recommendations on areas (d) and (e), will be prepared after the 7th meeting of the PCCB, as they will be based on the outcomes of ICG 5 and the 12th Durban Forum on capacity-building held during SBI58. Two groups ran in parallel and participants switched group midway through the allocated time, enabling all participants to attend all four groups.

¹⁰ Available at:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_2023_5%20Recommendations%20to%20Parties.pdf

59. In the breakout group discussing the draft recommendations on "Improving coherence and coordination of capacity-building and avoiding duplication of efforts," various participants reflected on the draft recommendations prepared for the meeting and shared their proposals and insights. Participants, inter alia, emphasized the importance of involving marginalized groups such as rural women, indigenous women, local communities, and indigenous peoples, in policy consultations and design, of mandating agencies to budget for climate change and capacity-building programs, as well as of local-level support and engagement with the scientific community, academia and the private sector.

60. In the breakout group discussing the draft recommendations on "Enhancing developing country ownership of building and maintaining capacity", the participants, inter alia, highlighted the need for a long-term approach for capacity-building, the importance of stable contracts, training of trainers approaches, better salaries, and schemes to retain talent in LDCs and small island developing States (SIDS), the need to address capacity-building at the institutional level and engage institutions through interactive mechanisms, a centralized agency at the national level to establish focal points within existing frameworks, as well as streamlining language and frameworks for mobilizing funding and supporting public-private partnerships.

61. In the breakout group discussing the draft recommendations on "Enhancing the sharing of good practices, experience and lessons learned related to capacity-building among relevant bodies under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement", participants, inter alia, highlighted the need to strengthen the recommendation related to sharing information on the capacity-building portal and extending support for documentation of good practices for small organizations with limited resources. It was also suggested to, inter alia, consider including recommendations relating to fostering bilateral agreements between countries to address capacity-building gaps and needs, encouraging Parties to involve universities and institutions of higher education in sharing learning practices and raising awareness, as well as engaging academia, local/subnational government, indigenous peoples, youth and local communities in knowledge- and experience-sharing.

62. The last breakout group discussed how the PCCB can enhance the reach and impact of its recommendations to Parties especially at the regional, national, and subnational level. It was suggested, inter alia, that the PCCB leverage partnerships with National Focal Points of Parties to the UNFCCC, the RINGO constituency, regional as well as local organizations to incorporate research into the PCCB's recommendations and enhance subnational outreach. To ensure effective targeting of audiences, the group recommended identifying specific target groups for each recommendation and re-packaging them into a more accessible format to enhance their usability. To improve accessibility and reach, it was also suggested, inter alia, delivering webinars on the recommendations featuring champions and including subtitles in such events, a one-page document about the PCCB, translating the recommendations, inviting media to become PCCB Network members.

Outcomes and next steps

63. The PCCB agreed to finalize the recommendations intersessionally, based on the:

(a) Inputs and feedback received from members and observers on the existing recommendations as well as proposals made for new recommendations under the different areas;

(b) Outcomes of the 12th Durban Forum on capacity-building and related discussions at the 7th meeting of the PCCB;

(c) Outcomes of the 5th meeting of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (ICG);

64. The PCCB will include the finalized recommendations in its annual technical progress report for 2023 in line with the practice of previous years.

6. Monitoring and evaluation of the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.

Proceedings

65. Under agenda item 6, the PCCB was invited to consider the second review report on progress in implementing the communication and stakeholder engagement strategies of the PCCB for 2021–

2024 and discuss identified challenges and areas for improvement, take stock of progress in implementing its gender mainstreaming standard; and consider the implementation of its monitoring and evaluation framework and discuss any challenges, including with regard to the impact of its work at the national and subnational level. Hayro Hakobyan first provided a presentation on the PCCB's communications and engagement efforts, and the challenges identified in the second review report on the implementation of the PCCB's communication and engagement strategies for 2021 to 2024, this was followed by a presentation by Rosibel Martínez on gender mainstreaming and ended with a presentation by Roberta Ianna on the PCCB's monitoring and evaluation efforts. Members and observers then participated in three different breakout groups. Midway through the allocated time, participants were able to switch to another group, enabling them to participate in two of the three breakout groups.

66. Breakout group one focused on communications and engagement and sought to address the question of how the challenges identified in the second review report on the implementation of the PCCB's communication and engagement strategies for 2021 to 2024 can be addressed. The importance of the UNFCCC capacity-building portal, to which the PCCB contributes on a regular basis, as a vital communication tool for sharing capacity-building resources was emphasized, along with the need for country focal points to share capacity-building activities. Encouraging countries/Parties to make submissions to the portal and fostering connections with the MPGCA and High-Level Champions were discussed as strategies to enhance engagement. Leadership and governance, multi-sectoral and multi-level engagement, and the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge were highlighted as crucial aspects of effective communication strategies. The need to inspire both leaders and communities through communication was emphasized, and the identification of champions and practitioners as key stakeholders in the communication process was highlighted. Strategies for defining goals and objectives early on and employing innovative and interactive communication approaches were also discussed. Enhancing language accessibility, incentivizing inactive members from the PCCB Network, and strengthening efforts in communication were among the key solutions identified in addressing the challenges related to the PCCB Network. Observers also highlighted the importance of clarifying the role of focal points, promoting language inclusivity, engaging leaders, and improving communication mechanisms to enhance the reach and impact of the PCCB recommendations to Parties.

67. Breakout group two focused on the gender mainstreaming efforts of the PCCB and how the PCCB can further enhance its efforts in this area. Participants, inter alia, suggested that the PCCB could seek to contribute through its work to a better understanding of the gender barriers that different groups are facing in on-the ground capacity-building activities, as well undertake work under the ICG related to identifying gender-related gaps in capacity-building and to supporting countries to build capacities for gathering disaggregated data on gender. Other suggestions included for the PCCB to engage with the UNFCCC gender focal points in its efforts to support the mainstreaming of gender in capacity-building, to make use of the gender expert roster to be launched by the TEC and CTCN, as appropriate, and to continue to broaden its gender-related stakeholder base.

68. Finally, reflecting on the presented indicators for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the PCCB's work and in the absence of national capacity-building focal points under the UNFCCC, Group 3 addressed the question of how the PCCB could further enhance the impact and effectiveness of its work, particularly at the regional, national, and subnational level. Strengthening relationships and establishing a feedback loop with PCCB Network members, who are actively working at the national level, was highlighted as a way to better understand country-specific needs and improve the PCCB's activities. Promoting greater participation and membership in the PCCB Network to ensure broader geographical coverage was also emphasized. Engaging with UNFCCC focal points, particularly those responsible for ACE and gender, was seen as crucial in involving additional relevant stakeholders and informing them about the capacity-building efforts of the PCCB and other UNFCCC bodies, entities and processes. Enhancing collaboration and visibility with other constituted bodies through regular exchanges and leveraging focal points was suggested. Creating a space for matchmaking and facilitating requests and provisions for capacity-building exchanges were proposed to address the identified needs of countries. Additionally, fostering exchanges that have a regional impact and providing opportunities for dialogue and

engagement with focal points and other stakeholders were seen as important avenues for enhancing effectiveness and impact.

Outcomes and next steps

69. The PCCB agreed to approve and publish the second review report on progress in implementing the communication and stakeholder engagement strategies of the PCCB for 2021–2024.

70. The PCCB will consider the findings from the three breakout group discussions to further enhance its efforts relating to communication and engagement and gender mainstreaming, as well as the effectiveness and impact of its work.

7. Focus area of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2024

Proceedings

71. Under agenda item 5, the PCCB was invited to discuss and agree on its 2024 focus area with a view to including this information in its 2023 technical progress report.

72. The floor was opened for PCCB members to voice their suggestions for the 2024 focus area of the PCCB. A PCCB member proposed a focus on capacity-building support to effectively implement the enhanced transparency framework, in light of the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) due at the end of 2024. Several PCCB members acknowledged that the proposed focus area aligns closely with the mandate of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) and suggested avoiding a duplication of efforts. A PCCB member noted that one year may not be sufficient to fully explore all aspects of the current focus area and proposed to maintain the current focus area - ‘Capacity-building support for adaptation, with a focus on addressing gaps and needs related to formulating and implementing NAPs’- within the broader context of adaptation and to consider a subtopic for further exploration. Other PCCB members agreed with this approach and recognized the specific needs of LDCs in implementing their NAPs, with the importance of supporting financing for adaptation being emphasized. Observers reflected on the potential inclusion of financing for NAPs as a subtopic under the general focus area. This suggestion was welcomed and the importance of addressing financial aspects and capacity-building for innovative financing was also emphasized.

Outcomes and next steps

73. The PCCB agreed to extend the 2023 focus area to 2024, while deciding on the exact subtheme intersessionally and reporting on this decision in its annual technical progress report for 2023.

8. Other matters

Proceedings

74. Agenda item 8 was introduced and discussed in a plenary setting on 14 June. The discussion was organized in four segments and was facilitated by Roberta Ianna.

75. 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 standard¹¹. 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 the challenges and successes of implementation. PCCB members expressed their gratitude to outgoing PCCB member Marzena Chodor for having successfully served as PCCB gender focal point for one year, since being elected at the 6th meeting of the PCCB.

76. The second segment under agenda item 8 focused on updating the membership and leadership of the four working groups of the PCCB following the joining of three new members to the Committee as of PCCB 7. The secretariat presented a draft membership list that was created based on an initial, intersessional exchange among the members of the Committee. On behalf of the

¹¹ The PCCB gender mainstreaming standard was agreed by the PCCB in 2019 and annexed to its 2019 technical progress report (FCCC/SBI/2019/13).

Committee, Co-Chair Roberta Ianna expressed her thanks to outgoing PCCB member Marzena Chodor for her effective and committed leadership of WG3 on awareness-raising, communications and stakeholder engagement cross-cutting issues. During the subsequent discussion, members confirmed or changed their membership as indicated in the draft membership list, and a member expressed her interest in filling the vacant position of lead of WG3.

77. The third segment under agenda item 8 concerned the updating of the PCCB focal points for other constituted bodies, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant UNFCCC processes. While some members expressed interest to serve as focal points for specific bodies, entities or processes at the meeting, others noted they would like more time to review the draft list and express their interest.

78. The fourth segment under agenda item 8 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.

Outcomes and next steps

79. The PCCB appointed Lily Bermel to serve as its gender focal point for one year in accordance with its gender mainstreaming standard.

80. PCCB members updated the list of membership of its four working groups. The updated list is available on the web page of the PCCB working groups¹². The list will be finalized intersessionally upon receiving information on the working groups selected by the PCCB member who was unable to attend PCCB 7.

81. Regarding the list of PCCB focal points for other UNFCCC constituted bodies, operating entities and relevant processes, the PCCB took note of the interest expressed by some members to serve as focal points for specific bodies and entities and agreed to share the updated draft list of focal points after the meeting with a view to finalizing the nomination of focal points intersessionally.

82. Regarding the 2023 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 1 September 2023, allowing members five working days to review it and provide feedback;

(b) Share the final, edited report with members by 11 September 2023, for approval on a no-objection basis by 15 September 2023.

9. Closure of the meeting

83. The 7th meeting of the PCCB was closed on Wednesday, 14 June, at 13.00 p.m.

¹² Available at: <https://unfccc.int/pccb/pccb-working-groups>.

Annex

Background notes for the 7th meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

<i>Title</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
Provisional agenda and annotations	PCCB/2023/1
Tentative meeting schedule	PCCB/2023/2
Evaluation of progress of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and Paris Agreement	PCCB/2023/3
Draft call for submissions on tools and methodologies for assessing and addressing capacity gaps and needs related to accessing climate finance	PCCB/2023/4
Draft recommendations of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building to Parties	PCCB/2023/5
Background note on the coordination of the PCCB Network post-pilot phase	PCCB/2023/6
Draft concept note for the PCCB regional thematic dialogues in 2023	PCCB/2023/7
Draft concept note for the 5th Capacity-building Hub	PCCB/2023/8
Second review report on progress in implementing the communication and stakeholder engagement strategies of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building for 2021–2024	PCCB/2023/9