

Summary of submissions by members of the ICG on efforts to address capacity gaps and needs

1. Background

Following guidance from the COP (decision 9/CP.25), the PCCB determined in its [2021-2024 workplan](#) to interact with constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to gather information on activities related to addressing capacity gaps and needs in areas relevant to their mandates to provide input to their work, as appropriate (Activity B.1). In this context, the PCCB circulated a survey among members of the ICG in June 2021, to gather information on and best practices related to addressing capacity gaps and needs in the respective work of the members. This brief contains a summary of the results, which will be disseminated with the ICG and published on the relevant PCCB webpages.

2. A numeric overview of the submissions

A total of 10 submissions were made by members of the ICG (71% response rate). It included responses from the following ICG members:

- Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) secretariat
- Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)
- Climate and Technology Center and Network (CTCN)
- Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM ExCom)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF) secretariat
- Green Climate Fund (GCF) secretariat
- Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)
- Lima Work Programme on Gender
- Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)
- Technology Executive Committee (TEC)

All responses provided information on efforts in addressing capacity gaps and needs undertaken by the respective body/entity/process, and three submissions included examples of efforts undertaken by other stakeholders. 70% of the responses provided recommendations to other ICG members or shared lessons learned on how to effectively address capacity gaps and needs of developing countries, and 80% of the responses provided suggestions on how the PCCB could best support their ongoing efforts in this regard.

3. An overview of the modalities utilized

Some 35 activities/areas of work were shared as indicative examples of efforts by bodies, entities and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The examples contained over 10 modalities through which the responding bodies/entities/process address the capacity needs and gaps under their respective mandates. These modalities, from the most frequently mentioned to least, include (see box 1 for examples):

- 'Workshops and webinars' (reported in 7 submissions);
- 'Technical reports and papers' and 'technical assistance' (reported in 4 submissions each);
- 'Trainings modules and programmes' (reported in 3 submissions);

- 'Annual forums and seminars', 'knowledge networks and communities of practice', 'policy briefs', 'technical working groups', 'surveys', and 'online learning' (reported in 2 submissions each); and
- 'Country visits/exchanges' and 'mentoring programmes' (reported in 1 submission each).

Box 1 – Examples of work from bodies/entities/process under the Convention and the Paris Agreement in addressing the capacity needs and gaps of developing countries

Workshops and webinars – Through a range of workshops and trainings, the GEF, GCF, and Adaptation Fund inform, assist, and empower their focal points and relevant stakeholders to enhance their capacity to engage with these entities through an improved understanding of the institutions and their respective funding/accreditation mechanisms.

Technical reports and papers - The SCF developed the first report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement (NDR), taking into account both quantitative and qualitative information from national reports submitted by developing country Parties to the UNFCCC as well as global and regional reports. Read the report [here](#).

Technical assistance - The LEG provides direct technical assistance to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (e.g. through organizing writing workshops, disseminating tools and knowledge materials, and conducting trainings), for the formulation of national adaptation plans (NAPs) as well as the establishment of long-term processes to monitor and evaluate the matter of adaptation in the LDCs.

Trainings modules and mentoring programmes - With particular attention to inclusiveness and gender responsiveness, the CTCN conducted a range of training and mentoring activities (i.e. a 6-8 week youth innovation lab and academy, an annual training/mentoring programme for a gender-just climate solution award, and a training on GCF proposal development couples with a post-training 3-month mentoring) for women, youth, local private sector actors, and other stakeholders in support of climate technology transfer.

Policy briefs - In the light of the findings from a recent technology needs assessment (TNA) of developing countries, the TEC and WIM ExCom developed a joint policy brief at the intersection of the areas of work of the two committees: providing information on technologies – hardware, software, and orgware – currently available to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage in coastal zones. See the brief [here](#).

Surveys - The CGE uses post and pre-workshop surveys to collect information on the needs and gaps of developing countries, and assess the effectiveness or relevance of their work in addressing them. The Lima work programme on gender used surveys to identify the capacity needs and gaps of the national gender and climate change focal points and address them through a series of workshops.

4. An overview of the thematic areas of work reported, related to the capacity needs and gaps of developing countries

Members of the ICG were asked to provide information on and best practices related to addressing capacity gaps and needs in their respective work areas. Besides the thematic focuses specific to each body/entity/process, below is a list of topics that were brought up by at least two body/entity/process, when referring to examples of work in addressing capacity needs and gaps in developing countries:

- Project formulation and climate finance readiness (GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund, CTCN)

- Transparency and the UNFCCC reporting instruments (CGE, GEF)
- Entrepreneurship and innovation (Adaptation Fund and CTCN)
- Climate technologies for assessing risk and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones (WIM Excom, TEC, CTCN)
- Adaptation planning and mobilizing finance for adaptation action (LEG, Adaptation Fund, CGE)

It should be noted that the activities reported in this survey were illustrative, and within a limited scope. For a comprehensive view of the capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, refer to the [compilation and synthesis report](#) by the secretariat, and its [addendum](#).

5. An overview of the information on effectiveness and sustainability of the reported activities/efforts related to identifying and addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries

With regards to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of activities undertaken by the responding bodies/entities/processes with the aim to address capacity gaps and needs of developing countries, some submissions mentioned the **overall review and evaluation** of their activities (that include activities related to addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries) as a means of **assessing and ensuring effectiveness**. These included review of the work of constituted bodies by the COP, the annual progress reports of bodies, as well as independent evaluation of the overall portfolio of the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism. Others provided specific examples related to ensuring effectiveness in addressing capacity gaps and needs of developing countries (see Box 2).

Box 2- Examples of efforts by ICG members in ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of activities aimed at addressing the capacity needs and gaps of developing countries

CTCN highlighted the importance of continuity in capacity-building efforts. Instead of one-off activities and engagement, the CTCN provides capacity-building support to its stakeholders through many weeks or months, in order to ensure the recipients are able to effectively apply the built capacity and expertise in creating technological solutions for climate action.

CGE outlines a systematic process for addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries in its work. The CGE conducts an annual assessment of capacity gaps and needs with regards to the implementation of the existing measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) arrangements under the Convention and preparing for the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement, and publishes the results in a technical paper each year (since 2019). The assessment takes into account the submitted national reports to the UNFCCC, and the inputs of the national focal points to the biennial survey of the CGE. This process assists the work of the constituted body in updating the scope of its training, and ensuring effectiveness of the results.

Some submissions highlighted relevant approaches in ensuring the sustainability of results, when addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries. These included efforts aimed at improving **knowledge management (e.g. online repository of resources)**, promoting practical and continuous **learning (e.g. country visits, peer exchanges and sharing of experience)**, and empowering **country-led action (e.g. by capacitating domestic institutions)** for addressing capacity gaps and needs.

6. An overview of the information on inclusiveness and gender responsiveness of the reported activities/efforts related to identifying and addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries

With regards to ensuring inclusiveness and gender responsiveness of activities undertaken by the responding bodies/entities/processes with the aim to address capacity gaps and needs of developing countries:

- Some submissions referred to the overall policies or standards for mainstreaming gender and other cross-cutting issues in the work of their body/entity/process;
- Some included percentage of female participants or beneficiaries in their activities;
- Some mentioned specific sections of their official reports and publications that address the issues of inclusiveness and gender responsiveness, including specific capacity needs and gaps of women and indigenous peoples; and
- One submission highlighted the importance of considering different languages (including sign language), in conducting capacity-building events and activities to enhance inclusiveness.

7. Considerations and recommendations for addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries

In their submissions, members of the ICG frequently highlighted the following points as key considerations in their area(s) of work and recommendations for other bodies and stakeholders in addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries:

- Providing **tailored made** and demand-driven support, including through the assessment of country-specific needs and gap assessments and priorities set by developing countries themselves, thereby ensuring national ownership
- Taking a **long-term and iterative** approach to addressing capacity needs and gaps as an integral part of the technical assistance agenda in developing countries
- Working in **partnership** and harnessing **complementarities** to ensure coherence and coordination and avoid duplication of efforts
- Considering the circumstances of the **LDCs** and work with them for contextually appropriate solutions
- Promoting **stakeholder engagement, inclusion, and gender** responsiveness in the programming and delivery of support, and enforcing the integration of gender considerations and cross-cutting issues into project formulation and readiness proposals
- Ensuring the efforts, guidance and knowledge materials for addressing capacity needs and gaps are **easy to use and accessible** to various groups of audience, including with regards to the language
- Fostering **awareness raising**, facilitating access to **knowledge and information**, and enabling experience sharing, networking and peer-learning
- Harnessing **in-country capacities** in addressing the needs and gaps of developing countries including by involving the national staff, relevant focal points, and the public sector institutions, ensuring the establishment of the appropriate institutional framework
- Enhancing the **monitoring and evaluation** of capacity-building efforts to ensure effectiveness and foster the process of learning and uptake

One ICG member also pointed to the action recommendations for capacity-building developed under the COP 26 Catalyst for Climate Action.¹

¹ Available at <https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/cop26recommendations/>.

8. Preliminary matching exercise for potential areas of joint efforts, for consideration by members of the ICG, in particular the PCCB

Based on the submissions received in response to the survey, an indicative list of potential action areas is provided below, for consideration by members of the ICG, and in particular the PCCB. The bodies, entities and processes represented in the ICG may wish to consider incorporating these action areas in their individual work or explore the possibility of pursuing collaborative efforts with other ICG members or relevant stakeholders. The list is non-exhaustive and can be adjusted in the future to reflect the ongoing work and emerging priorities of the ICG members.

Transparency

- The submission by the GEF secretariat highlighted the GEF's work under the umbrella of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), and suggested that the PCCB could support the implementation of the **Article 13** of the Paris Agreement by awareness raising about the need for, and opportunities to support enhanced transparency framework.

Monitoring and reporting

- The GCF secretariat suggested that the PCCB may support the dissemination of information related to the monitoring and reporting of each country's obligations under the UNFCCC and the critical needs of countries to meet these obligations, with a view to enhancing the coordination across institutions that are providing support to countries and other stakeholders.

Coherence and complementarities

- Referring to a roadmap for climate funds aimed at enhancing **complementarities** under the Financial Mechanism, the GCF secretariat highlighted current and envisaged areas of joint work among the GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund and Climate Investment Funds, e.g. joint advocacy, knowledge management, technical exchanges and blended finance. Against this background, the GCF secretariat submission encouraged other bodies, and in particular the PCCB, to take a coordinated approach to addressing capacity needs and gaps of developing countries, where complementarities with the work of other bodies could be harnessed, e.g. through developing joint strategies and action plans.

Climate technology

- The CTCN suggested potential areas for collaborations with the PCCB with regards to identifying: a) **capacity gaps and needs**, as well as b) **high-impact and transformational capacity-building** activities related to climate technology transfer, dissemination and uptake in developing countries, based on lessons learned from CTCN activities to date, and with particular attention to inclusiveness and gender responsiveness.

Access to finance, particularly for adaptation

- The GCF secretariat suggested that the PCCB could explore possibilities to collaborate with the SCF towards creating a conducive space for relevant bodies to discuss and advise how the Financial Mechanism can improve its capacity-building delivery to developing countries and other relevant stakeholders.
- The LEG and CTCN both offer training related to the GCF readiness programme, formulation of NAPs, and mobilizing **finance for adaptation**. Collaborative efforts between these bodies

and their stakeholders, including through experience-sharing, could yield synergistic results and coordinated action at the national and local levels.

Endogenous capacities

- The GEF secretariat highlighted the importance of support for **building endogenous capacity** of developing countries, with a particular focus on strengthening in-country institutions, including from academia. The TEC has reported on its extensive work related to promoting endogenous capacities and technologies, and could share experience and insights with the other bodies, including the PCCB.

Other areas

- The TEC and WIM ExCom mentioned the **PCCB Network** as a potential engagement partner on issues related to climate technology and loss and damage, respectively.
- The GEF secretariat suggested that the PCCB could work with relevant constituted bodies and the Financial Mechanism to prepare a training program for effective implementation of **Article 6** of the Paris Agreement and its related rules.