



## Paris Committee on Capacity-building

20 May 2021

Fifth meeting

Virtual meeting, 9–11 June 2021

### Synthesis of submissions on the 2021 focus area of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

#### *Recommended actions by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building*

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) will be invited, during its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, to:

- a) Consider the synthesis of submissions on the 2021 focus area of the PCCB;
- b) Agree on next steps with regard to implementing the focus area, as appropriate.

#### I. Possible actions for consideration by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

1. In considering the synthesis of submissions, the PCCB may wish to discuss and reflect on key (common) themes identified by the compilation and synthesis of submissions as contained in the annex of this background document:

(a) The synthesis of submissions highlights the importance of building **capacities to mainstream climate policies** in national development planning across all sectors. Doing so requires an enhanced understanding of the sustainable development co-benefits and impacts of climate projects and policies. Similarly, enhanced capacity is required in terms of assessing climate aspects of development policies. Most importantly, coherent mainstreaming of climate action will require sound institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms;

(b) **Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms** that support the integration of climate and development objectives across ministries and sectors on the national, subnational and local level are pivotal to the coherent implementation of climate goals. Importantly, the synthesis stresses that coordination and dialogue should extend beyond the boundaries of the public sector to include a range of diverse stakeholders in a participatory manner. Linking global agendas may facilitate the bringing together of various stakeholders and actors;

(c) **Linking global agendas** provides an opportunity to foster coherent implementation of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs). In particular, the synthesis underlines the Sustainable Development Goals as an important framework for integration in terms of planning, implementation and monitoring. Nature-based solutions are also highlighted as a concrete way to address multiple global (and regional) agendas simultaneously. The submissions highlight access to resources as an important factor in realizing coherent implementation of the NDCs and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(d) **Capacity to access financial resources** is emphasized as a crucial element in terms of facilitating coherent implementation of the NDCs. This capacity relates to accessing international finance and mobilizing finance domestically, be it through public or private means;

(e) **Transparency** and the capacities needed to track, monitor, evaluate and report are considered a pivotal piece of the puzzle in terms of implementing climate goals in a coherent manner. Submissions highlighted the potential for integrated monitoring of climate and development agendas and acknowledged the important information this could provide for comprehensive policymaking;

(f) Finally, the submissions emphasize that capacity-building efforts to address all the above-mentioned topics can be improved by adopting a **holistic approach** that considers both technical and institutional capacity-building and is based on continuity and ownership.

2. The PCCB may also wish to agree on next steps with regard to implementing the focus area, as appropriate. To this end, the Committee may consider using the synthesis of submissions, in combination with outcomes of the Durban Forum, as a basis for identifying the scope of further work on the annual focus area, including:

(a) The scope of subsequent webinar(s) on the annual focus area, including:

(i) Whether to organize one or several webinars;

(ii) The regional and thematic scope of the webinar(s);

(iii) Suitable topics, resource persons and relevant examples;

(b) The scope of the focus area day at the third Capacity-building Hub, expected to be held in conjunction with the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26), including suitable topics, resource persons and relevant examples and experiences.

## II. Background

3. COP 21 decided that the PCCB will annually focus on an area or theme related to enhanced technical exchange on capacity-building, with the purpose of maintaining up-to-date knowledge on the successes and challenges in building capacity effectively in a particular area.<sup>1</sup>

4. At its fourth meeting in June 2020, the PCCB agreed that for 2021 this would be building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans.<sup>2</sup>

5. COP 24 requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to thematically align the annual meetings of the Durban Forum with the annual focus area of the PCCB.<sup>3</sup>

6. The PCCB 2021–2024 workplan sets out activities for ensuring effective cross-fertilization of ideas and interchange between discussions at the Forum and the work of the PCCB related to its annual focus area, namely:

(a) Active participation of PCCB members in the Durban Forum, including, as appropriate, as speakers and facilitators;

(b) Discussion of Durban Forum outcomes at the annual PCCB meeting;

(c) One or more webinars to discuss Durban Forum (sub)topic(s) in more detail, as needed;

(d) A PCCB focus area day at the Capacity-building Hub.<sup>4</sup>

7. The PCCB 2021–2024 workplan sets out an activity on the collection of information on capacity-building, including through a call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the annual PCCB focus area.<sup>5</sup>

8. The call for submissions was published on 11 February 2021 on the dedicated PCCB web page<sup>6</sup> and closed on 30 March 2021.

9. In total, 23 submissions were received and included in this report.<sup>7</sup> These include submissions from various types of organizations, including both Party and non-Party stakeholders. Moreover, the submitting entities operate at different levels, ranging from local to global.

---

<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, para. 74.

<sup>2</sup> PCCB/2020/11, para 52.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 15/CP.24, para. 6.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/13, subactivity C.1.2 of the workplan.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/13, subactivity C.1.1 of the workplan.

<sup>6</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb/submissions-paris-committee-on-capacity-building>.

<sup>7</sup> Submissions were published on the following web page: <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/resources/submissions-to-the-paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb#eq-4>.

## Annex

### **Synthesis of submissions on the annual focus area of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building: “Building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of national development plans”**

#### **I. Introduction**

##### **A. Mandate and background**

10. The Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session decided that the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) will annually focus on an area or theme related to enhanced technical exchange on capacity-building, with the purpose of maintaining up-to-date knowledge on the successes and challenges in building capacity effectively in a particular area.<sup>1</sup>

11. At its fourth meeting in June 2020, the PCCB decided on the following focus area for 2021: “Building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of national development plans”.<sup>2</sup> This builds on work undertaken under a previous focus area on capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs in the context of the Paris Agreement.

12. The PCCB 2021–2024 workplan sets out an activity on the collection of information on capacity-building through a call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the annual PCCB focus area.<sup>3</sup>

13. The call for submissions was published on 11 February 2021 on the dedicated PCCB web page<sup>4</sup> and closed on 30 March 2021.

##### **B. Objective**

14. The objective of this document is to synthesize submissions on the annual focus area of the PCCB to provide a knowledge base for further work on capacity-building for coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans.

##### **C. Scope of the report**

15. This report synthesizes the information provided by Parties and non-Party stakeholders in the submissions referred to in paragraph 13 above. Chapter II.A–H is structured in accordance with the guiding questions contained in the call for submissions.

16. In total, 23 submissions were received and are synthesized in this report:<sup>5</sup>

(a) Five submitting entities identified as a United Nations or affiliated organization; five as a non-governmental organization; three as an international network, coalition or initiative; three as a regional network, coalition or initiative; two as a public sector entity and one as a government; two as a private sector entity; one as a development agency; one as an intergovernmental organization; one as a non-profit think tank; and two as a research organization. One did not specify;<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, para. 74.

<sup>2</sup> PCCB/2020/11, para 52.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBI/2020/13, subactivity C.1.1

<sup>4</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb/submissions-paris-committee-on-capacity-building>.

<sup>5</sup> Submissions were published on the following web page: <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/resources/submissions-to-the-paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb#eq-4>.

<sup>6</sup> Three entities identified with multiple options.

(b) In total, 14 submitting entities are based in developed countries, seven are based in developing countries and two did not specify where they are based;

(c) A total of 14 submitting entities identified as operating on a global scale, six on a local scale, nine on a national scale, nine on a regional scale, two on a subregional scale and one did not specify the scale of operation;<sup>7</sup>

(d) In total, 10 entities are operating in Africa, 10 in Asia Pacific, nine in Latin America and the Caribbean, four in Europe, and six did not specify.<sup>8</sup>

17. This document aims to provide a synthesis rather than an exhaustive account of all inputs received by the submitting entities. In some instances, the document refers to the submitting entities in an effort to facilitate possible follow-up activities or discussion. References are intended to be illustrative and facilitative for follow-up rather than a direct reflection of the viewpoints and areas of work of submitting entities. All received submissions are available on the PCCB submissions web page for reference.<sup>9</sup>

## II. Synthesis of the submissions

18. This chapter contains nine subchapters. The first eight correspond to the guiding questions in the call for submissions. Chapter II.A presents key interventions on implementing NDCs and national development plans in a coherent manner. Chapter II.B discusses enabling conditions, while chapter II.C outlines the main institutional barriers to the coherent implementation of NDCs. Chapters II.D and II.E explore capacity-building gaps and needs, and knowledge and skills priorities, respectively. Chapter II.F zooms in on the target recipients of capacity-building, while chapters II.G and II.H discuss how capacity-building efforts could be improved at the national and regional levels, respectively. Finally, chapter II.I provides a selection of best practices, tools and other relevant sources related to the coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans.

### A. Key interventions

19. The following paragraphs synthesize key interventions related to the coherent implementation of NDCs and national development plans. Some of these interventions are also addressed and further elaborated in subsequent chapters.

20. Several submissions put forward the **mainstreaming** of climate policies as a key intervention for ensuring coherent implementation of NDCs and national development plans. A number of submissions stress that climate action instruments need to be integrated across all economic sectors and vertically at all institutional levels (local, subnational and national) in development plans and budgets. One entity holds that mainstreaming can be facilitated by communicating climate change as a new, overarching risk that penetrates all aspects of people's social and economic lives.

21. Enhancing **institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms** is further considered a key intervention by several submitting entities. These entities stress that the integration of policies should be accompanied by coordination mechanisms between ministries and stakeholders at all levels. . One entity emphasizes that this is the basis for the successful design, implementation and evaluation of climate and development agendas.<sup>10</sup> Another entity places special emphasis on coordination between different ministries and departments for planning and budgeting, while another submission points to knowledge management and cooperative learning as priority areas.

22. A number of submissions underline **stakeholder engagement and participation** as an intervention for facilitating coherent climate action. Several submissions point to the importance of participatory, multi-stakeholder processes in the formulation and implementation of NDCs.

---

<sup>7</sup> Nine entities identified with multiple options.

<sup>8</sup> Eight entities identified with multiple options.

<sup>9</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/resources/submissions-to-the-paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb#eq-4>.

<sup>10</sup> The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Submissions point to slightly divergent functions that may be fulfilled by different groups of stakeholders:

(a) One submission notes that involving academia and the scientific community plays an important role in creating evidence-based policies. Furthermore, these actors help to build the critical thinking required to foster transformational processes;

(b) Another submission notes that the private sector can play a key role by mobilizing financial resources, investing in competitive sectors that are strategic for climate action and providing resources for research and development;<sup>11</sup>

(c) A number of submissions share similar views on the importance of including non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and community-based organizations in policy processes. Building on this, one entity noted the importance of ensuring that policies are gender-responsive and inclusive with regard to youth, the elderly and indigenous peoples' rights and knowledge. Relatedly, another submission highlights the importance of a just transition and ensuring that no one is left behind.

23. Several submissions emphasize the importance of **aligning international agendas**. Submissions highlight as major international agendas the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Aligning international policy frameworks and national agendas creates synergies and fosters effective implementation of climate action.<sup>12</sup> One entity notes that climate action can be incorporated in development planning through the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. These qualitative and quantitative indicators can provide a framework for assessing the sustainable development impacts of NDC actions. In terms of solutions for realizing synergies between agendas, one entity points to nature-based solutions, which include mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity and development measures. Finally, one submitter shares perspectives on aligning climate action with obligations under international human rights law.<sup>13</sup>

24. Several submissions point to **funding and resources** as pivotal to NDC implementation. Resources can be leveraged through various avenues. A number of submitters share similar views on economic instruments, such as carbon taxes being used as a mechanism for internalizing environmental externalities and mobilizing resources that can be used to fill capacity gaps.<sup>14</sup> Other submissions highlight external funding opportunities for activities linked to the implementation of NDCs; suitable interventions include organizing bilateral meetings or donor round tables with funders.<sup>15</sup> Working with finance and planning ministries was highlighted by several submitting entities as a way to leverage resources from national budgets. Finally, one entity noted the importance of devising comprehensive NDC investment road maps that may integrate the above-mentioned approaches.

25. Finally, several submissions point to **transparency** as a key intervention for improving NDC implementation. Access to data and information is considered crucial for cross-sectoral climate planning processes. One entity places special emphasis on the importance of developing NDC indicators and tracking them to monitor and evaluate climate action.<sup>16</sup>

## B. Enabling conditions

26. This section synthesizes the inputs related to creating the conditions that enable coherent implementation of NDCs and national development plans.

27. Several submitting entities highlighted **institutional coordination** as key to the coherent implementation of NDCs. Submissions point to both vertical and horizontal cooperation, noting that vertical cooperation can be achieved between national and subnational institutions, while horizontal cooperation concerns key ministries involved in climate action and development. Horizontal

<sup>11</sup> Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP).

<sup>12</sup> GIZ.

<sup>13</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

<sup>14</sup> GIZ, LEDS GP, OHCHR.

<sup>15</sup> Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Stockholm Environment Institute (CCAC–SEI).

<sup>16</sup> Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT).

cooperation can be facilitated by political leadership and by establishing clear mandates for the institutions involved in climate and development planning. In this context, one submission specifies that climate action must be integrated with other global trends such as digitalization to foster an appropriate level of coordination among institutions. In terms of modalities, one submitting entity is of the view that it is desirable to have one entity at country level that coordinates climate- and development-related issues to ensure appropriate allocation of responsibility and accountability between all relevant actors.<sup>17</sup>

28. Building on institutional coordination, a number of submitters highlight effective **stakeholder engagement and participation** as a key enabling condition for the coherent implementation of NDCs. Several submissions highlight public awareness of climate action and broad stakeholder participation in the development of policies and legislation as important elements. One entity further specifies that assigning clear roles and tasks to participating stakeholders may be a fruitful approach. One submission notes that whole-of-society and whole-of-economy approaches can drive all sectors towards the same goals.<sup>18</sup>

29. Several submitting entities highlighted the importance of **financial support and budget allocation** to implement the climate agenda. One submission draws attention to the use of appropriate fiscal incentives that reward innovative entrepreneurs and attract long-term investments to climate action. Another submission builds on this by suggesting that governments can act as an intermediary between local entrepreneurs and investors to facilitate access to finance.

30. Finally, submissions considered **transparency** as an enabling condition in the context of coherent climate action. Several submitting entities noted that accessible data can support evidence-based actions and policy development. And yet, to achieve this accessibility, some submissions note, institutional arrangements for transparency need to be improved so as to enable well-defined data flows and the use of appropriate systems and tools, and enhance monitoring and evaluation, methodologies and indicators.

### C. Institutional barriers

31. The submissions list several obstacles to implementing NDCs and national development plans in a coherent manner. The suggestions received are synthesized in the following paragraphs.

32. Several submitting entities highlight the lack of **institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms** as a barrier to facilitating coherent implementation of NDCs. Some submitters note that a lack of horizontal coordination results in silos and overlapping, unclear mandates, jeopardizing smooth integration of climate and development objectives. One submission gives the example of insufficient alignment between political and legal departments working on infrastructure and/or climate change and those working on disaster risk management.<sup>19</sup> Turning to vertical integration, several submitters highlight a disconnect between national and subnational processes as a key barrier. One entity specifies that uneven capacities across a country's regions and among its local experts may be a barrier to vertical integration.<sup>20</sup> Finally, one submitter notes that the lack of coordination is not restricted to countries, but also applies to the donor community. Taking a step back, one entity warns that focusing on building new institutional arrangements may risk too much bureaucracy.

33. Several submitters shared similar views on barriers related to effective coordination of **stakeholder engagement and participation**. A few submissions noted that the lack of mechanisms for engagement may lead to ineffective participation or even stakeholder fatigue. This may result in a missed chance to incorporate data and other inputs from non-governmental entities, such as research institutions or universities, in policy processes. Finally, several entities underline the importance of easily accessible information for all stakeholders.

34. A number of submissions make reference to institutional barriers originating at the **organizational** level. Several submitters share similar views with regard to organizations struggling to maintain institutional memory in the context of high staff turnover and brain drain. A lack of

---

<sup>17</sup> NDC Partnership.

<sup>18</sup> LEDS GP.

<sup>19</sup> Women and Men in ENVironment and Artificial Intelligence (WOMENVAI).

<sup>20</sup> Indonesia.

systematic learning systems and low salaries are noted as underlying problems. Another submitter points to a general lack of (technical) government staff in charge of (coherent) implementation of NDCs. Relatedly, a submission notes that organizations may shift their attention to other priorities in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

35. A number of submitting entities contend that in some cases the main barrier may be a lack of high-level buy-in and **political will**. One submission specifies that this issue may be more common when changes in political leadership occur.

36. Submitters made reference to barriers related to **accessing finance**. One submitting entity notes that a lack of data on support needs and a lack of sound data on project implementation progress constitute barriers for investors. A lack of finance in general was identified by a number of submitters as a key barrier to coherent NDC implementation.

37. Several submissions highlight the lack of **transparency and reliable data** as a barrier to coherent implementation of NDCs. Another submission notes that even when data are available, for example, from climate measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) processes, they often do not effectively feed into policy processes. In a similar vein, one entity highlights the lack of transparency in policy design, including in relation to NDC formulation, as a barrier.

#### D. Capacity gaps and capacity-building needs

38. The paragraphs below reflect on the capacity-building gaps and needs in implementing NDCs and national development plans in a coherent manner.

39. Several submissions note the importance of enhancing **institutional capacities**. A particular focus is building institutional capacities related to linking national-level goals with subnational and local priorities and systems. Horizontal integration and policy formulation are also identified as areas requiring further capacity-building. Beyond the formulation and integration of policies, submissions also highlight the need for capacities to implement policies.

40. In relation to institutional arrangements, a number of submissions note the importance of interministerial **coordination** and coordination with stakeholders. Building on this, one submission highlights the importance of shared learning and knowledge exchange between stakeholders.<sup>21</sup>

41. One submission stresses that capacities should be strengthened with a view to developing **comprehensive policies** that take a holistic approach to climate action, the SDGs, nature-based solutions and other sustainable development instruments.<sup>22</sup> Another submission builds on this by proposing multi-sectoral training sessions to learn about the linkages between the climate and development objectives. The capacity to develop comprehensive policies could be further strengthened through modelling for integrated scenarios.

42. A number of submitting entities underline the importance of building **capacities to access finance**. Entities note that finance may be leveraged through multiple avenues, each requiring slightly different capacities. Accessing international and private funding requires a certain level of understanding in relation to the application process, proposal design and formulation, and management of funds in accordance with reporting requirements. Moreover, one submission adds that countries need, in the first instance, the capacity to assess their needs and priorities. To leverage domestic resources, an understanding of topics such as macroeconomic policy and fiscal planning is considered important.

43. The submissions also highlight capacity gaps and needs related to **assessments and transparency**, including the following elements;

(a) Several submissions emphasize the need for tools and capacity-building for assessing and monitoring the sustainable development co-benefits and impacts of climate projects and policies. Improved air quality was mentioned as a potential co-benefit, while job losses were mentioned as an example of a potentially negative impact of climate policies. On the other side of

<sup>21</sup> GIZ.

<sup>22</sup> GIZ.

the coin, one entity mentions that there is a need for technical capacities to assess the climate aspects of development interventions;<sup>23</sup>

(b) A number of submissions note a lack of technical and institutional capacities related to developing and maintaining emission inventories and in relation to continuous and systematic data collection, management, archiving and reporting;

(c) One submission underlines the need for capacity-building on greenhouse gas inventory quality assurance and quality control and on the use of the *2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. Relatedly, another entity identified the need to design methodologies that allow for greater compatibility and comparability with regard to the reported information.

44. A number of submissions highlight the importance of building capacity for **scientific and evidence-based policymaking**, for example, by enhancing the science–policy interface and creating communities of practice.

45. Several submissions highlight the importance of building **capacities at the local level** and the need to build the capacities of the most vulnerable groups, left-out communities, indigenous peoples, women, youth and the general public. Capacity-building for these groups can foster resilience and enable a two-way exchange with policy processes.

46. Finally, a few submissions touched upon other specific capacity needs, including in relation to managerial and leadership skills, the ability to integrate gender in climate actions, understanding of technology transfer, linkages between climate and human rights, and the capacity to ensure that participation in activities under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement fosters sustainable development.

## E. Knowledge and skills priorities

47. The below paragraphs reflect on the knowledge and skills priorities in implementing NDCs and national development plans in a coherent manner.

48. A number of submissions highlighted the importance of skills and knowledge in **assessing co-benefits** of climate action. These co-benefits can be captured through cost–benefit analyses or other tools to quantify the sustainable development benefits of climate action. Entities further stressed that for coherence, the (potentially negative) socioeconomic impacts of climate action should also be assessed.<sup>24</sup>

49. A large group of submissions reference the importance of enhancing skills and knowledge related to tracking, MRV, and **monitoring** and evaluation, providing the following perspectives:

(a) At a general level, submitters highlight the importance of skills and knowledge related to how to set up appropriate frameworks and system architecture for monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, the importance of data management and information systems is underlined.

(b) NDC implementation is considered a priority in terms of monitoring and evaluation. This encompasses skills related to developing indicators for NDC tracking and knowledge of IPCC guidelines. One submission adds to this by highlighting the importance of indicators across the scale, including at the community level.<sup>25</sup>

(c) Beyond NDCs, several submitters also emphasize the importance of improving skills and knowledge in measuring and quantifying adaptation, climate resilience, vulnerability and loss and damage. This requires skills in terms of modelling, assessment and evaluation. One entity highlights the need to monitor capacity-building efforts.<sup>26</sup>

50. Knowledge and skills that enable **access to resources** were highlighted by a group of submitters as a priority. This extends to the understanding of financial structures and mechanisms, particularly those under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, submitting entities note the importance of skills related to developing bankable project proposals and of knowledge on financial

<sup>23</sup> SLYCAN Trust.

<sup>24</sup> Asia Climate Experts Network, Aether, LEDS GP.

<sup>25</sup> SeaTrust Institute.

<sup>26</sup> SeaTrust Institute.



incentives and the regulatory environment in terms of leveraging private investment. One entity further highlights climate financing tagging methodologies and the integration of climate finance into mainstream budgeting processes.<sup>27</sup>

51. Two submissions underline the role of (applied) **scientific** knowledge and literacy in the coherent implementation of climate and development objectives.

52. One entity stressed the importance of fostering a greater understanding of climate change impacts, vulnerability, **resilience and adaptation**, and the synergies between mitigation and adaptation at all levels of government. The importance of building knowledge and skills on resilience in the context of engineering initiatives was also noted.

53. Two entities highlight the importance of **nature-based solutions** and point to the knowledge gap with regard to tested cost-benefit analyses of these solutions.<sup>28</sup>

54. Two submissions further note the importance of enhancing knowledge and skills to **mainstream gender and youth** in policies and actions and enable effective use of local wisdom and knowledge.<sup>29</sup>

55. Some submissions point to the need to enhance basic **climate (policy) literacy**, with one entity specifically highlighting the lack of awareness of linkages between air pollution and mitigation.<sup>30</sup>

56. Finally, two submitting entities identified communication and **stakeholder engagement** skills as important priorities in policy implementation.

## F. Target recipients

57. The submissions list various actors as key target recipients of capacity-building to enhance coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans.

58. Many submitting entities underline the **public sector** as a key recipient, yet the emphasis varies between submissions. In general, there is an understanding that capacity-building should be targeted at policymakers, government officers and decision makers. Some point to the importance of targeting certain sectors/line ministries that are key to NDC implementation, such as finance, climate change, environment, energy, transport, health and water. Others underline the importance of targeting capacity-building at subnational and local governments, as these are at the forefront of NDC implementation.

59. Some submissions also call on capacity-building for the **private sector**, including businesses, industry and (international) financial institutions, to enhance coherent NDC implementation. One entity highlights the role of the private sector in carbon markets.

60. Submissions also call on capacity-building to be targeted at **civil society** organizations. In this regard, two entities highlight the important role that civil society can play in raising awareness, fostering dialogue, promoting innovative approaches and encouraging the private and public sectors to be ambitious in their progress.

61. Local and indigenous (vulnerable) **communities**, children and youth, women's organizations and vulnerable groups, including the elderly and people with disabilities, were further highlighted as priority target groups for capacity-building efforts.

62. Finally, submitting entities mention **academia**, policy experts, engineering organizations and project developers as capacity-building recipients to foster coherent NDC implementation.

63. Some entities nuanced their contribution to this sub-item by indicating that different groups require different kinds of capacity-building, and for some capacity-building efforts to be effective, they should target multiple groups. One submission builds on this by noting that this can be done in

<sup>27</sup> Aether.

<sup>28</sup> Indonesia, GIZ.

<sup>29</sup> Indonesia, SLYCAN Trust.

<sup>30</sup> CCAC-SEI.

a systematic and targeted way to ensure that the right people are targeted at the right moment in the process.<sup>31</sup>

## G. Improving capacity-building efforts at the national level

64. In reflecting on how capacity-building efforts could be improved to support NDC implementation and planning in developing countries, submitting entities provided comments on both general approaches and specific modalities.

65. Several submitting entities highlight the importance of a **holistic approach** that considers linkages between climate goals and the SDGs and takes capacity-building beyond training to encompass the development of institutional arrangements. In terms of approaches, an enhanced focus on institutional arrangements was highlighted by other entities as an improvement in its own right, with climate working groups a possible modality.<sup>32</sup> Others focused on continuity and long-term presence as key leverage points to improve capacity-building efforts. It was also highlighted that capacity-building should be country-driven and that ownership by the relevant stakeholders is vital, including at the community level.

66. Submitting entities put forward a number of **modalities** for improving capacity-building. Some point to the importance of gaps and needs assessments, where others argue that these assessments should also generate an understanding of the general interests and constraints involved, possible links to existing development plans and departmental goals, and the stakeholders involved. Some entities note that gaps and needs are best assessed through engagement with stakeholders. In terms of stakeholders, submissions stress the importance of sound stakeholder engagement mechanisms such as multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships. Some highlight the need to link academia and research institutions to the policy process, while others emphasize the need to link subnational stakeholders to national processes. However, others call for wider stakeholder engagement, including with civil society and the private sector, to strengthen relationships and ensure buy-in.

67. Other ways to improve capacity-building efforts highlighted by submitting entities include identifying champions who can drive progress, creating toolkits (in the local language) that simplify complex processes,<sup>33</sup> engaging high-level decision makers, carrying out awareness-raising activities targeting the public through (social) media,<sup>34</sup> and ensuring that monitoring and evaluation links climate and development.<sup>35</sup>

## H. Improving capacity-building efforts at the regional level

68. At the regional level, one approach identified by submitting entities to improve capacity-building is the organization of regional **hubs and forums**. These could be places for sharing experiences, developing new tools, approaches or systems, and learning from specialized international experts (e.g. on short-lived climate pollutants). Moreover, these forums could facilitate peer-to-peer learning, and on a larger level, South–South and triangular cooperation.<sup>36</sup> Furthermore, regional forums could help to generate a regional pool of experts, reducing the need to always draw on experts from developed countries, especially in the least developed countries.<sup>37</sup>

69. Two entities highlight the importance of providing support to experts and scientists who give technical support to countries and of **regional government representation** in international negotiations.<sup>38</sup> Another entity argues for regional scientific and policy assessments to synthesize knowledge and best practices.

---

<sup>31</sup> GIZ.

<sup>32</sup> Indonesia, Zimbabwe.

<sup>33</sup> Indonesia, ICAT.

<sup>34</sup> QuantumD-Sustainability.

<sup>35</sup> Indonesia, LEDS GP, SLYCAN Trust.

<sup>36</sup> United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, GIZ.

<sup>37</sup> WOMENVAI.

<sup>38</sup> ACE Network, CCAC–SEI.

70. One submission further notes that **regional treaties** may be leveraged to build capacities, for example, the submitting entity argues that Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters; and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean should be part of capacity-building efforts to implement NDCs.<sup>39</sup>

71. Finally, one submission underlines the importance of localizing NDCs, meaning that national climate and development policies are translated into provincial and local plans and actions.<sup>40</sup>

## I. Selection of case studies, best practices, tools and methodologies, lessons learned, examples of support, and any other relevant sources related to the coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of national development plans

Category	Description	Link
<i>Integration of climate and development</i>	Translating the NDC to the provincial level through the mainstreaming of targets in socioeconomic development plans and the development of a gender-sensitive framework in Viet Nam. <sup>41</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Climate-proofing Lebanon's economic development strategies. <sup>42</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	A new narrative for climate-smart and resilient societies, achieved by aligning adaptation, mitigation and SDGs. On the basis of the narrative, a two-layer toolbox was created. This allows high-level or expert stakeholders to convene and use a design-thinking process to identify areas for joint adaptation and mitigation action, as well as indicators for joint reporting. <sup>43</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a> <a href="#">Link</a>
	Intersectoral dialogue and the design of the long-term low-emission development strategy (LT-LEDS) in Kazakhstan by linking adaptation and mitigation in the sustainable development context. <sup>44</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The Philippines' NDC priorities are embedded in its national development and climate strategies as outlined in the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022 and in the seven thematic outcomes of the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change 2010–2022 and the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011–2028. <sup>45</sup>	n/a
	Thailand has an LT-LEDS that will serve as its guide for climate-resilient and low greenhouse gas emission development. <sup>46</sup>	n/a

<sup>39</sup> OHCHR.

<sup>40</sup> GIZ.

<sup>41</sup> Submitted by the NDC Partnership.

<sup>42</sup> Submitted by Aether.

<sup>43</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>44</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>45</sup> Submitted by the ACE Network.

<sup>46</sup> Submitted by the ACE Network.

<i>Integration of global agendas</i>	In a cross-project collaboration, three GIZ projects – the global initiative on disaster risk management, supporting the review and implementation processes of SDGs, and the support project for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPA) – produced different knowledge products on coherence between the three post-2015 agendas. In addition to two videos, a country case study on coherence in Germany was produced, which presents the importance of coherence in general, important lessons learned and practical entry points. Additional examples are available from Colombia, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. <sup>47</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a> <a href="#">Link</a>
	In collaboration with the GIZ project SPA, the NAP Global Network (National Adaptation Plan Global Network) developed a series of alignment briefs that target both alignment within one agenda (e.g. NAP and NDC alignment) and alignment between different agendas (e.g. the 2030 Agenda and the Sendai Framework). The concepts described in the briefs were used in advising country processes (e.g. in Grenada and Nepal). <sup>48</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<i>Assessment of co-benefits and impacts</i>	The ICAT Costa Rica project (phase I) helped assess sustainable development impacts and the transformational change potential of NDC actions and integrated these data into a national system (the National Climate Change Metrics System), which is used to engage stakeholders in NDC implementation. <sup>49</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a> <a href="#">Link</a>
	Crunching numbers: quantifying the sustainable development co-benefits of Mexico's climate commitments. <sup>50</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Good practice guidance: a simple guidance document that may be used to conduct a preliminary assessment of sustainable development in potential activities under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. <sup>51</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<i>NDCs</i>	The good practice database helps to support practitioners (e.g. policymakers, decision makers, project managers) as they carry out the process to formulate and implement NDCs. <sup>52</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The NDC LAC online tool. <sup>53</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Guide to INDCs and other useful materials from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) <sup>54</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>

<sup>47</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>48</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>49</sup> Submitted by ICAT.

<sup>50</sup> Submitted by LEDS GP. Gioutsos, D. & Ochs., A. 2019. Crunching numbers: quantifying the sustainable development co-benefits of Mexico's climate commitments. Bonn: GIZ. Available at [https://sd-strategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/crunching\\_numbers.pdf](https://sd-strategies.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/crunching_numbers.pdf)

<sup>51</sup> Submitted by Sustainable Development Initiative (SDI), by Gold Standard Foundation and UNEP DTU .

<sup>52</sup> Submitted by LEDS GP.

<sup>53</sup> Submitted by LEDS GP.

<sup>54</sup> Submitted by Mexico.

<i>Capacity-building approaches</i>	The Climate Helpdesk is a global advisory network providing rapid, high-quality, short-term technical assistance for developing countries. <sup>55</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The Communities of Practice. The LEDS GP has 13 Communities of Practice, which are diverse and inclusive groups of practitioners (normally involving governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, youth and other groups). <sup>56</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	It may be wise to shift the focus from providing answers to enabling countries to ask catalytic questions as part of their methodological thinking on adaptation in general and capacity-building in particular. Using current models such as the one offered by SEI could be a way to start the questioning process, enabling countries to iteratively ask deeper and more meaningful questions that can become frameworks for adaptive design policies. <sup>57</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Indonesia's capacity-building framework, road map and capacity-building assessment tools/methodology <sup>58</sup>	
<i>Institutional arrangements</i>	Viet Nam's National Committee on Climate Change, composed of 20 ministries and an independent group of scientists funded by the Government. <sup>59</sup>	
<i>Stakeholders</i>	Programme for Country Partnership, is UNIDO's newest programme to support countries in accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It is founded on a multi-stakeholder partnership to ensure synergies between different interventions and maximize impact improving the capacity of industrial sectors with high growth potential to meet development goals. <sup>60</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Policy brief: Civil Society Engagement in the NDC Review Process. <sup>61</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>

<sup>55</sup> Submitted by LEDS GP.

<sup>56</sup> Submitted by LEDS GP.

<sup>57</sup> Submitted by CCAC-SEI.

<sup>58</sup> Submitted by Indonesia.

<sup>59</sup> Submitted by the ACE Network.

<sup>60</sup> Submitted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

<sup>61</sup> Submitted by the SLYCAN Trust.

<i>Finance</i>	Include aspects on how to incorporate training needs and gaps in the financing and planning of national activities. <sup>62</sup>	
	In the framework of the GIZ Climate Finance Readiness Programme, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, a range of countries were supported in mainstreaming climate change mitigation in budget planning and enhancing their capacities to attract climate funding. The Climate Finance Readiness Training toolkit was co-created as part of this project. <sup>63</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The NDC Funding and Initiatives Navigator of the NDC Partnership is a searchable database of financial and technical support that can help countries plan and implement their NDCs. It includes open funds and technical support, as well as existing assistance on the ground that will help coordinate new support. On the basis of its country support experiences, GIZ made a joint contribution to the Navigator with other partners. <sup>64</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<i>Adaptation</i>	Bangladesh is in the process of developing a national strategy that will align the NDC and NAP targets with its development plan for the next eight years. Close collaboration with science. <sup>65</sup>	n/a
	The National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change in Mexico. <sup>66</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Resilience First network. <sup>67</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The alignment of NAP and NDC processes can support the enhancement and strengthening of adaptation goals under the NDCs. In collaboration with the NAP Global Network, the GIZ SPA project is compiling inspiring country examples and country case studies, for example, in this recently published blog article. <sup>68</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a> <a href="#">Link</a>

<sup>62</sup> Submitted by [Kenya Markets Trust](#) .

<sup>63</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>64</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>65</sup> Submitted by the ACE Network.

<sup>66</sup> Submitted by Mexico.

<sup>67</sup> Submitted by the Resilience Shift.

<sup>68</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<i>Integration of gender, youth and human rights</i>	OHCHR information materials on climate change and human rights. <sup>69</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Fact sheet on climate change and human rights, including references to NDCs, sustainable development and capacity-building. <sup>70</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<i>Air pollution and climate change</i>	Opportunities for Increasing Ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions through Integrated Air Pollution and Climate Change Planning: A Practical Guidance document. <sup>71</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning – Integrated Benefits Calculator fact sheet. <sup>72</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The Multiple Benefits Pathway Framework methodology briefing. <sup>73</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<i>Nature-based solutions</i>	Leading coastal and marine nature-based solutions have been compiled by Blue Solutions, a project funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), to inform the design and implementation of blue nature-based solutions in NDCs on the national, subnational and project level. The examples provide hands-on implementation models to support countries in synergistically putting their climate mitigation and adaptation pledges into practice. <sup>74</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a> <a href="#">Link</a>
	GIZ SPA, which is BMU-funded, has supported the elaboration of a WWF publication on enhancing NDCs through nature-based solutions. Eight principles help countries to integrate nature in their climate actions. <sup>75</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<i>Science</i>	The local governance work of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities focused on integrating current and evidence-based climate science in political and economic planning, implementation and review processes. <sup>76</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>

<sup>69</sup> Submitted by OHCHR.

<sup>70</sup> Submitted by OHCHR.

<sup>71</sup> Submitted by CCAC–SEI. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). 2019. Opportunities for Increasing Ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions through Integrated Air Pollution and Climate Change Planning: A Practical Guidance document. Ghana. Available at <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/opportunities-increasing-ambition-nationally-determined-contributions-through-integrated>

<sup>72</sup> Submitted by CCAC–SEI.

<sup>73</sup> Submitted by CCAC–SEI.

<sup>74</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>75</sup> Submitted by GIZ.

<sup>76</sup> Submitted by ACE Network.

<i>Sector-specific</i>	Enhancing NDCs for Food Systems: Recommendations for Decision Makers. <sup>77</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Climate-Smart Healthcare: Low-Carbon and Resilience Strategies for the Health Sector <sup>78</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	A webinar on formulating long-term, climate-resilient development strategies for agriculture in Africa. <sup>79</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>
	The BMU-funded GIZ project Enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure Investments supports three partner countries and the Nile Basin Initiative in making greater use of climate services when planning infrastructure investments. Capacity development of all actors in the climate service value chain is supported. <sup>80</sup>	<a href="#">Link</a>

<sup>77</sup> Submitted by CCAC-SEI. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WWF, EAT, Climate Focus. 2020. Enhancing NDCs for Food Systems: Recommendations for Decision Makers. Berlin: WWF Germany. Available at <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/enhancing-ndcs-food-systems-recommendations-decision-makers>.

<sup>78</sup> Submitted by CCAC-SEI. World Bank. 2017. Climate-Smart Healthcare: Low-Carbon and Resilience Strategies for the Health Sector. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/climate-smart-healthcare-low-carbon-and-resilience-strategies-health-sector>.

<sup>79</sup> Submitted by LEDS GP.

<sup>80</sup> Submitted by GIZ.