Summary report

PCCB Network Consultation

04.12.2019 | 10:00-11:30
2nd Capacity-building Hub
COP 25
IFEMA Feria de Madrid, Madrid

I.   Background

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) set out in its 2019 Strategic Plan for Stakeholder Engagement, Communications, and Resource Mobilization the basis for establishing a Network to assist it in achieving its mandate. The PCCB Network is intended to become a leveraging platform to enhance coherence and coordination in capacity-building efforts under and outside the Convention, and foster the engagement of relevant stakeholders in such efforts.

Effective partnerships, active participation, and impact-oriented activities are expected to be the defining elements of the PCCB Network, and help keeping it relevant to the current and emerging capacity-building needs and gaps of countries and other actors. Launching a one-year pilot phase for the Network not only enables feedback mechanisms to better position the Network in a diverse landscape of actors and action, but also ensure a fit-for-purpose tool that will assist the PCCB in fulfilling its mandate.

By taking a stepwise approach to developing the Network, the PCCB can establish and manage the PCCB Network with input from stakeholders. The organization of a PCCB Network Consultation meeting during the 2nd Capacity-building Hub at COP25 reflects this approach. This 90-minute session provided a window of opportunity for the PCCB to discuss with representatives from a wide array of organizations the concept of the Network and potential pathways to move forward.

Information on the session was disseminated through the PCCB mailing list (i.e. all stakeholders engaged in the PCCB's work so far, including PCCB meeting observers), the PCCB Facebook page, and through on-site promotion at COP25. After a brief presentation of the concept, participants were asked to provide inputs on different aspects of the Network. The remainder of this report presents a summary of the organization of the session, main topics of discussions, and outcomes of the consultation. For more information and details, the PCCB can be contacted at this email.

Organization of the session

The PCCB Network Consultation took place on December 4, 2019 during the 2nd Capacity-building Hub at COP25, in Madrid. With over 45 participants, the session was moderated by members of the PCCB and organized in three parts:
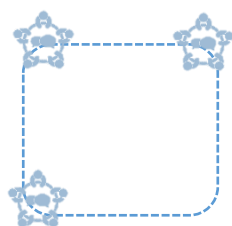
1- Presentation of the concept note, followed by question and answers
The PCCB Co-Chairs presented the concept note on the Network, which was published online prior to the consultation. Subsequently, a question and answer session, moderated by a PCCB member, was opened for participants.

2- Guided questionnaire-Mapping of Actors
During a guided exercise, participants were asked to fill out a survey [on-site and/or online] to provide information on the type and focus of their own organization, memberships in other international networks, relevance of their activities to the work of PCCB, their potential contribution to pilot activities of the PCCB Network during its first year of operation, and finally, any planned or ongoing activities and projects in their organization that could be pursued under the umbrella of the PCCB Network. Submitted questionnaires will be incorporated into the of the Network's implementation plan and for identification of potential pilot activities.

3- Station discussions
After filling out the survey, participants were asked to join three station discussions on '**Experiences and Recommendations**', '**Procedures and Communications**', and '**Value Propositions and Expectations**', and rotate once to a second station of their choice.
The three discussion groups were facilitated by two PCCB members and the Team Lead of the Capacity-building Subprogramme at the UNFCCC secretariat. The outcomes of each station were presented by the facilitators at the end of the session.

In the following sections, the outcomes of the discussions held at the consultation are summarized. These outcomes will be complemented by further analysis and follow-up discussions with interested organizations. All the inputs will be integrated into an actionable implementation plan for the 1-year pilot phase of the PCCB Network in 2020.

II.   Summary of inputs

1- Questions and answers – initial reactions

After the presentation of the concept note by the PCCB Co-Chairs, the audience provided their perspectives, questions, and inputs to the PCCB. The conversation revolved around three major issues:

a. **Existing gaps and needs**
- There is a need to **map** existing capacity-building activities and **disseminate** the information among actors.
- There is a need to **involve youth and children** in capacity-building efforts addressing climate change.

b. **Potential focus of work and value propositions**
  - The PCCB Network should support **mainstreaming capacity-building** elements in all climate change-related **international conferences** and arenas.
  - The Network should **cut across the board** to bring together **different stakeholders**, particularly experts and policy makers.
  - The activities of the Network should be **aligned with the PCCB workplan** to ensure its responsiveness to the needs of the Parties.

c. **Important considerations and possible challenges**
  - The effectiveness of the PCCB Network should be ensured by focusing on **concrete outcomes** and **targeted activities** in the development of its implementation/strategic plan.
  - The issue of **language barriers** in conducting meetings, producing products, and exchanging knowledge and experience should be considered and properly addressed. It was suggested use of local language in the conduct of events, i.e. during the Regional Climate Weeks should be considered but it was also noted that in regions where there are multiple languages, it can also be difficult and costly to provide translation.
  - The issue of **funding** was raised as a concern for carrying out activities of the Network.
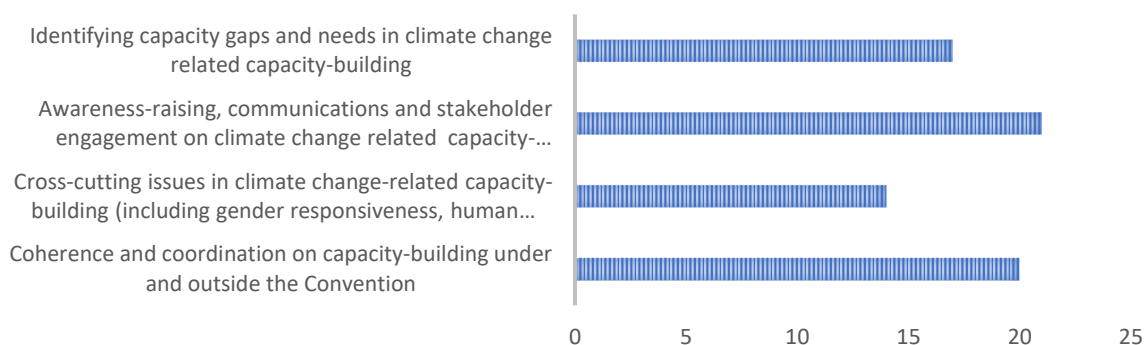
2- Questionnaire-mapping of actors

The questionnaire was structured in four sections, capturing information about (1) type and focus of participants' organizations, (2) relevance of their work, (3) potential contributions, and (4) synergies of work. This exercise provided a rough map of actors which can be further analyzed to feed into the implementation plan of the PCCB Network. A brief overview of the questionnaire answers is provided below:

a. **Type and focus of organizations**

Given the small group of participants, the questionnaire was answered by representatives from a wide range of organizations, including government agencies, NGOs, academic and research institutions, private sector entities, and UN Agencies. Under the broader notion of combating climate change the organizations cover a broad range of topics including research and policy analysis, transparency, communication, and awareness-raising.

b. **Relevance of work**

Figure 1-Reported activities/products relevant to the focus of PCCB Working Groups

Close to 90% of the respondents reported activities and products relevant to at least one of the PCCB working groups' areas of focus, and over two-thirds of the participants identified the work of their organization as relevant to the focus of all four working groups of the PCCB. 'Awareness-raising,
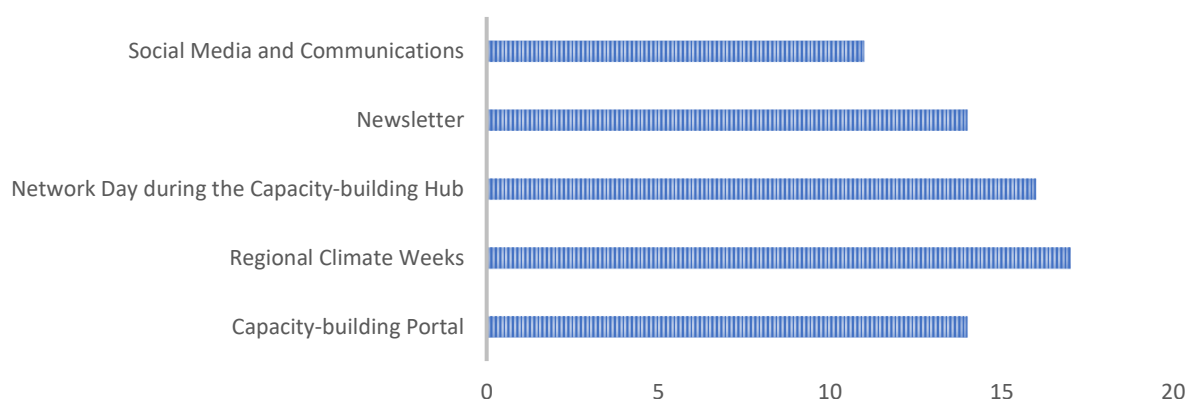
communications and stakeholder engagement on climate change related capacity-building' [WG3] and 'Coherence and coordination on capacity-building under and outside the Convention' [WG1] were the two areas of focus with the highest number of reported activities [Fig.1].

c. Potential contributions

When asked about potential contributions to some of the suggested activities for the 1-year pilot phase of the PCCB Network, activities in Regional Climate Weeks received the highest score [Fig.2]. Among other suggested contributions [see the questionnaire in Annex 1], respondents were most willing to contribute to:

- 'Linking data and information sources and support deployment of tools and methods for knowledge management' for the development of the Capacity-building Portal
- 'Joint organization of events' during Regional Climate Weeks
- 'Mobilization of partners and agenda setting', 'Organization of events, and 'Keynote speeches and facilitation' for the envisaged Network Day at the 3rd Capacity-building Hub
- 'Provision of content' for a periodical newsletter on capacity-building activities, and
- 'Content provision and frequent updates of events and activities' through social media.

Figure 2-Contributions to the Network Activities in the 1-year pilot phase

d. Synergies of work

With regard to ongoing/planned activities that could be carried out under the umbrella of the PCCB Network, the following suggestions were submitted:

- Postgraduate specialization on **Leadership, Climate Change & Cities**, funded by the IDRC Climate Change Program
- Expanding the use of **'Capacity-building Assessment Matrix (CBAM)'** tool in the assessment of countries' capacity-building gaps and needs for enhanced transparency in climate reporting
- **Adaptation Future Conference** in 2020, New Delhi, India
- **Capacity assessment** for the implementation of **NDCs** from 2015-2020 and post-2020 in **Uganda**
- **Mapping capacity-building activities in Thailand** and identifying capacity gaps and needs
- Ad-hoc collaborations with **transparency-related initiatives**, such as a joint capacity-building workshop with ICAT and PATPA during the **Africa Climate Week 2020**
- Scaling-up efforts for mainstreaming **SDGs in the International Council of Museums**, involving non-state actors particularly for COP26.

3- Station discussions – way forward

a. Experiences and Recommendations

At Station 1, participants were asked to list examples of good practices in international networks and coalitions for climate change, and name difficulties experienced by their organization in this context. The discussions shed light on three main issues:

Content and procedures
- It was emphasized during both rounds of discussion that the PCCB Network could function as a **network of networks**, connecting different actors for better coherence and coordination in climate-related capacity-building efforts
- Along the same line, it was suggested that the Network could offer an **effective search engine**, for example through the Capacity-building Portal, integrating a **calendar of events**, as well as information on **capacity-building initiatives** and programmes in developing countries

Coordination and engagement
- It was recommended that the PCCB extend the duration of **pre-launch activities**, thereby exploring and developing coherent and effective strategies for the implementation and messaging of the PCCB Network
- Identifying **country-level and regional-level focal persons/organizations** for the Network, and use their support and networks for the coordination of activities was also suggested

Communication and visibility
- The importance of **digital outreach, visibility, and messaging** was highlighted in the discussions.
- It was suggested that all PCCB Network members use a **media kit**, targeted to wide audiences, in order to boost the visibility and brand of the Network across regions
- **Network Champions** could also be used to boost the visibility of the Network and engage with audiences at the national and regional level
- Along the same line, it was suggested that by engaging **unconventional stakeholders** such as museums, schools, cultural houses and community centers, the PCCB Network could mobilize greater network of actors and boost the impact of its activities.

b. Procedures and Communications

At Station 2, participants were asked to share their opinions on effective ways for internal and external communication and coordination in international networks, as well as challenges they may have experienced in this regard.

On the topic of communication tools and procedures:
- **Language barriers** and **technical difficulties** in organizing e-meetings, online interactions, and digital outreach were among the key challenges raised.
- Participants suggested **targeted newsletters** as a form of effective communication, with content that is **timely** and **original**, of **practical** use, and **targeted** to the specific needs of different groups of audience.
- Another suggestion for effective communication among PCCB Network members was distribution of **preparatory materials** prior to Network meetings.
- It was suggested that, contingent on the availability of resources and technical infrastructure, the network could provide **online space for discussions** on different issues regarding climate-related capacity-building, for example through **online forums**.

On the topic of outreach, communication, and brand recognition of the PCCB Network:
- Local, national, and regional focal points were considered important for communication and coordination.
- It was suggested that the Network should increase its reach and engagement by different means of communication, including but not limited to: **Network Champions, Network story-tellers,** and **Network influencers** on social media.
- Given that different regions use **different social media platforms**, it was suggested to identify such platforms when formulating a communication strategy for the PCCB network.

On the topic of procedures and the organization of activities:
- It was suggested to categorize the activities of PCCB Network based on (1) **thematic areas** and (2) **regional** indicators.
- Along the same line, it was suggested that the Network can offer an **effective search function** for already existing data and information from other networks and platforms.
- Establishing a protocol for the use of a **Network logo**, to ensure quality of work and effectiveness of activities, when boosting the visibility and brand recognition of the Network was also suggested.

c. Value Propositions and Expectations

At Station 3, participants were asked to share their expectations regarding the type and impact of activities under the PCCB Network. Another part of the discussion was dedicated to the type of information that participants would expect to receive in a regularly published newsletter on capacity-building for climate change. The outcomes of the discussions are summarized below.

Regarding expectations on activities and outcomes of the PCCB Network, it was suggested that:
- The Network should facilitate the reachability of institutions and organizations working on capacity-building topics for different stakeholders, thereby enhancing coordination and avoiding duplications of efforts among these stakeholders.
- The Network could provide an inclusive and easy-to-navigate platform which directs users to different capacity-building actors and activities [i.e. **who** is doing **what**, **where** and **when**].
- The Network should provide a **repository of knowledge** for capacity-building success stories, initiatives, tools, and indicators.
- The Network could enhance regional and international collaboration by facilitating **peer learning**, **South-South cooperation**, and **connection platforms.**
- The Network should facilitate knowledge exchange and **technical capacity-building** by providing a sector-based roster of experts, technical methodologies and guidebooks, and indicators. It could also contribute to the development of **bankable projects.**

Regarding the impact and value proposition of the PCCB Network, it was suggested that:
- The Network should ensure the effectiveness of its activities, by developing and using thematic impact assessment indicators.
- The activities of the Network should include different sectors, regions, and levels. It was emphasized that the Network should address **interdisciplinary** and **multisectoral** issues in its activities.
- The Network should build upon **regional networks** and alliances and share climate-related capacity-building **success stories**, **lessons learned**, and **transferrable knowledge** across regions and sectors.

Regarding the type of information to be shared in a capacity-building newsletter, it was suggested that the bulletin should be concise and concrete, potentially providing information on:
- Relevant events, webinars, and training courses in the upcoming months

- Experts rosters, secondments and vacancies
- Other knowledge platforms, modeling tools, and databases
- A highlight story of an ongoing capacity-building project, with links to other projects and success stories from regions
- A section for the collection of information regarding upcoming activities of members; "Let us know what you are doing"

III. Next steps

Although this session was effective in initiating a dialogue with stakeholders, capturing some ideas and suggestions, and creating a rough map of actors, the PCCB is aware that further mapping exercises, in-depth analysis, and a wider circle of stakeholders are needed to ensure a solid basis for the successful launch, and operation of the Network. For this purpose, the following actions are planned to be undertaken by the PCCB with support of the UNFCCC Secretariat:

- The online questionnaire, accessible here, will be further circulated to provide a wider map of actors and potential members.
- A Call for Expression of Interest to become a member of the PCCB Network will be launched in early 2020 .
- Follow-up actions and knowledge-sharing activities will be conducted with stakeholders who expressed their interest to share with the PCCB their experiences in the development and coordination of international networks.
- An implementation plan is being developed on the basis of the results of the abovementioned activities.

Annex-Questionnaire

#CONTACT INFO

Name: --

Email: --

Professional title: --

Organization: --

#ORGANIZATION INFO

1. Type and focus

Government	Non-governmental organization	Academic/ Research institution	UN agency

Intergovernmental organization	Development agency	Private sector	International network & coalition

Other: --

Focus of Work

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2. Membership in other networks

1. --

2. --

3. --

4. --

5. --

3. Relevance to the work of PCCB Working Groups

Coherence and coordination on capacity-building under and outside the Convention	**Cross-cutting issues in climate change related capacity-building** (including gender responsiveness, human rights, indigenous peoples' knowledge, role of cities, youth and ACE)
Awareness-raising, communications and stakeholder engagement on climate change related capacity-building	**Identifying capacity gaps and needs in climate change related capacity-building**

#AREAS OF INTERESTS AND COLLABORATIONS

4. Potential contributions

Capacity-building Portal	☐ Mapping capacity-building actors and capacity-building initiatives at international and regional level ☐ Linking data and information sources and support deployment of tools and methods for knowledge management ☐ Frequent updates of relevant events and publications ☐ Other: ....
Regional Climate Weeks in 2020	☐ Digital media coverage and communication ☐ Mobilization of partners ☐ Joint organization of events ☐ Provision of resource persons as moderators, panelist and/or presenters ☐ Documenting the outcomes (e.g. drafting of reports) ☐ Other: ....
PCCB Network Day during the 3rd Capacity-building Hub at COP26	☐ Digital media coverage and communication ☐ Mobilization of partners and agenda setting ☐ Organization of events ☐ Keynote speeches and facilitation ☐ Drafting reports and seeking feedbacks ☐ Organizing/supporting thematic sessions ☐ Other: ....
Periodical newsletter on capacity-building activities	☐ Provision of content for newsletter ☐ Potential technological support ☐ Others: ....
Social media coverage on the activities of the PCCB Network	☐ Digital media and outreach ☐ Content provision and frequent updates of events and activities ☐ Other: ....

5. Ongoing efforts and synergies of work

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