



Paris Committee on Capacity-building

07 June 2019

Third meeting
Bonn, Germany, 20 to 22 June 2019

Background note on the Knowledge to Action Days at regional climate weeks and COP 25

Recommended actions by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) will be invited to:

- a) Agree on the modes of engagement of PCCB members throughout the events;
- b) Endorse the concept note for the Knowledge to Action Days at regional climate weeks and COP 25.

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

A. Modes of engagement of PCCB members throughout the events

1. In consideration of the importance of providing technical support and guidance on capacity-building, and as a way to enhance its outreach and stakeholder engagement, the PCCB may wish to agree to actively engage as facilitators and moderators throughout the Knowledge to Action Days that are planned to take place during the regional climate weeks and COP 25.

B. Concept note for the Knowledge to Action Days at regional climate weeks and COP 25

2. The PCCB may wish to consider and endorse the following concept note which was developed in consultation with the various organizing partners.

II. Concept note

A. Background

3. Even when there is a great variety of institutional arrangements for climate change mitigation and adaptation in many countries, the continuous participation of local, national and regional stakeholders, including research institutions and universities, is considered crucial to enhancing climate action and ambition. The lack of engagement of and insufficient coordination among these relevant actors is a recurring issue in discussions on capacity-building in the UNFCCC process. It is necessary to find better ways to mobilize local, policy-relevant knowledge to address climate change issues and to make informed decisions.

4. Universities and research institutions in developing countries, including the least developed countries, have a central role to play in the preparation and implementation of NAPs and NDCs, however it will be important for them to think across geographical, disciplinary, interest-based and other boundaries to close the gap between knowledge and action. While universities in developing

countries are already building local capacities, promoting South–South and South–North knowledge sharing among universities and including relevant stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of NAPs and NDCs could yield great benefits.

Partners

5. The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) seeks to promote capacity-building initiatives that are embedded in longer-term locally owned plans, pursue medium-term impacts rather than short-term outputs, facilitate peer-to-peer learning and experience-sharing, and involve support to beneficiary countries for institutional strengthening. The PCCB was also mandated to identify opportunities to strengthen capacity at the regional, national and subnational level. Given that challenges in addressing climate change are predominantly local, national or region-specific, the PCCB seeks to promote the engagement of national and regional experts and researchers as well as subnational, national and regional institutions supporting capacity-building in the identification of opportunities to address these challenges and to enhance relevant capacities of stakeholders.

6. The UNFCCC secretariat supports a complex architecture of bodies that work to advance the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The secretariat provides technical expertise and assists in the analysis and review of climate change information reported by Parties and in the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms. It also maintains the registry for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) established under the Paris Agreement.

7. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) funds research in developing countries to promote growth, reduce poverty, and drive large-scale positive change. IDRC supports research in developing countries to create real and lasting change. This knowledge can be used as a tool for addressing pressing global challenges.

8. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is an independent think tank and a registered charitable organization that seeks to promote human development and environmental sustainability through research, analysis and knowledge-sharing. IISD is serving as the secretariat for the NAP Global Network, an initiative which aims to enhance national adaptation planning and action in developing countries through coordination of bilateral support and in-country actors. It provides dedicated support to 17 countries' NAP processes and responds to concrete NAP demands of many more. The NAP Global Network also facilitates international peer learning and exchange.

9. The NDC Partnership is a coalition of 93 countries and 33 institutions collaborating to drive transformational climate action while enhancing sustainable development. Based on the guidance and choices of government members, the NDC Partnership institutional members mobilize resources and coordinate to provide support for the implementation of NDCs. The NDC Partnership shares lessons learned from its in-country work, as well as insights from its broad network of institutions, to accelerate NDC implementation across its membership and beyond. By connecting countries to knowledge resources and facilitating country-country learning, we support governments to build capacity, learn from challenges, scale successes, and inspire broader action.

B. Objectives

10. The partners listed above are organizing a series of regional workshops where local researchers, universities and research institutions will have the opportunity to exchange views and experiences on addressing capacity-building gaps and needs gaps, with relevant stakeholders involved in the preparation and implementation of NAPs and NDCs with a view to accelerating climate action and ambition.

11. The main rationale for the cooperation of IDRC, the PCCB, the NAP Global Network, the NDC Partnership and the UNFCCC secretariat is providing a space for local researchers, universities and research institutions to interact and exchange experiences with the relevant stakeholders involved in building capacity for the design and implementation of NAPs and NDCs, thereby creating momentum towards the UN Climate Summit in September 2019. More particularly the regional workshops aim to:

(a) Increase the understanding of capacity-building gaps and needs of developing countries when it comes to boosting ambition and accelerating action to prepare and implement

NDCs and NAPs and of the role local researchers, universities and research institutions can play in building and retaining the required capacity;

(b) Foster dialogue and facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices related to effective collaboration among universities/research institutions, governments and the private sector for designing and providing tools, guidance, platforms, and advisory support aimed at strengthening capacity for preparing and/or implementing NAPs and NDCs;

(c) Encourage a discussion on how to interpret and match knowledge needs when enhancing implementation and increasing ambition of NDCs and NAPs, aiming to translate the discussion into researchable questions;

(d) Jointly prioritize the capacity-building gaps with a view to discussing and identifying ways to build the capacity of universities/research institutions and governments to collaborate and bridge these gaps.

C. Format and staging

12. During COP 25, the results from the workshops will be presented at the 2nd capacity-building hub, hosted by the PCCB, opening a space to discuss and brainstorm with other stakeholders and actors on the next steps. A third workshop is envisaged to be organized during the Africa Climate Week in 2020.

13. The outcomes and recommendations of each workshop will be synthesized in a discussion paper or policy brief to be developed by all the partners and launched in 2020 (subject to the availability of resources).
