



## Paris Committee on Capacity-building

01 June 2020

### Fourth meeting

Virtual meeting, 22–25 June 2020

## Background note on the Capacity-building Hub at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties

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

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

- a) Discuss the planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub in the light of the postponement of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Bodies (COP);
- b) Agree on appropriate next steps for implementing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub, and consider the concept note for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub at COP 26, as contained in the annex.

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

### A. Planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub

1. Given that COP 25 mandated the PCCB to continue organizing the Capacity-building Hubs annually in conjunction with the COP, the PCCB may wish to consider rescheduling the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub and related activities in conjunction with COP 26 and organizing the event in its originally planned form in 2021.

### B. Implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub

2. Given the current changing circumstances and persisting uncertainties, the PCCB may wish to discuss and finalize the thematic focuses, modalities of sessions and timeline of action for the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub intersessionally in order to ensure that actions are taken in a timely manner and are relevant to the emerging needs and priorities of the current times.

3. The PCCB may wish to appoint its working group 3 to pursue and guide work related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub intersessionally. Discussions during the intersessional period could take place via conference calls or other virtual means.

4. The PCCB may wish to agree that final decisions on themes and the dates of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub be taken by all members of the PCCB on a no-objection basis.

5. The PCCB may wish to consider and discuss the concept note contained in the annex.

## II. Background

6. One of the flagship activities of the PCCB is the Capacity-building Hub, a series of capacity-building-related sessions that focus on different themes, typically over the course of a week, in conjunction with sessions of the COP. COP 25 mandated the PCCB to continue organizing the Capacity-building Hubs annually in conjunction with the COP. The postponement of COP 26 to

2021 affects the planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub and the PCCB may need to adjust its approach to planning the event.

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## Annex

### Concept note on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub

#### I. Background

At the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), held in May 2017, Parties and non-Party stakeholders requested that the PCCB provide a space for capacity-building dialogues in which different actors can participate. The following year, at the 7<sup>th</sup> Durban Forum on Capacity-building in May 2018, Parties and non-Party stakeholders reiterated the need for more time and space for informal and formal discussions on capacity-building-related matters.

In response to these requests, the PCCB established the Capacity-building Hub at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Katowice, Poland, as a space for a wide range of stakeholders to discuss and collaborate on capacity-building-related activities. A total of 100 sessions were held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Capacity-building Hub<sup>1</sup> in Katowice and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Capacity-building Hub<sup>2</sup> in Madrid, engaging close to 400 experts and 300 institutions.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Capacity-building Hub laid the foundation for an inclusive and engaging platform for the world's flourishing community of capacity-building stakeholders, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Capacity-building Hub increased the range of actors involved even further. It succeeded in representing a rich diversity of voices, experience, success stories and lessons learned with a view to determining how best to support capacity-building in developing countries.

The success and significance of the Capacity-building Hubs were acknowledged by a wide range of actors at COP 25, shining a spotlight on the topic of capacity-building. By agreeing on an extension to the work of the PCCB, Parties solidified the Hub as an integral part of the work of the PCCB over the next five years.

Building on the success of previous years, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub will continue to be a space for sharing experience, solutions and ideas that have the potential to enhance climate action as the world pushes for 'a climate for a sustainable world'.

#### II. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub is scheduled to take place at COP 26 and will showcase efforts made to enhance climate action through the lens of capacity-building. With 2020 having been dubbed 'a year of climate action', it is time for all actors involved in addressing the impacts of climate change to accelerate climate change action that has the capacity to yield long-lasting impacts.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub welcomes all interested individuals and entities involved in climate action across all sectors and regions to take part in debates and contribute to focused capacity-building discussions by sharing:

- Experience and achievements in building and retaining capacity at different levels to support the enhancement of nationally determined contributions and climate action in 2020;
- Lessons learned and knowledge gained in identifying capacity-building gaps and needs, and solutions for addressing those gaps and needs;
- Opportunities for introducing innovation and scaling up actions by collaborating with other actors and combining climate efforts at the national level;
- Ideas for capacity-building actions that are aligned with low-carbon and climate-resilient development strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/events-meetings/capacity-building-hub-enhancing-capacity-building-action>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/playground-20/level-2/level-3/2nd-capacity-building-hub>

In addition to government actors and international entities, non-State actors in particular are encouraged to take part in the Capacity-building Hub and add their voices to the discussions, including academics, experts from the private sector, representatives of philanthropic organizations and foundations, local artists, activists, climate champions, youth representatives, media figures and influencers, and journalists and storytellers.

### **III. Objectives**

The Capacity-building Hub is a direct response to the mission of the PCCB to disseminate information, enhance coherence and coordination, address capacity gaps and needs and raise awareness of the scope and impact of capacity-building efforts. By hosting the Hub as a meet-up for the capacity-building community, the PCCB strives to:

- Amplify a rich diversity of voices, experience and topics relevant to the work of the PCCB, and facilitate an exchange of experience, knowledge and insights related to the role of capacity-building in enhancing climate efforts in 2020;
- Strengthen ties with relevant bodies under and outside the Convention to enhance the coherence and coordination of capacity-building efforts;
- Consolidate the knowledge and experience of experts at the local, national, regional and global level, engage with relevant actors from different sectors, regions and institutions, and bolster the PCCB Network;
- Bring actors together to facilitate collective efforts, coordinated actions and joint use of resources, and build on synergies that exist in their different areas of work;
- Enable context-driven innovations in capacity-building efforts and accelerate the scaling up of effective solutions.

### **IV. Format and organization**

#### **A. Themes**

Building on the success of last year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub will be organized into thematic days and blocks focusing on issues directly linked to capacity-building with a view to supporting enhanced climate action at all levels. The themes will reflect the outcomes of the discussions from the previous Hub, key areas of capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and priorities voiced by PCCB Network members and other entities through an open call for expressions of interest.

#### **B. Scope**

Thematic days and blocks will shed light on the different aspects of capacity-building efforts in 2020 and feed into the overall focus of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub, namely building capacity for enhanced climate ambition and action. Depending on the feedback from the expressions of interest, sessions may focus on stakeholder engagement, capacity gaps and needs assessments, formulation of capacity-building action, implementation of capacity-building efforts and/or evaluation of action taken.

#### **C. Session modalities**

As recommended and emphasized by partners and stakeholders of the previous Capacity-building Hubs, each thematic day will feature sessions in a diverse range of formats to foster interactive exchanges and effective dialogues among participants on site and online. While session modalities are at the discretion of the organizers, the Steering Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub will select sessions organized in a variety of formats when assessing the expressions of interest to ensure a range of different session modalities each day.

In addition to conventional panel discussions, organizers are asked to consider a range of other engaging formats for their sessions, such as:

- Round tables/fish bowl sessions
- World cafés
- Workshops/training/classroom sessions
- Stand-up meetings

- Lightning talks/storytelling
- Ceremonial and launch events
- Marketplace/networking sessions
- Exhibitions/videos/performances

Subject to the technical capacity of the venue, the PCCB supports and encourages the use of digital platforms and online interactions with off-site audiences or speakers. In addition to technical sessions and expert-led training, the PCCB would welcome innovative forms of capacity-building sessions using visual and digital media.

## V. Scheduling

The guidance provided in this section is based on experience from previous years and feedback from participants in and organizers of the previous Capacity-building Hubs. Though it provides general recommendations, the Steering Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub may amend the organizational arrangements as appropriate.

### A. Programme

Once the themes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub have been determined, the Steering Committee will ensure that, when organizing the programme of activities, there are no scheduling conflicts with activities with a similar focus at COP 26, to the extent possible.

Depending on the number and type of proposals received, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub will take place over the course of six or seven days in both weeks of COP 26, thus enabling a broader range of participants to take part in the Hub.

### B. Thematic days

To ensure the adequate participation and active engagement of audiences, the thematic days will take place no earlier than 9.30 a.m. and no later than 5.30 p.m.

### C. Sessions

The sessions will vary in type and length, and can be conducted in time slots ranging from one to two hours, with shorter slots for discussion-based events and longer slots for training and workshops. If variants on this are requested, the Steering Committee will consult with the organizer partner to try and accommodate the proposed session as appropriate.

If the length and number of the proposed sessions exceeds the time available during the day, the Steering Committee may request the organizers of sessions with the same or a similar focus to join forces and merge their proposals into one focused block.

## VI. Implementation

### A. Expressions of interest

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub will launch a call for expressions of interest to organize sessions and focused blocks, following the success of this measure in the previous Hub. All interested individuals and entities are welcome to submit their proposals.

When submitting their expressions of interest, organizations are asked whether they would be interested in leading the thematic days or blocks, provided they fulfil the stipulated requirements. Priority will be given to members of the PCCB Network with a proven track record in capacity-building for climate action.

### B. Assessment

The Steering Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub, which comprises members of the secretariat, the PCCB and, where applicable, lead organizations of the Hub, will assess the proposals received and allocate successful proposals to thematic days, ensuring that the activities are relevant to climate-related capacity-building and the programme of the Hub, promote innovation and ensure gender, regional and sectoral inclusiveness and balance.

### **C. Agenda**

Once the expressions of interest have been assessed, all applicants will be notified of the final decision. The Steering Committee will set an agenda for each thematic day in close consultation with the successful applicants. The initial proposals may need to be amended to ensure a coherent flow of activities during the thematic days and in the overall programme of the Hub.

The PCCB has made it a priority to consider cross-cutting issues, such as gender responsiveness, indigenous people's knowledge, youth voices and human rights, in all of its activities, including its Capacity-building Hubs. Where necessary, the PCCB and the secretariat will support and provide guidance to organizers in this respect.

### **D. Logistics and support**

The PCCB and the secretariat are not able to provide any financial support or cover travel and accommodation expenses for organizers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub and resource persons. However, if requested, the secretariat will provide support in ensuring they have authorized access to the venue each day. In addition, flexible seating arrangements, technical support and common stationery items can be provided for the sessions, provided this is feasible and communicated in advance by the organizer(s).

### **E. Communications and outreach**

Up-to-date information on the programme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub and the thematic days will be available on dedicated web pages on the UNFCCC website. Announcements and further information will be regularly posted on the PCCB Facebook page<sup>3</sup> and the Hub web page<sup>4</sup>.

Interested individuals and entities are welcome to participate in the Hub on site, follow live-streamed discussions online [links to the corresponding web pages], receive updates on the outcomes of discussions through the PCCB Facebook page and other social media channels using #PCCB\_Hub and #CB\_Hub and, where possible, engage with the speakers through the online and on-site channels provided.

The outcomes of activities, including information received from stakeholders, possible recordings of sessions, summary reports and interviews, will be disseminated on the PCCB-related web pages and social media channels.

### **F. Post-event evaluation**

As is the case for other PCCB activities, participants in and organizers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub will be asked about their experience of the Hub through online post-event surveys. A compilation of suggestions received will be included in the summary report of the Hub and duly noted by the PCCB for future iterations of the event.

## **VII. Expected outcomes**

The Capacity-building Hub is an engaging platform that aims to bring together different actors involved in climate-related capacity-building. In addition to responding to the mandate of the PCCB to raise awareness, promote outreach and share knowledge and information, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capacity-building Hub will effectively contribute to fulfilling the activities assigned to the PCCB at COP 25, including:

- Interacting with other constituted bodies and exploring potential areas of collaborative work;
- Collating, reviewing and sharing information on experience, good practices and lessons learned related to capacity-building and disseminating this information;
- Continuing efforts to gather and promote the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for implementing capacity-building activities;
- Promoting strategic stakeholder engagement with bodies and relevant actors under and outside the Convention.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/pccb.unfccc>

<sup>4</sup> <https://unfccc.int/capacity-building-hub>

Besides being a meeting point for a diverse range of actors involved in climate-related capacity-building, the PCCB sees the Capacity-building Hub as a platform with the potential to yield impactful results:

- By bringing together the knowledge and experience of actors across various regions, sectors and institutions, the PCCB will be able to collate and disseminate a wide range of capacity-building **knowledge products, methodologies and tools**;
- By gathering inputs from stakeholders on their **capacity gaps and needs**, the **PCCB will be able to advance its work** on this matter;
- By engaging with members of the PCCB Network and other stakeholders and encouraging them to continue working together, the PCCB will take up a convening role in the **implementation of targeted capacity-building activities** with specific outcomes and tangible impacts;
- By enabling fruitful dialogues and encouraging innovation, the PCCB will **foster a shared vision of priorities** for climate-related capacity-building within the PCCB Network and the global community of capacity-building actors.

By implementing its workplan through effective and strategic instruments such as the Capacity-building Hub, the PCCB will not only be able to advance its work, but also provide guidance on capacity-building matters and activities to other relevant bodies. It will also foster greater synergies with other streams of capacity-building work under the Convention. The outcomes of the Hub will be closely linked to, among others, the work of the PCCB Network, capacity-building presence at the regional level, the capacity-building portal and the outcomes of the Durban Forum.