

## Capacity building in the UNFCCC process

Enhancing Parties understanding of, engagement in, and decision-making in the UNFCCC intergovernmental process

### I. Background and rationale

With the Paris Agreement in force, attention has shifted towards the successful and effective implementation of the agreement. Effective implementation of climate action toward the Paris Agreement's goals requires a whole-of-society approach built around a successful implementation architecture. A core part of the implementation architecture involves empowered stakeholders with improved knowledge of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) decision-making process who can engage in the process effectively to translate outcomes into national level policies.

Strengthening the implementation architecture of the Paris Agreement therefore requires capacity building that leverages a broad range of stakeholders and innovative types of collaboration that can inject new purpose and momentum into the UNFCCC process. Capacity building has been an important focus of the implementation architecture since the development of the capacity building framework at COP 7 in Marrakech in 2001.<sup>1</sup> The framework identified improved decision-making, including assistance for participation in international negotiations as one of the 15 key priority areas for capacity building in developing countries. This priority area continues to be relevant to shape and drive the implementation of the Paris Agreement in line with national and regional priorities. In view of this, enhancing Parties understanding of the UNFCCC intergovernmental process was identified as a key objective in the 2024 - 25 workplan for the Regional Collaboration Centers (RCCs).

As the regional presence of the UNFCCC secretariat, the RCCs are the primary point of contact for Parties in their respective regions and non-Party stakeholders active at the regional and national level. They facilitate capacity building and coordination among regional stakeholders for the different workstreams under the Paris Agreement. RCCs are actively engaged in information and intelligence gathering and in stakeholder mapping exercises that can support the substantive divisions in regionalizing their activities and initiatives.

In this regard, RCCs serve as a good entry point for the secretariat to provide capacity building activities on the UNFCCC intergovernmental process to a broad range of actors with varying levels of expertise at the national and regional level, including legal professionals, policymakers, negotiators, and legislators. The project aims to build, strengthen, and sustain capacity of representatives from Parties to take part effectively in intergovernmental climate change negotiations, decision-making processes, and eventual implementation of the decisions taken at the national and regional levels.

The capacity building activities will be delivered in close collaboration with RCCs in a Train the Trainer (ToT) model where experienced RCC staff members will become potential instructors to deliver capacity building activities in their respective regions. Delivery of capacity building activities will be based on a comprehensive needs assessment survey that will allow the development of a training curriculum that is tailored to the needs of Parties and increase the number of beneficiaries targeted. This will be followed by a pilot programme that will help examine the appropriateness of the activities for their wider implementation. In the long-term, an online web-based platform will be developed to maintain a database of resources.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 2001. Decision 2/CP.7 and Decision 3/CP.7

## **II. Objectives and expected outcomes**

The key strategic objective of the project is to raise awareness and understanding of the UNFCCC intergovernmental climate change process. This will involve training (virtual, hybrid, in-person) that covers both technical and procedural aspects of the intergovernmental climate change process. The expected outcomes of this would result in increased UNFCCC number of stakeholders representing Parties engaged and well-trained on the technical knowledge of the UNFCCC intergovernmental process, enhancing their effective participation in the negotiations at the global level, as well as implement the goals of the Paris Agreement at the regional and national levels.

With a clear objective, it is expected that this will also result in the following outcomes.

- Empower emerging young negotiators to take an effective leadership role in intergovernmental climate change negotiations.
- Enhance coordination among negotiators at the regional level.
- Strengthen effective channels of communication between the secretariat and the negotiating groups to facilitate their participation in meetings related to the intergovernmental process.
- Opportunity to engage with line-ministries (legislators, parliamentarians) through capacity building activities to broaden their understanding, engagement and improve the decision-making in the intergovernmental process.
- Create a meaningful platform that can be utilized throughout the year for discussions and fill the gaps between the annual COP and Subsidiary Body Sessions of the UNFCCC.
- Offer an enhanced capacity for the secretariat to assess needs, identify gaps, and share information.
- Increased visibility of the secretariat's support to Parties on capacity building activities.

## **III. Scope**

The project aims to implement one of the workstreams for the RCC workplan from 2025 to 2026. The project targets only Parties to build, strengthen, and support their understanding of the intergovernmental climate change process. It will be delivered through the established RCCs, targeting and prioritizing women and youth in SIDS and LDCs.

## **IV. Implementation, timeline, monitoring and reporting**

The project will be implemented from 2025 - 2026. It will be led and implemented by the Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress (ISCP) division, in coordination with other relevant divisions of the UNFCCC secretariat, supported by RCCs. The ISCP division with RCCs will make progress report every quarter on the overall implementation of the project. More regular engagement will be scheduled as needed.

A variety of learning and training approaches will be employed under this initiative including:

- Experiential learning through training, facilitated workshops and applied learning.
- Training of Trainers (ToT)
- Sequenced / phased training: developed, pilot testing/application.

## V. Activities

Title of activity	Description	Output	Key Performance Indicator	Due date
A. Work Plan Development	Develop initiative work plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Table of information outlining the responsibility of engaged divisions of the UNFCCC secretariat with focal points identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work plan</li> </ul>	February/Q1
B. Identify Trainees, ToTs	Work with RCCs, identify candidates for Training of Trainers (ToTs), conduct competency assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trainees, ToTs identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of ToTs identified.</li> </ul>	February/March Q1
C. Conduct Rapid Training Needs Assessment	Develop assessment and conduct remote Training Needs Assessment of negotiators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of participants reached.</li> <li>Feedback from negotiators/relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>	March/April Q2
D. Develop and test / pilot curriculum for training on UNFCCC intergovernmental process	Pilot curriculum with support from relevant divisions of the UNFCCC and support from RCCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of at least 1 round of training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of participants engaged</li> </ul>	April/May Q2
E. Side-event during SB 62	Soft launch of the capacity-building training programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 information session organized and delivered during SB 62</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of participants attending the information session</li> </ul>	May/June Q2
F. Conduct training for the ToTs	Deliver curriculum to the ToTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of at least 1 round of training for the identified ToTs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of ToTs who completed the course.</li> </ul>	June/July Q3
G. Organize regional workshop/convening/webinar with revised curriculum with identified trainers	Work alongside selected trainers and oversee the delivery of the revised training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 1 convening/webinar/workshop with identified Trainers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of events (in-person/virtual) convened</li> <li>Number of participants engaged.</li> <li>Feedback from participants</li> </ul>	June/July Q3

Title of activity	Description	Output	Key Performance Indicator	Due date
H. Develop the online platform in the UNFCCC website	An online web-based platform for course registration, dissemination of information, online resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launching the online platform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of participants accessing the online platform.</li> <li>Knowledge products and communication materials uploaded on the online platform</li> </ul>	September/Q3
<b>Data, intelligence gathering and negotiating skill profiling by Parties</b>	Identify challenges, gaps, and needs in understanding the complex negotiation process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excel sheet of information on challenges, gaps, and needs of negotiating groups/regions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Database on country challenges, gaps, and needs.</li> </ul>	As needed.