

The role of academia, research institutions and other national or subnational institutions in strengthening and retaining capacities in developing countries

Breakout group 1:

1. What role can academia, research institutions and other national or subnational institutions (CSOs, CBOs, etc.) play in building the required capacities to support the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions in general and in tracking progress towards established national goals or targets?
2. One of the main challenges developing countries face is retaining capacity within the country. In times this is due to fly-in and fly-out consultants providing capacity building. How can national and subnational institutions engage more effectively with organizations that provide support to strengthen and retain national capacities?
3. What can be done to support efforts at national level achieve long-term capacity in developing countries through the UNFCCC process? (policy guidance, work of constituted bodies, etc.)



Q1:

- Academia and research institutions need to enhance their own capacity;
- Academia and research institutions need to make research accessible to communities and policymakers;
- Research needs to be based on experiential learning;
- Integrating environmental consciousness within university thinking;
- Mainstreaming climate and environmental issues in business courses;
- Find ways to break silos and promote interdisciplinary research and teaching;
- Integration of climate change issues into curricula – need to institutionalize capacity-building –in-country (capacity building and enhancement) – some universities have started going in that direction
- Use community mobilizers where feasible – promoting linkages between policy, practice and research

Q2:

There is a need for:

- Research methods that are culturally and contextually responsive;
- Locally-grounded institutions that originate the methodologies and the evidence base that then informs capacity enhancement;
- Research projects that are open with regard to methodologies;
- Research to empower solution-making rather than research dictating solutions.
- Actionable recommendations (political context is key – there are limits to the role of researchers);
- Building capacity through bottom-up approaches is important - focus on inclusive stakeholder engagement at the local level (work with CSOs);
- Citizen science: Train and involve local citizens in research to enhance capacity at local level

Q3:

- Need for enhanced coherence and coordination under the UNFCCC
 - Role to play for the Paris Committee on Capacity-building Network
 - PCCB could be enhanced by involving capacity-building experts and not just government representatives
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