

Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB)
Call for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders:
2022 PCCB focus area

‘Building capacity to facilitate the coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of national development plans and sustainable recovery’

Background

The PCCB aims to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging, in implementing capacity-building in developing country Parties and further enhance capacity-building efforts. Current priority areas are:

Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-
building under the Convention;
Identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and
emerging, and recommending ways to address them;
Promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and
information-sharing and stakeholder engagement

To learn more about the work of the PCCB, you can access its annual reports and other documents [here](#).

Topics for submissions

The PCCB annually focuses on an area related to enhanced technical exchange on capacity-building. It determined, in its 2021-2024 workplan, to make calls for submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the annual PCCB focus area.

Who can submit?

The call is open to all UNFCCC Parties and non-Party stakeholders, such as public and private sector entities, government and non-government organizations, philanthropic organizations, academic and research organizations, international and regional organizations or initiatives, and UNFCCC constituted bodies.

How will the inputs be used?

The inputs will feed into the PCCB's workplan activities in 2022, including a focus area day at the 4th Capacity-building Hub at COP 27, and envisaged regional activities and webinars. The inputs will also inform the design and preparations of the 11th Durban Forum on capacity-building to be held during the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2022. Responding to the request of the COP for the SBI to align the theme of the Durban Forum on capacity-building with the annual focus area of the PCCB, the PCCB has been working to ensure alignment between discussions at the annual Durban Forum and the work of the PCCB related to its annual focus area.

Submissions form

We thank you in advance for filling out this template with concise, evidence-based information and for referencing all relevant sources. There are 2 sections in this template:

- *Details about your organization*

- *Guiding questions about implementing NDCs and national development plans in developing countries in a coherent manner, while supporting a sustainable recovery*

Further information:

You are welcome to provide any other information that your organization thinks would highlight suggestions made in response to this call for submissions.

Address for submission: pccb@unfccc.int

Deadline for submissions: 25 February 2022

Please only fill out sections that are relevant to the work of your organization. Please note that no section is mandatory.

Organization or entity name:

C40 Cities

Type of organization:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Development bank / financial institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International network, coalition, or initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> Research organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional network, coalition, or initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> University/education/training organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public sector entity | <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector entity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropic organization |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) |

Organization Location

City: New York

Country:USA

Scale of operation:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local | <input type="checkbox"/> Subregional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary |

City(ies)/Country(ies) of operation (if appropriate):

97 cities across over 50 countries

The annual PCCB focus area

At its fifth meeting in June 2021, the PCCB agreed on the following focus area for 2022:

‘Building capacity to facilitate the coherent implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of national development plans and sustainable recovery’

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change through the implementation of NDCs and national development plans, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. This presents ample opportunities for synergies and the PCCB, with its strong mandate to engage with other bodies under and outside the Convention, is well positioned to promote coherence in achieving climate and development objectives.

Building closely on the PCCB’s 2021 focus area on building capacity to facilitate coherent implementation of NDCs in the context of national development plans, the 2022 focus area is dedicated to the question of how this process can support a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated multiple crises, and solutions for economic recovery efforts need to be responsive to the climate emergency and facilitate a transition to a greener, fairer, and more sustainable world, and capacity-building is a key enabler for this.

The [PCCB’s work on its 2021 focus area](#) contributed to an enhanced understanding of the key barriers and capacity-building needs and gaps hindering the coherent implementation of NDCs and national development plans, as well as of existing solutions. Through this call for submissions, **the PCCB seeks to contribute to a better understanding of how the coherent implementation of NDCs and national development plans can be aligned with and support a sustainable recovery.** What good practices and lessons learned exist with regard to aligning NDC implementation and national development planning with recovery efforts that are focused on sustainability and what are the major capacity-building needs and gaps in this area?

To facilitate coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries that are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery, in your experience, what are:

the key interventions?

Stronger vertical alignment and integration of climate action between levels of government is necessary for more coherent implementation of NDCs and climate action. This must be achieved through strengthening governance structures at all levels and building capacity. This includes:

- Increasing transparency and strengthening transparency processes across all spheres of government;
- Promoting dialogue between all spheres of government and other stakeholders (including social dialogues at national and sub-national levels);
- Setting joint targets or localising targets, and supporting scaling down NDC actions to sub-national government for implementation;
- Jointly working on grant funding requests for transformative action;
- Enabling a co-creation approach to developing policies, plans and bylaws to limit top down structures and support more bottom up frameworks; and
- Mainstreaming climate change targets through cross-departmental engagement and policy alignment.

the enabling conditions?

- Devolving mandates to sub-national governments to enable implementation;

- Establishing clear governance structures to ensure coordination across national and sub-national government;
- Unlocking regulatory and legal barriers that limit implementation (for example regulation limits on power generation at a sub-national level, lack of input on national grids at a sub-national level); and
- Providing more capacity to support collaboration with stakeholders including businesses, civil society and labour unions.

the key institutional barriers?

These institutional barriers emerged from engagement with eight African cities on means and approaches to strengthen vertical integration to enable NDC implementation in cities. These barriers are reflective of some common barriers.

- Lack of horizontal and vertical integration on climate change. National government departments are often not coordinated, climate change is not mainstreamed into sectors and work programmes at national level, and actions remain siloed.
- Lack of capacity at national levels to fully take ownership of NDC implementation, and coordinate partners, including subnational entities. This filters to sub-national levels.
- Lack of focal points and defined communication and coordination processes, particularly for engagement with subnational governments and non-state actors.
- Lack of skills and capacity at a sectoral level to integrate climate action and implementation into sectoral plans and policies that cascade down to subnational governments and non-state actors for implementation.
- It is also evident that there is a lack of knowledge/understanding about national vs subnational roles for implementation.
- Lack of alignment on setting targets and monitoring and evaluating climate actions;
- Lack of accessible climate finance at a subnational level (limited finance flows from national to subnational levels);
- In some cases there is a lack of senior / political -level will and leadership to enable implementation; and
- Often there is little incentive to try innovative approaches and new technologies due to outdated protocols and procurement regulations which favour tried and tested approaches; and
- Lack of long term strategic planning.

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

- Climate finance capacity and support is needed to conceptualise and package financing proposals, support pre-feasibility and feasibility assessments, better understand and compare financing options and to establish suitable business models.
- Greater understanding of social and economic impacts of climate action is needed, with support for jobs modelling and employment equity assessments.
- Sectoral climate change skills at national and sub-national levels are required to support climate mainstreaming efforts
- Lack of capacity and understanding of subnational MRV processes and opportunities for alignment and integration at national level, which can lead to misalignment of actions. This includes the ability to quantify measures at different levels of government and implement

effective tracking processes to fully realise the benefits of climate action at different spatial scales.

the knowledge and skills priorities?

- Technical support on setting sectoral targets and down-scaling targets to subnational levels / aggregating and integrating subnational targets to national level;
- Technical support on integrated MRV approaches between levels of government to enable improved tracking and reporting of mitigation measures and enhancement of ambition;
- Technical support to better understand the socio-economic impacts and opportunities of climate actions in order to achieve more equitable outcomes;
- Knowledge of climate finance processes and needs, at subnational level; and
- Improving the knowledge of national governments on subnational climate action planning processes to enable collaborative working.

How can existing capacity-building efforts be improved and what kind of new or additional capacity-building efforts are needed to ensure that coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery? Who should be the target recipients of such capacity-building?

At the subnational level:

Building capacity at sub-national levels to understand the NDC process and NDC submissions, and its implications at a sub-national level:

- More joint capacity building programmes are needed that bring together both levels to work collaboratively, rather than programmes and interventions focussed solely on working at one or other level. Implementation of NDCs will require this and would be a good focus for such efforts. This might include capacity building and the development of tools and resources to help sub-national governments interpret and down-scale NDCs.
- Capacity building on NDC updating (country level) could consider integrating subnational governments, to ensure that local climate action plans and actions are part of the process, and provide opportunities for subnational governments to fully engage as active partners.

Climate finance capacity to enable sub-national governments to develop relevant project proposals for implementation. Important factors and focus of capacity building should be:

- Supporting political readiness of subnational governments to ensure alignment with the national policies and gain support of the national government;
- Financial readiness to be able to access financial markets; and
- Technical readiness to be able to prepare and execute bankable projects.

MRV / Transparency capacity building to enable joint monitoring and reporting:

- Supporting technical understanding of MRV processes and joint work programmes for consistent data collection, reporting, and integration to enhance tracking of climate action;
- Capacity and skills for climate officials to understand and communicate climate impacts in a way that includes sustainable recovery / green recovery; and
- Capacity building at subnational levels could be enhanced to include understanding and alignment of national MRV and ETF processes and opportunities to engage in the transition to the ETF.

Capacity building and resources to support participatory governance and secure broader support for implementation. This includes:

- Community engagement, social dialogue, coalition building, advocacy and awareness raising activities; and
- Training on engagement with vulnerable groups such as youth, women, people with disabilities, frontline communities and informal workers may be needed to support meaningful engagement.

Specific capacity across all sectors in a city – transport, waste, land-use planning, energy and buildings, water etc, to build skills that enable a better understanding of the NDC and how it can be implemented.

At the national level:

National governments are diverse, therefore sector specific capacity is needed to integrate climate change into national policies, plans, and programmes. Specifically:

- Finance flows from national governments need to include climate change criteria.
- Facilitating national training / skills development in specific sectors such as energy, waste, transport that build capacity to enable green recovery and support green growth.

- Facilitating knowledge sharing and collaborative working between levels of government - this is often not considered in conventional capacity building programmes that target one or other level of government only. National level programmes that explicitly require engagement of and consideration of subnational level would be beneficial, as would tools, resources and guidance for downscaling NDCs and harmonising/aggregating data for enhanced tracking.
- Training and support for national level on subnational climate action planning processes, tools, resources, alignment opportunities, and guidance and support for how actions can practically be integrated/aligned with national planning processes.

At the regional level:

The above suggestions would also benefit from incorporation of regional governments, in recognition that vertically aligned and integrated climate processes must involve all tiers of government.

Good case studies, best practices, tools and methodologies, lessons learned, or examples of support:

Please describe any that build capacity to facilitate coherent NDC implementation and planning in developing countries that are aligned with and support a sustainable recovery

C40 produced a vertically-integrated climate action guide and tools that enable national and sub-national governments to assess the level of integration across climate policies, plans and implementation across different levels to maximise the potential of each level that supports faster and collaborative climate action implementation.

As part of the IKI programme ‘*Cities Matter: Capacity building in sub-Saharan African megacities for transformational climate change mitigation*’, together with the African cities in the project, C40, and Ricardo Energy & Environment have developed a suite of resources and technical outputs in support of vertically integrated climate action. These include

- City and country-specific reports with recommendations for practical actions to enhance alignment and integration between city and national data, targets, governance structures, communications procedures, planning process and action implementation;
- A framework for vertical integration, providing potential focus areas and examples that would enable the implementation of the NDCs at a sub-national level (with an Africa focus).
- A paper on lessons learned from the vertical integration work package, including recommendations for the UNFCCC, IPCC and other international organisations and implementing partners. This will be shared with stakeholders including the PCCB.

All the above reports are available on request.

Useful sources:

Please give examples of additional useful sources relevant to this topic (e.g. webpages and portals, publications, fora, organizations working on this issue)

Vertically-integrated climate action guide and tools - https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Vertically-integrated-climate-action-tools?language=en_US