

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:

- a) Enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention;
- b) Identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and recommending ways to address them;
- c) 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:

UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC)

Type of organization:

Please choose as appropriate:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Development bank / financial institution |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization | <input 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: Copenhagen

Country: Denmark

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):

Globally, across all continents.

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?

Meeting NDC commitments will demand continual effort, coordination, and participation across governments to carry out the actions included in the NDC implementation plan. In this regard, UNEP-CCC has an extensive portfolio (i.e., NDC Action Project* and Technology Needs Assessment**) of projects working towards enhancing NDC implementation in developing countries, with interventions such as:

- Fostering accelerated public and private investment in implementing NDCs and optimizing the effectiveness of national policies;
- Facilitating NDC implementation by provision of technical support to strengthen the capacity of institutions tasked with NDC implementation;
- Fostering technology uptake to support NDC implementation and greater ambition;
- Strengthening longer-term strategies elaborated in NDC and NAP and potentially raise ambitions, through Technology Action Plans which highlight what needs to be done to activate robust market systems and enabling conditions for technology diffusion and uptake.

* The NDC Action project (<https://unepdtu.org/project/ndc-action/>) carried out by UNEP-CCC and UNEP looks to fully exploit the transformative potential of 10 partner countries' NDCs. This project fosters accelerated public and private investment in implementing NDCs in two priority sectors and optimizes the effectiveness of national policies. To facilitate NDC implementation, the project focuses

on multi-stakeholder and high-level engagements to provide technical support to strengthen the capacity of institutions tasked with NDC implementation. Assessing capacity needs will enable relevant actors to develop targeted training programs. Relevant stakeholders will be trained to enhance their capacities and raise awareness of NDC implementation. More information about the NDC Action project [here](#).

**Through the GEF-funded Global Technology Needs Assessments (TNA) Project (www.tech-action.org), UNEP, through UNEP-CCC, helps developing countries determine their technology priorities for mitigating and adapting to climate change. The Technology Needs Assessments can play a unique role in the implementation of NDCs. Technologies are central to achieving NDC targets, thus the TNA becomes an integral part of the NDC process. Indeed, actions identified in the Technology Action Plans being developed by countries highlight what needs to be done to activate robust market systems and enabling conditions for technology diffusion and uptake. These actions can in turn strengthen longer-term strategies elaborated in Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans and potentially raise ambitions by making means of implementation more concrete. More information about the Technology Needs Assessment [here](#).

the enabling conditions?

To have an efficient NDC implementation, UNEP-CCC country partners require suitable activities to facilitate the submission and achievement of their NDC targets. Actions that can be considered as enablers for a better NDC execution include:

- Assessing the extent to which NDCs align with existing national policies and priorities and including the most up-to-date data and information to enable informed and cost-effective decisions about implementation pathways;
- To leverage on already existing relevant procedures and activities in countries, eliminating duplication of effort and allowing the project to contribute more effectively to each country's NDC implementation in the context of their development priorities;
- Lastly, another critical factor for an enabling environment while implementing NDCs is the establishment of ongoing coordination processes to drive progress and decision-making while ensuring accountability.

the key institutional barriers?

Oftentimes Parties may lack the domestic resources to support climate projects or innovations that would lead to low carbon development and increase climate resilience.

Moreover, many impediments considerably delay growth, particularly in developing countries. Implementing NDCs on the ground necessitates a variety of functions, including coordination across many levels of government, adequate financing, key investment barriers, and incentive structures for key stakeholders' participation.

UNEP-CCC country partners report that they face institutional barriers, which hinder their planning capacity for climate action. The barriers comprise several dimensions, including:

- Basic capacity constraints (e.g., limited technical expertise and awareness, insufficient training, limited financial literacy, social biases and cultural behaviors etc.);
- Constraints linked to the policy and regulatory environment (e.g., insufficient legal frameworks, inconsistencies in the implementation of regulations, rent-seeking behavior, highly controlled and bureaucratic regulatory practices etc.);
- Financial and economic factors (high cost of, and limited access to capital);

- Additional barriers in the field of institutional and organizational capacity include: few professional institutions, limited institutional capacity, limited management and organizational skills and weak inter-institutional collaboration hindering knowledge sharing;
- Challenges in the legal and regulatory framework are often reported and related to, for example, insufficient legal framework, highly controlled sector, conflicts of interest, political instability, bureaucracy, and rent-seeking behaviors;
- Constraints related to inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks highlight a need for improved, strengthened, and streamlined policy frameworks to facilitate the development and transfer of technologies.

the capacity gaps and capacity-building needs?

Capacity building is essential for advancing low carbon development and climate resilience and developing a strong NDC.

Our partner countries often highlight the need to enhance capacities at the national level. Indeed, an effective implementation of NDCs requires institutional capacities that frequently are missing on the national government side. Some of the most common capacity gaps observed are the following:

- Coordination mechanisms among all relevant governmental agencies
- Sectoral integration to harmonize NDC priorities into sectoral and cross-sectoral programs
- Adequate stakeholder consultation mechanisms to engage relevant key stakeholders through consultations geared to elicit their input, thus increasing stakeholder buy-in.

Enhancing capacity can be done by strengthening the structures, competencies, and resources of individuals, institutions, organizations, and sectors at large. Concrete actions include, for example:

- Developing initiatives to enhance efficiency in government procedures and processes
- Developing capacity-building and training programs of governmental agencies and institutions
- Establishing research institutes, scholarship or grants to increase experts/researchers in specific areas that directly feed in climate action
- Strengthening inter-ministries collaboration

UNEP-CCC projects include activities linked to the enhancement of capacity-building, such as:

- The development of needs-based training programs for capacity development for governments, financial institutions, and private project developers involved in NDC implementation
- Offering support to countries in the form of national, regional, and global capacity-building workshops, technical support missions, technical backstopping through electronic means, etc.

the knowledge and skills priorities?

Facilitating coherent NDC implementation and planning demands specialized skills, and analyzing the availability of these skills and bridging the gaps is a prerequisite.

UNEP-CCC projects such as the NDC Action or the Technology Needs Assessment work on this matter. The NDC Action, for example, aims to develop and implement a knowledge-sharing and outreach strategy that supports better information flow among partner countries, as well as providing knowledge and lessons learned into the Global Stocktake.

On the other hand, through the Technology Needs Assessment project, countries undergo both regional and global capacity-building events focusing on identifying and assessing technology needs that they

can draw upon for inclusion in their NDCs. The capacity-building efforts proposed through the Technology Needs Assessment project include technical guidance and support, where exchanges of experience and information between stakeholders can establish the basis for cooperative arrangements. These capacity-building events cover methodologies for technology prioritization, financial analysis models, stakeholder engagement, and barrier analysis, including market readiness and regulations and enabling environments.

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:

As capacity-building activities can occur at different levels, countries should think creatively about creating capacity, particularly at the organizational/institutional level, to ensure that it has a long-term impact. In some instances, it may be advantageous to develop capacity outside of government, for example, through academic institutions *. In this regard, it has been suggested by several researchers that universities in developing nations serve as primary hubs for a long-term, institution-based capacity-building system, backed up by strengthened collaborations and long-term financing **. In addition, in order to foster capacity-building, establishing research institutes, scholarships or grants to increase experts/researchers involved in climate change action areas can be useful.

*More information [here](#).

** More information [here](#).

At the national level:

Capacity building at the national level is essential for accurately measuring carbon emissions and climate activities, as well as developing structured and bankable proposals that can support the channeling of available funds. UNEP-CCC approach when it comes to improving existing capacity-building effort includes:

- Enhancing capacity and developing methods for assessing mitigation and adaptation needs and tracking progress toward targets. This indeed has a significant impact on the project countries' low-carbon and climate-resilient development, transparency of action;
- Technical and capacity-building assistance, and financial institution participation. This is crucial to help institutionalize and sustain the NDC process, allowing for greater ambition at the national level;
- Following country-driven approaches. Involving national institutions and enhancing ownership of NDC implementation and climate action at large, by designating national institutions to take the lead of projects, and making sure to involve a wide range of national stakeholders in the process (private, academic, public).

At the regional level:

UNEP-CCC, through different projects, uses a knowledge-sharing approach, which can help countries promote replicability, information flow, and adoption of capacity-building activities depending on each country's institutional frameworks.

For example, in the Technology Needs Assessment project, UNEP-CCC works with regional centers (Latin America & Caribbean, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia) to support countries during their process and to create greater awareness about technology and capacity needs of the countries at the regional level.

Within the NDC Action project, UNEP-CCC hosts the Regional NDC Clinic, a virtual event series designed as a platform to present common challenges faced by Asian countries when implementing NDC actions at a sectoral level. Supported by national and international experts, the events explore different technical issues, ranging from climate resilient housing in coastal areas, promotion of low-emission

urban cooling or investment mobilization and strengthening of financial capacity to invest in NDC priorities. The events are open to all stakeholder groups (in particular policy-makers, financial institutions and private sector representatives), and aim to shed light on global experience, best practices and targeted interventions for mitigation and adaptation purposes in NDC implementation.

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. NDC Action project in Uganda*. The Ugandan government work towards capacity building in the prioritized sector of solar power irrigation. The Ministry of Water and Environment implemented a number of capacity-building programmes related to solar-powered water-supplied systems. These include: (i) development of water supply design manual for solar-powered water systems, and guidelines for solar-powered water systems, (ii) field consultations to determine the key challenges to effective Operation and Maintenance of solar water supply systems in rural institutional facilities, (iii) developed the operation and maintenance manual for mini solar-powered water systems (schools and health facilities), (iv) conducted theoretical and practical training on the operation and repair of solar water pumping systems for personnel from various rural institutional facilities, as well as health facilities, (v) conducted training in water well borehole siting, drilling supervision and test pumping supervision for District Water Officers, NGOs and Private Sector in the Karamoja sub-region, (vi) conducted training in Hydrogeological Survey for staff of the MWE and private sector at the Water Resources Institute, Entebbe, (vii) printed and disseminated copies of the water well borehole siting, drilling supervision and test pumping supervision. This indicates that there is some initiative to build the capacity for (solar) irrigation.
2. NDC Action project in Ghana*. The project will engage with stakeholders to identify training needs, including analysis of crucial capacity gaps of stakeholders in charge of implementing NDC actions in the two prioritized sectors. Additionally, the project shall prepare training manuals and carry out training to build the capacity of the staff from Ministries, departments and agencies, and private sector stakeholders, especially from the financial sector on the NDCs. The overall objectives of the training program are to increase the capacity of MDAs to implement NDCs and apply the acquired knowledge to their jobs in the priority sectors.
3. NDC Action project in Mongolia*. As part of the project, capacity-building training for steering NDC implementation in the agriculture sector was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Tourism. The training aimed to inform participants about climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in agriculture and increase knowledge on investment conditions, investment allocation, and creation that support climate change adaptation. It also included practical agricultural climate change adaptation methods, application, efficiency, and obstacles. Regarding the training configuration, this was structured as active learning with PPT and video presentations. Participants also received training materials in physical copy, allowing them to take notes on each idea. Questions, answers, and feedback were offered at the end of each topic. This was done both before and after the training.

*The information described above concerning capacity-building activities under the NDC Action project will soon be available on our upcoming official website.

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)*

Webpages & web portals:

1. NDC Action website: <https://unepdtu.org/project/ndc-action/>
2. TNA:
 - a. <https://tech-action.unepdtu.org/e-learning/>
 - b. <https://tech-action.unepdtu.org/tna-methodology/>

Publications:

3. Bakhtiari, F., Hinojosa, M. L., & Puig, D. (2018). Institutional capacities for NDC implementation: a guidance document. UNEP DTU Partnership.
4. Mizan Khan, David Mfitumukiza & Saleemul Huq (2020) Capacity building for implementation of nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, *Climate Policy*, 20:4, 499-510, DOI: [10.1080/14693062.2019.1675577](https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2019.1675577)
5. Examples of case studies in Rwanda and Gambia of different capacity-building activities: <https://ndc-guide.cdkn.org/book/planning-for-ndc-implementation-a-quick-start-guide/governance/#learning-from-others>
6. https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc/_StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/tn_meetings/40067a60235c4b1c9737e9abf532003a/e8a0bd09bec44237934ee7ed569b2d9d.pdf
7. <https://orbit.dtu.dk/en/publications/the-nexus-between-nationally-determined-contributions-and-technol>
8. https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc/_StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/tn_meetings/0ec5dc7fc4a045468f11e360347f7da7/8a6bc538ce414d21a2a5efa460ebfe39.pdf

Success-stories:

1. https://unfccc.int/ttclear/tna/suc_stories.html
2. <https://tech-action.unepdtu.org/publications/from-needs-to-implementation-stories-from-the-technology-needs-assessments-2021/>

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