

Paris Committee on Capacity-building

Side Event

Update on the work of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building in 2018

Monday, 3 December 2018, 15:00-16:30

COP 24 in Katowice, Poland



The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) organized a side event at COP 24 to provide an update on its work in 2018 and to discuss issues and developments related to the PCCB’s focus area for the years 2017-2019 “Capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions”, including concrete collaboration opportunities, with relevant actors.

Having opened the event, **PCCB co-chairs Marzena Chodor and Rita Mishaan** quickly recalled the aim and mandates of the PCCB, before drawing the attention of participants to the progress achieved by the Committee in 2018. The PCCB was created in 2015 with the aim to address current and emerging gaps and needs in implementing capacity-building in developing countries, and to further enhance capacity-building efforts. The co-chairs also noted that an important part of the work is the analysis of climate capacity-building issues and the development of sensible policy recommendations to support countries in enhancing climate action.

The co-chairs pointed out that, supported by the agreements reached by the Committee at its second meeting in May 2018, the PCCB’s intersessional work in 2018 focused on making progress across all mandates. Intersessional activities highlighted in the co-chairs’ presentation are included in the table below.

Table 1: Selection of PCCB activities in 2018

Work area	Activity
Strategy-related	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparing communication, stakeholder engagement, and resource mobilization strategies
Capacity gaps and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launching a national-level pilot exercise on NDC implementation related capacity gaps and needs to be completed in 2019
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Finalizing the PCCB’s second Annual Technical Progress Report, including recommendations to the COP, which are derived from the PCCB’s analysis of climate capacity-building issues, its regular dialogues with the constituted bodies and other stakeholders, and the outcomes of the 7th Durban Forum (FCCC/SBI/2018/15)

Regional climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with the Marrakech Partnership on Global Climate Action, including during the 2018 Latin American and Caribbean Climate Week in Montevideo
Cross-cutting issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing a Webinar for PCCB members and members of other constituted bodies that provided an overview of the why and how of integrating gender considerations in capacity-building and a subsequent technical workshop co-hosted with the secretariat, on 12 December at COP 24 • Organizing a joint side event with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Mary Robinson Foundation on capacity-building for integrating human rights in climate action at COP 24 • Joining the Climate Task Force of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa to step up the PCCB's work on the role of cities
Knowledge and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing the PCCB Capacity-building Hub from 5 -12 December at COP 24 with more than 35 events that have a clear focus on capacity-building in developing countries for stepped-up climate action • Launching the PCCB's digital Capacity-building Network on Facebook as part of the Committee's strategy to use social media as a tool to foster public awareness and to share knowledge and information • Enhancing the web-based capacity-building portal, inter alia through the development of complementary resource pages

The co-chairs emphasized that, through the launch of the capacity-building hub and the greater engagement via social media, the PCCB aims to scale up best practices, and in this way contribute to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement. The hub, resource webpages and the digital network on Facebook also provide a platform for Party and non-Party stakeholders to receive an overview of capacity-building related events, tools, training and contacts.

The PCCB's presentation was followed by a **panel discussion**, moderated by **PCCB member Matti Nummelin**, which shed light on key capacity gaps and needs of developing countries in implementing their NDCs and on ways to address those gaps and needs. The invited panelists who represented national governments, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies and bilateral development cooperation agencies, also shared perspectives from their own work related to building capacity for NDC implementation as well as views and ideas on concrete opportunities for collaboration with the PCCB.

Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), the umbrella organization of local authorities in the continent, pointed out that local governments are a crucial stakeholder in the implementation of NDCs.

“The NDCs will not be implemented without the help of local authorities”.

Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, UCLGA



He also raised the concern about the level of ambition of existing NDCs, noting that even if all NDCs were to be fully implemented, the global average temperature would still increase by three degrees. Highlighting the significant role of local authorities in achieving the much-needed increase in ambition, he proposed that, along with NDCs, locally determined contributions should be developed.

Building capacity is key to UCLGA and therefore the organization recently established a climate task force which counts PCCB co-chair Marzena Chodor among its members and which proposes a readiness program for local governments to get involved in climate action. Mr. Elong-Mbassi underlined the need for building capacities of policy-makers in particular and noted that a collaboration with the PCCB would be desirable, especially with regard to building capacity for integrating cross-cutting issues into climate policy and action. In addition, he proposed a collaboration between the PCCB and the UCLGA-founded African Local Government Academy to pursue joint activities at the local level in Africa.

Faustin Munyazikwiye Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority agreed with the point made by Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi that local authorities need to be closely involved in the process of implementing NDCs. He also pointed to the issue that many NDCs were developed in a rush given the tight deadline for submitting them in 2015.



Faustin Munyazikwiye, Rwanda

Taking the example of his own country, Rwanda, he explained that insufficient data availability, ranging from data gaps on greenhouse gas emissions in various sectors to a lack of data on the impacts of climate change in the country, pose problems for the implementation of the country's NDC.

Another important gap is technology. After a technology needs assessment in 2012 and the development of a technology action plan, little follow up work was conducted in terms of addressing existing gaps and needs. He noted that, while needs assessments are key, they need to be followed by actions to address the needs identified.

Mr. Munyazikwiye also stressed the fact that many developing countries' NDCs are conditional on support and access to climate finance remains critical to meeting the targets. However, he also noted that Rwanda did not just wait for external support to come in:

“We established a national green fund which is known as fund for environment and climate change in Rwanda. We have already mobilized 100 million USD within four months of existence [of the fund].”

In addition, the Ministry of Environment has been successfully accredited to the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund. However, Rwanda also sees the need for and value in bringing in and collaborating with other stakeholders, which is one of the reasons the country joined the NDC Partnership in 2018.



“What we find is that so much of the work we are doing is at its heart about capacity-building. It is about empowering governments to take their own actions, to set their own priorities, their own strategic agenda and then to align support around that, as is needed.”

Robert Bradley, NDC Partnership

Following this initial statement, **Robert Bradley, Knowledge and Research Director at the NDC Partnership** introduced the work of the NDC Partnership, noting that the partner government itself develops a Partnership Plan, which is about goals set in the process of implementing the NDC. The NDC Partnership assists in bringing together actors to achieve these goals. Together, these actors can converge around a single, transparent strategic government plan. *“This allows the government to take a much more strategic approach and that is critical to forming capacity over time.”*

The NDCP also seeks to identify common challenges across countries and lessons learned and good practices that can be replicated and scaled up elsewhere. The NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal, re-launched during the COP, contributes to this effort. Navigating existing resources of various stakeholders is crucial and the NDC Partnership created a toolbox to help countries identify those tools and resources that are most relevant for them.

Mr. Bradley concluded by emphasizing that the NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal and the portals and platforms promoted by the PCCB, for instance the capacity-building portal and the digital capacity-building network on Facebook, are compatible in many ways and noted that both sides will continue to work closely together to enhance linkages and synergies. Another area for collaboration is the capacity gaps and needs assessment – the NDC Partnership support unit is in daily contact with member countries and partner organizations and frequently receives information about countries' needs and gaps, information that can be shared with the PCCB to contribute to its ongoing work.

Bernd-Markus Liss, Head of the Climate and Climate Policy Unit in GIZ’s Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Division, proposed a collaborative approach when it comes to capacity-building.

“We need the capacity of people, of institutions at all levels to get into implementation of climate action.”



Bernd-Markus Liss, GIZ

He also stressed the importance of identifying the gaps in capacity-building which range from data gaps and insufficient analytical capacities to gaps related to developing whole-of-government approaches and process management related gaps. GIZ is present in over 130 countries and, from its work with partner governments, has learned a lot about NDC implementation and pitfalls in the process. This led GIZ to create an “NDC collaboration hub”, which provides a coherent face-to-the-customer approach where GIZ can combine measures and fast-track input into NDC development and NDC implementation as part of the NDC Partnership. At the same time, this hub is also linked to GIZ’s bilateral portfolio in its partner countries where broad-based long-term capacity development can be implemented based on the needs identified.

Importantly, capacity-building is not a one-sided approach for GIZ: Peer to peer exchanges, South-South, and South-North approaches are also considered key. GIZ recently developed a modular NDC training, focused on issues ranging from governance and finance to technical issues and communication, to be rolled out in partner countries in 2019.

Mr. Liss referred to the recently-signed MOU between GIZ and the UNFCCC secretariat in which capacity-building with a link to the work of the PCCB is listed as a key area for collaboration, noting that both sides are currently exploring where to synergize and join forces. He further noted that GIZ could provide inputs, such as training resources, for the PCCB to disseminate. GIZ would be keen to engage in two-way information sharing with the PCCB, in particular in the area of assessing capacity gaps and needs.

Rebecca Carman, Climate Technical Specialist in UNDP’s NDC Support Programme argued that countries need strong governance and transparency to access large investment flows and shift finance flows within a country. UNDP also recognizes the need for high-level advocacy, both at the national and subnational level, and for the mobilization of civil society and private sector because those are real drivers of social change who need to be empowered.

According to Ms. Carman, other important factors in NDC implementation are the consideration of linkages between the NDCs and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as building functional capacities alongside technical capacities. Additionally, NDCs require more systems-based approaches and adaptive management skills.



Rebecca Carman, UNDP

“We really need to look at institutional capacity-building as a whole because that is the only way to start to have sustained capacity development.”

Ms. Carman highlighted the importance of capacity needs assessments for achieving greater impacts and offered her institution’s support to the PCCB’s work at the national level. For example, the lessons learned and best practices from a number of countries UNDP works in could feed into the PCCB’s report on NDC-related capacity gaps and needs in 2019. In addition, UNDP would be keen to explore opportunities to collaborate with PCCB on the issue of gender mainstreaming since this is an important aspect of its own work.

In concluding the event, the PCCB co-chairs thanked panelists for their remarks, ideas and concrete collaboration proposals, highlighting that the PCCB looks forward to further engagement in 2019, jointly exploring with their organizations how the identified collaboration opportunities might be concretized and realized. Over the next year the PCCB will also seek to strengthen and broaden existing networks and partnerships with other relevant Party and non-Party stakeholders.