

Outcomes Article



PCCB Toolkit to assess capacity-building gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement a virtual discussion exploring capacity-building tools & methodologies

The Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) published the “[PCCB toolkit to assess capacity-building gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement](#)” as a response to a recommendation from a 2019 UNFCCC technical paper highlighting the need for this resource. The toolkit draws upon the capacity assessment work of development agencies and international experts, and it includes case studies from several countries presenting methods to identify and address capacity needs and gaps. The hands-on examples, best practices, tools, and clear policy options presented by the toolkit seek to help officials in implementing effective nationally determined contributions (NDCs) tailored to their country’s circumstances, ultimately helping to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Presenter



Mahawan Karuniasa
Paris Committee on Capacity-
building (PCCB) Member,
UNFCCC

Moderator



Alejandro Kilpatrick
Manager,
Capacity-building sub-division,
UNFCCC

Panellists



Mattias Frumerie
Standing Committee on
Finance (SCF) Member,
UNFCCC



Nadège Trocellier
Climate Technology Specialist,
Climate Technology Centre &
Network (CTCN), UNFCCC



María del Pilar Bueno Rubial
Research Coordinator,
Impulsouth



Jens Sedemund
Head of Environment and Climate
Change Team, Organisation for
Economic Co-operation and
Development (OECD)



Chizuru Aoki
Lead Environmental Specialist,
Global Environment Facility
(GEF)

The toolkit was published in January 2022 and promoted through the UNFCCC website and PCCB social media, email lists, and other modes of outreach. This virtual event served to further promote the toolkit to interested stakeholders. The event also exhibited and explored tools and methodologies to assess capacity-building needs and gaps to respond to climate change, in addition to promoting further dialogue and action regarding these tools and methodologies.

This virtual event brought awareness of the toolkit to a wider audience of climate-related capacity-building stakeholders – experts, practitioners, and organizations. Introduction to the toolkit at this virtual event was a launching point for the capacity-building community to engage with and benefit from the toolkit and its complementary resources on the dedicated [webpage](#).



The event was moderated by the Capacity-building Sub-division Manager at UNFCCC, Alejandro Kilpatrick, and featured five expert panellists from climate-related capacity-building organizations. Mahawan Karuniasa, one of the 12 current PCCB members, also presented an overview of the toolkit's content and introduced his own experiences from his work in Indonesia. The event also featured rich discussion in the Q&A session, and further questions were collected and engaged with through Padlet – an online blackboard tool that allows participants to post questions or comments.

Panel Discussion

"How can donors use toolkits such as the PCCB toolkit to build capacity in developing countries to assess gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement?"



In the opening question of the panel discussion, Jens Sedemund discussed OECD's objectives and role in developing countries regarding access to finance and donor engagement. Jens emphasized that capacity-building is a core element of donor activities, stating that 44% of OECD's bilateral funding supported climate-related capacity-building in 2019. Further, despite this high level of support, immense challenges and barriers in capacity gaps remain. Finally, Jens highlighted that the toolkit offers significant insight for donors due to the current lack of robust evidence base connecting donor activities to positive results in developing countries. He closed by offering three ways donors can best utilize the toolkit: designing interventions based on a clear assessment of a country's capacity to cope with climate change; coordinating responses to the climate-related capacity priorities of countries; and ensuring ownership and sustainability of efforts focused on a country-driven perspective.

The next two questions were directed at the remaining four panellists in two rounds. The event explored capacity-building questions related to four thematic areas from each panellist's expert background: transparency, finance, adaptation, and technology.



Question 1 - "In your experience, what are some tools and methodologies used to assess capacity-building in your focus area? What were some top capacity-building priorities that resulted as a part of the process?"

Transparency



Chizuru Aoki highlighted the importance of adopting a systematic approach to identifying gaps and needs. She discussed the importance of transparency under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and its relation to capacity-building. GEF has established a capacity-building initiative for transparency to assist countries, citing more than \$130 million in support for cross-border cooperation in 80 countries. Chizuru noted that 87% of all countries and 97% of LDCs are directing the necessary resources to develop their institutional arrangements around transparency. Further, 90% of countries have built technical capacity related to national emissions inventories, and 72% of countries reported a goal to track adaptation progress.

Finance



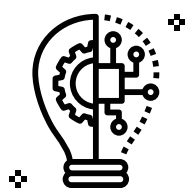
Mattias Frumerie discussed an overview of needs determination reports (NDRs) from nine developing countries, identifying limited capacity, a lack of institutional coordination, and a lack of data availability as major challenges. Additionally, Mattias noted that the reports varied dramatically in content and structure, and that many countries lack the specialized capacity needed to produce robust reports. Finally, Mattias provided a summary of recommendations, focusing on increased levels of engagement and participation across all types of stakeholders.

Adaptation



María del Pilar Bueno Rubial provided the example of national research processes, through which national research teams conduct action research plans to identify knowledge and capacity needs and gaps. The teams begin with stakeholder analysis and mapping and focus on locally relevant sectors. They identify the activities required to achieve the assessment and the capacities and knowledge necessary to perform such activities, compare the desired capacity required knowledge with existing capacity, and conclude with recommendations to meet any identified gaps. Finally, Pilar identified gender equality as a priority issue that arose from this process in the six focus countries of Impulsouth.

Technology



Nadège Trocellier presented five tools and methodologies being implemented by CTCN in developing countries. First, she listed capacity-building to reach international standards and create an enabling environment for further activities. As examples, in Pakistan and Algeria the CTCN assisted with implementing lighting standards. Second is capacity-building to create knowledge or to incentivize institutions to create knowledge. In Pakistan and Burundi, the CTCN assisted in developing industry-specific programmes to improve technical capacities. Third is capacity-building for the introduction of climate technology. Fourth is the development and implementation of innovative technologies, with a current focus on informing developing countries about opportunities with blockchain technology. Finally, the fifth area focuses on assistance with developing concept notes for the GEF in order to raise funds for climate initiatives.

Question 2 - "What are the biggest challenges linked to effectively assessing capacity needs and gaps?"

Transparency



Chizuru Aoki noted three challenge areas. First is recognizing the changing capacity needs within the ETF, especially for countries that are still in transition to new systems. Second is understanding the scope of capacity support that is needed. Every country has unique capacity needs, and many countries lack identification of the exact capacity gaps that need to be addressed. Finally, Chizuru highlighted articulating policy relevance as a challenge. There is a need to better communicate how capacity-building can improve evidence-based policymaking by showing the links between climate data, climate ambitions, and policy.

Finance



Mattias Frumerie noted challenges within government and administration. First, he expressed that countries should be provided the opportunity to highlight and pursue the kinds of needs they identify throughout their administrations. Further, countries should establish inter-ministerial committees to assess these needs and engage with supporting international actors. A second challenge Mattias raised was retaining capacity, noting that incentives must be provided to build capacity of human resources to remain in an organization, reducing loss of knowledge.

Adaptation



María del Pilar Bueno Rubial emphasized that assessing needs and gaps should be guided by political processes and objectives. Otherwise, assessments could lack a clear transformative value. Next, Pilar noted that the methods themselves for assessing capacity gaps are still in need of further development, such as clarifying and standardizing definitions across actors. Finally, Pilar highlighted the need to collaborate across local communities, sectors, regions, and levels of government.

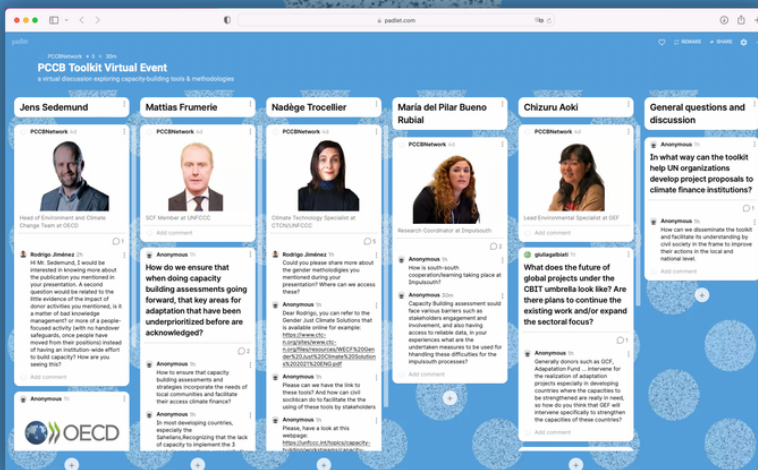
Technology



Nadège Trocellier emphasized that capacity-building must be long-term and institutionalized so that capacities can be sustained over time. She further noted that capacity-building must be adapted to local conditions, including knowledge, needs, and people.

Q&A Session

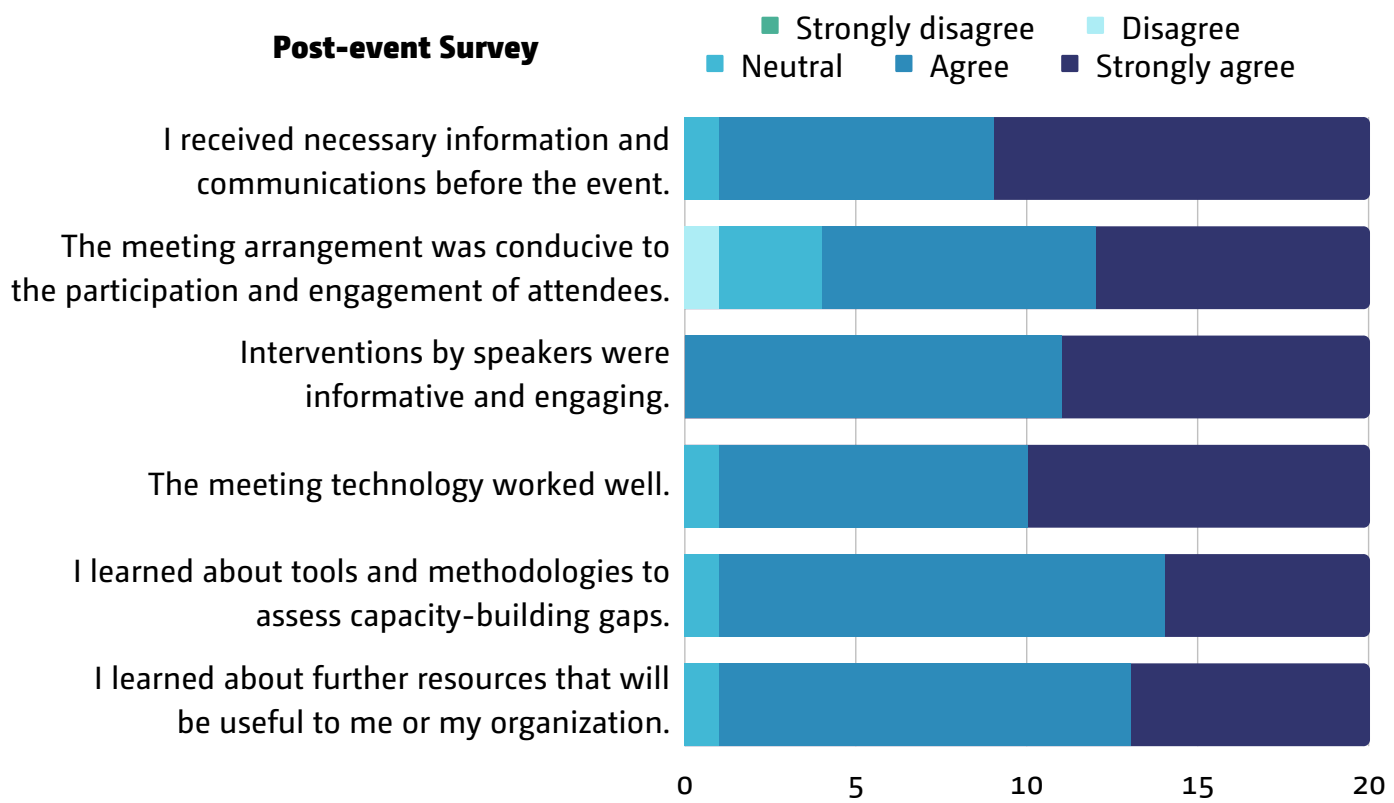
Finally, several interventions were addressed during the Q&A session. Participants were able to raise questions and comments either directly through the chat and video, or through the Padlet. Topics covered included improving accessibility of language and definitions, reasons for the lack of evidence of donor results, South-South cooperation, consultative funding processes to ensure fair distributions of funds, and more as seen on Padlet.



By the numbers

In total, 159 people registered for the event, 52 attended, and 20 answered the post-event survey. Responses were generally very favourable, with most participants selecting “strongly agree” or “agree” when asked about event satisfaction. More details can be found in the included charts.

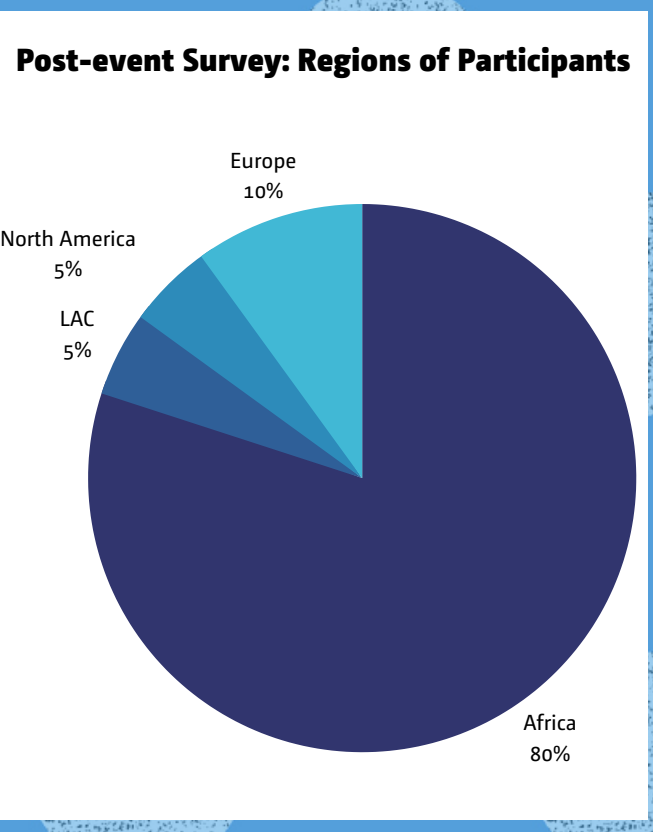
Post-event Survey



100%

“**Would you recommend this event to others?**”

Open comments generally indicated a favourable experience, with some noting too short of a time for open discussion and a desire for open networking time.



The overwhelming majority of participants were from the Africa region, more than half identified as youth, and about one quarter identified as indigenous peoples. During registration, almost equal ratios of men and women signed up, with slightly more men. Together, this suggests that the event had a wide reach globally and across backgrounds, but that young, indigenous, African men were the largest group present.

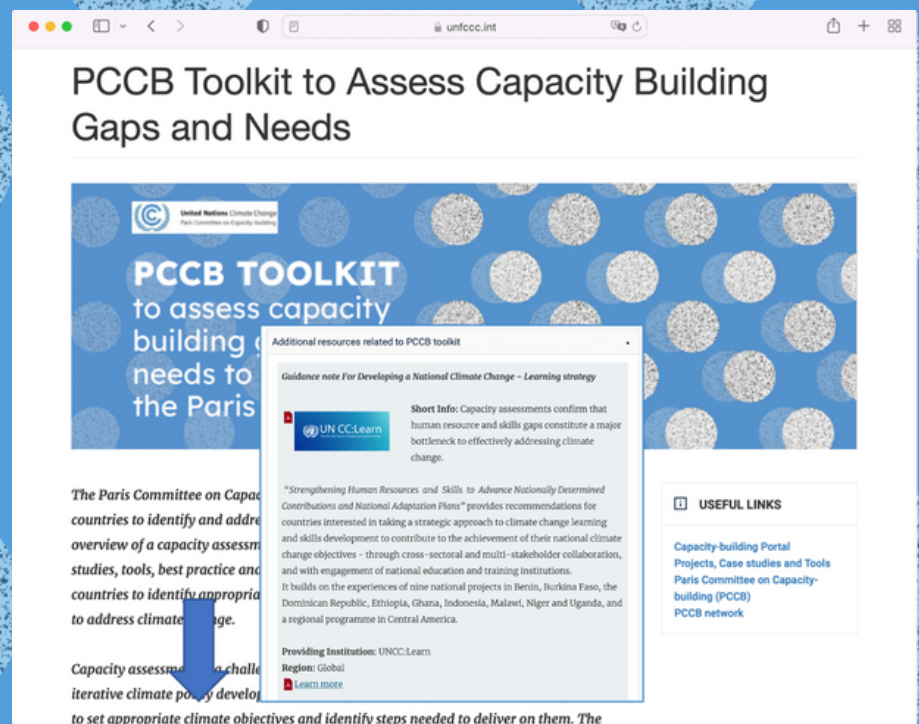
Closing

Through an introductory presentation to the toolkit, rich panel discussion, and engaging open questions, the PCCB Toolkit Virtual Event successfully raised awareness of the toolkit and further resources, while catalysing further discussions and engagement among capacity-building actors.

A summary of key points raised is as follows:

- Significant gaps remain in availability of data and evidence.
- Capacity-building must be long-term, sustainable, and locally owned.
- There is currently a significant amount of support underway for capacity-building initiatives and efforts to identify and address relevant gaps and needs.
- Coordination is key to success, whether across levels of government, regions, internationally, or sectors.
- More must be done to improve communication, both between capacity-building actors and to the general public.
- Every region and actor has unique capacity gaps and needs, and initiatives should be tailored to these local conditions.

The discussion does not end there. The toolkit is intended as a dynamic resource that is constantly being updated and utilized. The web page serves as an ongoing resources portal that the PCCB will maintain with updates from its own work and recommendations from users of the toolkit. Please continue to check this page for further updates.



Please visit the toolkit web page [here](#) to learn more. If you have any resources relating to tools and methodologies to assess capacity-building gaps and needs, please feel free to contact the PCCB at pccb@unfccc.int.

