

# Outcomes Article

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## Transformative coalitions: Success stories for knowledge sharing on climate action and social justice

### PCCB Network: UNU-EHS and ICLEI

#### Background

On September 14, 2023, the [United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security \(UNU-EHS\)](#) and the [Transformative Urban Coalitions \(TUC\)](#), in partnership with [ICLEI- Local Government for Sustainability](#), organized a virtual session aimed at building capacities for Transformative Coalitions: Success Stories for Knowledge Sharing on Climate Action and Social Justice. The purpose of this event was knowledge exchange on the role of "soft skills" for successful and motivated climate action, such as awareness, communication, visioning, and leadership. Success stories were used to illustrate how capacity building for climate action coupled with social justice in different contexts is a means to exchange knowledge, share expertise, and trigger transformative urban change. The event, hosted by the [Paris Committee on Capacity-Building \(PCCB\) Network](#), had twenty-eight (28) persons in attendance, many of them young people, including activists. This figure cuts across 16 countries, including Canada, Mexico, Barbados, and Peru for the Americas. Burundi and Nigeria in Africa. For Asia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, and Oman. And the European countries of the Czech Republic, Denmark, The Netherlands, and Germany. The event speakers represented different sectors and expertise across the PCCB Network, including:

- EHS moderator: Andrea Ramirez and Final remarks: Simone Sandholz from UNU-EHS
- Pamela Elizarras - Youth Climate Activist, Documentary Photographer, and Co-founder of [Climate Words](#) and [Latinas for Climate \(MEX\)](#)
- Nathalie Sanger - Research Associate - UNU-EHS
- Roco Silva, Biologist, co-founder Hylos. [ImpulSouth](#) - Guatemala
- Pourya Salehi, head of Urban Research and Innovation Team - ICLEI Local Government for Sustainability

Initially, this session focused on the experts' success, critical stories, and concerns on capacity building on climate action and social justice. Speakers shared different perspectives and accounts of socially inclusive climate action to promote awareness, sometimes inspired by frustration and environmental and social challenges, including gender issues and financing, and being more critical and provocative on how setbacks started some disruptive changes.

Moreover, the success stories described practical insight into change processes and outcomes, such as positive accounts of radical collaboration, effective communication, and the conditions to centre climate action on human needs. These stories were inspired by their achievements, such as creating a dictionary, a toolbox, waste management improvements, and the reflexivity of learning from best practices and identifying how failure also delivers some learnings.



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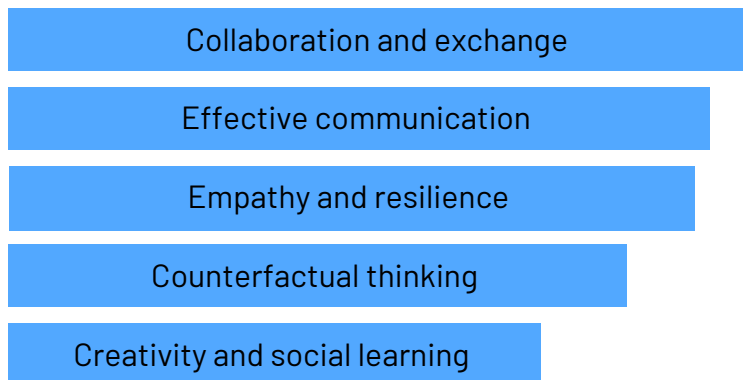
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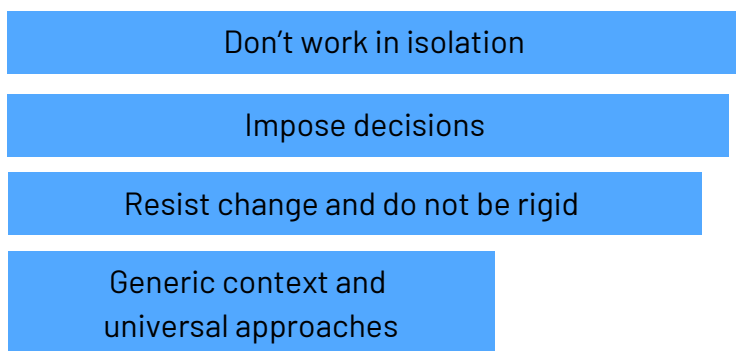
Then, the session focused on sharing practical insights on co-creation processes in capacity building and tools development for crafting soft skills on urban climate action and social justice. The exchange with the audience was a crucial part of the event in which different questions guided the discussion. First, to identify which soft skills were considered most important for socially inclusive climate action. Second, to recognize gaps for soft skills in capacity building, in which participants see gaps in tools and training. Third, the audience helped to rank the do's as effective communication, collaboration and exchange, empathy and resilience, and creativity and social learning. Then, attendees ranked don'ts as work in isolation, impose decisions, resist change, and not be rigid, and generic context and universal approaches. This co-creation identified that despite these skills being often overlooked, they are unconsciously assumed to be essential for change. Therefore, capacity building can address this need to tailor soft capacities to different contexts, make soft skills useful to exchange knowledge, share expertise, and trigger transformative urban change.

**The session ended with some takeaway messages: collaboration and exchange, effective communication, empathy and resilience, counterfactual thinking, creativity, and social learning are interconnected key assets for climate action and social justice.**

1. Please ranks these DO'S of soft skills for climate action and social justice



2. Please ranks these DON'TS of soft skills for climate action and social justice



To learn more on this event, head to the [webpage](#).



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