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**Matters relating to capacity-building for developing
countries**

**Matters relating to capacity-building under the
Convention, including enhancing institutional
arrangements and the review of the Paris Committee on
Capacity-building**

Views on the fourth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Convention

Synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This document synthesizes the information provided in submissions from Parties and observer organizations on the fourth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Convention for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its fifty-first session.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

capacity-building framework	framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7
COP	Conference of the Parties
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation

I. Introduction

A. Mandate and background

1. COP 22 decided to initiate the fourth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries under the Convention at SBI 50 with a view to completing the review at COP 25.¹
2. SBI 50 noted that there are current and emerging areas for capacity-building related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement in developing countries, and that those areas could be considered in the context of the fourth comprehensive review.²
3. In addition, SBI 50 initiated work on the fourth comprehensive review and developed terms of reference for it.³
4. Furthermore, SBI 50 invited Parties and observers to submit their views on the fourth comprehensive review, taking into consideration the above-mentioned terms of reference, via the submission portal by 30 September 2019, and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of the submissions for consideration at SBI 51.⁴

B. Objective of the review

5. The objective of the fourth comprehensive review is to take stock of the progress and assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the capacity-building framework taking into account recent developments under the Convention.⁵

C. Scope of the report

6. This report synthesizes the information provided by Parties and observer organizations in the submissions referred to in paragraph 4 above. Chapter II.B–E is structured in accordance with the four review elements set out in the terms of reference for the review.
7. The secretariat received submissions from Belize on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States; Finland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States;⁶ Guatemala on behalf of the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean; State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; and from Australia, Japan and the United States of America.

D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

8. The SBI may wish to consider the views reflected in this report in undertaking the fourth comprehensive review.

II. Synthesis

A. Overall reflections

9. Parties were of the view that capacity-building has facilitated implementation of the Convention. Capacity-building can enhance the ability of developing country Parties to take

¹ Decision 16/CP.22, para. 12.

² FCCC/SBI/2019/9, para. 92.

³ FCCC/SBI/2019/9, annex III.

⁴ FCCC/SBI/2019/9, paras. 94–95.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2019/9, annex III, para. 2.

⁶ Supported by North Macedonia and Serbia.

effective climate action, in particular countries with the least capacity, such as the least developed countries and those particularly vulnerable to climate change, such as small island developing States.

10. Developing country Parties called on all Parties to ensure that the fourth comprehensive review leads to the capacity gaps, constraints and needs identified in the review being effectively addressed through the provision of additional support and the enhancement of appropriate institutional arrangements.

11. Most Parties recognized the capacity-building activities being undertaken by bodies under and outside the Convention, and some Parties suggested that the fourth comprehensive review should take into account the work of constituted bodies under the Convention.

12. Most Parties highlighted the significant role of the PCCB in the capacity-building arena in helping to enhance the coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities under the Convention.

13. The role of the Durban Forum on capacity-building in providing a platform to engage a wide range of stakeholders under and outside the Convention to share experiences was welcomed by some Parties, which appreciated the convening function of the Forum within the broader capacity-building arena.

14. Most Parties considered that the fourth comprehensive review and the review of the progress, need for extension, effectiveness and enhancement of the PCCB, as well as the decision⁷ on the initial institutional arrangements referred to in Article 11, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, should, when taken together, ensure coherence, avoid duplication and ensure appropriately updated, effective institutional arrangements

B. Progress and effectiveness of implementation

15. In taking stock of the progress and assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the capacity-building framework under the Convention, most Parties emphasized the importance of the framework, the objectives and scope of which are outlined in decision 2/CP.7. They noted the continued progress in implementing the framework during the fourth review period at the institutional, systemic and individual level, as reflected, for example, in greenhouse gas inventories, reporting and the implementation of national adaptation action.

16. Some Parties recalled the previous three reviews of the implementation of the capacity-building framework under the Convention and the recognition of the evolving needs of developing countries, including in relation to the areas of work arising from the Paris Agreement.⁸

17. Developed country Parties highlighted the wide range of capacity-building activities being undertaken by constituted bodies under the Convention, the increased identification of synergies as well as collaboration among those bodies, the practice of building and improving on previous work and the strengthened collaboration of constituted bodies with other stakeholders. They emphasized that further improvements should be pursued in these areas.

18. Most Parties acknowledged that a great deal of work has been undertaken under the UNFCCC in pursuing an appropriate response to climate change, with the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and the consequent implementation of its first and second commitment periods, the latter ending in 2020, and the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

19. Some Parties acknowledged that the Durban Forum remains a key resource and has facilitated progress in implementing the capacity-building framework. Over the years, it has focused on addressing topics directly relevant to capacity-building needs and the priority areas of the framework. The Forum has served as a platform for acting on recommendations resulting from the previous reviews of the capacity-building framework; for example, in relation to exploring linkages with academia and research centres.

⁷ Decision 3/CMA.1, para. 13.

⁸ Decision 16/CP.22, para. 1.

C. Capacity gaps and challenges

20. Parties identified capacity gaps and challenges in implementing the capacity-building framework, taking into account the emerging needs and priorities for capacity-building.

21. Some Parties stressed the challenges of retaining capacity; collecting and reporting data; coordinating domestic agencies and international partners in the provision of support for capacity-building; and formulating bankable climate change projects.

22. Developing country Parties emphasized the lack of the knowledge and competence required to undertake vulnerability and adaptation assessments; to address loss and damage, including through risk assessment, risk management action and risk-based recovery; and to develop resilient communities, livelihoods and ecosystems.

23. They also emphasized the lack of institutional capacity for research, development and demonstration, in relation to both adaptation and mitigation. Capacity is needed for, inter alia, enhancing observation networks, gathering spatial data, and generating scaled-down climate models and scenarios in order to foster risk-informed local planning and decision-making, and to enhance the resilience of key sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, transport and health.

24. The lack of capacity to address cross-cutting issues, such as gender-responsiveness, human rights, just transition, indigenous peoples' knowledge, the role of cities, youth and Action for Climate Empowerment, when taking climate action, was highlighted as a constraint by developing country Parties.

25. Some Parties noted that the information on gaps and challenges contained in the synthesis report on the implementation of the capacity-building framework⁹ should be considered further. Some Parties highlighted new areas for capacity-building related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in particular those pertaining to implementing nationally determined contributions, formulating long-term low-emission and climate-resilient development strategies, and transparency of action and support.

26. Some Parties noted that the PCCB is well placed to assist in responding to gaps and challenges once they are identified in the fourth comprehensive review. The PCCB could contribute to improving the effectiveness of the work of constituted bodies and other stakeholders by disseminating information, enhancing coordination among stakeholders and strategically aligning existing capacity-building efforts with the priority areas of the framework.

27. Some developed country Parties noted that a number of capacity-building challenges are already being addressed through the Durban Forum and by the PCCB in its work pertaining to enhancing coherence and coordination, particularly with other constituted bodies.

28. Concrete areas for capacity-building to be added into the framework were suggested by developing country Parties. The areas include formulating, updating and implementing nationally determined contributions; formulating long-term low-emission and climate-resilient development strategies; improving knowledge for addressing loss and damage; establishing, improving and consolidating transparency systems, including for the timely preparation of biennial transparency reports; and implementing, in the future, the mechanism established under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

D. Lessons learned

29. In identifying lessons learned and best practices in implementing the capacity-building framework under the Convention and exploring options for further enhancing the implementation of capacity-building activities, some Parties expressed their interest in further considering the lessons learned and best practices in the fourth comprehensive review. In addition, they were of the view that increased reporting could improve the ongoing

⁹ FCCC/SBI/2019/3.

identification and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices and thereby help to enhance the implementation of capacity-building activities.

30. The alignment of the annual theme of the Durban Forum with the annual focus area of the PCCB and the invitation from the SBI to the PCCB to take into consideration the outcomes of the third comprehensive review in its work were considered by some Parties to be important examples of best practice in avoiding duplication of work and increasing the effectiveness of the implementation of the capacity-building framework.

31. Some Parties noted and encouraged the increasing cooperation among developing country Parties, as mentioned in the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 25 above, especially the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among capacity-building practitioners and implementing entities. Such cooperation helps to build knowledge networks and local expertise.

E. Recommendations

32. In their submissions Parties made recommendations to the SBI on ways and means to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of the capacity-building framework, taking into account recent developments in capacity-building under the Convention and the need for coherence and avoidance of duplication in institutional arrangements related to capacity-building.

33. Several Parties highlighted the need to revise the capacity-building framework to better reflect the emerging needs of developing countries.

34. Several Parties reflected on the importance of the PCCB in enhancing the institutional arrangements for capacity-building as referred to in Article 11, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement.

35. To avoid duplication and maximize the coherence and effectiveness of efforts, some Parties recommended that the SBI take into account, inter alia, the activities of constituted bodies related to implementing the capacity-building framework, including the work of the PCCB and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as well as the activities of actors outside the Convention engaged in capacity-building.

36. Some Parties suggested that the implementation of activities in the capacity-building framework's key priority areas would benefit from engaging stakeholders outside the Convention, including the private sector, in its discussions on designing and implementing capacity-building programmes.

37. The secretariat was recommended to continue to regularly synthesize the capacity-building activities of constituted bodies so as to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote coherence and the sharing of best practices.
