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Matters relating to capacity-building

Second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

Synthesis report by the secretariat*

Summary

This report synthesizes the views submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders related to the second review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, including on the progress and need for extension of the Committee.

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline in order to include all relevant inputs.

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. At its twenty-fifth session the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to extend the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) for five years and to review at its session to be held in November 2024 the progress and need for extension of the PCCB. It requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to initiate at SBI 58 the preparation of terms of reference for that second review of the PCCB with a view to the COP agreeing on the final terms of reference at its session in November 2023.¹ COP 28 adopted the terms of reference.²
2. COP 28 invited Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, representatives of relevant processes under the Convention and non-Party stakeholders to submit views on the second review of the PCCB, and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on the submissions for consideration at SBI 60.³
3. COP 28 invited the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to participate in the second review of the PCCB.⁴ At CMA 5 it was decided to conduct the review at CMA 6.⁵
4. COP 28 and CMA 5 requested SBI 60 to initiate the second review of the PCCB.⁶

B. Objective of the review

5. As per the terms of reference, the objective of the second review of the PCCB is to assess its progress in achieving its overall aim, set out in paragraph 71 of decision 1/CP.21 and affirmed in paragraph 3 of decision 3/CMA.2, and in addressing its priority areas and activities, set out in paragraph 9 of and the annex to decision 9/CP.25 and affirmed in paragraph 4 of decision 3/CMA.2, as well as the need for its extension.⁷

C. Scope of the report

6. This report synthesizes the views submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders in response to the invitation referred to in paragraph 2 above. Chapter II.A–B below is structured in accordance with the review elements referred to in paragraph 5 above, while chapter II.C below provides information on other aspects covered in the submissions.
7. Submissions were received from the following Parties: Armenia; Belgium and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; Mexico; Panama; the State of Palestine; the United States of America; and Zambia on behalf of the African Group. Submissions were also received from non-Party stakeholders such as Avina Foundation; the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility; the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection; and the World Meteorological Organization.

D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

8. The COP and the CMA may wish to consider the views reflected herein in the second review of the PCCB.

¹ Decision 9/CP.25, paras. 12–13.

² Decision 12/CP.28, para. 2. The terms of reference are contained in the annex to that decision.

³ Decision 12/CP.28, paras. 3–4.

⁴ Decision 12/CP.28, para. 7.

⁵ Decision 16/CMA.5, para. 1.

⁶ Decisions 12/CP.28, para. 5, and 16/CMA.5, para. 6.

⁷ Decision 12/CP.28, annex, para. 5.

II. Synthesis of views

A. Progress of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building in achieving its overall aim and addressing its priority areas and activities

9. All submissions noted that the PCCB has made considerable progress in undertaking its work, with many highlighting the progress in aligning its activities with its three priority areas, determined in the first review of the PCCB: enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building with a focus on avoiding duplication of efforts; identifying capacity gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and recommending ways to address them; and promoting awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing and stakeholder engagement.

10. One submission noted the establishment by the PCCB of four working groups to support implementation of its workplan in different focus areas: (1) coherence and coordination of capacity-building, (2) cross-cutting issues, such as gender-responsiveness, human rights and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, (3) awareness-raising, communications and stakeholder engagement and (4) identifying capacity gaps and needs.

11. Another submission underlined the significant progress of the PCCB in fulfilling its mandate and implementing its workplan, notably its continued technical focus on capacity-building in a broad range of areas, resulting in, inter alia, the publication of the *PCCB toolkit to assess capacity building gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement*⁸ and its translation into Arabic, French and Spanish; the establishment of the informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement; the launch of the PCCB Network, a platform for networking and exchanging good practices in relation to capacity-building; and the publication of six e-booklets, prepared by the informal coordination group, showcasing capacity-building resources of bodies, entities and processes represented in the group.

12. Another submission noted that the PCCB has contributed significantly to work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, highlighting that it has undertaken many of its activities with limited resources. In this context, the need to allocate to the PCCB the resources necessary for implementing its workplan and thus assisting developing countries in reaching their climate-related goals was emphasized, especially given the gaps still faced by developing countries in relation to capacity-building.

13. The effectiveness of the monitoring and evaluation framework⁹ developed by the PCCB in 2022, which connects the mandate of the PCCB with the results of its work, was also highlighted.

14. Several submissions provided suggestions for how the PCCB could enhance progress towards its overall aim and priority areas and activities, including:

(a) Ensuring the local and national ownership of capacity-building efforts in developing countries;

(b) Increasing its focus on poverty eradication and sustainable development in undertaking its activities;

(c) Ensuring that capacity-building events are held in a wide range of geographical regions to ensure participatory representativeness;

(d) Enhancing collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders so as to maximize the impact of capacity-building activities;

⁸ PCCB. 2022. *PCCB toolkit to assess capacity building gaps and needs to implement the Paris Agreement*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/paris-committee-on-capacity-building-pccb/areas-of-work/capacity-building-portal/pccb-toolkit-to-assess-capacity-gaps-and-needs-to-implement-the-paris-agreement>.

⁹ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PCCB_MEFramework_Aug2022.pdf.

- (e) Promoting use of the capacity-building portal¹⁰ and supporting its continuous improvement, including by regularly updating related tools, manuals, training materials, e-learning courses and case studies;
- (f) Facilitating developing countries' access to mechanisms for financing capacity-building and awareness-raising activities;
- (g) Developing a tool to guide reporting on capacity-building efforts at the national and subnational level with a view to facilitating coordination of activities;
- (h) Considering the topic of loss and damage as an annual focus area of the PCCB, covering cross-cutting issues such as gender mainstreaming, human rights, Indigenous knowledge, youth and Action for Climate Empowerment as well as activities focusing on the development of skills in green and circular economy, just transition and decarbonization, specialized technical training, innovation and technological development;
- (i) Matching the capacity-building needs of developing countries, as identified in their biennial transparency reports, with support;
- (j) Recognizing the important role of Indigenous Peoples as stewards of nature, with a deep understanding and appreciation of the integrity of all ecosystems, one submission calls for enhanced involvement of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making processes related to ecosystem management and nature stewardship. This includes collaboration under the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform;
- (k) Promoting knowledge-sharing and best practices in identifying and approaching international funding organizations that can provide resources and technical support for capacity-building;
- (l) Communicating the outcomes of the work of the PCCB in a timely manner through the capacity-building portal and the PCCB Network.

B. Need for extension of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

15. All submissions emphasized the need to retain and strengthen the PCCB as a UNFCCC constituted body, with one noting that the PCCB is vital for catalysing action to address capacity-building priorities under the Convention and thereby enabling developing countries to increase their ambition towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. Another submission also emphasized the key role of the PCCB in identifying and addressing capacity gaps related to implementing the Paris Agreement, especially through its work on enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building, noting that the provision of capacity-building and technical support to vulnerable developing countries is crucial in this regard.

16. The important role of the PCCB in identifying capacity-building activities needed in the context of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries established under decision 2/CP.7 was highlighted. Another submission underlined the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building and thus the continued important role of the PCCB in minimizing fragmentation, avoiding duplication and reducing complexity in relation to capacity-building efforts. It was suggested that the priority areas of the PCCB be updated to reflect capacity-building efforts under the Paris Agreement.

17. Two recommendations on the extension of the PCCB were made in the submissions, namely that it should be extended for:

- (a) Five years, with a review of its progress and need for extension to take place at COP 35;
- (b) Four or more years.

¹⁰ Available at <https://unfccc.int/cbportal>.

C. Other aspects

18. In one submission, the outcomes of the first global stocktake were welcomed, in particular the request to the PCCB to identify, in coordination with Parties, other constituted bodies and programmes and other stakeholders, current activities for enhancing the capacity of developing countries to prepare and implement nationally determined contributions; and the encouragement for the PCCB to consider new capacity-building activities, including those related to adaptation, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, in deciding on its future annual focus areas.¹¹

19. Some submissions contained suggestions for possible areas of technical and capacity-building support under the PCCB for facilitating effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, including addressing the outcomes of the first global stocktake, namely support provided to developing countries for:

(a) Preparing and implementing national adaptation plans, policies and planning processes by 2025 and progressing in implementing them by 2030,¹² given the complexity of cascading climate change risks, the addressing of which requires knowledge-sharing and international cooperation;

(b) Preparing nationally determined contributions for communication in the first quarter of 2025;

(c) Identifying capacity-building challenges and gaps for inclusion in biennial transparency reports.

20. One submission recommended that the initial monitoring and evaluation framework developed by the PCCB be revised in line with its new workplan for 2025–2030, with the framework’s key performance indicators adjusted accordingly.

21. Another submission highlighted the importance of the PCCB including the information provided in reports on the outcomes of the regional events organized by it in its annual technical progress reports so as to facilitate comparability of that information over time.

22. In the context of improving international cooperation and knowledge-sharing, it was recommended that the PCCB:

(a) Strengthen its networks and communities of practice to facilitate exchange of lessons learned, experience and resources among experts, capacity-building practitioners, organizations and local communities;

(b) Facilitate networking and exchange of experience and knowledge among countries, organizations and experts through regional- and local-level capacity-building events, such as conferences, workshops and seminars;

(c) Organize exchange programmes under which professionals and officials from different countries and organizations can work on climate-related projects and programmes in other countries and organizations to facilitate collaboration and mutual learning.

23. In one submission it was suggested that the PCCB, like the other constituted bodies, should have resources dedicated to it in the UNFCCC core budget for implementing its work.

¹¹ Decision 1/CMA.5, paras. 117 and 119.

¹² In accordance with decision 1/CMA.5, para. 59.