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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 review of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and on enhancing existing institutional arrangements for capacity-building under the Convention

Compilation and synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This document synthesizes the information provided by Parties and observers on the review of the progress, need for extension, effectiveness and enhancement of the PCCB and on enhancing existing institutional arrangements for capacity-building under the Convention. It has been prepared to inform SBI 50 in accordance with the conclusions of SBI 49 contained in FCCC/SBI/2018/22, paragraphs 80–83.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

COP	Conference of the Parties
EU	European Union
LDC	least developed country
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. As requested at COP 24, SBI 49 initiated work on the review of the progress, need for extension, effectiveness and enhancement of the PCCB with a view to the SBI recommending a draft decision on enhancing institutional arrangements for capacity-building for consideration and adoption at COP 25 (December 2019), taking into account Article 11, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 81.¹
2. The SBI invited Parties and observers to submit their views on the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above via the submission portal, by 31 March 2019, for consideration at SBI 50.²
3. The SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation and synthesis of the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above for consideration at SBI 50.³

B. Submissions received

4. The following Parties made submissions on the review of the progress, need for extension, effectiveness and enhancement of the PCCB: Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Romania and the European Commission on behalf of the EU and its member States,⁴ Bhutan on behalf of the LDCs, Egypt on behalf of the African Group, and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability as an admitted observer organization.

II. Synthesis of information submitted

5. This chapter synthesizes the information submitted by Parties and observers on the matters referred to in paragraph 1 above.

A. Review of progress of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

6. Australia, Japan and New Zealand see the benefit of taking a structured approach to reviewing the progress of the PCCB, taking into account issues such as:
 - (a) Progress towards implementing its workplan in line with its mandate;
 - (b) Effectiveness of activities undertaken so far;
 - (c) Duplication and complementarity with bodies under and outside the Convention;
 - (d) Use of information communicated by Parties in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, including in the light of the Katowice climate package.
7. Several developed and developing country Parties recognize that the PCCB has begun to play a role in addressing the need for synergies and collaboration among the constituted bodies and other actors and processes under the Convention, and in considering how to leverage the valuable roles played by various actors outside the Convention in supporting capacity-building and how to share capacity-building knowledge.
8. The African Group appreciates the collaboration between the PCCB and non-Party stakeholders, including through the capacity-building hub and the use of social media tools to facilitate information-sharing.

¹ FCCC/SBI/2018/22, para. 80.

² FCCC/SBI/2018/22, para. 81.

³ FCCC/SBI/2018/22, para. 83.

⁴ This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia.

9. On behalf of the LDCs, Bhutan notes that the PCCB has made significant progress in addressing gaps and needs, both current and emerging, and has ensured that elements of Article 11 of the Paris Agreement and provisions of decision 1/CP.21⁵ are anchored in its rolling workplan. The strategies put in place to enhance the implementation of the rolling workplan are essential and will help the PCCB to support developing country Parties in building their capacities and increasing their ambition to meet the objectives and goals of the Paris Agreement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability recognizes that the PCCB has been playing an important role in maintaining up-to-date knowledge on the successes and challenges of effectively building capacity in the context of multi-level governance.

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

11. Developed country Parties on behalf of the EU recognize that the PCCB has had limited time to fulfil its mandate. Further analysis of the current situation and framework is needed before a decision can be taken on whether, and under what conditions, the mandate of the PCCB can be extended. The review will provide recommendations on the value of a possible extension.

12. Australia, Japan and New Zealand hold the view that an extension should be based on a well-prioritized, results-oriented and feasible workplan that clearly reflects where the PCCB can make the most valuable contribution and ensure effectiveness of this work.

13. The African Group considers that the term of the PCCB should be at least five years to enable the implementation of capacity-building activities.

14. The LDCs strongly believes that the PCCB is an essential constituted body that should continue to catalyse a broad range of actions to address the priorities identified in the capacity-building framework under the Convention. It supports the extension of the mandate of the PCCB to facilitate the implementation of the new transparency requirements and any other obligations under the Paris Agreement.

15. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability proposes that the mandate of the PCCB be extended beyond 2020 with a view to addressing the current and emerging gaps and needs in implementing capacity-building activities at the national, subnational and local level.

C. Effectiveness and enhancement of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

16. Several developed and developing country Parties recognize that the PCCB has been effective in establishing a basis for enhanced coordination with other relevant bodies, actors and processes under the Convention; initiating engagement with non-Party stakeholders; and collating and disseminating information on best practices relating to capacity-building. These Parties are also encouraged by the work of the PCCB on addressing capacity-building gaps and needs.

17. The LDCs highlight the capacity-building portal⁶ as a valuable tool for disseminating information needed by developing country Parties to successfully implement climate change actions. It also recognizes that the achievements of the PCCB have been reached with limited resources.

18. The LDCs support any action taken by Parties to increase the budgetary allocation to, and financial resources available for, the PCCB so that it can carry out its work diligently, efficiently and effectively. The LDCs strongly believe that the PCCB should have its own budget within the UNFCCC budget, similar to other constituted bodies under the Convention, to implement its rolling workplan. The African Group also highlights the urgent need to provide adequate support to the PCCB to implement its workplan.

⁵ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, para. 73.

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/capacitybuilding/activities.html>.

19. Australia, Japan and New Zealand note the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building under the Convention and point out that numerous activities and areas of expertise fall outside the mandate of the PCCB. These include capacity-building activities under the Adaptation Committee, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, the Consultative Group of Experts, the Standing Committee on Finance, the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Work must be coordinated and streamlined to promote complementarity and avoid duplication.

20. Developing country Parties stress that special consideration should be given to institutional strengthening and capacity-building at the local level to enable the exploration of alternative ways to enhance access to climate finance supporting effective adaptation and resilience to climate change actions. The future work of the PCCB in relation to issues such as finance and adaptation must be in conformity and coordination with the Standing Committee on Finance and the Adaptation Committee.

21. The EU recognizes that a body with a strategic function to support the various actors under and outside the Convention that help to build capacity in relation to the different types of capacity-building needs and the processes agreed to by Parties under the Convention and the Paris Agreement is best placed to enhance capacity-building.

22. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability submitted a comprehensive report of the most significant activities carried out jointly with the PCCB. It highlighted the implementation of decision 2/CP.22, which established that the PCCB may engage with and draw upon expertise from relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside the Convention, including at the intergovernmental, regional, national and subnational level, where appropriate.⁷

D. Other matters

23. Some of the submissions received included views on issues other than the review of the PCCB, such as the fourth review of the capacity-building framework for developing countries and the 8th Durban Forum on capacity-building, as highlighted in paragraphs 25 and 26 below.

24. Taking note of exchanges between Parties and the secretariat at SBI 49, Australia, Japan and New Zealand understand that the SBI is due to proceed with discussions on the fourth comprehensive review of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries. In this regard, they suggest that the generic of terms of reference for past reviews be used as a general reference, as appropriate, and that nationally determined contributions could be considered as a relevant national report.

25. Australia, Japan and New Zealand welcome the productive discussions held during the Durban Forum, particularly on the various aspects of capacity-building for nationally determined contributions. They suggest that the following matters be discussed at the 8th Durban Forum:

(a) Enhancement of peer-to-peer learning among countries to promote the exchange of information and experiences, and strengthen ownership;

(b) Development of a network on capacity-building with non-Party stakeholders, including those from civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, and cities and other subnational authorities;

(c) Intensification of efforts to share information and build best practices on the evaluation and impact of capacity-building so as to maximize its effectiveness.

⁷ FCCC/CP/2016/10/Add.1, annex, para. 15.