



**Review of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building
Submission by the World Resources Institute (WRI)
October 2019**

At its 50th session, the SBI invited Parties and observers to submit their views on the review of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), taking into consideration the agreed terms of reference (FCCC/SBI/2019/L.15). Decision 1/CP.21 (2015) mandated the Conference of the Parties to review the progress, need for extension, effectiveness and enhancements of the PCCB at its 25th session (December 2019).

The World Resources Institute (WRI) is pleased to share its views in response to this invitation for submissions. This submission is based on WRI's experiences in engaging with the PCCB, Parties, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes, and other stakeholders,¹ and various publications on capacity building under the UNFCCC.² This submission focuses on the **need for extension and enhancements** of the PCCB by focusing on the elements where continued engagement of the PCCB could add value and support the overall fulfillment of the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This submission contemplates three distinct areas where further capacity building efforts are needed and where the PCCB, as a constituted body under the UNFCCC dedicated to capacity building, can play a critical role.

1. Advancing understanding and evaluation of capacity building and capacity building efforts.

The Paris Agreement calls for capacity building to be guided by lessons learned and done in an effective, iterative, participatory, cross-cutting, and gender-responsive process (Article 11.2). In this context, and as sustainable capacity building and mobilization is critical for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its associated guidelines, it is essential to advance the understanding of capacity building and the effectiveness of capacity building efforts.

However, Parties are still struggling to regularly track and evaluate their capacity-building activities. This was mainly due to lack of agreed indicators, metrics and tools to assess progress, identify gaps, and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation in a consistent manner and the lack of resources to support such regular comprehensive reviews (Dagnet et al. 2015). The Eighth Durban Forum (held in June 2019) began discussion on this topic with a breakout session on “best practices and available tools or methodologies for assessing the impact and effectiveness of capacity-building activities.”³

In order to facilitate and foster the improvement of the monitoring of capacity building efforts, the PCCB could consider developing a periodic assessment report on capacity building. Such a report could potentially consider

¹ WRI has engaged with the PCCB over the last two years. WRI participated in events held during the PCCB's Capacity Building Hub at COP24, attended the third meeting of the PCCB in June 2019, and will participate in events during the Capacity Building Hub at COP25.

² In particular, this submission builds off research and ideas first expressed in the following publications:

Dagnet, Y., E. Northrop, and D. Tirpak. 2015. “[How to Strengthen the Institutional Architecture for Capacity Building to Support the Post-2020 Climate Regime](#).” Working Paper. World Resources Institute.

Dagnet, Y., N. Cogswell, N. Bird, M. Bouyé, and M. Rocha. 2019. “[Building Capacity for the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework: What Can We Learn from Countries' Experiences and UNFCCC Processes?](#)” Working Paper. Washington, DC: Project for Advancing Climate Transparency (PACT).

³ The report back from the breakout session is available on the UNFCCC website ([link](#)).



methodological issues for measurement, reporting and verification of capacity building, a review of progress made in enhancing capacity building during an implementation period, and an assessment of countries' challenges and limitations to build capacity, including expected needs for forthcoming efforts. Further analyses could explore efforts at the national, subnational, and/or local levels and explore the impacts on various stakeholders.

This periodic assessment report could be similar to the Biennial Assessment produced by the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), and even serve as a valuable resource and input to the SCF's Biennial Assessment, if produced every two years in a timely fashion, and as an input to the global stocktake (which will occur every five years).

Such a report could hold all stakeholders involved accountable, by identifying ways to monitor and improve their performance, facilitate better decision making for shorter- and longer-term policies and national low carbon development strategies, and provide a clearer overview that could facilitate the matching of the supply (resources available) with the demand (need for capacity building) (Dagnet et al. 2015).

2. Mobilizing key stakeholders and strengthening synergies with other constituted bodies.

The Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB) has been created to support developing countries to design and implement consistent, coherent, effective, and sustainable climate-related capacity-building efforts. In addition, as mandated, the PCCB has strived to foster collaboration among actors at all levels, and provides a space to share best practices, promote knowledge-sharing, and mobilize key stakeholders. While the PCCB has notably accomplished much of what is detailed in its 2017-2019 workplan, there is room for further enhancement of the body's role to strengthen local, regional, and global collaboration on capacity-building activities.

2.1. Mobilizing key stakeholders

The continuation of PCCB's mandate is a compelling opportunity to go even further beyond the confines of Convention processes and enhance coherence and coordination across levels, areas and sectors. The body's Strategic Plan for Stakeholder Engagement, Communications, and Resource Mobilization (hereafter "strategic engagement plan") builds on the principles of capacity-building and acknowledges the critical need for engagement on the regional, national, subnational, and local level. The recent technical paper on "Coherence and coordination of capacity-building activities of constituted bodies and in other relevant processes under the Convention" further underscores the importance of strengthening communication among stakeholders, including other constituted bodies, operating entities, and relevant processes. In addition, the PCCB's participation at the regional Climate Weeks reinforces the body's involvement in bringing together regional champions to build capacity for localized climate action.

The Durban Forum allows stakeholders to explore ways to work together in a more coordinated way to implement capacity-building activities and monitor their effectiveness in developing countries. The Forum also provides a helpful platform for more localized engagement. Actors participate in dialogues that build upon the efforts of experts on the ground and further expand networks and synergies with both Party and non-Party stakeholders.



Strategic collaboration with multi-stakeholder networks on a subnational level, particularly with regional knowledge producers such as academic and research institutions and with local communities, can further increase the effectiveness and efficiency of PCCB's work. This will continue to make the Capacity-Building Hub, and subsequently the Capacity-Building Day, an important avenue to disseminate information, exchange ideas, and share experiences on capacity-building activities. Furthermore, the launch of a "PCCB Network" at COP25 will strengthen proactive multi-stakeholder partnership in capacity-building activities.

2.2 Strengthening synergies with UNFCCC and non-UNFCCC bodies

While the PCCB has been specifically established and mandated to enhance capacity building under the Paris Agreement, it is important to note that there are more than a dozen of thematic constituted UNFCCC bodies and financial entities involved directly or indirectly in capacity building. The PCCB has begun engaging various constituted bodies and the operating entities of the financial mechanism. During the Third PCCB Meeting in June 2019, the PCCB held a dialogue with a number of constituted bodies, including the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) process, the Adaptation Committee (AC), the Adaptation Fund Board, the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, Global Environmental Facility (GEF) secretariat, Green Climate Fund (GCF) secretariat, Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), the Technology Executive Committee and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage..

Expanding and strengthening the PCCB's networks and synergies will allow the body to work more comprehensively on its mandate with the bodies mentioned above, but also on cross-cutting issues, such as integrating gender and indigenous people considerations, as well as human rights into climate action. By strengthening collaborations with relevant organizations and bolstering its participation in the ACE process and the Indigenous People Platform, the PCCB can continue to advance its work on providing gender-responsive, participatory, and inclusive analysis on the needs and gaps in climate-related capacity building, as well as produce accessible and effective knowledge-sharing products on integrating gender considerations into climate action. This would increase the visibility of gender mainstreaming in capacity-building activities and build on previous technical workshops and webinars on gender capacity-building.

Furthermore, as shown in previous technical workshops, continued partnerships between the PCCB and other UN agencies, such as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), provides more opportunities to determine the capacity-building gaps and needs in the interlinkages between human rights and climate change. Topics such as just transition, indigenous peoples' rights, and integrating human rights into NDCs can be further studied, and outcomes from these dialogues can be used to better inform the work of the Convention, as well as empower communities to contribute to policymaking activities, facilitate effective public participation processes, promote the achievement of other social objectives, and increase public support for climate policies.

Finally, the enhancement of the PCCB's engagement with other bodies both internal and external to the Convention can strengthen the relationship between achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement and fulfilling



the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The economic, environmental, and social dimensions of the SDGs are aligned with the PCCB's mandate to identify capacity gaps and needs related to the implementation of the NDCs, strengthen capacity at the subnational level, and build capacity to integrate gender and human rights into climate action. The extension of the PCCB's mandate is an opportunity to further strengthen the synergy between climate action and SDGs, as well as to develop more effective, efficient, and localized solutions.

3. Enhancing the Capacity Building Portal.

Decision 1/CP.21 mandated the PCCB to provide “guidance to the secretariat on the maintenance and further development” of the capacity building portal. As such, the Portal has been a critical component of the PCCB's work, including through the PCCB's working group on awareness-raising, communications and stakeholder engagement. The value of the Portal is well recognized in its centrality to the PCCB's strategic engagement plan. The PCCB can be instrumental in continuing to improve the Portal, given its value and potential.

The Portal is currently a useful tool for exploring the types of capacity-building projects that are or have taken place in various countries. However, the Portal does not provide references to other tools that may be useful to Parties. For example, the NDC Partnership maintains a Climate Finance Explorer ([link](#)) which may be a useful resource for Parties to explore potential resources for capacity building activities. The NDC Partnership's Climate Toolbox ([link](#)) also offers resources for assessing needs and capacities, which includes links to WRI's Climate Watch ([link](#)), Resources Watch ([link](#)), as well as the more recent 2020 NDC trackers ([link](#)) and a tracker on long-term strategies ([LTS](#)). Other organizations and website offer useful tools and resources, e.g., the Council on Energy, Environment and Water's (CEEW) recent capacity building assessment matrix ([link](#)). The PCCB may explore opportunities to use the Portal as a resource for collecting and distributing useful capacity building tools, resources, and materials. Indeed, building off the strategic engagement plan, the Portal can help the PCCB promote the “development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity building” to stakeholders, as outlined in decision 1/CP.21, para. 73(c).

CONCLUSION

Discussion around the effectiveness of capacity building efforts is growing, as Parties and stakeholders seek to understand the most effective and efficient opportunities to deliver capacity-building interventions. The exploration and development of capacity-building program evaluations reflects a need to identify, develop, and properly use indicators, tools and synergies with other relevant bodies for capacity building. As countries are preparing and enhancing their NDCs, experiences are being built and tools are being developed, both of which can be leveraged to inform the design of methodologies, tools and better synergy among key stakeholders. Spaces already created under the UNFCCC (e.g. the Durban Forum or the Capacity Building Hub) should be used to best practices. Since its creation, the PCCB has aimed to pave the way to make this happen with limited resources. But it needs more time to achieve the capacity building objectives of the Paris Agreement. Parties need to consider how best to equip the PCCB to fulfill its extended mandate, as effectively and efficiently as possible.