

EVENT REPORT

2nd Capacity Building day at COP24-Katowice, Poland

Strengthening national capacity to implement low emission and climate resilient development strategies

11th December 2018, PCCB Capacity-building Hub



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I-Background

The current countries pledge to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 1.5°C might not be enough. Indeed, to meet the Paris Agreement goals the countries will have to commit to a higher level of climate mitigation and adaptation and follow through with their commitments. Additionally, the countries also agreed to assess by 2023 the effectiveness of climate change actions, and the Katowice rulebook also aims to enhance the system for counting the greenhouse gas emission with the provision allowing a developing country to explain why they cannot meet their target and present their plan to improve their capacity in that area. This provision takes directly into account the gaps in terms of capabilities and resources existing among the various countries.

To ensure that all countries will be indeed able to revise their Nationally Determined Contribution and realize them, they all need to have adequate capacities and resources to do so. Access to climate finance and developing climate action capacities are especially high on the agenda of developing countries already coping with challenges related to their social and economic development and with climate change slowing the progress made and exacerbating the problems. These countries are also those most affected by climate change impacts. However, this does not mean that developed countries don't need to increase their "climate change capacities", as they will also experience more and more disasters linked to climate change in the upcoming years. Therefore, the question of capacity building for climate change is of primordial importance for developing countries as well as developed ones. Capacity building should be the focal point for all climate actions, whether they concern mitigation, adaptation or the emerging area of loss and damage.

Although there might not be a simple definition of what capacity building is fully encompassing, the article 11 of the Paris Agreement provide some guidelines on how capacity building actions and activity should be designed: long-term, developing in-country capacities, country-driven, cross-cutting and iterative in their process. The main goal is to enable countries to reduce their greenhouse gases emissions, adapt to climate change, take an active and informed part in climate negotiations as well as raise public awareness on the issue. It is a vast area of work where more still needs to be done, and that depends significantly on a case to case approach to understanding specific context and need of each recipient community, country and region.

Testifying of the growing importance that capacity building is taking in the area of climate negotiation, the COP 22 create a specific body dedicated to this question: the Paris Committee on Capacity Building. The mandate of this new body is to help determine the current and emerging needs and gaps for capacity building and to ensure the coherence of undertaken

action in that area under the UNFCCC. It is also managing the capacity-building work plan until 2020 and develop policy recommendation for climate capacity-building.

II-Objectives and Sessions

At the recent COP24, a special Hub was dedicated to the capacity building question and managed by the PCCB, with more than 35 events among which the day long Capacity-Building event. As such the Capacity-Building Day has full endorsement from the PCCB and is part of the Committee's activities for 2017-2019 work plan.

The purpose of this long day event was to stimulate a constructive discussion around the need for capacity building in four crucial areas for climate change and countries, as well as identify best practices, learn from each other experiences, network and identify the next steps to be undertaken. The format of a day-long event steamed from the realization that there is a need to have more discussion and more time for discussing capacity-building, as highlighted by the recommendation of the 7th Durban Forum held in May 2018. As such, the 2nd Capacity Building day followed the steps of the first successful edition of the event at the COP 23 in Bonn, Germany, and reunited a large community of practitioners, policymakers, researchers and other COP participants, from all around the world.

Having a specific day dedicated entirely to the question and discussion around the state of capacity building for climate change will help scale up and replicate the successful and long-lasting initiative in this area. Additionally, the event helps to enhance the global state of knowledge on capacity building for practitioners and negotiators in the context of the UNFCCC framework.

Sessions

This year event overall focus was the strengthening of nationals' capacities for the implementation of the nationally determined contributions. Indeed, it is crucial for all countries to dispose of the required capacities to transition towards a low emissions society and be able to formulate effective climate resilient strategies. Moreover, transitioning towards a new model of society needed to reduce carbon emissions depends on the unique set of circumstances of each country and need to have a strong "justice" component. Additionally, the transition to low carbon economies poses the question of adequate finance for preparing countries to make the change and call to increase their capacity building to access dedicated finance and improve transparency, especially in case of developing countries. Addressing these questions, this year event was organized around four sessions.

The first session focused on “just transition” and aimed at exploring the capacity building for climate change in the context of workers and more specifically trade Unions. Indeed, the question of transition will have a direct impact not only on the fossil fuel industry but also on a wide variety of other activities that contribute directly to the greenhouse gas emission, and therefore impact the workers directly in those fields. The transition to a new model of society must ensure the social rights of all workers and their communities as well as raise their capacity building to move towards green jobs. As such the “transition” must encompass the idea of a more just and equal society as well. Finally, each country will have a different type and unique energy transition. Representing all those situations, the first session brought together representatives working with workers Union on just-transition in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe to share their experience, findings and case studies.

The second session aimed to explore the specific need for capacity building in the context of cities. Indeed, the current urban growth projection predicts that by 2050 more 68% of the population will be living in an urban setting¹. Moreover, cities contribution to greenhouse gas emissions will also increase. As such, the primary source of greenhouse gases in the urban environment are related to fossil fuel consumption for transport (23% of GHG emissions in the world), electricity generation, heating etc. Additionally, the increase in urban population will put a strain on currently existing cities infrastructures (such as water supply, roads, green areas etc.) which combine with climate change effects put them even more at risk of not being able to meet the needs of citizens they were built up to serve. Therefore, new infrastructure must be developed not only because of the growing population but also to be more climate resilient. Illustrating the link and activities for capacities building in the context of cities, local government and communities, the session gathered experts working on those topics.

The third session raised questions of climate finance and capacity building. The idea was not only to see what financial aid is and was given to climate capacity building, especially for developing countries, but what are the needs to enable those countries to be able to access the existing financial resources for climate actions. Indeed, we are assisting today of an expansion of international climate finance, with developed countries pledging to set an additional climate finance resources for the period after 2025 and going beyond the announced \$100 billion per year starting in 2020. However, a country needs to be able to understand what the various financial opportunities are (private/public), the architecture of the climate finance and secondly poses the capacities for the different aspects of climate finance such as investment planning, climate budgeting, sustainable project design etc. The session gathered representant from the

¹ “2018 Revision of the World Urbanization Prospects”, published by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

Green Climate Fund, practitioners working on access to climate finance in developing countries, representant from future nationally accredited implementing entities and others.

Finally, the fourth session addressed the question of capacity building for climate transparency. The issue of transparency was high on the agenda of the COP 24, and the Paris Agreement Rulebook aims to strengthen a transparency mechanism to foster the trust among the countries for climate actions and support. Since the Paris Agreement does not contain any binding obligations for results, article 13 on the transparency framework is the main mechanism allowing states to be held accountable for their NDC commitments. Indeed, the article created several review mechanisms that aim to track the progress of countries towards the achievement of their NDCs and encourages developing countries to share information about the support they need and received in terms of capacity building and finance. As such the last session gathered a wide range of practitioners involved in transparency for climate change.

Official webpage of the event: <http://www.icccad.net/event/capacity-building-day-cop24/>

III-Organizers and Sponsors

The event was organized jointly by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Paris Committee for Capacity Building, and lead by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and overseen by a Planning Committee whose members include academics, UN staff, negotiators, development practitioners and researchers.

The event also received the kind support from the World Resources Institute and from The United Kingdom government.

IV-3rd Capacity Building day

The third edition of the Capacity Building day will take place at COP 25, Santiago, Chile. For further information you may kindly contact Dr. Saleemul Huq: saleemul.huq@iied.org.

V-Proceedings

Opening Session

Dr. Saleemul Huq officially opened the 2nd Capacity Building day by welcoming all the presenters and participants of the event. The engagement of all stakeholder plays a crucial role in increasing the collaboration and dissemination of information on capacity building for climate change in a manner that reaches the most vulnerable peoples and communities.

The opening session took the format of a series of short interviews that will be make available on various social media, increasing visibility of the event and the topic of capacity building. As highlighted by **Lynn Ruder**, we today in the 21th century are in the age of technology, therefore we need to take advantage of this and use all the available technologies to disseminate information, particularly knowledge on capacity building for climate change. Secondly, the format allows to give the Paris Committee for Capacity Building a more interactive format, especially reaching out to younger generation who engage readily with new technologies, information and communication. Indeed, it is important to improve the capacities of younger people and students to help them improve their life and to empower them in their professional life to make good choices regarding climate action.

Ms. Rita Mishann, proceeded by emphasizing the need to work more on making people understand not only what climate change is but also what capacity building entails. She continued by saying that we need to explain what Paris agreement and how the 1.5°C world will affect the planet. We need to simplify the explanation of what is climate change, how the UNFCCC works and what is the PCCCB.

As such the 2nd Capacity Building day brought capacity building for climate change closer to the individuals and practitioners across all areas and developed among them a collaborative spirit to boost the question of capacity building on all levels.

Session 1: Just Transition

Host: The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Moderator: Bert De Wel, Climate Policy Officer, ITUC

Panelist:

- Ms. Rhoda Boateng, Program Coordinator Labor Rights, Climate Justice and Youth Empowerment, ITUC Africa, Togo
- Ms. Massiel Figuero, Confederacion Nacional de Unidad Sindial CNUS, Dominican Republic
- Ms. Ema Liliefna, Equality Commission of Confederation of Indonesia Prosperity Trade Union (KSBSI), Indonesia

- Ms. Manuela Matthes, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Germany

During COP24, on the 3 December 2018, the Polish Presidency took the initiative to present and adopt the “Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration”, which was signed by 53 countries and the European Commissions. The idea is to ensure that the countries will take seriously the impact of the climate change and climate policies on workers, families and communities.

This initiative follows the emergence in the recent years of the “Just Transition” subject in the international arena of climate negotiations. However, despite the growing interest in this problematic area, there is still a large amount of work to be done to raise the understanding and capacity building of the public and workers on “Just Transition”. As explained in the introduction to the session by **Mr. Bert De Wel**, speaking about a “Just Transition” requires thinking about how a society is supporting the change towards a low-carbon economy. Indeed, justice is an element that needs to be taken in consideration when speaking about a societal change, to ensure the changes are just for all. Thus, it is important to guarantee that the voices of labor Unions are present and heard in the climate change negotiation and policy making. To achieve a just transition there is a need for a social dialogue between all the stakeholders (workers, union, private sector and government).

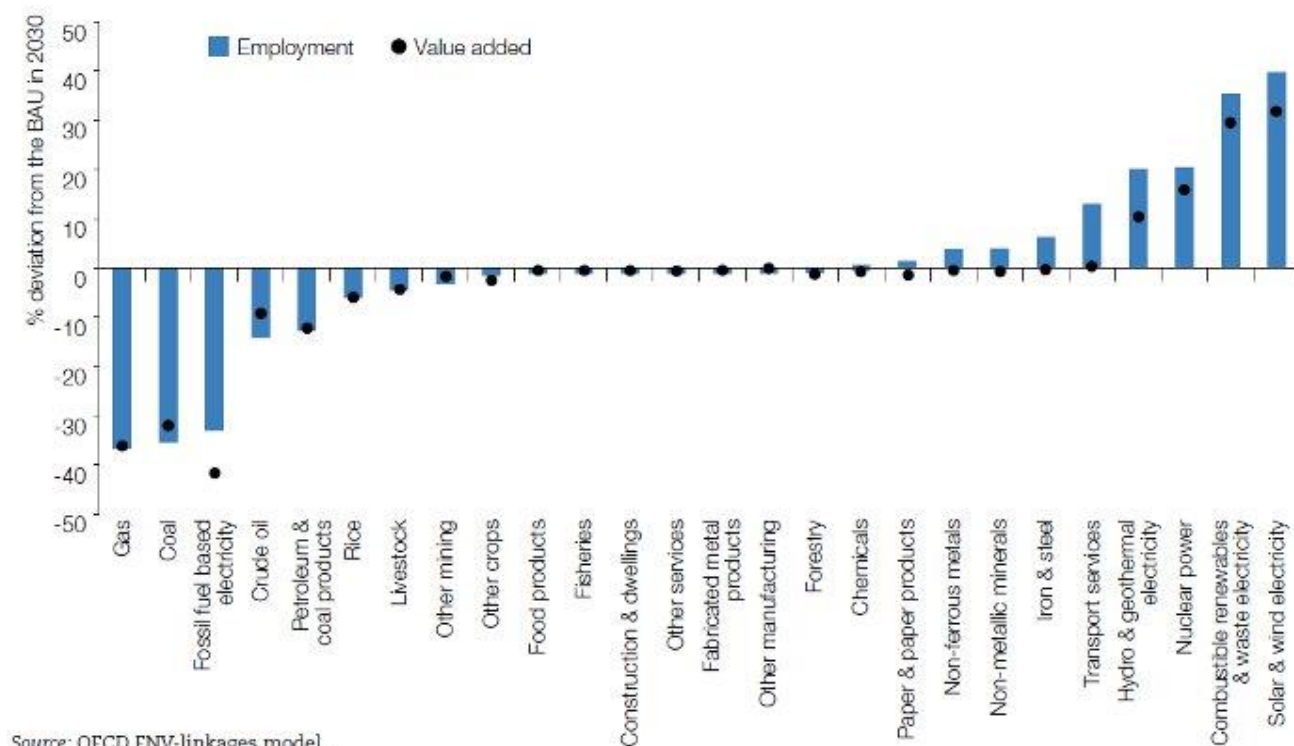


Figure 1: Sectoral changes in employment with ambitious climate change mitigation policies, OECD countries
In % deviation from the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario in 2030².

² Château, J., A. Saint-Martin and T. Manfredi (2011), “Employment Impacts of Climate Change Mitigation Policies in OECD: A General-Equilibrium Perspective”, OECD Environment Working Papers, No. 32, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Ms. Rhoda Boateng, presented a regional example of capacity building for “just transition” in Africa. She started by stressing that despite the African continent contributing only by 3% to the global climate emission, it is one of the most vulnerable to climate change impacts. She explained that the first step in her work was establishing the link between jobs and climate change. She shared an example of the tourism sector which represents an important economic activity, especially in the South and Eastern Africa (region with several natural conservation parks and wildlife). The tourism sector does contribute to carbon emissions. However, is also one of the most impacted by climate change effects, that can be directly translated into loss of money and jobs. She continued by explaining that being able to make this link between jobs and climate change, allowed the ITUC to raise the issue of climate change and just transition higher on trade Union’s agendas and start capacity building work. This also resulted in the adoption of a resolution by the African Trade Union, in which they establish climate change as a labor issue.

Ms. Rodha Boateng explained further that capacity building for African Trade Union means ensuring that they gain knowledge and understanding of climate change: how their work contributes to climate change but also how their work can help fight climate change. How was it achieved?

- Sensitization activities
- Capacity building activities on the sub regional level
- Conducting socio- economic analysis at the sub regional level to understand the need of various sectors, how they are affected by climate change and define the Trade Union strategy to influence policy-makers.

Indeed, the African region can present a lot of similarities as well as many individual traits.

The ITUC regional office carried out several regional trainings with the idea that those who attended would become a trainer in their respective country and conduct training sessions for the various sectors of economy. This approach showed positive results (e.g. in Kenya), where after several trainings conducted in different sectors (agriculture, hospital etc.) the trained persons had a better understanding and consciousness of the risks that represents climate change and actions they can take at their individual level to contribute in the fight against it. These types of trainings are targeting directly individuals at all level in the different workplace organization. Workers are then empowered to understand how their activities can contribute to climate change and can come together to find new solutions to stop it. Another way they are building capacities for climate change is by integrating a climate change component across all their programs. By establishing linkage between various issues and climate change, to so far where thought to be distinct, you enable people to incorporate climate change in their field of activities. One such example is the conference conducted in Benin on the link between social protection and climate change, this allowed the participants to understand how social protection a tool for climate change adaptation can be.

Questions from the audience: *In Africa, the informal sector is also vital to the economy. From the Trade Union perspective, what can you do to raise capacity building for climate change for informal workers?*

Response of Ms. Rhoda Boateng: Indeed, about 80 to 90% of workers are in the informal sector. Meaning we must expend our mechanism to allow us to organize inside the informal sector as well. We already see some Unions, such as in Ghana, that are trying to organize informal workers Union. We always thought that informal workers are hard to organize, however, we are observing that informal workers are already organized in associations. Thus, our approach should be to reach out to those associations and see how we can integrate them to be part of a broader Union and benefit from the capacity building for climate change that the Union has.

Remarque from the audience: A lot of trade Union are mussels by the political powers. Indeed, in many countries there are policy makers that are very much attached to their communities and who do work on their own without communicating with each other. Thus, “just transition” appears as a possible new framework to address climate change. Indeed, to achieve just transition, you need to bring together all stakeholder within a society. Ms. Rhoda Boateng, seconded this remarque and added that to achieve climate change targets countries need to have trade Union represented during the design of the just transition plan for the country or given sector. She also added that in some countries it is hard to ensure the Trade Union representation at the political level and others.

Ms. Massiel Figuero pursued the presentation of capacity building and just transition by giving some insides of the work that has been done in that area in the Dominican Republic. She explained that talking about just transition in republican Dominican is a long way and requires construction of consciousness, capacities and a normative system, to ensure social protection and economic diversification. When we speak about just transition, we also talk about skills, green jobs, adaptation policies, social justice and peace. She observed that Union have already started this process of being part of the climate change solution: “today workers want and wish to be part of the solution and not part of the problem”.

In its 2015 Congress, the Latin American Trade Union Confederation adopted a set of strategic lines for the development of the freedom of associations to allow units to organize themselves, peace and democracy. All those three elements are also directly linked to sustainable development, and we all must work towards it. During the Congress, it was also emphasized that Trade Unions are a fundamental actor to ensure a decent life and human right for current and future societies.

Ms. Massiel Figuero continued by explaining that first the Trade Union movement for climate change and just transition needs to be established at the level of the Latin America before having a Trade Union in the Dominican Republic that will translate in her action’s of climate change capacity building activities, defined at the regional level. It is also important to have coordination structure inside the Union and in the different departments and regional level. Sometimes those structures do not exist and must be created. Once the structures are in place, we can start a series of training programs with Unions and workers. These trainings are also an occasion to create alliances with other actors as “Just transition” concerns all stakeholders.

However, one of the difficulty lays in the fact that when a government change then the collaboration also falls. There is a need for more capacity building on this challenge.

The session continued with a presentation from **Ms. Ema Liliefna**, from Indonesia. She first highlighted the fact that Indonesia has adopted the Paris Agreement into its national law which encourages the government to adopt a just transition approach in their Nationally Determined Contribution. Secondly, she mentioned the need to understand the link and effect of climate change on the different sectors (transportation, water, forestry etc.). Helping them, with the support of other NGO, to develop a training module coupled with awareness-raising programs.

Ms. Ema Liliefna also shared some examples from the capacity building of the government such as the one three policy. The Indonesian government introduced a regulation imposing to each people that wants to make a construction to plant one tree.

She also mentions the challenge of the informal sector. It is more difficult to mobilize people from the informal sector, however, with her organization they manage to create a project to involve the informal sector in climate action. With the help of Unions, they organized waste collection activities in certain areas of cities which helps give jobs to people from the informal sector that lost their job. The final aim is the organization of the informal sector and its formalization. It is also a good example of how the/a Union can collaborate with local communities.

The last panelist of the session, **Ms. Manuela Matthess**, highlighted the importance for her foundation of working with Trade Unions: “we believe that a strong Trade Union is essential to provide a sustainable solution in all sectors. In terms of just transition, it is important for it to be high on the political agenda because it combines the climate change issue with the question of human rights, workers right”. She also mentioned the support that her foundation is giving to ITUC to help ensure that Trade Union voice from the global south are heard in the negotiations. Another of their work is to support various workshop on “Just Transition” such as the one organized with ITUC in Thailand. It was an occasion to discuss the question of “Just Transition” in the context of the Asia region.

Ms. Manuela Matthess, reiterated the importance of having a strong justice component in the transition process towards a 1.5 °C world. However, justice can also mean different things for different stakeholders, from the north or south. Therefore, it is important to organize workshops (such as the one in Thailand) to elaborate more on the concept according to the context of each country and region. She also mentioned the necessity to emphasize the chances of the transition process and not only the burden: “this should be one of the guiding principles of the climate international policy”. Finally, she mentioned the need to build an alliance between the Trade Unions themselves and with the government, to ensure the question of “Just Transition” stays high on the political agenda.

Mr. Bert De Wel closed the session by thanking the participants and delivering the last key message: “Just transition is not only about coal, but it is about the impact of climate change and climate policies all over the world and this is what we wanted to show with the varied panel to

show that we are active on all levels to spread the voice of Trade Union inside climate policies and that you only get climate policies if they are socially just”.

Main outcomes

- Climate change is a labor issue. It is crucial to increase the capacity of understanding the link between jobs in various sectors and climate change.
- The “Just transition” goal is to ensure and guarantee decent jobs, capacity building and social protection to all the workers affected by climate change.
- Labor voice is the social voice of climate change and more capacity building is needed to ensure their voice is heard at the national, regional and international levels.
- It is important to raise the capacity of workers to understand how their work contribute to climate change and what they can change.
- “Just Transition” can help reframe climate change actions and help mobilized all stakeholders.
- We need to raise the Capacity Building for the inclusion of “Just Transition” into the Nationally Determined Contribution of countries.
- Capacity building activities should ensure that Trade Union are also reaching out to informal sectors workers.

Session 2: Cities, Local Government and Communities

Host: International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Moderator: Jisun Hwang, Senior Climate Advocacy and Policy Officer, ICLEI

Panelist:

- Ms. Seonyoung Kim, International Climate and Environmental Secretary, Gwangju
- Mr. Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General at ICLEI and Executive Director for ICLEI South Asia

The municipal authorities started to engage first with the question of climate change at the beginning of the 1990s. The first action of municipalities concentrated on mitigation aspects. However, we are observing today the emergence of new municipal climate policy addressing both mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate change. The growing concern of municipalities about climate change is further translated by the increase in regional and international municipal networks to address the climatic challenge. Indeed, cities are today facing a range of complex issues and asking the question of the current state of knowledge and capacities of urban governance and planning for climate change a pressing concern. Additionally, cities and local government can play an active role not only in helping the national government in implementing the NDCs but also in enhancing the level of their NDCs.

Ms. Jisun Hwang opened the session with a presentation on the cities and regions engaged in the Talanoa Dialogues. As an immediate response from the urban route to the Polish Presidencies initiative of transforming the facilitative dialogue into the Talanoa Dialogue process, ICLEI launched the cities and region Talanoa Dialogues. The aim is to facilitate a domestic consultative process by putting together local and regional governments around the same table as the national government in order to dig deeper into how to implement NDCs and what roles and responsibilities were needed from each level of government. Through this dialogue, ICLEI also aims to bring the urban route closer to the climate route; and thereby, taking a wholistic approach towards bringing the NDC implementation closer to the implementation of Paris Agreement. Indeed, through the 61 sessions held in 40 different countries both in the global south and north, ICLEI observed a huge demand in aligning the urban development with the NDCs implementation. The multi-level dialogues also allowed to bring closer the objectives of the Paris Agreement to the cities and citizens.

These dialogues initiatives were based on the format of three questions: 1) where we are, 2) where we aim to go, and 3) how we get there, with specific guidance from ICLEI for each question to help identify how much of the urban dimension was already incorporated into each of the country's NDC preparation process. The second goal was to identify the current state of

work between the national, local and regional levels related to the NDCs. Many of these dialogue sessions involved not just all levels of government but civil society and other stakeholders that came to join these open-ended discussions. Furthermore, as she highlighted, a huge mobilization has been seen in the cities in the African region. Africa is the least urbanized continent, but at the same time, it is the one with the more rapid urban growth. This mobilization of various stakeholders shows the existence of a real commitment to supporting the national governments in their NDC implementation.

Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues

*an opportunity fix-and-lift Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and make-them-fit for Paris Agreement by;
bridging sustainable urban development with climate action and engaging all levels of governments.*



Figure 2: Main numbers of the Cities and Regions Talanoas Dialogue organized by ICLEI³

The most interesting question of this dialogue was the one directly related to the question of capacity building: How do we get there? Indeed, the dialogues were also an occasion to explore ways for each region to undertake capacity building activities for local municipalities actions for NDC implementation.

Several outcomes have been submitted to ICLEI, one regional outcome from Africa and four different country outcomes Mexico, Brazil, India, Bangladesh and Ghana. All of these have been put as a 'global factsheet outcome document', which captures the different regional and local richness of discussions (this can be found at ICLEI website). In terms of the data, this report was also supported by another publication released at COP24, which aligns our analysis on 1.5C for Paris Agreement and based on the climate commitments that we have seen as reported through the carbon climate for register of ICLEI which has more than 1,000 cities, regions and

³ "Cities and Regions Talanoas Dialogue", presentation of Ms. Jisun Hwang, Senior Climate Advocacy and Policy Officer, ICLEI,
^{2nd} Capacity Building day at COP 24.

towns reporting on their climate targets, commitments including both adaptation and mitigation.

Ms. Seaonyoung Kim, followed with a more in-depth presentation on how the city of Gwangju (South Korea) is supporting the national government in the NDC implementation. The case study also aimed to identify the current gaps in capacity building at the city level. Indeed, as in any city in the planet, Gwangju is not free from climate change as shown by the city rise in temperature of 1°C the last decade. In order to mitigate the impacts of climate change, Gwangju began to measure the GHG emissions at the city level in 2015. The measure indicated that transport accounted for 39% of total emission, while household, commercial and public sectors accounted for 53%. As per the projections, the annual GHG emissions will increase by 0.32% in 2030, compared to 2015. Estimates show that the transport and buildings including household, commercial and public sectors emissions will continue to increase; while, waste and agro-livestock emissions will gradually decrease.

In 2008, the city government created a department dedicated to climate change responses, and several projects have been initiated since then. In 2017, Gwangju Climate Action Plan was created, aligned with the Korean government response to climate change. It is also Gwangju's ordinance of climate change response and low carbon green growth and sustainable development as a legal basis. Gwangju's mitigation plans is to cut down the GHG emissions by 30% from 2010 levels by 2030, which in turn will help towards the adaptation plan for building a resilient city with reduced climate change risks.

Gwangju's Reduction Goals

Leading Low-Carbon City by 2030, Carbon Neutral City by 2050

- Quantitative Reduction Goal : 30% by 2020, 40% by 2030, compared to BAU
- Projects : 74 Initiative in 4 Sectors
 - Reduction(55) : Carbon Bank, Collective Energy, Electric Cars, NOx Reduction, LED, etc.
 - Offset(6) : Carbon Neutral Program on Environment Infra, Emission Trade, Parks, etc.
 - Adaptation(4) : Vulnerability in Forest, Monitoring on Illness, Prevention of Infection
 - Green Life(9) : Low Carbon Apartment, Save Water, Local Food, Green Goods, etc.
- Expenditure in 2018 : 13 bil. US\$
 - ※ 6.7 bil.(Reduction), 3.9 bil(Offset), 25 mil(Adaptation), 37 mil(Green Life)
- Duration : 2016 ~ 2020(5 years)

2030 Gwangju GHG Reduction Roadmap on Progress (2018)

Figure 3: Gwangju mitigation goals⁴

She pursues by explaining that the city goal is to become the leading carbon low city by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050. To reach this goal, the city government is currently developing a '2030 Gwangju GHG Reduction Roadmap'. Several projects have been implemented to reduce GHG emissions on an ongoing basis since 2008 when the reduction target was set. As of 2015, 697kton CO₂eq has been reduced through these projects, which is already more than the reduction target of 2020 (665kton CO₂eq, 6.65% of the projected amount).

Furthermore, Gwangju's urban carbon management policies includes:

- GHG Projection and Diagnostic (GPD) Program
- Urban Carbon Management System (UCMS)
- Information sharing on Gwangju's GHG emission

Additionally, the city has developed an app called 'my town's GHG info centre' that citizens can use to see the progress made by the city for GHG emissions reduction and issue an annual GHG inventory report. The climate policies in Gwangju are citizen-friendly, which includes making Gwangju 1°C cooler project, carbon bank and low carbon green apartment project. In terms of climate policies led by the citizen, the 'together green project' is an initiative that invites citizens to address environmental issues in their communities. Additionally, Gwangju is actively involved in educating its citizens on climate change by the mean of musicals on climate and environment, development and dissemination of climate and environment education contents and encouraging them to visit the climate change education center.

However, one challenge remains. Indeed, the hardest part of implementing the Paris Agreement lays in the ability of the city to reflect on the progress made so far, be on the right track and analyze what tools should be used to support capacity building at the local and regional level to meet the NDCs targets for the Paris Agreement implementation.

Mr. Emani Kuma gave the third presentation on the role of cities, local and subnational authority in the climate change fight. Over its 26 years of existence, ICLEI reunited 1750 cities as its member and opened 1,700 offices in more than 124 countries around the world and is helping more than 25% of the urban population in various cities in preparing their action plans and how to take them forward. In June 2018, ICLEI concluded 'ICLEI World Congress' in Montreal, that reunites every three years all the members to share best practices and take on together new commitments for climate change. All 1750 members agreed that they will work on all five pathways for their development: low emission, resilient, circular, equitable and people-centered and nature-based.

He continued by stating that ICLEI helps cities' government to develop themselves in a more sustainable and climate-friendly way by implementing capacity building activities, providing adequate tools, developing action plans, choosing and implementing the right technologies,

⁴ "Policies and efforts for carbon management of Gwangju's climate change response", presentation of Ms. Seonyoung Kim, International Climate and Environmental Secretary, Gwangju, 2nd Capacity Building day at COP 24.

and identification of finances. He stressed out that in terms of capacity building for local governments, ICLEI was the first organizations in the world to introduce the carbon emission inventory tool in 1966, at a time when none of the national governments were even talking about reducing their carbon emissions. This tool is known as Cities for Climate Protection Tool (CCP) and has several new versions that are used by various cities. As such, ICLEI developed two different Carbon Emission Inventory to help the different cities to prepare their carbon emission inventories and understand their current carbon emission profile:

- Clear path, which is mainly used by the cities in the US
- HEAT (harmonized emission analysis tool), which is used in Asian countries including: Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, and some cities in Australia and New Zealand.

The first step for cities is to work on their emission profile however to take their engagement towards climate change further, ICLEI has developed tools to help cities to develop in a sustainable and climate resilient ways (mainly the five pathways mentioned earlier).

Mr. Emani Kumar also stressed out the importance of finance to help cities make the necessary changes for climate change. ICLEI developed a program called Transformative Action Programme (TAP). Under this programme, ICLEI helps cities to prepare their financial plans including what exactly they need and how much they need and encourage them to submit their application to the program for financial aid. The TAP call was initially launched at the Paris COP 21 in 2015, and 120 cities showed their interest and submitted their applications. ***ICLEI has relaunched the TAP call, so if any city has an action plan and looking for finances, they can fill out the applications, and ICLEI will then connect them with the donors.***

He pursued by emphasizing that cities are not just the contributors, but cities are also part of the solution. Cities showcases the perfect examples of adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Indeed, ICLEI has developed over the years a portfolio of best practices from various cities around the world and which is available on the organization website.

Main outcomes

- It is crucial to hold multi-level dialogues on the roles that each entity (national, regional, municipal) has in implementing the NDCs.
- Increase the state of knowledge on how much of the urban dimension is and can be incorporate in countries NDCs.
- It is important to create a department dedicated to climate change responses at cities level.
- Build the capacity of cities to develop their own Climate Action Plan aligned with the NDCs.
- Increase the capacities of cities in involving citizens in the development of mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Build the capacity of cities to take first mitigation action and further adaptation

action.

- Build the capacities of cities in the area of Paris Agreement implementation monitoring.

Session 3: Finance

Host: United Nation Development Program

Moderator: Ms. Rohini Kohli, Lead Technical Specialist, National Adaptation Plan - Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP), Green Low Emission Climate Resilient Development Strategies, UNDP - Global Environment Facility

Panelist:

- Mr. Lifeng Li, Coordinator, Support Programmes, Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Ms. Neha Rai, Senior Researcher, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- Ms. Shaila Shahid, Senior Programme Coordinator – Gender Programme, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)
- Mr. Angus Mackay, Manager – Climate Change Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Mr. Modibo Cissé, General Director, L'Agence Nationale d'Investissement des Collectivités Territoriales (ANICT), Mali
- H.E. Yasmin Fouad, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Egypt

PUBLIC SOURCES & INTERMEDIARIES

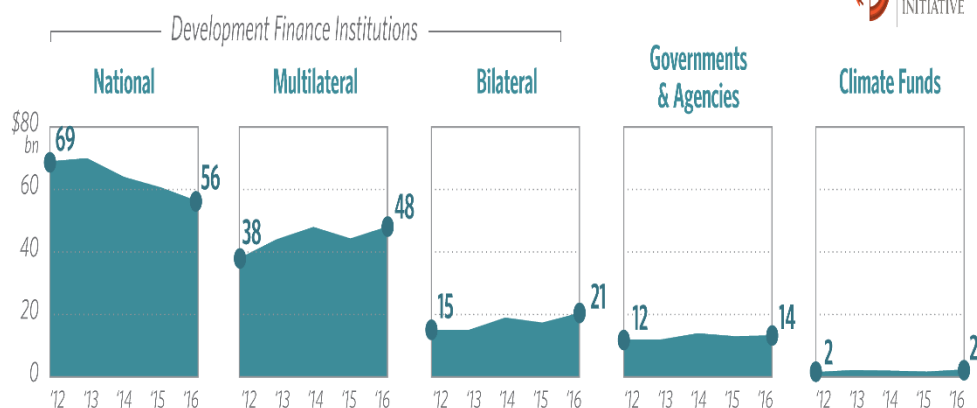


Figure 4: Climate finance from public sources and intermediaries 2012-2016⁵

The architecture of global finance for climate change actions present a high degree of complexity and is constantly evolving. The available funds have various sources both within and outside (bilateral or regional initiatives) of the UNFCCC financial mechanism. Each type of funds has its own structures, modalities, requirements and goals. We are also observing several countries creating their own national climate change funds which can also receive various funding and ensure they align with the country priorities. However, more capacity building is still necessary to ensure the funds are reaching the most vulnerable ones.

Ms. Rohini Kohli, opened the discussion by delineating the key objectives of the session. The overarching aim of the session was to underscore capacity related challenges that hinder developing countries in accessing and utilizing climate finance and the type of support these countries require to address these challenges. As we progress towards operationalizing the Paris Agreement, it is crucial to understand the role of capacity building in helping developing countries to translate priorities demarcated in their National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), into investment planning and bankable projects. Using the modality of a moderated discussion, the session shed light on how global funds such as GCF and other major funds can play a catalytic role in enhancing national capacity for accessing climate finance and how to ensure climate finance reaches the most vulnerable groups including women and how their access can be strengthened.

Mr. Angus Mackay spoke about capacities required within different institutions in a country, particularly Ministries of Finance, to effectively leverage resources for climate finance. He began by stating that UNITAR provides specialized training and capacity building activities to assist developing countries. UNITAR recognizes that in addition to individuals, there needs to be investments made in institutions. It is not just about providing training but also about developing robust institutional processes and systems. He emphasized the need to focus on long-term partnerships on capacity building to ensure sustainability of interventions. He ended his remarks sharing an experience working on a project in Cambodia, wherein UNITAR provided specialized training to eight different departments of the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Modibo Cissé pursue by sharing his experiences from Mali. Situated in West Africa, Mali is at high risk to the impacts of climate change. Mr. Cissé pointed out that ANICT has been nominated by Mali's National Designated Authority (NDA) to the GCF and are currently in the process of getting accredited as a National Implementing Entity (NIE). In order to do so, ANICT has participated in a series of short courses offered by different donor agencies, to develop readiness for becoming an NIE and better meet the requirements for accreditation. However, the process has also been laden with challenges.

Mr. Lifeng Li continued by emphasizing the catalytic role of GCF in enhancing national capacity to access climate funding and the type of support offered by GCF in this regard. He highlighted that GCF provides systematic capacity building via its Readiness Programme. The purpose of the programme is to help developing countries to better understand the operational modalities,

⁵ Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2017, Report, Climate Policy Initiative, October 2017.

procedures, policies, standards etc. of the fund and to enhance technical and institutional capacity in these countries for accessing GCF as well as other global climate funds. The programme provides resources for strengthening the institutional capacities of NDAs as well as Direct Access Entities to engage with the fund efficiently. Till date, nearly 150 million USD has been disbursed to more than a hundred developing countries under the programme. Mr. Li emphasized that GCF is strongly committed to continue to provide readiness support in the years to come and hoped to explore further opportunities for collaboration with UNDP, UNEP as well as UNITAR to facilitate the delivery of the programme.

H.E. Yasmin Fouad, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Egypt in her remarks emphasized that capacity building should not be limited to awareness raising and knowledge sharing workshops targeted at individuals. It is essential to focus on institutional capacity building so that Government bodies and agencies can develop national plans and strategies that are better aligned to climate change goals. She also highlighted that in addition to receiving support from GCF and other global funds, Egypt has been putting forth their own resources to mainstream climate change into national development plans and spur climate change action of their own accord. She recommended that other countries should do the same.

Ms. Neha Rai talked about capacity building in the context of domestic climate finance. Till date, the overarching discussion around climate finance has largely been focused on ensuring access to global climate finance. She highlighted that it is also important to focus on how to ensure effective delivery, implementation, management as well as monitoring of these funds and this is where finance flows at the domestic level becomes critical. Capacity building should be such that countries are able to disburse these funds properly, ensuring they reach the most vulnerable. Ms. Rai highlighted the need to incentivize domestic sources to invest in climate action. For LDCs to implement the NDCs, a massive volume of finance would be required and therefore it is imperative that domestic resources are pooled in addition to international funds. There is also a need for climate finance strategies at the national level so that countries are able to take more ownership of what they want to plan for accessing finance. These strategies need to also be well costed and well planned.

Ms. Shaila Shahid spoke about issues surrounding gender, what sort of capacities are needed in countries to ensure gender consideration is integrated into climate finance planning and what are the barriers that presently exist. Gender consideration forms a key part of mainstreaming climate finance. Funding bodies, donor agencies, civil society as well as national governments are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of integrating gender into climate action plans and strategies, to ensure climate funds are effective at the local and grassroots level. A very recent study revealed that up until 2015, only 0.01% of global climate funds have directly addressed the linkages between gender and climate change. Another study shows that only 2% of global funds have gone towards building capacity for the economic empowerment of women. Gender issues have therefore received limited attention from global funds, and this is something that needs to be looked into. Speaking about challenges and barriers, Ms. Shahid highlighted that systems at the national level presently lack the appropriate mechanisms for adequately integrating gender considerations and there remain a limited understanding among actors and decisionmakers regarding gender roles. Therefore, there is significant scope for

knowledge sharing and capacity building in these areas. GCF's Readiness Programme can also help facilitate this. She ended her remarks emphasizing that when we talk about gender, we need to also consider other socially excluded groups such as the persons with disabilities, transgendered persons, indigenous people etc.

Considering discussions had largely coalesced around GCF, **Mr. Lifeng Li** mentioned that GCF has policies on gender as well as those that consider other socially excluded groups, to ensure stakeholder engagement is bottom-up and inclusive. He reiterated that GCF's Readiness Programme aims to support countries in better mainstreaming climate action into national action plans and strategies. The programme helps countries to develop the GCF Country Programme which identifies short-term and long-term projects/programmes and investment priorities—strategic initiatives that will help realize a paradigm shift in achieving low-emission and climate-resilient development. Development of country programmes should be driven by a robust and inclusive engagement process that brings together key stakeholders across all levels of government, local and community-based institutions, the private sector, and civil society to put forward clear and country-owned priorities that GCF can support.

Following remarks from the panelists, a Q&A/discussion session ensued.

Dr. Saleemul Huq referred to the case of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) which has been allocating billions of dollars from the government's own resources to address climate change issues in the country. Bangladesh is now moving towards mainstreaming the fund into the country's national budgeting processes across more than 20 ministries. He then highlighted that climate change action in Bangladesh has been employing a whole-of-society approach wherein different actors are playing different roles in ensuring effective implementation and monitoring of climate finance in the country.

In the discussions, the critical need for federal, bureaucratic structures within some developing countries to move towards more decentralized structures was highlighted. Referring to an example from the Caribbean, a participant highlighted conflicts that exist between national and regional funding often resulting in disproportionate allocation of financial resources. Mr. Li responded mentioning the GCF also funds regional projects that need to be endorsed by implementing countries within the region.

To wrap up the session, the moderator requested the panelists to highlight three key pointers on addressing barriers that hinder the access and utilization of climate funds.

Ms. Neha Rai highlighted that to ensure more finance is mobilized at the national level, it is important that countries start investing in national planning and financing strategies, making sure they are aligned to national strategies as well as NDCs. Also, it is crucial to invest in capacity building of national financial institutions, sector-specific agencies as well as devolved agencies at the local level. Lastly, the capacity of national institutions to develop robust and bankable funding proposals for climate change projects needs also to be developed.

Mr. Angus Mackay agreed with the importance of ensuring that finance reaches the most vulnerable and the need for financial mechanisms at the local level. He referred to UNCDF's LoCAL programme which serves as a mechanism to integrate climate change adaptation into

local governments' planning and budgeting systems, increase awareness of and response to climate change at the local level, and increase the amount of finance available to local governments for climate change adaptation. He reiterated that in addition to ensuring access to climate finance, it is equally important to ensure the quality of disbursement, implementation and monitoring of these funds. He ended his remarks highlighting the crucial need to strengthen national systems.

Ms. Shaila Shahid emphasized the need to remove the structural barriers for gender integration that exist within national governments. Drawing from the Bangladesh experience, she mentioned that the government allocates a certain amount of budget for gender-driven activities, however, there is low awareness regarding issues specific to gender. Therefore, knowledge and awareness among all groups of actors need to be built. Furthermore, gender-responsive monitoring mechanisms need to be established to track the progress of gender integration in climate change action in a country

Mr. Modibo Cissé highlighted three key challenges that he has experienced in the accreditation process with the GCF. Firstly, there is a need for significant human resources to fulfil the different requirements for accreditation. Language barriers are another issue since GCF primarily uses English and uses lots of technical vocabulary that do not translate as well. Lastly, GCF's targets for accreditation at the moment employ a one-size-fits-all approach, and Mr. Cissé recognizes that the need to adapt these targets according to different country's contexts.

Mr. Lifeng Li stated that there needs to be investment in capacity building across three levels – human capacity, technical capacity and institutional capacity. Human capacity is critical as LDCs at the moment do not have sufficient starting capacity to collaborate with other international organizations for accessing climate funds. Technical capacity needs to be built for more effective project implementation by different sectors. Institutional capacity is also crucial for the mainstreaming climate action into national level policies, plans and strategies.

Rohini Kamal closed the session with a round of thanks.

Main outcomes

- Capacity building should focus on the creation of robust decentralized institution and processes within countries, to help them develop national finance plans aligned with their climate needs and financial monitoring activities. This must be based on a long-term partnership relation to ensure the sustainability of the intervention.
- Build the knowledge of developing countries related to training, support and aid program existing and aiming at supporting them in their financial aid demands file/projects.
- Build the capacities of countries to ensure that the flows of finance at the domestic level is reaching the most vulnerable people.
- Build capacities of countries to create incentives for domestic sources to finance climate actions.
- Build the capacities of countries to understand gender role and climate change, integrate gender role in climate change actions and to build the economic empowerment of woman. Gender should also include other minorities and excluded group of people.
- Build capacity to ensure quality of disbursement, implementation and monitoring of received projects funds.
- Build the capacities of financial institution to developed requirements more in line with the realities and capacities of developing countries.

Session 4: Transparency

Host: Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Moderator: Ms. Yamide Dagnet, Project Director-UNFCC, Climate Program, World Resources Institute

Panelist:

- Ms. Achala C Abeysinghe, Principle researcher, Climate Change; team leader global climate change governance at International Institute for Environment and Development
- Mr. Vintura Silva, Programme Officer at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Mr. Vaibhav Gupta, Senior Programme Lead, CEEW

The idea behind the concept of transparency stems from the fact that peer and public pressure can be effective in influencing behavior and prompting countries to achieve their NDCs commitment. The Paris Agreement transparency framework applies both to developed and developing countries and place stronger informational demands as well as creating new review mechanisms. As such transparency mechanism are aiming at ensuring more visibility and

understanding of countries progresses in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as more clarity on financial, capacity building and technology support given to developing countries by developed ones.

Mr. Vintura Silva opened the session by presenting the new initiative started in the 12 English speaking Caribbean states to improve their measurement, reporting and verification systems. MRV in those countries (the leading targeted group of the project are government and legal experts). The initiative does not only target the UNFCCC reporting requirements but also the presentation of projects for financial institution as well as for countries national baseline establishment. The main idea behind the initiative was the realization that speaking about the MRV system for a smaller island is always a matter of expense. He continued by saying that they observed a tendency to increase collaboration among those countries to overcome some challenges while developing the MRV system or national communications. Thus, the initiative aims to build on this realization by building a regional level collaboration platform to achieve the economy of scale that would lay and support individual countries to have a better system and possibly a regional level MRV, depending on the common interest of the states.

Furthermore, the goals of the initiative are to enable countries to obtain high-resolution data to be used for their MRV system and allow the 12 targeted countries to have better communication. Despite being a pilot project, he mentioned they hoped to be able to develop a scalable model for other groups of smaller countries which are homogenous in terms of their economies as well as facing challenges in terms of resources and infrastructures for developing the MRV systems. He pursued by mentioning that Jamaican is the first to develop a new MRV submitted to the UNFCCC as well as to submit a new NDC among the 12 countries. The initiative is based on a collaborative approach with the idea of leveraging the sectoral expertise from the expert from the different island to establish a system where there would be less dependency on the external support but support from the region in developing the MRV system.

Moreover, the project aims to involve other stakeholders, regional and international working in the region to understand better the MRV system already existing on the ground and supported by various institutions (financial and financial capacity building institution which are targeting the MRV development) to identify the baseline and the performance of those projects. We want to understand what the baseline of those projects are and what are the improvements in terms of emission reduction achieved by those projects. Thus, we try to map all those institutions working on those aspects and MRV in the region, as he stated. The regional MRV will be led by a steering committee, brought together by the countries that developed the programme and supported by the German Government and support programs from GIZ. He pursued by saying that they first want to bring an approach to develop an understanding of each country of the region, their requirements and what can be the best done to bridge the gaps present in these countries by best leveraging the existing institutional capacity available, during the next 5 years of the pilot project. Additionally, to ensure the sustainability of the project, there will be a component that will be developed and transferred to the ministries of the countries. He ended by saying that the initiatives is a South-South-North cooperation for GHG emissions mitigation analysis for the countries in the region and the region as a whole.

The second panellist, **Mr. Vaibhav Gupta**, is currently working on developing a transparency framework for India and gave an overview of the history of transparency question under the UNFCCC. He started by stating that everyone is the builder of capacity and architects of the Paris Agreement on the ground. Capacity links to flexibility and flexibility links to the overall modalities and guidelines that are up on negotiations. He further explained that what we need to understand to be able to progress in our work is how capacity building has been treated under the climate convention and linkage of capacity building and transparency under the Paris Agreement. Indeed, under the Paris Agreement, we can find various clauses touching to the subject of capacity building in various ways and if you proceed to a broader search on capacity building, more than 50 times we can find references to this idea in the text of the treaty. The clauses itself establish the importance of capacity building in the overall system. Beyond this, we have also seen during the convention in 2001 that came up with 15 ideas under the framework of capacity building, later endorsed under the Kyoto Protocol in 2005.

Furthermore, the Paris Agreement established a specific body dedicated to answering this question, the PCCB, to address the existing and emerging needs in that area. The agreement also established an initiative on transparency to build the institutional and technical capacity of developing countries, those who need more flexibility. In 2012 a specific portal for capacity building was created with the idea to allow anyone to navigate easily all the support activities that have been allocated to developing parties from the UN bodies, funded by other institutions and countries assessment and reporting of received aid. He further continued by saying that despite knowing the importance of capacity building there is still a remaining question of the state of the capacity building today. As such, only 44 countries (from the 154 countries) submitted their first MRV to the UN body and which shows a lack of capacity. We are seeing when we debate the question of the transparency framework the lack of capacity in that area. He also emphasized that the overall expenditure registered from the UN bodies and associated reporting bodies, for capacity building activities was only amounting to 3.8 billion dollars (since 2007) among which the effort to build capacity for transparency is only of 10% of the total amount representing a major lack of support for this area of work. We can also see a large gap between developing countries and developed ones when it comes to raise ambitions and report well.

Therefore, there are challenges directly associated with the lack of capacities but also for the development of capacities. First, it is difficult to estimate the element of capacity form another element of the project since the element of capacity is cross-cutting. Thus, it is also difficult to attribute a number to climate finance for capacity building, and they only represent a rough idea of the money invested in capacities development. Secondly, there is a lack of clarity on the level of coverage within the capacity building. Indeed, the portal still reports on the 15 overarching broad areas but when it comes to building the capacities of an economy especially a developing one, their needs might be going further than what the portal indicates. Thirdly, most of the projects and efforts, are very much project oriented and not targeting the building of systems and institutions which forms the essence of capacity in any country. There are also inadequate policies as identified by the recent policy review report, from the subsidiary implementation body, which hinders the possibility of developing within country capacity. Only

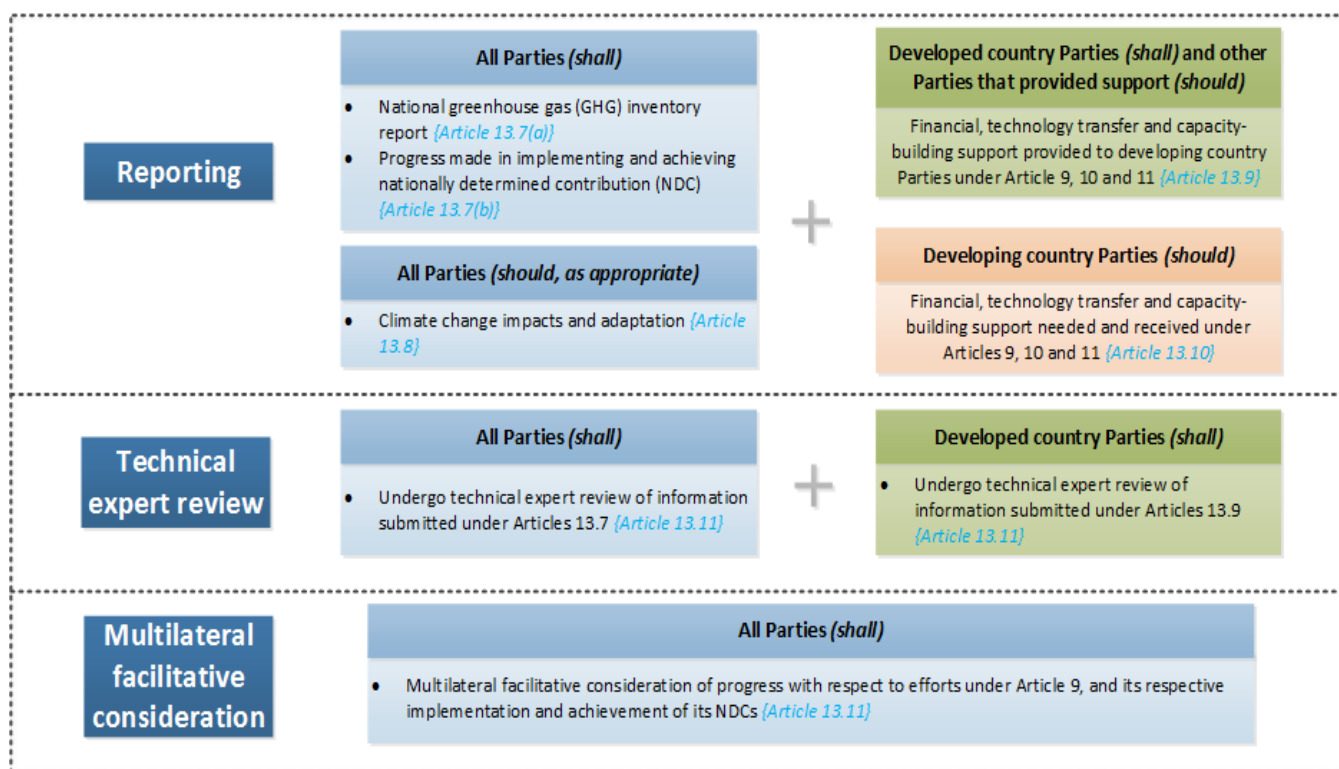
20% of the available money for capacity building went towards the creation of a regulatory and policy framework for capacity building. Moreover, many countries see capacity building as a one-time activity while it is a continuous process coupled with the retention of capacity in the country, we are developing it. For a long time, the focus was the mitigation activities which explains the poor state of capacity building under the UNFCCC.

Additionally, he also highlighted the need to find consistency between the need and support. As such the capacity building portal tells only one side of the story, what kind of support has been given. However, it does omit to mention what are the needs of the developing countries and if the given support so far is aligned with them. However, knowing the needs is essential to be able to build institutional capacity, which is the first step towards a quality reporting activity. There are many mechanisms made available by the various body (ex: GEF, UNDP etc.) to assess the capacity need. Moreover, it is a long-term activity requiring lots of effort and constant monitoring of the evolutions. As such, GEF started a process of a comprehensive assessment of needs (national self-assessment process of capacities needs) completed by 146 countries. The country identified its needs in a detailed and extensive manner but also developed a plan for their capacity building response to enhance transparency. We need to develop more, either voluntary or via support mechanisms for improving capacity needs identification.

A similar project was developed by JICA (Japan International Cooperating Agency) and UNDP, with the aim to provide more guideline and methodology for various context (ex: different level of governance), through which countries can make a self-assessment need for capacity building. He continued by saying that once the identification part is done then we can come up with a concrete and actionable plan for capacity building and for transparency. He finished by mentioning the role of the civil society in capacity building for reporting and which is usually overlooked. Indeed, civil society is not only important during the negotiations but can also take an active part in coming up with inventories. He illustrated the statement with the example of the project between CEEW and State Bank of India in creating an independent inventory mechanism for GHG emissions from industries in India.

The aim is to support the enhancement of the quality of reporting on the GHG to the UN from India. CEEW also developed a questionnaire based on the reporting guidelines of the UNFCCC, targeting the countries and aiming at understanding what their need to fulfil the requirement of reporting and what is so far the support that has been given is. The goal is to identify the existing gap between requirement, capacities and available support.

Article 13 of the Paris Agreement: transparency of action and support



* The transparency framework shall provide flexibility in the implementation of the provisions of this Article to those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities *{Article 13.2}*;

* The transparency framework shall recognize the special circumstances of the least developed countries and small island developing States *{Article 13.3}*.

Figure 5: Article 13 on transparency of the Paris Agreement⁶

Currently they are in the processes of executing the project in India with the aim to further extend the scale.

Ms Achala C Abeysinghe, first emphasized that the main idea to keep in mind is that capacity building is a dissolver of the different inequalities. This idea is what they focus on when they work with the LDCs. The LDCs are the most vulnerable to climate change not only because of

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/the-big-picture/what-is-transparency-and-reporting>

their geographical location but also because of the lack of capacities and resources to cope with climate risks. However, the LDC group were instrumental in adopting the Paris agreement in 2015, which included all the provisions that were seen in the previous presentation, and they are still instrumental at the COP 24 for the rule book negotiations. These countries are pushing for the most comprehensive, robust and fair rulebook here at the COP24 negotiations to address climate change. However, none of this will matter and will not deliver results if we don't build the capacities of these countries to be part of this process. Therefore, it is important to focus on the LDC in our capacity building efforts not only for transparency but also for implementing the entire rulebook.

When it comes to the transparency framework linked to the capacity building support for the LDCs, in the Paris Agreement negotiations one of the keys ask of the LDC group was to establish a robust transparency framework to ensure that we build confidence and trust among parties. They asked for a transparency framework for both actions and support that was mobilized and received. This framework also must enable us to identify and understand the support that is still needed in the area of finance, technology and capacity building. At the COP 24 negotiations, the group is pushing for rules to be as detailed as possible to get parties to report both qualitative and quantitative information on capacity building support. Both supports mobilized and support needed and received, must be reported from both sides (giver and receiver side) to ensure a double keeping and the merge of the support provided with the support needed by a country. The capacity building support that the LDCs are calling for is instrumental, and most of the capacity building support should indeed go to the poorest countries. However, if these countries do not provide adequate information on the support they received so far and what is still needed, then the double keeping system is not going to be very effective and useful. The reporting capacity of the LDCs is one of their main challenge. Another challenge is the overlap of finance, technology and capacity building support and the difficulty of separating these various areas. Indeed, capacity building can be a component in any project. It is therefore difficult to understand how to report on those different cross-cutting supports. Furthermore, we must also realize that the LDCs struggle even to say that they cannot identify what their needs are. In addition, they do not have access to systems that would be required (ex: internet, computer etc.) to help them in their reporting work. When it comes to the inventory GHG side, the LDCs want to be part of the mitigation actions provider and not just simply victims of those emissions.

The Paris Agreement has a special provision requesting all the countries to provide their GHG emission inventory. However, despite wanting to engage in this exercise, most of the LDCs are facing various challenges linked to data availability, sustainable measurement equipment's etc. they also need technical assistance to improve the accuracy of data, coverage of gases and in-country training of staff. Those gaps cannot be filled immediately and those the need for some flexibility so they can develop and grow those systems over time. Indeed, as time goes, and their capacity increases, those countries will be able to improve the quality and accuracy of their GHG reporting. Furthermore, the LDCs need support strengthening their institutional arrangements and data systems. She pursued by saying that there is an opportunity with the review mechanism of the transparency framework to recognize their capacity needs by

reviewing their reports. Even if the review process is not mandatory for the LDCs, they want to be part of it. She also highlighted that the “Capacity Building Initiative Transparency” (CBIT) should not just focus on the process of first come first serve since the LDCs cannot tell the world what capacity support they need from this initiative. However, there are nowadays some mechanism put in place to help the LDCs to identify the need for capacity support they need in the area of transparency. She finished by mentioning that we can observe today the LDCs putting several frameworks to say what they want to do at their country level such as the LDCs initiative for effective adaptation and resilience. Another example of these kind of initiative is the LUCCC, the network of universities for capacity building, aiming at building lasting capacities within the LDCs.

Ms Yamide Dagnet, the moderator of the session, highlighted some concepts that were shared during the previous presentation. The first one is that capacity building is essential as it allows no group to be left behind. Solidarity and universality should be the spirit of the realization of the Paris Agreement. These two spirits should guide the design and implementation of the rulebook. However, when the negotiator works hard and is tired, they might not keep in mind what the Paris Agreement rulebook is supposed to do. Capacity building should be at the core but also develop a support package that will lead us to where we are supposed to be, and which is not a world hotter than 1.5 °C. If the current notion of enhancement is to be kept in the transparency framework and in the rulebook itself, there is the need to bring to the review the developing countries as well by ensuring that the right capacities are built.

Avoiding bottoming down strategies is problematic; however, too much flexibility in the application and depending on countries wishes has the potential to kill the ambition of the agreement. There is a need for flexibility but no room for complacency. There is a need for flexibility but powered by capability. Another dimension of capacity building for transparency is the creation of the South-South and South-North platforms, especially the use of universities for building the leadership of the LDCs and setting up the synergies among the transparency actions.

Furthermore, there is a need to acknowledge that in the review process there are resources that are implicated, and by not underestimating the resource implication, there is the ability to make it work, while not losing the purpose that is behind the review and future reporting. The presenter ended by saying that the last challenge to face is time restraints: asking how fast does this transition need to take? Considering that the current IPCC report explains that there are 12 years left, meaning that the next two years will need to be decisive in the actions taken. By having an enhanced report by 2022 put insight and asks everyone to explore the question if there is the capacity to achieve a comprehensive global agreement and action plan considering the given time constraints.

After the presentations a session of question and answer ensue.

Question: the intervention agreed with the point made on the fact that instead of building capacity of institutions and institutions we are focusing too much on project and mitigation

projects. As well, as agreed with the lack of sustainable capacity building of the fly in and fly out consultant. The problem is that donors want to commit to a particular project and not institution building. The question is what we can do to overcome this and focus more on the institution building.

Response: When it comes to training, do not train the officials but train the trainers. This way we created a multiplying effect and an institutional memory. Institutions are built by individuals which means that if we create a multiplying effect, we will move towards a better institution. Furthermore, the process should be a country driven approach: countries need to identify the gaps in policies and institutions. The support needs to be a long-term process and not only focus on the day to day work. This is what an institution means: be here for a long term. So far, the support given to build the institutional capacity of the LDC is just an illusion and so much more needs to be done and provided to them in the long term.

Main outcomes

- Lack of dedicated institutions for the reporting activities.
- Lack of clearly identified resources dedicated to capacity building activities for transparency.
- Move from the perception of capacity building as single time activity towards a long-term approach and retention of build capacities.
- Need for a more in-depth assessment of capacity building needs, beyond the one listed in the countries reporting and information to the UN bodies.
- Involve civil society to enhance the access to information for a better reporting of the countries on their climate change activities and progresses.
- Focus on the LDC countries in the capacity building efforts and see them also as enabler of the Paris Agreement implementation success.
- More work should be done on separating support given for capacity building, finance or technology.

Closing Session

Mr Gebru Jewel, chair of the LDC group (Least Developed Countries group) at COP 24, opened the closing session by emphasizing that capacity building holds high importance for the LDC. He is calling for a more ambitious and proactive leadership from the LDCs in terms of mitigation and adaptation but also for the issue related to loss and damage. He further stressed that one of the critical enablers of proactive leadership is capacity building. He further explained that sometimes capacity building is misinterpreted as being only about finance. However, finance is not the only standalone need, indeed without the adequate capacity country will not be able to use the finance effectively. LDCs want the capacity building to be at the heart of the support that is given to them.

Additionally, during the COP24, there was one paragraph proposed on capacity building for the implementation of the NDCs, by the LDC. However, the paragraph could not get easily support, and it creates distrust. However, if there is not support for capacity building, how do the LDCs become leaders. He added that the LDC do believe they have capacities and are not starting from scratches. They have universities and research centers all over the world. What is needed is to think about how to best mobilized and use the existing capacities within the countries using South-South as well as South-North network. As such he mentioned the launch in 2017 of the LUCCC network consisting of universities for climate change in the LDC and chaired by Dr Saleemul Huq, Bangladesh.

The network will help to scale up the capacities of the member countries further and make the use of resources existing all over the world. Indeed, the main remaining question is how to scale up further the capacities existing in the LDC countries. He pursues by thanking Dr Saleemul Huq for his support in building his capacity as a negotiator and all the support for developing the capacities within the LDCs. He closed his remarks by using the example of Ethiopia and the importance of the capacity building. In Ethiopia, there is more than 40 universities and many research centers, this shows that there is a certain level of capacity within the country; however, the country is not making use of this existing capacity. There is a need for countries to integrate into their development plan the question of capacity building for climate change. However, as he pointed out, the integration does not mean just mentioning or putting the name in the document, but there is a need for a capacity development across all the different pillars that are involved. The capacity building does take time, and in the case of Ethiopia, they developed a five years capacity building plan at the human level, administration and policy level. The plan settled a baseline and a target to achieve it. The mode of realizing the plan was based on the use of universities (integrate climate change into their curricula) and research center; this had the benefit of making the country independent from flying in and out consultant. Instead of building the capacity within the country by using trained people on the question of climate change, this allows for a long-term capacity building for the country. He closed his remarks by saying that think of capacity building as a standalone is not constructive. Instead, it needs to be integrated into all programs. Thus, when implementing activities in any given sector, including capacity building, financial and *technologies component coming together as a whole as they are all enablers of change*.

Mr Huw Davies, Deputy Head of the United Kingdom Delegation, pursue by stating the importance of the topic of capacity building. He also shared that as part of his team, he is

overseeing a program that aimed to raise funds to help build the capacity of negotiators, which is an area of focus. He also mentioned that the United Kingdom government recognize that capacity building is vital to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. There is a need for leaders in this area, as already mentioned by Mr Gebru Jewel, and that everyone came to listen to countries that they are supporting, express what is needed in terms of capacity building and link it to the framework provided by the UNFCCC. However, capacity building is not only about negotiation but also about building on the capacities already existing in the countries. There is a need to learn from projects and programmes what are the best practices and approaches that had positive results. He emphasized that this is crucial to ensure that the support and help provided is targeting real need and is effective. He pursued by highlighting the fact that capacity building is not only for those who are receiving support but also for those who are providing support.

Furthermore, there is a need to learn from each other if there is a want to make the processes of capacity building as effective as possible. Thus, it is essential to have spaces like the PCCCB Hub and the Capacity Building day that make it possible to share and learn from each other experience, hear a different perspective and build up a collective understanding of what is needed. He also mentioned the event held at the United Kingdom pavilion on “the role of academia to improve knowledge sharing” and “session on transparency” as well as a specific program on climate finance, to learn what could be helpful to the different countries. He also shared the newly launched program named PACT (Program to Accelerated Climate Transition), designed to provide technical assistance in strengthening national capacities to lower emission and develop resilient climate strategies, in key public institutions. This initiative is part of the package that the United Kingdom offered among the other initiatives launched during the COP 24. Currently, the first 6 million will go to Mexico, Colombia and China to build and share expertise on climate legislation. All of this is designed to be country lead, conversation and not just assumption based. He continues saying that listening to the events like the 2nd Capacity Building day, does help to inform on what is essential and what work needs to be done further. He also shares their cities programs for technical assistance for climate change mitigation in 15 mega-cities around Asia. He also emphasizes that he wanted to share what the United Kingdom has to offer to ensure that everyone can benefit from it as well. He also expressed his hope that the discussion on capacity building will be carried on after the end of the event.

Dr. Saleemul Huq, continued by giving a short report on the investment that has been done by the United Kingdom in the past years. He gave the example of Mr Gebru joining the program they developed at IIED for training young negotiators and which was founded by the United Kingdom. Now Mr Gebru became the chair for the LDC groups which show the success of that program and the value of the investment the United Kingdom made in the program. He further highlighted that capacity building takes time; it is a long-term investment that shows results with time.

Ms Angélique Pouponneau, part of the Youth Network from Seychelles, took the floor to share her thought on capacity building and her activities involving youth. Indeed, most of the work being done today is for the next generation, as mentioned by Dr Saleemul Huq. Ms Pouponneau first said that she was in 2018 a beneficiary of capacity building (fellow of the

Alliance of Small Island States) also to being a designer and provider of capacity building. She shared her experience of undergoing the training as a negotiator in New York, within the UNFCCC process. The training involves knowledge, skills building, and spending time observing the negotiations at the UN being done. She further stressed out that young people are involved on the ground for climate change and capacity building. As such, it is not about finance only but how the various organization can build the youth capacity for resilience, such as building institutions. She gave the example of her institution in Seychelles called the Seychelles Youth club; it is a youth platform promoting sustainable development through youth lead projects. The organization has several projects with the Youth Climate Lab, which allow youth from various corner of the world to come and work together. She further said that many times, youth is just seen as a beneficiary of capacity building. However, it is time to move to the second level, allowing young people to design, develop and execute capacity building initiative and going as far as monitoring and evaluation. She shared two examples of capacity building initiatives that the Seychelles government, her organization and the Youth Climate Lab in Canada, are supporting.

The first one aims at enabling a more meaningful engagement of young people during the negotiations by creating the Seychelle Support team, allowing the young people from around the world and from Seychelles to come together to the negotiation by receiving the support of the Seychelles government which provides them with a badge to have access to the negotiation room at the COP. The aim is also to ensure that they participate in the discussion and understand it. For this component, they create the “Prep for COP initiatives” that bring together the young people from the Indian Ocean and if enough funds from the Caribbean and Pacific region, to prepare them to have a meaningful engagement at the COP via capacity building activities. She further pursues by explaining that they also have online training in the weeks leading to COP. They invite experts from various fields to train young people attending the COP. The results are not only having young people keeping track of what is happening during the negotiations by taking notes but also young people that can provide tools to the actual negotiators such as side by side comparison of the texts, feedback of statement that can be put in the Talanoa dialogues or other etc. All of this, as she highlighted, was design and executed by young people that also monitor and evaluate what is happening.

She continues by providing some examples of capacity building in her country itself that she developed with her organization. The initiatives aim at tackling the plastic challenge by running a Seychelle free from plastic bags campaign. The initiatives succeeded in convincing the government in 2017 to ban single-use plastic. She mentioned thanks to this initiative they were not only lobbying against plastic, but they also succeed in being involved in writing the legislation and provide real opportunity past the plastic use to people. The first of such project was develop in prison to bring sustainable development and rehabilitation at the same time. The project engaged female prisoners to make bags that could be used in replacement of the plastic bag in the outside community. The project was successful and sparked the interest of male prisoners who expressed their willingness to participate in similar endeavors. As the Seychelles prison has a music studio inside, the male prisoner wrote a song about why people should not use plastic bags.

Moreover, the female prisoner teaching the female prisoners to make plastic bags was acquitted in appeal. They employed her later to teach the unemployed youth that left prison to create a new sustainable business by creating reusable and bio-degradable products. She highlighted the fact that those initiatives were developed by young people contributing to their community instead of fly in and out consultant. She also emphasized the need for a long-term mentorship and support for young people but also a mentorship that allows us to develop empathy and understanding of each other issues and challenges, develop an international perspective and can help bridge the gaps and find solutions. She finishes by calling for creating more spaces that allows young people from around the world to take actions for capacity building.

Dr. Saleemul Huq gave his remarks by sharing three main points. The first one concerned the importance of youth. Indeed, the kids and young people are the ones that will have to deal and cope with the problems of that today's older generations are leaving behind for them. The more people can facilitate them, enable them and support them, then the better. There is a need to learn from them and them from us. He continued by mentioning the visiting researcher program at his centre (International Center for Climate Change and Development), that aims to allow student and young people to spend time in Bangladesh and be involved with the work of the centre. He pursues by mentioning the South-South linkage of university initiatives, the LUCCC network. This network was created not only to receive support but also to offer support and share their skills set developed by living in developing and particularly vulnerable countries on the question of community-based adaptation. Those skills that can be shared with the North to improve their resilience. His also give his thanks to the PCCB for organizing and facilitating the Capacity Building Hub Event and facilitating the organization of the 2nd Capacity Building event. He wished the PCCB every success in their work and to further collaborate in future Capacity Building day

Ms. Marzena Chodor, co-chair of the Paris Committee for Capacity Building, gave the closing remarks for the session by first asking all the people present throughout the day to reflect on what should be the mission of the PCCB. The mission of PCCB as decided by the parties is to identify the current and emerging gaps in terms of capacity building. She further mentioned that one of the important areas of work is the focus on the relationship between the current and emerging needs, that show that working on capacity building is not an easy and quick process. Indeed, added to the current challenges there are new emerging challenges but also challenges that might not be even be expected yet in terms of capacity building. All those needs will have to be meet. She pursued by saying that inviting young people into the capacity building work is important as it will be foremost their future. The intergenerational solidarity needs to play a greater role in our activities. Secondly, academics are repository of capacity building in their countries calling for a tightening of the cooperation between the academic's network and the academia and the non-academic world, to draw the right lessons that will later influence the recommendation that we will present to the parties. She also expressed her hope for a third capacity building day at the next COP 25 and at all future COPs.

We would like to thank all the organizers, the PCCB members, partners, presenters, panelists, moderators and participants for their insightful comments and contributions to the success of the 2nd Capacity Building day.