Advisory Board to the CTCN **29-31 August 2017**
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Submission to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) from the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)

1. Information on capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement

Introduction

The CTCN is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism and promotes the accelerated transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low carbon and climate resilient development at the request of developing countries.

Capacity-building is an important building block of CTCN's work. This includes building or strengthening the capacity of developing countries to identify technology options, make technology choices and operate, maintain and adapt technology[1] that will help increase resilience and mitigate GHG emissions[2] in line with their national priorities and goals included in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

As one of the thematic body under the Convention, CTCN mainstreams capacity-building in all its activities to:

a. Identify, pilot and deploy technologies for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through targeted technical assistance;
b. Facilitate linkages between technical assistance and financing.
c. Foster institutional strengthening in developing countries, with focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS;
d. Improve understanding of climate technologies through knowledge sharing

CTCN services are demand driven and eligibility of request to be supported is guided by the criteria set up by the Advisory Board of the CTCN. One of the main criteria is for the request to be in line with the country's national priorities. As a first step after receiving the request for assistance, CTCN determines how the request is aligned to the national priorities, and the impact it would have on the NDC targets and goal of the respective country. Only after this step the request is prioritized for implementation. Therefore, in effect, all CTCN implemented technical assistance requests lead to developing capacities for NDC implementation.

The following paras highlight the experience of the CTCN from the perspective of capacity-building activities for the implementation of NDCs

1.1. Identification of capacity gaps and needs and provision of recommendations to address them

[1] Technology includes "any equipment, techniques, practical knowledge and skills needed for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change". IPCC Special Report on Technology Transfer (IPCC, 2000a)
[2] Cf. COP Decision 1/CP.16

The CTCN has through inter-action with developing countries, a need for institutional capacity-building primarily in the areas of technology identification, prioritization, and adaptation to local conditions, as well as monitoring and information systems for decision making. The lack of tools, methodology and expertise to identify the various real activities which would lead to NDC implementation is a major barrier. The involvement of locally based experts in the delivery process and capacity gap analysis is essential to ensure ownership and sustainability of the efforts.

1.2. Promotion of the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity-building

When implementing capacity-building activities, the CTCN use various approaches such as technical and technological trainings, training of trainers, development of educational programmes and university curricula, development of guides and manuals on technologies, evaluation of national capacity-building programmes and institutions. Once developed, the resource materials, tools, and methodologies created and used are made available online for learning and information-sharing purposes across countries and regions.

1.3. Identification and collection of good practices, challenges, experiences and lessons learned from work on capacity-building by bodies established under the Convention

The CTCN based on four years of operations learned some lessons and seen good practice. These are based on the feedback received from the stakeholders like the NDEs, network members and project proponents. The feed-back is collected at the end of each capacity-building training programme, webinars and also technical assistance projects through structured and tailor-made questionnaire.
A number of thematic bodies under the convention are undertaking capacity-building activities focused on climate issues and topics related to NDC implementation. There is an essential need to map all the efforts including the work undertaken by the non-state actors and the bilateral development cooperation agencies. A repository of good practices could then be created and classified on the basis, focus area, geographic region, groups and sub groups like LDCs, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), African Group etc.

The main challenges faced by the countries are, lack of absorptive capacity within the system, the high turnover of human resources, and the lack of sustained capacity-building effort. The involvement of locally based experts in the implementation process is essential to ensure ownership and sustainability of the efforts.

2. Information or suggestions of relevance to PCCB mandates related to the capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention

CTCN experience with capacity-building initiatives and programmes as well as the experience of the host organisations and other Consortium Partners reveals that in order to be successful, capacity-building initiatives must:

- be embedded in longer-term – locally owned plans;
- pursue medium-term impacts rather than short-term outputs;
- facilitate peer learning and experience sharing, and;
- involve support to beneficiary countries for institutional strengthening.

2.1 Assessment of how to increase synergies through cooperation and avoid duplication among existing bodies established under the Convention that implement capacity-building activities, including through collaborating with institutions under and outside the Convention;

With an understanding of the challenges faced by developing countries in capacity-building, a holistic system should entail capacity-building on the following three levels:

- National level
- Regional level
- Centralized coordination and programme management

The following sections describe these three levels or structural components in greater detail including specific roles and functions that they could address for enhancing capacity–building effectiveness.

Empowering Focal Points at national level and increasing coordination

The proliferation of operating entities and focal points and the lack of coordination among the various thematic bodies, operating entities, implementing agencies, and other organizations outside the Convention involved in capacity-building is often cited as one of the key limitations of the current capacity-building infrastructure.[3] Developing country focal points and associated offices are often overwhelmed by the number of initiatives and the respective resource requirements placed upon them. To ensure that this recurrent capacity issue is addressed, national institutions serving as focal points need to be strengthened, and a national mechanism for greater coordination among focal points needs to be put in place. The experience of the CTCN conducting a new series of workshops that bring together national focal points[4] of the various climate initiatives under the UNFCCC from selected countries could be replicated to coordinate efforts related to capacity-building at national level.

2.2 Identification and collection of good practices, challenges, experiences, and lessons learned from work on capacity-building by bodies established under the Convention

The work undertaken by the CTCN highlights the importance of taking into account:

a) The need to identify and prioritize capacity-building focus areas, as this encompasses many types of activities and topics;
b) Concrete ways of strengthening linkages among existing bodies established under the Convention at national level. The CTCN workshop on mainstreaming technologies in climate action plans, piloted in selected sub-regions (cf. point 2.3 below), is a good example in this regards that could be replicated and scaled-up. One of the important element in this activity was that the technology focal point i.e. the

[3] Dagnet, Y., E. Northrop, D. Tirpak. (2015) How to Strengthen the Institutional Architecture for Capacity Building to Support the Post-2020 Climate Regime. Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available at http://www.wri.org/publications/capacitybuilding.

[4] Climate Change Focal Point, CTCN NDE, Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) Focal Point, Green Climate Fund (GCF) NDA, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Point, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) Focal Point, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) Focal Point.

NDE was the coordinating focal point as one of its role encompasses coordinating technology identification and scale up for NDC implementation which is intricately linked to financing and inherent capacities in the country;

c) The large interest of countries for South-South cooperation and the potential of such cooperation to support the deployment of climate technologies;
d) Effective gender mainstreaming in capacity-building projects;
e) The importance of engagement with non-state actors, civil society and private sector;
f) The identification of common and pressing needs across various countries to pilot and implement regional capacity-building programmes.

2.3 Fostering of dialogue, coordination, collaboration, and coherence among relevant processes and initiatives under the Convention, including through exchanging information on capacity-building activities and strategies of bodies established under the Convention

As a thematic body under the convention, CTCN has strong links with other mechanisms and processes. In view of its role within the broader climate architecture, the CTCN launched a new series of workshops to mainstream technology in the national climate agenda and support implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). **The workshops bring together national focal points[5] from selected countries of the various climate initiatives under the UNFCCC to discuss countries priorities and strengthen synergies with the objective to scale up and deploy priority climate technologies at national level.** These focal points are: Climate Change Focal Point, CTCN NDE, Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) Focal Point, Green Climate Fund (GCF) NDA, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Point, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) Focal Point, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) Focal Point. This has led to a harmonized approach to identify capacity and technology gaps and prioritization to address these gaps through various means of implementation.

2.4 Promotion and exploration of linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as appropriate, that include capacity-building in their scopes.

CTCN collaborates with the GEF on technical assistance on a special programme for seven developing countries in response to requests to the CTCN, including partnerships to accelerate investment and the transfer of climate technologies and capacity-building for climate technology, giving due consideration to gender issues.

CTCN is supporting countries to access GCF Readiness Funds. In the first such collaboration of its kind, the Governments of Ghana, Tonga, and Myanmar will receive Readiness and Preparatory Support from the GCF for climate technology assistance delivered by CTCN, thus marking a new engagement between the Finance and Technology Mechanisms of the UNFCCC. Additional countries are preparing Readiness proposals to the GCF with the assistance of the CTCN.

[5] Climate Change Focal Point, CTCN NDE, Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) Focal Point, Green Climate Fund (GCF) NDA, Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Point, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) Focal Point, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) Focal Point.

CTCN collaborates with the Adaptation Fund to ensure support for capacities in developing projects proposals for acceptance by the AF.

3. Information and suggestions regarding the web-based capacity-building portal

3.1 Suggestions on the further improvement and/or enhancement of the capacity-building (for example related to user-friendliness, better visibility, etc.)

The thematic bodies under the Convention and also those outside it are already undertaking awareness raising and information dissemination activities on specific tools and platforms. PCCB may ensure that its activities do not duplicate the work already being done on the same.

Based on the analysis of needs expressed by the countries and institutional capacity available within delivery partners, the CTCN has adopted an approach wherein capacity is built through webinars, technology library and other knowledge products.

A variety of online tools have been employed to provide capacity-building support. The CTCN Consortium Partners and Network Members conducted thematic webinars introducing the main climate technologies and sectors and their contribution to increased resilience and reduced GHG emissions. Over 2000 participants attended CTCN webinars between 2015 and 2017, discussing the main gaps and barriers to technology development and transfer and learning about concrete examples of successful initiatives.

The CTCN would like to share its challenging experience in creating, managing and updating knowledge management systems and technology libraries (a portal/platform) for them to be useful. In our experience, developing linkages with existing portals/ platforms, including the ones owned by national governments and major development actors, is more effective than creating new databases.

For such platform to deliver against expectations, there is a need to plan for enough human and technical resources, as the population and maintenance of the platform require substantial and regular expert work. Consequently, strategic priorities need to be defined to balance efforts towards the development and maintenance of such platform versus towards specific capacity-building activities in countries.

3.2 Capacity-building related information to be incorporated in the capacity-building portal, including in line with the 2017/2018 focus area or theme of the PCCB.

The CTCN Knowledge Management System provides information on climate technologies and on CTCN technical assistance that could be included in the capacity-building portal. For each completed technical assistance, an analysis of utilized technologies is conducted and these technologies are described and matched with information relevant to that particular technology such as existing webinars, publications, case studies, sample products and Network members with relevant experience. In this way, the CTCN is able to provide more in-depth information for those technologies prioritized by participating countries and is able to keep the information up to date.