

# **NDC enhancement: lessons learned in capacity needs, challenges and opportunities**

**Online Event Summary Report**

# Event Information

## Date & Time

Nov 18 | 14:00 - 16:00 CET

## Venue

Virtual -Zoom

## Attended by

50 representatives

# Useful Links

## Event webpage

<https://unfccc.int/event/ndc-enhancement-lessons-learned-in-capacity-needs-challenges-and-opportunities>

The event recording and presentation files can be found here.

## Capacity-building Momentum for Recovering Better

<https://unfccc.int/pccb-network/CBMomentum2020>

## UNEP DTU Partnership

<https://unepdtu.org/>

## NDC Action Project

<https://unepdtu.org/project/ndc-action/>

## Global Support Programme

<https://www.un-gsp.org/>

## UNDP - Climate Promise

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/climatepromise.html>

# Background

Developing countries have embarked on the process of enhancing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) capacity and resource availability, notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic playing an important role in the varying degree of readiness of countries to submit their enhanced NDCs by end of 2020. In this webinar, we will explore, based on the submitted NDCs, the way countries have enhanced their NDCs and what capacity building they needed. We will also look at the experience from various countries and international organizations working on the ground to hear what were the capacity challenges faced by countries but also what were the opportunities and the lessons learned to ensure sustainability over time of the gained capacity.

## Objectives

This roundtable is organized as part of the [Capacity-building Momentum to Recover Better](#) event series by the PCCB Network. The aims of the discussion would be to provide an overview of the enhanced NDCs through the lenses of capacity-building, and hear from countries who have submitted or are in the process of revising their NDCs about their experience and thoughts:

- What are/were the capacity needs they have identified and what types of support they have received to address those needs?
- What type/means of support they would have liked to have but was not available to them?
- What lessons they have learned and how they are planning to capitalize on, for the next process for revision of NDCs?
- What type of support is needed to ensure sufficient capacities have been built and retained in countries to facilitate future NDC revision processes?

# Agenda

Time	Description of segments
14:00-14:05	<b>Opening &amp; introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Moderator: Miriam Hinostroza, UNEP</li></ul>
14:05-14:10	<b>Welcoming remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Marzena Chodor, PCCB Co-Chair</li></ul>
14:10-14:50	<b>Setting the scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Fatima-Zahra Taibi, UNEP DTU Partnership</li><li>•Nataliya Vasylyeva, Climate Promise, UNDP</li></ul> Q&A
14:50-15:35	<b>Moderated round table discussion: lessons learned from revision and enhancement of NDCs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Omar Alcock, Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica</li><li>•Pham Van Tan, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam</li><li>•Pape Lamine Diouf , Ministry for the environment and nature protection, Senegal</li></ul>
15:35-15:50	<b>Open discussions and interactive session</b>
15:50-16:00	<b>Closing</b>

# Summary of Presentations

## Fatima-Zahra Taibi, UNEP DTU Partnership (UDP)

UDP presented the framework for NDCs agreed on by Parties to the Paris Agreement followed by a guide of the NDC cycles.

- Communication of NDCs every 5 years (NDCs may be adjusted at any time to enhance its level of ambition)
- Each successive NDC will present a progression beyond the previous one and reflect highest possible ambition.

### New Timelines

- Deadline for submitting new or updated NDCs is February 2021

### Status of submissions so far

- 15 countries have submitted their enhanced NDCs
  - 11 of the 15 are developing countries
- 8 out of 11 countries have strengthened or added GHG target
- 10 out of 11 countries have strengthened or added policies and actions
- 4 out of 11 countries have strengthened or added a sectoral target
- 9 out of 11 countries have strengthened adaptation
- 2 out of 11 countries have added a target of climate neutrality
- 6 out of 11 countries have moved to an economy wide target
- 8 out of 11 countries have a conditional target
- 2 out of 11 countries have moved from conditional to unconditional
- 9 out of 11 countries have provided additional information for clarity, transparency, and understanding
- 9 out of 11 countries have mentioned needs for capacity building to implement NDC

### Countries that have submitted their second NDC:

- 2 Parties (Suriname and Marshall Islands)

### Countries that have updated their first NDC:

- 13 Parties (Thailand, Mongolia, Cuba, Vietnam, Jamaica, Rwanda, Andorra, New Zealand, Chile, Japan, Singapore, Moldova, Norway)

## Capacity needs expressed in the NDCs

- Strengthening the sectoral, national and subnational capacities
- Integrating of mitigation and adaptation in sectoral planning processes
- Mainstreaming climate change and raising awareness among local actors, communities and the private sector in view of transforming behaviours and mind- sets
- Developing finance proposals
- Adaptation including support for NAP and decision making with regard to the actions to be undertaken, impact assessment, risk and disaster forecasting
- Development of coordination mechanisms, legislations, policies and action plans
- Strengthening of national ownership of capacity building to ensure sustainability including improvement of the research capacity in climate change
- Developing information systems

## Barriers to NDC implementation

All countries expressed different barriers for NDC implementation. The graphics below mentions the barriers mentioned.



## Nataliya Vasylyeva, Climate Promise, UNDP

UNDP presented the global Climate Promise initiative aimed at support of over 110 countries in enhancing, designing, and submitting their NDCs with raised ambitions, including:

- Overview of the UNDP climate portfolio, resources, and approaches applied through Climate Promise
- Five service lines of Climate Promise supporting activities to enhance NDCs:
  1. Build political will and societal ownership at national and sub-national levels
  2. Review, align and update existing targets, policies and measures
  3. Incorporate new sectors and/or GHGs
  4. Assess costs and investment opportunities
  5. Monitor progress & strengthen transparency
- Latest progress and future forecasts

## Country cases from Jamaica and Vietnam by:

- Omar Alcock, Climate Change Division, Jamaica

- Pham Van Tan, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam

The representatives from the two countries presented the capacity needs and gaps in submitting its NDC and the support which was received. Highlights from the presentation:

- Both give highlights from the updated NDCs
- Support that they would have liked to have but was not available.
- Lessons learned for the next process for revision of NDCs
- For Jamaica the updated NDC contains elements of adaptation, mitigation and cross-cutting. Sector wise they have expanded from only energy to now also include forestry. Focus on gender mainstreaming and civil society engagement
- Strengthened components for climate data and information
- Both countries found new working ways during the COVID-19 pandemic, where technology had to replace many face-to-face interactions.
- Need for strengthened institutional framework through revised CC policy, legislative support, stakeholder sensitization and inter-ministry collaboration.
- Important with early and broad stakeholder consultations
- Need for expertise and support to finance this
- Keep an open and transparent process for the best results
- Important with high level of participation, but with high participation also comes high pressure. Important to find a balance.

# Questions and comments during Q&A

- What is climate neutrality?
  - Climate neutrality in broad terms means that all emissions reported by a country are neutralised/counterbalanced by removals.
- Capacity-building must also be aimed at decision-makers in all levels of government, financial institutions and industry - are these covered in the NDCs, and if not, how can this be expressed?
- Don't countries also require certain capacities to identify and specify their capacity building needs for NDC implementation? How can this be overcome when they communicate their second/updated NDCs?
  - The PCCB is currently working on a toolkit for national level capacity-building assessment of gaps and needs relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, taking into account lessons learned from national level capacity-building assessments conducted with support from the GEF, activities under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme and other relevant initiatives.
- How did you mobilise political buy-in?
  - In the case of Jamaica, there was strong political will with the President. Other initiatives include raising awareness among politicians about the NDC and was sought approval by cabinet before it was submitted.
  - From UNDP side, interaction begins between UNDP country officers and the government. NDCs should become a question for the entire government and not only Ministry of Environment. Important to create cross-collaboration, data and information sharing, so NDC becomes horizontal across the government and not located within one ministry.
- Identification of capacity building needs is important for countries. In many countries there is a weakness in communication infrastructure made more difficult during COVID-19 pandemic.

## Questions and comments during Q&A - continued

- In the NDCs, do you track commitments on formal education provision for mitigation and adaptation?
  - Since NDCs are country driven, this could be signalled. Please, have a look at guidance provided in Decision 4/CMA.1 (Annex)
- What is the difference between second NDC and revised NDC?
  - Provisions of the UNFCCC calls for countries with NDCs with an up to 2025 timeframe to submit a new NDC (so in this case a second NDC). Countries who have NDCs with a timeframe of 2030 or beyond are required to submit a revised/updated NDC (in this case these countries will still have first NDC).

## Key message from the discussion

- The participants demonstrated importance of sharing the experience of the NDC enhancement and capacity building among the countries. It is crucial to discuss the challenges different countries have faced during the process and how they succeeded to manage them. Sharing up to date progress and ambition of countries in the NDC development provides positive incentives to the entire global community.

## Future events

For future events stay tuned on the websites of the different organisations. Links are provided in an earlier section of this report.