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Capacity Development as a Driver for Low-Emission, Climate-Resilient Development

UN system-wide response to climate change

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) brings together 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting global challenges.

In 2007, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Actions Framework, a joint action-oriented approach in line with the decisions of the UNFCCC Parties. The UN system supports Member States in implementing their commitments and in responding to the emerging challenges.

At COP 17 / CMP 7, the UN system is presenting its ongoing work and practical solutions and tools at side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

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CEB Website:

www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/

To meet the climate challenge, countries need the capacity to design and implement strategies that support low-emission, climate-resilient development. Robust and responsive state institutions, capable public and private sector management, and skilled human resources each play a critical role in supporting transformation that is generated from within and sustained over time.

The UN system has the broad operational reach and vast network of regional, national and sub-national offices to deliver capacity development services at such scope and scale. As a trusted multilateral partner, it uses its global presence and experience to help nations strengthen their capacities so that they can perform better and contribute to the achievement of national development goals.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Climate Change Action Framework

Focus (left) and Cross-Cutting Areas (right) have been identified in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the UN system (with corresponding convening agencies) to ensure better coordination and cooperation for concrete deliverables:

Adaptation
 Technology transfer
 Forestry and Agriculture
 Financing mitigation and adaptation action
 Capacity-building

Climate knowledge; science, assessment, monitoring and early warning
 Supporting global, regional and national action
 Public awareness-raising
 Social Dimensions of Climate Change

Objective

Partnering with countries strengthen policies, institutions, and human resource capacities to drive low-emission, climate-resilient development.

Strengthening capacities to achieve country-driven action for mitigation, adaptation, technology, REDD, and finance, and to enhance engagement in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Activities

Drawing on the common statements and resources of the UN system, such as the UNDG Position Statement on Capacity Development and the UNFCCC Capacity Building Framework, the UN supports countries in developing capacities to address climate change and achieve national development objectives.

An important milestone in this support is the recent completion by 146 countries of the **National Capacity Self-Assessments**, which identified and assessed priority capacities to lay the foundation for targeted capacity development responses.

In addition, the UN system has provided capacity development support across the topics of the Bali Action Plan. For example, under **technology transfer**, the UN system provides support to 36 developing countries to enable them to identify, prioritize, and deploy technologies that contribute to mitigation and adaptation. Under the **UN-REDD** programme, focus is on supporting capacity development for setting standards for monitoring, reporting and verification, and institutional strengthening.

Adaptation readiness is supported in over 35 Least Developed Countries, where National Adaptation Programmes of Action are developed and priorities are implemented. The Africa Adaptation Programme supports 20 African countries to develop capacities to identify climate risks and design and implement holistic climate-resilient adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans. Under **mitigation and finance**, the Capacity Development for the Clean Development Mechanism project helps to identify, design, review, approve and implement emission reduction projects that align with sustainable development objectives by generating understanding of CDM opportunities and developing the institutional and individual capabilities.

These initiatives are supported further by the One-UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (**UN CC:Learn**), a collaboration of 30 UN agencies that facilitates knowledge-sharing and country-driven strategy development to advance effective and results-oriented learning on climate change.

Results

UN support to capacity development has resulted in innovative dialogue mechanisms, enhanced coordination, more inclusive policy development and implementation. It has resulted in stronger institutions that perform more efficiently and effectively, that sustain that performance over time, and that manage change and shocks. In turn, these institutions have contributed to the achievement of low-emission, climate-resilient development and contributed to the acceleration of the Millennium Development Goals.

Moving forward

As the UNFCCC process increasingly emphasizes implementation, e.g. through Nationally-Appropriate Mitigation Actions and National Adaptation Plans, capacities must be strengthened to ensure that countries are well-placed to meet these new commitments. Building on decades of climate capacity support initiatives, the UN is ready to continue supporting transformation and capacity development that fosters sound investment choices, robust national policies, and institutional reforms.

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