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Compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building work undertaken by bodies established under the Convention

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This report was prepared to support the in-depth discussion on capacity-building at the first meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building, held at the thirty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), and for further consideration by the SBI at its thirty-seventh session. This report compiles and synthesizes information on capacity-building work undertaken by relevant bodies established under the Convention, namely the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Technology Executive Committee.

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	1–5	3
A. Mandate.....	1–2	3
B. Scope of the note.....	3–5	3
II. Capacity-building work undertaken by bodies established under the Convention..	6–19	4
A. Capacity-building work undertaken by the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.....	6–11	4
B. Capacity-building work undertaken by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.....	12–17	5
C. Capacity-building activities under the Technology Executive Committee.....	18–19	6

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 144, requested the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to further enhance the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building by organizing an annual in-session Durban Forum on Capacity-building for in-depth discussion on capacity-building, with the participation of Parties, representatives of the relevant bodies established under the Convention, and relevant experts and practitioners, with a view to sharing their experiences and exchanging ideas, best practices and lessons learned regarding the implementation of capacity-building activities.

2. The COP decided that the first meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building would be held during the thirty-sixth session of the SBI and requested the secretariat, *inter alia*, to compile and synthesize information on capacity-building activities, including lessons learned, provided by the relevant bodies established under the Convention.¹

B. Scope of the note

3. This report compiles and synthesizes information on capacity-building activities contained in the following reports by the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) produced after the seventeenth session of the COP:

(a) Progress report on the work of the CGE (FCCC/SBI/2012/2);

(b) Progress report on the work of the CGE: report on the hands-on training workshop for the Africa region on vulnerability and adaptation assessment (FCCC/SBI/2012/12);

(c) Progress report on the work of the CGE: report on the hands-on training workshop for the Asia and the Pacific region on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories (FCCC/SBI/2012/13);

(d) Progress report on the work of the CGE: report on the hands-on training workshop for the Asia and the Pacific region on mitigation assessment (FCCC/SBI/2012/14);

(e) Report on the twenty-first meeting of the LEG (FCCC/SBI/2012/7);

(f) Report on the linkage modalities and the rolling workplan of the TEC for 2012–2013 (FCCC/SB/2012/1).

4. Information on work of relevance to capacity-building undertaken by the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Adaptation Committee and the Standing Committee will be included in future reports once those bodies become operational.

5. The Durban Forum on Capacity-building may wish to consider the information contained in this report with a view to further enhancing the monitoring and review of capacity-building activities in developing countries.

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 146 and 150.

II. Capacity-building work undertaken by bodies established under the Convention

A. Capacity-building work undertaken by the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

6. The CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, conducted three workshops between November 2011 and March 2012. The main objective of these workshops was to enhance the capacity of national experts from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) involved in the process of, and preparation of, national communications.

7. National experts from 35 non-Annex I Parties representing the Africa region attended the hands-on training workshop for the Africa region on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7 to 11 November 2011. The participants were introduced to recent scientific developments and the various tools and methodologies available for vulnerability and adaptation assessment. The workshop also included hands-on training sessions on the use of appropriate tools and methods concerning climate scenarios, water resources, human health, agriculture and coastal resources. An average of 30 additional participants per day representing Parties in the Africa region participated in the workshop through videoconferencing.

8. A hands-on training workshop was conducted for the Asia and the Pacific region. The objective of the workshop, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 30 January to 3 February 2012, was to train national experts from the region involved in the preparation of their national GHG inventories. The workshop was attended by 41 national experts from 30 non-Annex I Parties. An average of 50 additional participants per day, representing non-Annex I Parties from the Asia and the Pacific region, participated in the workshop using a facility for remote participation via videoconferencing. The workshop included in-depth training, including hands-on training exercises on the preparation of national GHG inventories as included in the "Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention" and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change methodologies pertaining to all sectors of a national GHG inventory.

9. Another regional workshop for the Asia and the Pacific region, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27 February to 2 March 2012, focused on building the capacity of national experts of non-Annex I Parties involved in undertaking mitigation assessments by introducing them to recent scientific findings and various tools and methodologies. Thirty-three national experts from 32 non-Annex I Parties participated in the workshop. In addition, nine participants took part in the workshop through videoconferencing. After providing information on climate change, GHG emissions sources and sinks, and the potential benefits of mitigation activities, including interaction between mitigation, adaptation and development, the participants undertook hands-on training exercises on conducting mitigation assessments.

10. While the CGE acknowledged that the hands-on training workshops contributed positively towards enhancing the capacity of national experts, it also noted that the effectiveness of the workshops, and of online training, could be further enhanced through a number of actions, such as the following: developing and implementing e-learning programmes to complement the workshops and providing opportunities for continuous learning after the workshops; developing and maintaining a forum for discussion, in the form of an e-network, for the exchange of views, experiences and information among the

workshop participants and the experts; and preparing multiple sets of training exercises to address different levels of expertise.²

11. The CGE is in the process of improving and updating training materials for national experts covering national GHG inventories, vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and mitigation assessment. Furthermore, the CGE is also collecting and synthesizing technical information on the tools and support available for the provision of information on steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions. It is further compiling information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties.

B. Capacity-building work undertaken by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

12. The LEG provides support to the least developed countries (LDCs) on the preparation and implementation strategy for national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), the LDC work programme and the national adaptation plan (NAP) process.³

13. The LEG is currently developing technical guidelines for the NAP process and is developing training materials for regional workshops to be conducted in 2012 and 2013 to enhance capacity in the LDCs to carry out adaptation work at the national level. Furthermore, a paper on gender considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities in the implementation of the LDC work programme has been prepared, will be incorporated into the training materials for the regional training workshops and will be used to provide technical guidance and support under the NAP process.

14. The LEG also supports the implementation of the LDC work programme. At its twenty-first meeting, the LEG, in consultation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), developed further specifications for each of the elements of the LDC work programme other than the NAPAs with a view to informing the COP about guidance to be provided to the GEF on the implementation of those elements, such as the following: strengthening or establishing climate change secretariats and/or focal points; providing training in negotiation and language skills to negotiators; supporting the preparation of NAPAs; promoting public awareness programmes to ensure the dissemination of information on climate change issues; the development and transfer of technology; and strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of NAPAs.

² FCCC/SBI/2012/2, paragraph 17.

³ The NAP process was defined to be broader than just the production of a static NAP document, and will include all necessary components of an adaptation approach, such as gap analysis, capacity-building, outreach plans, stakeholder engagement, and plans for developing concrete policies, programmes and projects (FCCC/SBI/2012/7, para. 25).

15. The LEG will further enhance the LDC portal,⁴ which serves as the main information hub for LDCs on NAPAs, and the LDC work programme and will also in the future provide information and support for the NAP process.

16. The LEG will produce a second volume of its best practices and lessons learned publication,⁵ which will focus on the implementation aspects of NAPAs and the LDC work programme, touching on, inter alia, the development of plans for the full implementation of NAPAs, access to funds, the relationship with key stakeholders and implementation on the ground.

17. The LEG prepares regular information notes in English and French to keep LDC Parties informed about developments in the negotiation process on matters specific to the LDCs. Furthermore, the LEG will support the preparation and implementation of NAPAs, other elements of the LDC work programme and the NAP process through the production of an annual aggregated publication of LEG working papers.

C. Capacity-building activities under the Technology Executive Committee

18. The TEC facilitates enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation in order to achieve the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. The TEC, inter alia, provides policy guidance and facilitates collaboration on the development and transfer of technologies and catalyses the development and use of technology road maps or action plans at the international, regional and national levels, including the development of best practice guidelines as facilitative tools.⁶

19. The TEC developed its workplan at its second meeting, held on 15–17 February 2012. As part of its rolling workplan for 2012–2013, the TEC will review technology needs from various sources in order to make recommendations on enabling environments, prepare an inventory and review of existing technology road maps, produce technical papers and develop an information platform for the TEC within the technology information clearing house (TT:Clear)⁷ to strengthen the understanding of specific topics related to the development and transfer of technologies.

⁴ <http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/least_developed_countries_portal/items/4751.php>.

⁵ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/ldc_publication_bbl_2011.pdf>.

⁶ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 121.

⁷ <<http://unfccc.int/ttclear/jsp/index.jsp>>.