



Submission by Ethiopia on Behalf of the Least Developed Countries on potential topics for the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-Building to take place during SBI

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The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) welcome the opportunity to submit their views on potential topics for the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-Building (Durban Forum).

The LDCs continue to believe that the Durban Forum is a good platform and one of the effective means for continuous sharing of information, good practices and lessons learnt for all stakeholders involved in delivering capacity-building initiatives in developing countries. The Durban Forum is also vital in identifying key activities that further enhance efforts with regards to coherence and coordination in the implementation of capacity-building activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, especially in LDCs.

The LDCs further believe that capacity-building is fundamental for achieving the goals of Paris Agreement and is critical for activities to reduce emissions and build resilience. Hence, the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum is essential to assist LDCs as well as other developing countries to identify and collaborate with institutions and other stakeholders with relevant expertise, tools and resources to address all crucial capacity-building issues.

The LDCs are also of the view that discussions during the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum should be centered on the 2017-2018 focus area for the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB): *capacity-building activities for the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement*.

In this context, sufficient time should be allocated for presentations as well as in-depth discussions during the Durban Forum. Suggestions and recommendations during from the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum should be an integral part of the work programme of the PCCB, including its discussions and should assist the SBI to identify modalities that would help better align the Durban Forum with the PCCB focal area or theme.

Therefore, the following are topics which should be discussed during the upcoming 7th meeting of Durban Forum:

1. *Financing of capacity-building initiatives in the context of NDCs*

The Durban Forum should cover the process and progress of financing capacity-building initiatives in the context of NDCs. The discussions should be informed by details of the financial flows for NDC implementation to LDCs from various sources. The capacity needs of countries to effectively utilize and absorb financial resources at the local level should also be covered. The presentations and discussions on this matter needs to show how the financing of NDC activities is clearly linked to the priority areas identified in the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (2/CP.7).

Ultimately, discussions should give a good picture of funding for future capacity-building in NDC priority areas, including assessing the effectiveness of actions taken on financing current and emerging capacity-building needs for developing countries in the context of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

2. *Capacity-building for implementing NDCs*

The session should showcase the current and overall status of capacity-building initiatives for countries to implement NDCs in accordance with the 2017-2018 theme of the PCCB, namely capacity building activities for the implementation of NDC in the context of the Paris Agreement. The presentations and discussions on this important topic should showcase best-case examples as well as future planned programmes for NDC implementation. This session should also include detailed discussions on issues related to the implementation of adaptation, mitigation and technology development and transfer activities. Specific topics that need to be addressed during this session are capacity-building experiences in NAMA and NAP preparation and implementation in LDCs.

3. *Enhancing capacity-building in planning processes*

As countries are implementing the Paris Agreement, it is imperative to better understand effective national planning processes and how climate change issues can be mainstreamed into existing planning processes within their respective country policies and programmes. Discussions should be centered on how effective planning processes could help developing country Parties to take ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time. The discussions should cover existing capacity-building programmes for these planning processes and highlight lessons learnt in this process through experience sharing.

4. *Fostering cooperation, coordination and consolidation of capacity-building initiatives*

Fostering global, regional, national and sub-national cooperation, coordination and consolidation of capacity-building initiatives is essential for the effective delivery of capacity-building programmes in developing countries.

Exploration of options for enhancing global cooperation and coordination on capacity-building will also allow for better sharing of tools, methodologies and good practices, including the identification of relevant actors and stakeholders for fostering and/or enhancing the implementation of capacity-building activities at all levels. The Durban Forum should identify and explore opportunities to strengthen capacity at the regional, national and subnational levels. Practical experiences from existing best-case examples of global and/or institutional arrangements which have showed greater coordination, coherence, monitoring, review and reporting are important for sharing experiences.

5. Capacity for addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change

Strengthening capacity to address loss and damage needs to be a key topic for discussion at the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum. The focus of the discussion should be on how to address and build the long-term resilience of countries, vulnerable populations and communities with respect to loss and damage, including in relation to extreme and slow onset events.

6. Capacity Building on Transparency

Enhancing financial and technical support for building institutional and technical capacity related to transparency, both pre- and post-2020, is crucial for implementing transparency-related obligations under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and for ensuring the overall effectiveness of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement as a whole. The 7th meeting of the Durban Forum should prioritise discussion on this topic, providing practical experience on how developing countries, and in particular LDCs, could be supported to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with their national priorities.