

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



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**

UN system-wide response to climate change

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

In 2008, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Action Framework, a joint, action-oriented approach in line with the ongoing UNFCCC negotiating processes and the emerging agendas of the Parties of the Convention.

The UN system stands ready to support Member States in implementing their commitments. At COP 16 / CMP 6, it is presenting its ongoing work and practical tools available through side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

For more information on the CEB and its joint work on climate change, please visit: <http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/>

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Objectives

- Helping countries strengthen policies, institutions, and individual 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 joint statements and resources of the UN system, such as the UNDG Position Statement on Capacity Development and the UNFCCC Capacity Building Framework, the UN system supports countries in building 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**, it 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 **finance**, the

Moving forward

As details on new measures from the UNFCCC process emerge, including Nationally-Appropriate Mitigation Actions and National Adaptation Plans, capacities must be strengthened to ensure that countries are well-placed to meet these new activities. Building on decades of climate capacity support initiatives across agencies, the UN system will continue to support transformation by supporting capacity development, particularly for sound investment choices, robust national policies, and institutional reforms, to meet the climate challenge.

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Capacity Development for Decision Makers to address climate change initiative supports countries to assess the investment and financial flows to address climate change in key sectors giving countries accurate estimates of the funds needed to implement mitigation and adaptation actions. Under **mitigation**, 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.

All of these are supported further by the One-UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (**CC:Learn**), which supports the design and delivery of effective and results-oriented learning on climate change.

Results

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