

**SUBMISSION BY THE AILAC GROUP OF COUNTRIES - CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA,
HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY AND PERU
AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY GROUP (EIG) – GEORGIA, LIECHTENSTEIN,
MEXICO, MONACO, REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND SWITZERLAND**

7th Durban Forum for Capacity Building

AILAC and the EIG welcome the opportunity to submit their views on potential topics for the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-Building (Durban Forum).

AILAC and the EIG support the recommendation put forward by the Paris Committee on Capacity Building that 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”.

The 6th Meeting of the Durban Forum demonstrated the usefulness of addressing capacity building in the context of Nationally Determined Contributions with a focus on a specific policy area. In particular, this approach allowed focused exchanges and the sharing of good practices.

AILAC and the EIG also recall the decision of the COP inviting the Paris Committee on Capacity Building to “take into consideration cross-cutting issues such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples’ knowledge” (decision 16/CP.22) and other previous decisions stressing the importance of integration gender aspects in capacity building (Decision 1/CP.16 and Decision 2/CP.17).

This recommendation is particularly relevant in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement given the commitment made by many parties in their National Determined Contributions to integrate human rights, gender, indigenous peoples’ participation and traditional knowledge to their mitigation, adaptation and capacity building activities. At the same time, and as noted by the Secretariat, the capacity gaps related to the integration of these themes have not yet been assessed (Technical Paper by the UNFCCC Secretariat, FCCC/TP/2017/7).

Studies have demonstrated that a better integration of human rights, including indigenous peoples rights and land tenure rights, and gender equality into climate related policies results in more effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes while contributing to greater sustainable development co-benefits and public support for climate policies.

It will also be important to promote consistency and alignment with existing instruments, including the recently adopted Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.23) and the operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (Decision 2/CP.23).

Both Paris Committee on Capacity Building and Durban Forum could contribute to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement by identifying the lessons learned, capacity building needs and resources available to promote the integration of these cross-cutting themes in the implementation of National Determined Contributions.

In this context, AILAC and the EIG suggests that the topic for the 7th Durban Forum be: “Enhancing the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions through the integration of cross-cutting issues such as gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples’ knowledge”.

The 7th Durban Forum could address more specifically the following issues: capacity gaps in relation to the integration of human rights, gender and traditional knowledge in the implementation of NDCs, support available through international institutions and cooperation, lessons learned in capacity building for the integration of cross-cutting issues in climate policy and integration of cross-cutting issues in the planning process.

Participants to a forum focused on the abovementioned topic could include:

- Representatives from developing countries having highlighted their commitment to integrating gender responsiveness, human rights and indigenous peoples’ knowledge in the implementation of their NDCs to identify capacity building needs and gaps,
- Representatives from intergovernmental organizations (including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Women and the International Labor Organization), international financial institutions and experts from research institutions and civil society organizations to provide information and expertise regarding relevant support available and lessons learned,
- Representatives from developed countries having provided support related to this topic to share their experience, and
- Representatives from National Human Rights Institutions and other domestic institutions and agencies to highlight opportunities to strengthen capacity building on this topic through bilateral cooperation.