



# ecbi Annual Report

## 2020-2021



ecbi

European Capacity Building Initiative  
[www.eurocapacity.org](http://www.eurocapacity.org)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Director	2
ECBI Activities in 2020-2021	3
Fellowship Programme	3
<i>Webinar on Completing the Ambition Mechanism of the Paris Agreement</i>	3
<i>Webinar on why an Ambition Cycle under the Paris Agreement matters, and why it matters now</i>	3
<i>Webinar on crunch issues of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement</i>	3
<i>What has justice got to do with climate change?</i>	4
<i>“Legal jam” Webinar</i>	5
<i>Technical Dialogue on Common Time Frames</i>	5
<i>Webinar on Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement</i>	5
<i>Webinar on “Quo Vadis COP?”</i>	6
Training and Support Programme	6
<i>2020 Training Webinar for the Asia Pacific Region</i>	6
<i>2020 Training Webinar for the Caribbean Region</i>	6
<i>2021 Training Webinar for the Caribbean Region</i>	7
Publications and Policy Analysis Unit	7
<i>Launch Webinars</i>	8
<i>Policy Briefs</i>	8
<i>Pocket Guides</i>	10
<i>Blogs</i>	11
<i>Meeting Reports</i>	12

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The past year has been “interesting”, as we say in Oxford. It was meant to be the final year of ecbi Phase IV, but given the cessation of our traditional activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to extend Phase IV for another year, and to re-set the clock for in-person events in 2022 for Phase V.

In the course of the year, the Fellowship Programme held eight virtual events, one organised by LRI and the rest by OCP; and the Training and Support Programme held three regional Training Webinars, one organised by IIED and two by OCP. However, by far the most productive arm of the ecbi last year was the Publications and Policy Analysis Unit (PPAU), which lists five Policy Briefs, eight Pocket Guides, four blog posts, and seven meeting reports as outputs for the year.

This was due, first and foremost, to the efforts of Anju Sharma, the PPAU Head, who I would like to congratulate on this magnificent result! Indeed, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anju on behalf of everyone involved in the ecbi and beyond for the work she has done for us in managing our publications and outreach from the very beginning in 2005, as she has decided to move on from her position as PPAU Head, in order to be able to pursue her keen interest in local communities, in particular locally-led adaptation. I have no doubt she will be as successful as with her work with the PPAU. Anju will continue to help manage the ecbi mentoring scheme for ‘new’ women negotiators, which was launched at COP25 in Madrid in 2019, as well as a new formal network of senior women negotiators. Over the past year, she has been working on raising funds for both initiatives and I am very pleased she intends to take both forward.

We remain in hope that things will return to “normal”, maybe even a “new and better normal”, by the time of COP26 in Glasgow at the end of this year.

**Benito Müller**

Director, ecbi  
Oxford, April 2021

## ECBI ACTIVITIES IN 2020-2021

### Fellowship Programme

Due to the COVID pandemic, it was not possible to hold either the Bonn Seminar or the Oxford Seminar. Instead, there were eight virtual ecbi Fellowship Programme events, one organised by LRI and the rest by OCP.

### Webinar on Completing the Ambition Mechanism of the Paris Agreement

Leading climate negotiators highlighted the urgent need to complete work on the Paris Agreement's "Ambition Mechanism" by resolving the issue of common time frames at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during a [Webinar](#) organised by ecbi on 20 May 2020. The importance of the Ambition Mechanism was highlighted by Ambassador Lois Young, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), at the opening of the June Momentum event organised by the UNFCCC on 1 June 2020. "I think overall, these messages [from the Placencia Ambition Forum and Petersberg Dialogue] signal to the climate process that there can be no delay in the start up of the ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement," she said, calling for genuine progress on common time frames at both technical and political levels while listing key priorities for AOSIS in 2020. The report is available [here](#).

### Webinar on why an Ambition Cycle under the Paris Agreement matters, and why it matters now

Following the 20 May webinar, Kishan Kumarsingh, co-chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee – in collaboration with climate change negotiators from developing and developed countries, including Geert Fremout (Belgium), Laura Juliana Arciniegas (Colombia), Peter Betts (UK), Julio Cordano (Chile), Carlos Fuller (Belize), Veronica Gundu (Zimbabwe), Gebru Jember (Ethiopia), Benito Müller (UK), Christopher Nelson (Deputy Head of Delegation, Ministry of Environment, Sweden), Xolisa Ngwadla (South Africa), Franz Perrez (Head of Delegation, Ambassador for the Environment, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland), Tenzin Wangmo (Bhutan) – wrote an ecbi Brief on Why an Ambition Cycle under the Paris Agreement matters, and why it matters now.

The Brief was launched on 24 July in an [ecbi Webinar](#). Marianne Karlsen, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), who, in her opening address, stated that "We are coming to that point in time where we should and must settle the issue of common timeframes." See the [Webinar Report](#).

### Webinar on crunch issues of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Senior negotiators on Article 6 discussed key controversial elements of the Paris Agreement's Article 6 rulebook during a Webinar on 15 October 2020, organised by ecbi. The Webinar focused on five 'crunch' issues, identified in a draft ecbi policy brief that was circulated among the 29 participants in advance:

- Accounting for mitigation not covered by the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of host Parties.
- Operationalising the principle of achieving an "overall mitigation in global emissions" (OMGE).
- Generating adaptation finance through market-based cooperation.
- Using pre-2020 certified emissions reductions (CERs) from Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) activities for post-2020 NDCs.
- Setting baselines and determining additionality in the Article 6.4 mechanism.

In a welcoming address, Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), said Article 6 is one of three issues, along with transparency and common time frames, that remains to be resolved in the Paris rulebook. Completing the work on Article 6 is a priority for SBSTA, he said, and discussions like the ecbi Webinar are necessary for progress, particularly during the current time when formal negotiations cannot take place because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that negotiators were close to agreement on the Article 6 rulebook at COP25 in Madrid, and while the unresolved issues are not many, as the draft ecbi policy brief shows, they are “of high political weight”. He hoped that the discussion will advance understanding on how to achieve what has been unattainable for some years. See the [Webinar Report](#).

### **What has justice got to do with climate change?**

ecbi Director Benito Müller provided academic support for the Mock COP26, held from 19 November to 1 December 2020. Presenting on climate justice, Müller said climate change is not a natural disaster or an “act of god” – it is anthropogenic (caused by humans), who can be expected to take responsibility for their actions and be held responsible for them. Climate change can have negative impacts on humans – it is a situation where humans can impose harm on others without their consent, which is generally seen as being unjust.

There are two ways this sort of injustice can be dealt with, Müller said:

- Compensatory justice, by providing compensation for the harm caused.
- Punitive justice, by punishing the perpetrators or the people who have caused harm.

He noted that there are several difficult issues associated with these approaches. For example, in the case of compensatory justice – in the context of environmental pollution also known as the ‘polluter pays principle’ – key questions include:

- Who decides what constitutes adequate compensation?
- Who should provide it and what share?
- Should it be in proportion to their responsibility for the harm, or should it in proportion to what one can afford, what one is capable to provide?

Müller said the distinction between “responsibilities” and “capabilities” also plays an important role in deciding how to share the effort or burden involved in addressing climate change in a fair manner. This is an issue of what is called “distributive justice”, to establish what it means to do one’s “fair share” in combatting climate change. The UNFCCC has adopted the CBDR principle in this context. Article 3.1 states that: “The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof”.

This shows how justice has very concrete and practical implications and raises another crosscutting justice issue: climate change not only affects people here and now, but also future generations. How can we make sure they are not unfairly harmed by us, or forced to take an unfair share of the burden, given that they clearly cannot have any responsibility for the problem? This is known as “intergenerational justice”.

Müller encouraged participants to delve into the issue more deeply because climate justice is the heart of the whole regime and cannot be ignored even in the more “bottom-up” context of the Paris Agreement. **Related documents:** [Presentation](#).

## **“Legal jam” Webinar**

ecbi lead partner Legal Response International (LRI) organised a “Legal Jam” webinar on 12 December 2020, to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Fourteen leading climate lawyers from around the world – from Australia to South America, Antarctica to Europe – presented their ideas for the future of the climate negotiations, in particular leading up to, and during, the Climate Change Conference in 2021.

The jam was chaired by former UK Supreme Court Justice Lord Carnwath, and facilitated by LRI Executive Director Christoph Schwarte. The lawyers – academics, legal advisers in the climate negotiations, and lawyer campaigners – had three minutes each to pitch their ideas on priorities for the further implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement does not currently provide a radical solution to the climate emergency. However, it is a “living instrument” that can be improved and strengthened over time by Parties. Ideas presented by some speakers included, for example, the establishment of an independent expert body to assess whether the responses included in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by countries are equitable, and in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Other speakers focused on the role of the Paris Agreement in informing law and policy responses to climate change – including, for instance, domestic legal systems to address human rights violations due to climate change; and the consideration of Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement (which calls for all financial flows to be consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development) in every public sector investment decision.

## **Technical Dialogue on Common Time Frames**

A virtual [Technical Dialogue on Common Time Frames \(CTF\) for Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) was convened by Marianne Karlsen, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), on 2 December 2020 as part of the [2020 UN Climate Change Dialogues](#).

Dialogue Chair Kishan Kumarsingh invited the 73 Party participants to focus on two questions:

- What approach to CTF will allow all of the processes and mechanisms of the Paris Agreement to function as intended?
- What are the most important factors to consider in arriving at a practical and workable time frame of an NDC, and how can these factors be accommodated in a solution on common time frames?

Yamide Dagnet, World Resources Institute, made a [presentation](#) on the importance of an agreement on CTF in 2021, and ecbi Director Benito Müller presented on “[Status Quo Risks and how to deal with them](#)”. See the [Dialogue Report](#).

## **Webinar on Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement**

A [webinar](#) on non-market mechanisms (NMAs) under Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement was organised by ecbi on 17 February 2021. The webinar, attended by 69 participants, was based on a pre-publication draft of an [ecbi paper on Article 6.8](#), circulated among participants earlier.

Chair Kishan Kumarsingh, lead UNFCCC Negotiator for Trinidad and Tobago, and Co-Chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee, said Article 6 remains a critical but incomplete component for the full operationalisation

of the Paris Agreement. While the negotiations have been focused on Article 6.2 and 6.4, Article 6.8 had been somewhat neglected. He thanked ecbi for the efforts to bring more clarity to the issue of NMAs.

Axel Michaelowa (Senior founding Partner, Perspectives Climate Group) and Benito Müller (Director ecbi), co-authors of the report, introduced the findings of the report with two presentations, followed by responses from two contributors, Rene Orellana Halkyer (former Minister of Development Planning and Head of Delegation of Bolivia, and Saurabh Kumar (Executive Vice Chairman of Energy Efficiency Services Ltd, India) and by Martin Hession (EU Art. 6 Lead Negotiator). See the [Webinar Report](#).

### **Webinar on “Quo Vadis COP?”**

As the global climate change negotiations shift to implementation mode, the institutions and process of the global negotiations will also have to adapt and become fit for purpose. ecbi launched a [Report](#) on the Future Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings under the UNFCCC proposing new arrangements that reflect this new role during a [Webinar](#) on 26 March 2021. The Webinar was chaired by Kishan Kumarsingh, Co-Chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee. SBI Chair Marianne Karlsen made introductory remarks, while former UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo De Boer and Kumarsingh responded to the presentation of the report by ecbi Director Benito Müller.

## **Training and Support Programme**

Given the global pandemic, the activities of the TSP also had to be carried out virtually as training webinars. A Training Webinar for the Asia-Pacific Region was organised by IIED. Following the [successful 2019 pilot Training Workshop](#) for young AOSIS negotiators from the Caribbean region, OCP organised two follow-up training webinars in 2020/21. These were complemented by an ecbi blog post by Anju Sharma, on [Capacity building, beyond training: Reflections on the ecbi Training and Support Programme 15 years after it was initiated](#).

### **2020 Training Webinar for the Asia Pacific Region**

The training workshop for the Asia and the Pacific region, initially scheduled for March 2020, was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, a 90-minute online workshop for the region was organised on 21 July 2020. Anju Sharma, Head of the PPAU, wrote an ecbi blog post on the event: [Distant learning: Training climate negotiators during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

### **2020 Training Webinar for the Caribbean Region**

An online training workshop for over 30 new climate negotiators from the Caribbean region was organised by ecbi on 17 November 2020. Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, from Antigua and Barbuda, the incoming chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), noted the continued role of ecbi training workshops in reducing the learning curve for new negotiators and helping the negotiating group maintain a strong position during the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement. Documents related to the event:

- [2020 Caribbean Training Webinar Report 2020.pdf](#)
- [Agenda of the 2020 Regional Training Workshop for the Caribbean.pdf](#)
- [Janine Felson Keeping the drumbeat of ambition alive.pptx](#)
- [Diann Black-Layne Climate Finance.pptx](#)
- [Carlos Fuller Science of Climate Change.pptx](#)
- [Kishan Kumarsingh Global Climate Policy.pdf](#)
- [Benito Muller Climate Justice.pdf](#)

## 2021 Training Webinar for the Caribbean Region

Following the first Regional Training Webinar for the Caribbean which provided the trainees (nominated by National Focal Points for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC) with a background of the UNFCCC negotiations; the science of climate change; climate geopolitics and the international governance framework; and key issues for the Caribbean region and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) currently under negotiation, the second Training Webinar for the Region took place on 24 February 2021, focussing on online "mock negotiations" to give trainee climate negotiators a taste of the real thing. See [Adapting to a new reality.pdf](#).

## Publications and Policy Analysis Unit

The pandemic did not impact the publications work of ecbi, with the result that a record number of publications were produced: four policy briefs; four new Pocket Guides, three pocket guide updates, and one translation into French, with three other translations pending); four blogs; and seven meetings reports.

Since physical meetings were not possible during the 2020/2021 FY, ecbi publications were at the centre of ecbi capacity- and trust-building mandate this year. Detailed draft policy briefs or blogs were produced before webinars were held on the specific topics that continue to be controversial in the UNFCCC negotiations (mainly Article 6 and common time frames). This helped the webinars to be focused. The feedback from the webinars was then used to finalise the publications, or to invite consensus building through the co-authorship of blogs.

A physical launch of the *Guide to the Paris Agreement* (produced at the end of the last FY) was not possible, so a video launch was organised in May 2020, in cooperation with LRI and the Climate Ambition Support Alliance (CASA). A video launch of the update of the NDC Pocket Guide also took place in October 2020, in cooperation with UNEP. This was used as an opportunity to take stock of the current status of the revision of NDCs, with presentations from Chile, Ghana, and Nepal on experiences with the NDC revision process.

The ecbi Pocket Guides received praise from a diverse audience. The Chair of the LDC Group, Sonam Wangdi, wrote to say that he finds ecbi publications "extremely useful, especially the simplification of substantive elements of the UNFCCC negotiations", and request a Guide on Climate Science (which was produced). The target audience of young trainee negotiators described the Pocket Guides as, variously "Extremely useful, providing insight and background information to support better preparation and understanding the rules of engagement"; "...very useful... helps to build a foundation for persons who are not familiar with the intricacies of climate change negotiations"; and as a "go-to resource when I need to quickly find information". The Guides are also helping national policymakers – the speaker from UNDP at the launch of the NDC Pocket Guide, for instance, said that the "NDC Pocket Guidebook is an absolutely fantastic document that helps a lot in the work. Just last week I discussed it with colleagues from Kyrgyzstan Country Office. They are on the procurement stage right now...the Guide helped to understand whether they have covered all NDC related aspects".

This year ecbi initiated the Phase V intention of analysing the implementation of the Paris Agreement at the national level, to inform the global negotiations, through the production of a policy brief on national experiences with legislating for the Paris Agreement.

The success of the publications was also reflected in the rise in the number of visitors to the ecbi/OCP sites. There were 133,805 visitors in 2020, and 13,868 visitors in the first three months of 2021. Considerable spikes took place following key publications such as the *Guide to the Paris Agreement* and *COP25 Key Outcomes* in

2020, and sustained in the aftermath, with the result that “normal” regular visits have doubled within a year and a half (from 1800-4000 in 2019, to 3700-8600 in 2020/21).

## **Launch Webinars**

### **Video launch of “Quo Vadis COP?”**

The **Webinar** was chaired by Kishan Kumarsingh, Co-Chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee. SBI Chair Marianne Karlsen made introductory remarks, while former UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo De Boer and Kumarsingh responded to the presentation of the report by ecbi Director Benito Müller.

### **Video launch of Guide to the Paris Agreement**

On Tuesday 26 May, ecbi, supported by the Climate Ambition Support Alliance (CASA), held a live web launch of the ecbi Guide to the Paris Agreement. Anju Sharma, Head of Publications and Policy Analysis at ecbi and editor of the Guide, said the Guide, along with the rest of ecbi’s Pocket Guide series, is part of ecbi’s efforts to level the playing field between negotiators from developing and developed countries in the climate negotiations. Chaired by Kiran Sura, Programme Lead of CASA, the event also included reflections on the impact of the current COVID 19 pandemic on efforts to address climate change. “[The pandemic] has given us a real life laboratory experiment in how the world can function in a crisis, in a lockdown,” said Kishan Kumarsingh, Co-Chair of ecbi’s Advisory Committee, during the launch. “We can quarantine from COVID 19 but we cannot quarantine from climate change.” Christoph Schwarte, Legal Response International, and Selam K Abebe, climate negotiator from Ethiopia, also spoke at the event. Schwarte described the Paris Agreement as a “living document” that is constantly evolving through the rulebook and decisions. “The Guide is very useful, in particular to negotiators [who] are new and young,” Abebe said.

### **Webinar to launch NDC Pocket Guide, and review status of submission of NDCs**

A **webinar** to launch the updated Pocket Guide on NDCs, on 6 October 2020 was attended by 88 participants. It took stock of the current status of the revision of NDCs, and heard from Chile, Ghana, and Nepal on experiences with the revision process. Click below to see the presentations, and a legal note by ecbi partner Legal Response International responding to a question asked at the webinar, on whether Parties are bound to submit their revised NDCs by 2020, or whether the postponement of COP26 means that the hard deadline for submission is now 1 February 2021.

## **Policy Briefs**

### ***Quo Vadis COP? Future Arrangements for Intergovernmental Meetings under the UNFCCC – Settled and Fit for Purpose***

2020 marks the beginning of a new phase in the global negotiations on climate change: the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement. While the multilateral effort over the last three decades has focused on negotiating multilateral treaties and their rulebooks, the future will be about implementation. This shift of focus is likely to have major impacts on the role and functioning of the institutions responsible for the global negotiations, in particular for the Conference of the Parties (COP) 1 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In this report, we propose new arrangements that reflect this new role, particularly for the COP.

The Report proposes that COP sessions (COPs) should be slimmed-down in size considerably to deal with technical matters related to implementation. Political elements, meanwhile, can be dealt with in processes outside the COPs that have already been established to support implementation on the ground – such as the Climate Action agenda, the Marrakech Partnership, the Regional Climate Weeks, and the technical meetings and workshops that support countries in formulating and implementing policies and measures in support of climate ambition.

### ***Legislating the Paris Agreement in Africa: Approaches to climate legislation in Eswatini, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda***

Sharing experiences – particularly on the merits of different legislative approaches, lessons learnt, and good practices – can help drive efficient and successful implementation of climate action on the ground, and ultimately more ambitious action under the Paris Agreement. This policy brief considers the experience of four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that have completed or initiated the process of developing framework laws: Kenya (the first country in Africa to adopt a climate change framework law), Eswatini, Nigeria, and Uganda.

### ***International bulk purchasing as an NMA: Using Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement to reduce the cost of climate technology***

Bulk purchasing technology under the non-market approaches (NMAs) defined in Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement could help developing countries to reduce the costs of climate-friendly technology. This policy brief describes how such NMAs could allow groups of developing countries to drive down costs by pooling procurement, and using reverse auctioning to “discover” the lowest price.

### ***2020 UPDATE Negotiating cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement***

Agreement on the rules for "cooperative approaches" under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement will now not be possible until at least late 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, countries will not be able to decide the role of cooperative approaches in their first Nationally Determined Contributions, which are meant to be finalised by the end of 2020 and implemented from the start of 2021. This policy brief summarises the progress made on Article 6 at the last UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid in 2019, and the key elements that still need to be agreed, to help negotiators and political leaders find common landing ground and resolve this issue by the end of 2021. Read it in conjunction with our [2019 policy brief of Article 6](#), which provides a more comprehensive explanation of each element.

### ***An Ambition Cycle for the Paris Agreement: The risks of not agreeing in Glasgow***

Most countries will follow paragraph 24 of Paris Decision 1/CP.21 in the absence of agreement on an Ambition Cycle at the next climate conference. This comes with significant risks - not only to national ambition to address climate change and its impacts, but also to the process of assessing overall global progress, and of replenishing climate funds on the basis of national needs.

## **Pocket Guides**

### ***Pocket Guide to Response Measures under the UNFCCC***

The term ‘response measures’ is not in regular use outside of the UNFCCC process, and is not easily understood by policymakers and stakeholders even within the process. This Guide aims to increase understanding of the topic, particularly among climate negotiators, to facilitate the UNFCCC negotiations on response measures.

### ***Pocket Guide to Climate Science and the UNFCCC***

The climate negotiations are strongly influenced, on all sides, by appeals to ‘listen to the science’. This Pocket Guide is aimed at both scientists and policymakers who are involved in the science-policy interface that underpins the negotiations. It provides guidance on questions such as what is meant by ‘climate science’? How do you know which ‘scientific’ voices to listen to? How do you balance scientific information against other relevant considerations?

### ***Pocket Guide to Finance under the UNFCCC***

Finance has always played a pivotal role in the global climate change negotiations, as an enabler of action but also as an indicator of the level of trust between developed and developing countries. It will continue to do so in the future – the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by many developing countries include elements whose implementation is conditional to the provision of financial and other support, and the discussions on finance for adaptation and loss and damage are likely to heat up in future as climate impacts increase. Over the years, the climate finance negotiations have acquired their own layers of complexity, accompanied by their own – often loaded – vocabulary. This Guide aims to help developing country climate negotiators navigate this complexity and understand what has gone by, to negotiate more effectively in future.

### ***New 2020 Version! Pocket Guide to Gender Equality under the UNFCCC***

Includes 2019 Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan, and updated resources for incorporating gender in climate planning and action.

### ***New 2020 Version! Pocket Guide to Capacity Building under the UNFCCC***

Your quick guide to the history of negotiations on capacity building under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the global institutional framework, and how global capacity building efforts can be improved. What can the UNFCCC do to promote long-term, sustainable capacity building where it is most needed? What has been done, and what remains to be done?

### ***Pocket Guide to Architecture and Processes of the UNFCCC***

How are decisions arrived at under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change? What are the rules of engagement? Who are the different actors? Are decisions legally binding on countries? How are deadlocks resolved? This and more in our new guide to the hardware that drives the international climate regime. Know your L docs from your CRPs, and your informal-informals from your informals.

## ***New 2020 version! Pocket Guide to NDCs under the UNFCCC***

Countries communicate their plans to implement the Paris Agreement through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). What should these NDCs contain? What “information to facilitate clarity, transparency, and understanding” do countries need to provide? How should countries account for their actions? What happens if they fail to meet their NDC goals? Read our updated Pocket Guide, which now includes the provisions of the Paris rulebook, to find answers to these and other questions related to NDCs.

## ***Guide de poche sur les pertes et préjudices dans le cadre de la CCNUCC***

(Translation of Pocket Guide to Loss and Damage to French)

Les menaces créées par les changements climatiques se multiplient et les pays en développement vont avoir besoin de négociateurs capables de défendre leurs populations contre ces menaces. Ces guides de poche sont un apport à l'arsenal qu'il leur faudra déployer pour réussir. Nous espérons qu'ils seront utiles et que nous continuerons à recevoir vos retours d'information.

## **Blogs**

### ***Complete the Ambition Mechanism: Why an Ambition Cycle under the Paris Agreement matters, and why it matters now***

It is of paramount importance that the ambition modality be completed in Glasgow, not least to demonstrate to the world that the multilateral climate change regime is serious about enabling nationally determined ambition. The Glasgow Ambition Cycle provides an ambition-enabling modality by setting a cyclical timetable for these ambition milestones to take place in a meaningful manner, synchronised with the communication, implementation and stocktake cycles of the Agreement.

### ***Adaptation Fund adopts Enhanced Direct Access Modality***

The Adaptation Fund Board recently approved a pilot Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) funding window, “to further empower entities to directly identify and fund local adaptation efforts”. ecbi played a key role in developing the modality under the Green Climate Fund, as a modality that goes one step further towards devolving decision-making than the direct access modality.

### ***Climate ambition still hangs in the balance***

Climate negotiators still have work to do to ensure that the global process for submitting and updating nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement encourages – not thwarts – the highest possible ambition from each Party. The sooner this work is completed, the better the chances of delivering the steep rise in ambition that is needed before 2030.

### ***New LDCF project approved: Building the capacity of LDCs to access climate finance***

Following a concerted effort by the LDC Group in collaboration with the ecbi, a multi-million project to strengthen the capacities of least developed countries (LDCs) to access finance for climate change adaptation has been approved by the [Least Developed Countries Fund \(LDCF\)](#) on 30 June 2020.

## **Meeting Reports**

### ***2021 Regional Training Webinar for the Caribbean***

At the Regional Training Webinar for the Caribbean which took place on 24 February 2021, ecbi trialled online "mock negotiations" to give trainee climate negotiators a taste of the real thing.

### ***"Non-market mechanisms are not about marketing emissions, but that does not mean they have to avoid private investments"***

At a webinar on non-market mechanisms (NMAs) under Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement, organised by ecbi on 17 February 2021, the key architect of Article 6.8 explained that "non-market" need not exclude a role for the private sector.

### ***Report of the Technical Dialogue on Common Time Frames***

ecbi Director Benito Müller presented the proposal for a Glasgow Ambition Cycle at the Technical Dialogue on Common Time Frames for Nationally Determined Contributions convened by Marianne Karlsen, SBI Chair, on 2 December 2020 as part of the 2020 UN Climate Change Dialogues.

### ***"Some elements need political resolution, others can benefit from more technical work" - Report of the ecbi Webinar on Article 6***

Senior negotiators on Article 6 discussed five "crunch" issues in the negotiations for the Paris Agreement's Article 6 rulebook during an ecbi Webinar on 15 October 2020, organised by ecbi.

### ***Senior climate negotiators agree: Agreement on common time frames should be a priority for COP26***

"We are coming to that point in time where we should and must settle the issue of common timeframes," said Marianne Karlsen, Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), in an opening address to the second webinar on common time frames organised by ecbi on 24 July 2020.

### ***Distant learning***

Training climate negotiators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***Completing the Ambition Mechanism of the Paris Agreement***

Leading climate negotiators highlighted the urgent need to complete work on the Paris Agreement's "Ambition Mechanism" by resolving the issue of common time frames at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), during a Webinar organised by ecbi on 20 May 2020.