



International Network of Climate Change Centers of Excellence and Think Tanks (INCCETT) Initiative (In the framework of UN Climate COP22)

COP 22, Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco

Introduction:

The **22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22)** to the UNFCCC is scheduled to take place from **7-18 November 2016 in Bab Ighli, Marrakech, Morocco**. The COP 22 is the optimum opportunity the Parties put into force the Paris Climate Change Agreement adopted last year. This agreement proposes to combat climate change and deliver actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future. The Parties will convene in Marrakech to continue their work on strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, with the central focus placed on **enhancing ambition, promoting implementation and providing support**.

Article 11 of the Paris Agreement particularly emphasizes the role of capacity-building, stating, “All Parties should cooperate to enhance the capacity of developing countries and enhance support for capacity-building actions ... through regional, bilateral and multilateral approaches”.¹ In order to support the Paris Agreement’s implementation, countries agreed during COP21 to enhance capacity building activities together with the associated institutional arrangements by establishing the **Paris Committee in Capacity Building (PCCB)**. COP22 in Marrakech will establish this committee, whose aim will be “to address gaps and needs, both current and emerging, in implementing capacity-building in developing country Parties and further enhancing capacity-building efforts, including with regards to coherence and coordination in capacity-building activities under the Convention”.²

Beyond this contractual achievement, the Moroccan Presidency of the COP 22 aims to present, gather, link and establish coherency between major global **centers of excellence and think-tanks** by presenting an initiative of a global network of institutions that will address the issue of climate change. This initiative will be presented during the COP 22 in a workshop, side-event activity and an official public presentation titled “**International Network of Climate Change Centers of Excellence and Think-Tanks (INCCETT)**”.

¹The Paris Agreement: https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english.pdf

²The Rio Declaration: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.Print.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>



Background:

Since the late twentieth century, it has been widely recognized that the need to strengthen scientific knowledge and its articulation with policy to address 21st century climate change and sustainable development challenges. These needs highlighted during the first Earth Summit in Stockholm in 1972 and the Brundtland Report of 1987. Subsequently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was created in 1988 and its first report was published in 1990. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created during the second Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 as a response to the global challenge of climate change. And in Article 9, of the Rio Declaration mentions the need to increase scientific cooperation through the exchange of knowledge. Article 10 (c), (d) and (e) of the Kyoto Protocol³ established in 1998, stipulates the need to promote scientific cooperation, capacity-building, to participate in international and intergovernmental efforts, programs and networks on research and systematic observation, taking into account Article 5 and Article 6 of the Convention.

During first decade of the millennium other pledges were implemented such as the Bali Plan of Action⁴ of 2007 where it mentions the need to cooperate and promote, facilitate, develop and implement training programs focused on climate change, for scientific, technical and managerial personnel at the national and, where appropriate, sub-regional, regional and international levels, in order to promote the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention.⁵ The Durban Forum on Capacity-building of 2011 reflected the need for a dialogue and action to be taken among all stakeholders involved in capacity-building.

In this context the Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention was created in 2012. The programme underlines the need to strengthen institutional capacities at a local, national, sub-regional, regional and international level and encourages institutions and multilateral and bilateral organisations to promote such mechanisms.

The Rio+20 Declaration⁷ recognizes the important contribution of scientific and technological communities to sustainable development, the importance to work with the academic, scientific and technological communities and foster collaboration between them, particularly in developing countries, in order to bridge the technology gap between developing countries and developed countries, strengthen the link between science and policies and promote international collaboration in research on sustainable development. The declaration also emphasizes the need for enhanced capacity building for sustainable development and, in this regard, calls for strengthening technical and scientific cooperation

³The Kyoto Protocol: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

⁴Bali Plan of Action: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/cop13/eng/06a01.pdf>

⁵Bali Plan of Action: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/cop13/eng/06a01.pdf>

⁶Doha work programme on Article 6: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbi/eng/l47.pdf>

⁷ Rio +20 Declaration: http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/rio20_outcome_document_complete.pdf



including NorthSouth, South-South and triangular cooperation. The declaration reiterates the importance of human resource development, including training, exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities.

Most recently during the COP 21 where the Paris Agreement was adopted, the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal, where 195 countries agreed to cooperate to enhance the capacity of developing countries and enhance support for capacity-building actions.

In light of the aforementioned commitments a number of countries, and regions from both the North and the South, have set up science and capacity building centers specializing in climate change mitigation, adaptation and risk-management. Additionally, there has been a rise in climate change think-tanks that have accumulated comprehensive experience about the interface between scientific knowledge and policy and capacity building in this field.

The INCCCET initiative aims to create a model of an international network for sharing ideas, experiences and lessons gained at subnational, national, regional and global levels. The objective of this network is to foster and strengthen knowledge on climate change, sustainable development and policies particularly in developing countries in need of capacity-building and avoid duplication among existing bodies. This global platform will improve the dialogue and cooperation among the relevant centers of excellence, think-tanks, platforms, networks, public and private actors and other stakeholders working on the mitigation, adaptation and risk management of climate change. It will also foster regional cooperation in specific and thematic areas to confront climate change challenges as well as address the gaps and needs for implementing capacity-building programs in developing countries.

Overall objectives of the workshop and side event:

The overall objectives of the planned COP 22 INCCCET activities are to exchange knowledge, experiences and ideas as well as present the International Network on Climate Change Centers of Excellence and Think-Tanks initiative to stakeholders and decision-makers. An official launch of the initiative will be presented to the executive secretariat of UNFCCC, as part of the Moroccan efforts to comply with Article 11 of the Paris Agreement, requiring fostering global, regional, national and subnational cooperation in capacity building. The project will also fit into the framework of the Global Climate Action Agenda.



INCCETT Road Map:

Proposal action plan:

Develop a model system to improve the co-design and co-management of climate change sciences and policies through centers of excellence, think-tanks, networks, and platforms.

To date the network comprises of the six partners listed below. Moreover, other centers of excellence, think-tanks, networks and platforms will be invited to join the project.

Core intuitional partners:

1. 4C Maroc (Centre de Compétences Changement Climatique)
2. IAI (Inter American Institute for Global Change Research),
3. BC3 (Basque Center for Climate Change),
4. IDDRI (Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales),
5. RedeClima Brazil
6. IRI (International Research Center Institute for Climate and Society of Columbia University).

This initiative has the official support of the COP 22 Steering Committee – Science Committee.

Overall Objective:

Propose a concrete model for decision makers and stakeholders.

Following steps:

1. Prepare a first draft concept note with the roadmap for the development of the project. **(Mission completed)**
2. Bilateral exchanges with the first four partner institutions. **(Mission completed)**
3. First exchange with staff from the partner institutions via a teleconference. **(Mission completed)**
4. Preparatory meetings pre-COP 22: meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 31st September 2016, the initial exchanges among centers, institutions and decision-makers and stakeholders. **(Mission completed)**
5. Pre-COP-22 Side event in New York 10th October 2016. Exchanges among centers, institutions and decision-makers and stakeholders. **(Mission completed)**.



6. Workshop during COP-22 (11th November 2016) objectives: a) Exchange of ideas, lessons-learned and approaches based on models and institutional systems, platforms, best practices on climate change knowledge networks at the subnational, national, regional and global levels (north-south, south-south, triangular models); b) formulate a follow-up proposal based on recommendations and results of the initial exchanges among centers, institutions, decision-makers and stakeholders; c) preparation of a final document for an ad-hoc working group.
7. Side event during COP 22 (14th November) communicate results of the final documents to decision-makers and stakeholders. The objective of this event will be to transmit the results, recommendations, proposals of the previous meetings and workshop in Buenos Aires, New York and Marrakech.
8. Official presentation of the initiative to the executive secretariat of UNFCCC as part of the Moroccan efforts to comply with Article 11 of the Paris Agreement.

Note: Through the success of the activities completed (see points 1-5), to date this initiative has received inputs, suggestions and support from the Moroccan Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Argentinean Ministry of Environment, the COP 22 Scientific Committee as well as gained to two new core partners, IRI and RedeClima. Furthermore, the project has also received the support and commitment from governments including South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Presidency of the African Group of Negotiation and Germany (GIZ) as well as received interest for participation from a number of centres of excellence and think-tanks from various regions. All of which have contributed, stimulated, advanced in the development and its content which will be addressed in the activities carried during the workshop.

Post COP-22 actions:

1. First semester 2017: elaborate a background document with first proposals and elaborate a work plan.
2. Second semester 2017: Exchange the draft background document to potential donors, funds and others potential partners.
3. End 2017: Finalize the model-proposal to be presented at COP 23 and elaborate a final work plan for the period 2018–2020
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Work axis:

1. Improve the dialogue and cooperation among the centers of excellence, think-tanks, platforms, network and public and private actors in climate change (mitigation, adaptation, risk management).



2. Create sustainable knowledge networks.
3. Deliver proposals for climate change south-south, south-north or triangular platforms, networks, and centers of excellence/think-tanks.
4. Call for other experiences in different regions.
5. Seek funding, support and collaboration from relevant sources.

Workshop: key topics

1. Strengthen institutional and knowledge creation networks (presentations of experiences by C4, IAI, BC3, IDDRI, IRI, Redeclima and other experiences at different levels).
2. Strengthen training, capacity-building, institutional building and education (successful programs, curricula, cross-discipline, inter-discipline and trans-discipline).
3. Knowledge management systems of successful experiences (methodologies, levels of action).
4. Science-policy interfaces (action levels, methodologies, successful experiences) networks, think-tank, in a systemic way.
5. Propose a list of priority actions (weather, energy etc.) to meet urgent needs for vulnerable developing countries (mitigation, adaptation, risk management).
6. Experiences from transversal and interdisciplinary climate change science centers.
7. The role scientific diaspora (national and regional programs and mechanisms, post-graduate student exchange programs, fellows, scientists and knowledge incubators).
8. Funding mechanism for technical and scientific cooperation (the role of the private sector, public sector, development banks and funds).