



Snapshots of IO Practices

Capacity building on climate law and governance

Organisation(s): UNFCCC Secretariat

The Snapshots of IO Practices present examples of specific efforts undertaken by an international organisation to work towards more effective international instruments. They aim to highlight examples of practices within the five focus areas of the Partnership of International Organisations for Effective International Rulemaking (IO Partnership), namely the variety and development of international instruments, their implementation, evaluation, ensuring stakeholder engagement, and co-ordination among IOs. The snapshots are submitted by the secretariats of the relevant international organisations implementing the relevant practice. The practices were compiled by the OECD Secretariat and focal points of the IO Partnership (UNCITRAL, OIE, WHO, ISO, WCO, BIPM, and SIECA), with a brief review to ensure consistency and comparability of the information provided within the snapshots. The inclusion of a practice in these snapshots implies no endorsement or assessment of that practice on the part of the OECD Secretariat or the focal points of the IO Partnership.

1	Overview of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
1.1	Organisation	UNFCCC secretariat	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, coordination)	Implementation	Stakeholder engagement (WG3)
1.3	Name of the Practice	Capacity building on climate law and governance	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template		

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2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	This practice enhances the level of awareness and participation amongst government representatives, non governmental organisations and other non Party stakeholders with respect to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), The Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The key strength of this practice is building knowledge and widening the scope of inclusion and involvement in implementing the goals of the Convention and enhancing climate ambition.	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	With this initiative, the UNFCCC secretariat, through its Legal Affairs division of the UNFCCC secretariat seeks to support Parties to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement to develop law and governance approaches and interventions towards the implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned international legal instruments.	

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2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	<p>The key result of the practice is the use of the capacity building tools such as the Law and Climate Change Toolkit and the online training course on Compliance under the Paris Agreement by government representatives and the members of constituted bodies respectively. This enables informed decision making through knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in a collaborative and facilitative manner. The secretariat also collaborated with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on workshops in Lusaka and Harare on “Promoting parliamentary engagement on climate change” which were well-received and survey evaluations of participants indicated that participants had gained crucial information and benefitted from the collaborative exercises.</p>	
2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	<p>Since this initiative is a set of projects, for the purpose of this exercise we refer to initiatives from 2019.</p>	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>For the annual period in 2020, the UNFCCC secretariat had envisioned and planned side events along the margins of the 52nd sessions of the subsidiary bodies, and the 26th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC; and along the margins of the Regional Climate Weeks. However owing to travel restrictions, and postponement of events, the UNFCCC secretariat has pivoted this initiative towards developing a robust set of electronic knowledge products.</p>	

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2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	The primary strengths of this initiative is that we are able to bring together the various stakeholders within the UNFCCC process, and other IOs into a single process by which we can eventually influence implementation of the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement within domestic and regional policymaking, while using the collective expertise of legal experts in IOs, academia and the secretariat in the creation of the capacity-building events and products.	Stakeholder engagement (WG3), Coordination (WG5)
2.7	What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?	The main challenge in implementing this practice has been the allocation of sufficient resources to enable a more widespread engagement on enhancing awareness and building knowledge amongst legislators and policy makers within different jurisdictions.	
2.8	Does the practice have a formal/normative basis within the organisation or is it conducted informally? Does this basis make the practice mandatory or voluntary? If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.	The initiative is based on the mandate provided by Parties to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement: At its twenty-fourth session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) recalled Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, which provides that Parties shall co-operate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information (decision 17/CMA.1).	

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2.9	<p>At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?</p>	<p>Article 6 of the UNFCCC, states that Parties shall:</p> <p><i>(a) Promote and facilitate at the national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional levels, and in accordance with national laws and regulations, and within their respective capacities:</i></p> <p><i>(i) The development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Public access to information on climate change and its effects;</i></p> <p><i>(iii) Public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses; and</i></p> <p><i>(iv) Training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel.</i></p> <p><i>(b) Co-operate in and promote, at the international level, and, where appropriate, using existing bodies:</i></p> <p><i>(i) The development and exchange of educational and public awareness material on climate change and its effects; and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) The development and implementation of education and training programmes, including the strengthening of national institutions and the exchange or secondment of personnel to</i></p>	
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		<p><i>train experts in this field, in particular for developing countries.</i></p> <p>Article 10(e)(b) of the Kyoto Protocol states that Parties shall “<i>co-operate in and promote at the international level, and, where appropriate, using existing bodies, the development and implementation of education and training programmes, including the strengthening of national capacity building, in particular human and institutional capacities and the exchange or secondment of personnel to train experts in this field, in particular for developing countries, and facilitate at the national level public awareness of, and public access to information on, climate change.</i>”</p> <p>Article 12 of the Paris Agreement states that “<i>Parties shall co-operate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognising the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.</i>”</p>	
2.10	Is this practice applied systematically, (e.g. with respect to every normative instrument, according to specific criteria or on an ad hoc basis)?	The implementation is subject to availability of time and resources of the UNFCCC secretariat and partner organisations.	

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2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	<p>The following are the details regarding past, on-going and planned activities within the initiative:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Capacity-building directed towards parliaments in Zimbabwe and Zambia in 2019, organised by the respective parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UN Oceans Roundtable in Bonn (18 June 2019) titled "International climate law and ocean governance" in collaboration with DOALOS and UNEP. 2) Side event titled "Legal Innovations for Sustainable Investments and Resilient Oceans" (7 December, 2019) in collaboration with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law. 3) UN Oceans side event at UNFCCC COP25 titled "Raising ambition on climate and the ocean" in Madrid (07 December 2019). 4) Dialogue on climate-related risks to social stability: Law and governance approaches (11 December 2020) UNFCCC Pavilion 5) Climate legislation webinar series (3 events in August, September and October 2020) in collaboration with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law and the InterParliamentary Union. 6) E-Learning initiatives on compliance and implementation with the provisions of the Paris Agreement; and innovations in domestic law and policy in implementing the Paris Agreement. 	
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3	Design of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	The concepts of the products within this initiative have been developed in collaboration with Parties, non-Party stakeholders and IOs. More specifically from 2019, we have collaborated with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the The United Nations Environment Programme, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and member IOs of UN Oceans.	Co-ordination (WG5, in the provision of assistance)
3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	Parties, IOs and Non-Party stakeholders have been consulted throughout the planning, design and execution of these practices.	The involvement of non-party stakeholders in UNFCCC capacitybuilding activities indicates an intersection between implementation (WG2) and stakeholder engagement (WG3), while the participation of IOs in the design of these activities reveals an intersection between implementation (WG2) and coordination (WG5).
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	Since this is an on-going set of initiatives, the design phase is dependent on the nature of the activity. Approximately 2-3 months are required for the effective design and planning of outreach events, whereas long-term e-learning initiatives have longer period dedicated to design and planning.	

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3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	In the design and planning phase of the activities within the initiative the most significant resource is staff expertise and time towards planning, content creation and liaison.	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	A major challenge in the execution of capacity-building projects within the initiative have been the travel restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the consequent health and safety concerns, leading to several events and activities being postponed or cancelled. This is being currently overcome by a concentrated effort to deliver training, promote sharing of information, and exchange of knowledge using electronic means, all of which have their respective budgetary constraints.	
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	Yes. Several of the activities from 2019 onward, have consisted of pilot versions or smaller trial versions of larger projects. (UN oceans roundtable panel discussion in June 2019, before the reorganisation of a larger UN Oceans official side event along the margins of COP25 in Madrid in December 2019). Also, a planned e-learning initiative is currently being tested in its pilot phase.	

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4	Implementation of the Practice		Comments and intersections
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	This particular initiative to build capacity on law and governance relating to climate change is the responsibility of the Legal Affairs division.	
4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?		
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	<p>The involvement of Parties, non-Party stakeholders and IOs in a collaborative manner in the planning and execution of capacity-building projects is a foundation of the capacitybuilding activities organised by the Legal Affairs division of the UNFCCC secretariat.</p> <p>Side events, webinars and the creation of knowledge products involves substantive involvement (including presentations and speeches) of other IOs who are collaborating partners, as well as comments and suggestions regarding their improvement based on the expertise of the respective IOs.</p>	<p>The substantive involvement of other collaborating IOs in UNFCCC capacity-building initiatives, through participation in side-events, webinars, and the creation of knowledge products, as well as in consultation processes, highlights an intersection between co-ordination (WG5) and implementation (WG2) in international rulemaking.</p>

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4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	To effectively conduct capacity-building events which required travel, both staff time and budget towards travel, organisation and related costs are required, and were borne by different stakeholders. Towards planned activities in the near future, we recognise the importance of purchasing or having access to high-quality electronic tools and specialist services for the organisation of meetings and information disbursement.	
5	Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	Not in its entirety. While several of the activities were assessed retroactively through surveys of participants, we are currently in the process of defining the metrics through which the success of this initiative in its entirety and parts can be evaluated.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	-	
5.3	If yes, please describe the evaluation methodology? (e.g. were any quantitative or qualitative indicators/criteria used to measure/assess the outcomes of the practice?).	-	

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5.4	If yes, what were the conclusions of the evaluation, and has the practice evolved subsequently? If possible, please attach related documents or provide a link.	-	
6	Additional comments and information	Answer	Comments and intersections
6.1	Is there any more information or documentation that would be valuable to share in relation to the practice (e.g. links, reports, meeting minutes, supporting documents)?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Inter-Parliamentary Union. 2019. <i>Promoting Parliamentary Engagement On Climate Change In Zambia</i>. [online] Available at: <https://www.ipu.org/ar/node/10169> [Accessed 30 June 2020]. 2) Inter-Parliamentary Union. 2019. <i>Implementing The Paris Agreement In Zimbabwe And Burundi</i>. [online] Available at: <https://www.ipu.org/news/news-inbrief/2019-02/implementing-paris-agreement-inzimbabwe-and-burundi> [Accessed 30 June 2020]. 	
	Sources		