



## Snapshots of IO Practices

### Suite of Capacity-Building Initiatives on Climate Change

#### Organisation(s): United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

*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	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ( UNFCCC)	
1.2	Area of relevance among the IO partnership focus themes (variety of instruments, implementation, stakeholder engagement, evaluation, co-ordination)	C-oordination	May also be of interest for Implementation (WG2)
1.3	Name of the Practice	Suite of Capacity-Building Initiatives on Climate Change : Co-operative activities with United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organisations that contribute to the work under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (“Convention”), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement	
1.4	Name of person(s) completing the template	-	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2	Description of the Practice	Answers	Comments and intersections
2.1	Please describe the practice shortly, providing information on its core features.	<p>The secretariat relies on other international organisations for the provision of relevant expertise, assistance and support to Parties for the effective implementation of the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Bodies have encouraged other organisations within the U.N system and at the international level to undertake several activities in support to their work. These span across capacity building activities, partnerships for technical support, and research and innovation. Recognising the many inter-linkages of the complex UNFCCC process, the co-ordination activities attempt to streamline expertise and channel resources - human, financial or otherwise so that they may be efficiently optimised across the United Nations System (UNS), within Inter-governmental organisations (IGOs), the COP and Subsidiary Bodies (SBs).</p>	
2.2	What are the objectives of the practice?	<p>The co-ordination with other IOs and UN entities aims primarily at supporting implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in an efficient and effective manner. Article 7, paragraph 2(l), of the Convention states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall seek and utilise the services and co-operation of, and information provided by, competent international organisations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. To further this objective and support the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, the secretariat accords high priority to working with other international organisations, including United Nations entities, secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and the scientific community.</p>	
2.3	What have been the key results of the practice?	<p>By working closer together with the UNS entities, the secretariat is promoting the inclusion of climate change considerations in the support provided to countries for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The secretariat has also received the support of various UN entities and organisation in the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.</p>	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.4	In what year was the practice introduced?	This is an ongoing practice that began from the open ended mandate from the 10 <sup>th</sup> session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 10) held in May, 1999.	
2.5	Has the practice been updated/reformed since then? If yes, when and how has it evolved over time?	Yes. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which the United Nations Member States recognised that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change <sup>1</sup> has enhanced the need for closer co-operation and co-ordination of the UNS, in particular given that the Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, targets, and indicators, including the means of implementation, are universal, indivisible and interlinked. The practice has therefore developed over time to be more targeted across specific areas of co-operation such as technology, climate finance, capacity building, action for climate empowerment, adaptation, mitigation, transparency, climate knowledge, science, research and systematic observation, gender and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	
2.6	What do you consider to be the primary strengths of the practice?	In recognition of the expertise and knowledge that the secretariat has accumulated over the years, many international organisations call upon the secretariat to contribute to the consideration of climate change related discussions and policy documents. For example, new requests for contributions were received, among others, from the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage Convention and the United Nation's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples. Similarly, the secretariat relies on the knowledge and expertise of other organisations and U.N system entities in the context of contributing to the work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement as well as in supporting and facilitating Parties' national plans.	

<sup>1</sup>

A/RES/70/1, paragraph 31.

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



		<p>The primary strengths of this practice are reflected in the centralised approach towards driving climate ambition and assisting Parties with the implementation of their commitments in an efficient and cohesive manner. This facilitates a strong political momentum and builds on the normative grounds for co-operation that stem from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda and the Convention. The targeted partnerships with international organisations with specific sectoral expertise helps build the knowledge and action required by Parties and other stakeholders to achieve the goals of the Convention, the Protocol and the Paris Agreement.</p>	
2.7	<p>What do you consider to be the main challenges faced during the implementation of the practice?</p>	<p>There is a need for a greater level of engagement from Parties to support the implementation of this co-ordination. This can be facilitated through creating more awareness, addressing knowledge gaps and strengthening channels of communication and information exchange across organisations and in the messaging of organisations to Parties, while assisting them in meeting their context-specific needs.</p>	
2.8	<p>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?</p> <p>If there is formal basis, please provide the relevant link or documentation.</p>	<p>Article 7, paragraph 2(l), of the Convention states that the Conference of the Parties (COP) shall seek and utilise the services and co-operation of, and information provided by, competent international organisations and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, requested the secretariat to prepare, before sessions at which the agenda item on co-operation with relevant international organisations is to be taken up, information papers summarising relevant co-operative activities undertaken by the secretariat.<sup>2</sup></p>	

<sup>2</sup> See FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 128.

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



2.9	At what frequency is the practice applied? i.e. is it conducted once or on an iterative basis?	It is conducted on an iterative basis and relies on the guidance provided by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) especially in relation to the priority areas in which the secretariat should enhance efforts to leverage the potential contributions of other intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) to addressing climate change; and possible approaches to undertaking such efforts, including through the establishment of partnerships.  Available at: <a href="#">SBSTA 50 conclusions I</a>	
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 practice is applied systematically in the context of contributing to the work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement across specific areas of co-operation such as technology, climate finance, capacity building, action for climate empowerment, adaptation, mitigation, transparency, climate knowledge, science, research and systematic observation, gender and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	
2.11	Please provide specific details or examples to illustrate the practice (including supporting links and documents).	The secretariat prepares regular information notes on the co-operation activities it engages under, delivered to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. The latest is titled 'Cooperative activities with United Nations Entities that contribute to the work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement' is available at: <a href="https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_inf2.pdf">https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_inf2.pdf</a>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Design of the Practice</b>	<b>Answers</b>	<b>Comments and intersections</b>
3.1	Who designed the practice (e.g. Was it developed internally, in collaboration with other organisations, etc?)	The practice was developed by the secretariat based on the mandate and guidance of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. The type, nature and extent of co-operative activities however vary across the different areas of co-operation depending on the needs of the organisation(s) and the expertise and resources available.	



# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



3.2	Which stakeholders were engaged with in the design of the practice?	The secretariat collaborates with United Nations and other international organisations across all its mandated workstream.	
3.3	How long did it take to design the practice?	The practice was progressively developed to meet the needs of the secretariat across its different mandated workstreams.	
3.4	What resources were needed to design the practice initially (i.e., staff, budget etc.)?	This is dependent on the mandates, workstreams, area of co-ordination and the type of co-ordination/ co-operative activity.	
3.5	What challenges were encountered during the design of the practice and how were they overcome?	The main challenge has been driving engagement on the co-ordination activities of the secretariat amongst Parties as well as the allocation of resources for such co-ordination. This has been overcome to some extent through creating awareness, disseminating relevant information and developing user friendly accessible messaging on the level, types and areas of partnerships.	May also be of interest for Implementation (WG2)
3.6	Has the practice been tested before implementation (i.e. pilot phase)? If yes, please describe.	The practice was progressively developed based on the needs of the organisation and the mandated workstreams.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Implementation of the Practice</b>		<b>Comments and intersections</b>
4.1	Which units are responsible for implementing the practice within your IO?	The various co-operative activities are undertaken by technical divisions of the UNFCCC secretariat, based on their mandates and work programmes. The practice is applied systematically in the context of contributing to the work under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement across specific areas of co-operation such as technology, climate finance, capacity building, action for climate empowerment, adaptation, mitigation, transparency, climate knowledge, science, research and systematic observation, gender and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.	

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



4.2	Are IO members involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	The secretariat supported the United Nations system-wide co-ordination body on environment and human settlements, the Environment Management Group, in co-ordinating the implementation of the commitment to achieve climate neutrality in all United Nations organisations, funds and programmes by 2020 and other relevant issues across the United Nations system. Through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, the secretariat maintains close co-operation with the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD.	May also be of interest for Implementation (WG2)
4.3	Are external actors beyond the organisation or its membership involved in implementing the practice? If so, how?	The secretariat participates in several of the working groups under The United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB)'s High-Level Committee on Programmes, such as on UN System Strategic Approach on Climate Change Action which represents a unifying vision for collaborative UN action on climate change and serves as a driver and tool for the UN system to reinforce and operationalise the CEB Common Core Principles for a UN system-wide Approach to Climate Action; to encourage and guide integrated action in the areas of climate change and sustainable development; to identify and foster action in key impact areas; and to ensure coherent and, where possible, joint approaches to the UN's country-level work on climate change.	
4.4	Which resources are needed to implement the practice (e.g., staff and budget)?	The implementation of co-operative activities across the mandated workstreams of secretariat requires a dedicated staff and an adequate budget allocated for such activities within the work programme of the respective divisions.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Outputs and Evaluation of the Practice</b>	<b>Answers</b>	<b>Comments and intersections</b>
5.1	Has the practice been evaluated or reviewed?	No, the practice was not reviewed however regular updates, information notes and reports were provided at the sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The Partnership Committee also reviews applications for new partnerships based on its standard	May also be of interest for Implementation (WG2)

# Compendium of International Organisations' Practices

Working Towards More Effective International Instruments



		operating procedures and ensures an adequate due diligence of the organisation/ entity has taken place.	
5.2	If yes, who carried out the evaluation (please specify whether it was done internally or externally)	N/A	
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?).	N/A	
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.	N/A	
<b>6</b>	<b>Additional comments and information</b>	<b>Answers</b>	<b>Comments and intersections</b>
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)?	<p>The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirtieth session, requested the secretariat to prepare, before sessions at which the agenda item on co-operation with relevant international organisations is to be taken up, an information paper summarising relevant co-operative activities.</p> <p><a href="#">SBSTA 48 conclusions</a></p> <p><a href="#">SBSTA 50 conclusions</a></p> <p>2019 <a href="#">information document</a> on Co-operative activities with United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organisations.</p>	
<b>Sources</b>			