

WORKSHOP REPORT
CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS TRAINING WORKSHOP
For UNFCCC COP delegates (past, current and potential) – January 18, 2019

Compiled by Angelique Pouponneau for the GCCA+ Component A and MEECC.

BACKGROUND

The Government of Seychelles has committed to both reducing our own contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and planning ahead to adequately prepare for the impacts of climate change, and this commitment has been captured in the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution report submitted at the Paris Climate Change Summit in 2015. Seychelles is an active participant in UNFCCC conferences and meetings, and is a member of the Alliance of Small Island States and the Group of 77 and China. Participation in these meetings provides Seychelles for an opportunity to share what we are doing at home about climate change but more importantly to advocate for the special needs of our country as well as other small island States. A capacity needs assessment recently completed by the GCCA+ program has identified a need for strengthening the knowledge and skills of Seychellois climate change negotiators. The Government of Seychelles' GCCA+ capacity building program is collaborating with the MEECC to offer a one-day training session for individuals from government and civil society who represent Seychelles at climate change conferences and meetings. The workshop aimed to familiarize participants with the basics of climate change diplomacy, and help them build their knowledge and skills for effective climate negotiation.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- 1) To increase participants' capacity to effectively participate in international meetings, discussions and negotiations about climate change
- 2) To share strategies and resources for ongoing learning about climate change negotiation and diplomacy
- 3) To obtain participants' input for a new Seychelles manual for climate change negotiators

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop was attended by 16 people, representing a variety of backgrounds from government staff and other stakeholders working on climate change locally and members of non-governmental organizations. A scan of the registration form is attached in Annex A. The workshop was facilitated by Angelique Pouponneau and supported by Iris Carolus.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

time	Agenda item	Presenter
8.30	Welcome and introductions, review of agenda, icebreaker	Iris
8.45	Guest Address: Reflections on the world of climate change negotiation	Ronny Jumeau
9:00	The global climate change regime: UNFCCC, Kyoto, Paris and more (how the system works)	Angelique
9.45	Break (with light snacks)	
10:00	CC Negotiation – Output of COP 24 and expectations for COP25	Angelique
10:30	Group work and discussions on the role of Seychelles in negotiations and how to better prepare for participation at COP.	Angelique
11:30	Best practices from the AOSIS manual, followed by discussion (Seychelles' experiences and moving forward)	Angelique

12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Ice breaker	Angelique
1:15	Groupwork: role play on negotiations for setting a new finance goal for 2025.	Angelique
3:15	Seychelles CC negotiation manual – presentation on draft contents and discussion	Angelique
3:45	Conclusion of workshop, evaluations	Peter

WORKSHOP EXPENSES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PARTNERS

- The workshop was organized and facilitated by the GCCA+ team.
- The venue, AV equipment, and snacks at tea break and lunch were supplied by GCCA+ .
- Each participant was provided with printed educational resources.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

20 participants had confirmed for the workshop including mainly staff of the climate division, however only 16 people attended with some people leaving in the afternoon. Nevertheless, the group engaged and interacted in all the planned presentations and activities, which was unfolded more or less as sequenced by the programme but was adjusted to provide more time for Ambassador Jumeau’s reflections and the engagement of the participants during presentations.

The first activity was a short ice-breaker “eco-bingo” which required participants to interact with each other and begin to engage with the ideas of climate change sustainability. This was followed by a reflections on the negotiations process by Ambassador Ronald Jumeau who gave his views on the current state of affairs of climate change and how different aspects of negotiations have developed and what that means for Seychelles. These aspects included the welcoming of the IPCC’s 1.5 Special Report, climate finance, adaptation and loss and damage. He further gave an overview of the Seychelles delegations at COP and the different roles of the delegates; and the necessity for now to ensure that action is taken to address the urgency of the issue.

Angelique’s presentation on the global climate regime started with an envisioning exercise where participants were asked about what type of system they would create to solve the challenge of climate change. This was followed by an in-depth presentation about the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the Paris Agreement (PA), as well as the various bodies and actors within this process. Questions arose about the legal implications of a failure to comply with international obligations by countries, about the type of role and allies Seychelles should develop in the process, and how the Government of Seychelles prepares to attend COPs.

To give the participants a break from a heavily technical presentation, the next session was for the participants to engage with each other on three questions:

1. What should be the priorities of Seychelles at the negotiations?
2. How should Seychelles better prepare ahead of participation at the COP?
3. Whether Seychelles should advance having a regional group positions at the AIS level?

The participants identified adaptation, finance, mitigation, loss and damage, transparency and the global stocktake as priority areas for Seychelles.

It became very clear that there were existing challenges faced by staff of MEECC such as limited human resources (numbers and with built capacity), and the lack of budgetary allocation for required posts and the participation of delegates to participate in COP, hence, the inability to prepare well in advance. It was felt that there was an urgent requirement to have an assessment of the views of stakeholders on the issues discussed which should then inform the national position of Seychelles. All members of the delegations should be well-aware of the national positions of Seychelles, whilst recognizing the limitations of small delegations in effectively covering the

negotiations. Thereafter, participants felt there was an urgent need for information-sharing post-COP through the education and awareness department of the MEECC where then stakeholders are informed of the results of COP and how it is relevant to them. The participants expressed general dissatisfaction with the lack of budgetary allocation to the matters related to climate change.

The third session was a technical session on the outcomes of the Paris Agreement Work Programme and what will be the issues that will be discussed at COP 25 which included markets, setting a new quantified collective financial goal and the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage (WIM). There will also be a move to ensure that ocean is featured as part of COP 25 but it is still unclear about the capacity.

The penultimate session was a role-play exercise where the participants were divided into groups of 3 and provided country instructions of four different countries who would form the parties and groups of parties negotiating the decision text on the new climate finance goal. This was successful in providing the participants an opportunity to practise delivering statements and responding to proposals of new text by the mock parties.

Finally, the last session was a short question session on what should be the content of the negotiating manual.

Workshop photos can be found in annex B.

WORKSHOP EVALUATION

At the end of the session, participants were invited to fill in an evaluation form. Out of a total of 16 participants 9 submitted a form. The findings are summarized in the table below.

Workshop evaluation responses – summary from 9 participants.

1. Please tell us at least one new thing you learned	2. What did you enjoy about the workshop?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The realities of negotiations and good examples of how countries are adapting. (2) • The relevance of reporting in the climate change process. • Difficulties in consensus-based negotiations. • Understanding the political, industrial, commercial interests. • That there is extensive focus on adaptation, mitigation, climate finance and loss and damage. • Terminology used in drafting documents related to COP. • Context of Seychelles and challenges faced in COP negotiations • State of affairs with regards to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive and participatory (5) • Knowledgeable facilitator (3) • informal style/fun/lively (3) • Role play (3) • Group work (2) • Presence and participation of young people • Guest speaker’s presentation. • Learning about what is happening in Seychelles
3. What didn’t you like?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient Time (2) • No coffee • Lack of participation of senior officials and key decision makers. • It could have included a brief session on negotiation theories could have been presented. 	

4. How can you apply what you learned in your work?

- Will try to attend the next COP and experience the negotiations in real life (3)
- Help me in any negotiating settings, including in other sectors (2).
- Plan to share knowledge with youth and influence decisions when deciding on types of projects and sourcing of funding.
- Prepare action plan for adaptation to health and social consequences of climate change in Seychelles.
- Share knowledge with university students.

Numbers indicate how many participants wrote a similar response.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS (max 2 paragraphs)

Overall, the workshop was a success and resulted in some useful discussion and a good starting point for participants to understand climate change negotiations and put into practice key skills such as public speaking, use of diplomatic language, and strategizing.

The workshop provided the space to also be critical of the level of preparation of Seychelles when it attends COP and make suggestions about how to improve this. Furthermore, the participants had an opportunity to provide input into the manual that will be subsequently produced to benefit anyone who negotiates on behalf of Seychelles.

The following follow-up actions are recommended:

1. A workshop on negotiating skills and the drafting of text and a lengthier role play which includes the delivery of opening statements, practice of group coordination and negotiating as a bloc.
2. Circulating this document to relevant actors who would benefit from the output of the group work to inform better preparation for the next COP.



GCCA+ WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Date: 18/1/19

Event: _____

Venue: _____

NAME	ORGANISATION	PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS
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ANNEX B – WORKSHOP PHOTOS



Figure 1: Ambassador Ronald Jumeau delivering reflections on climate change negotiations



Figure 2: Angelique Pouponneau delivering presentation on global climate regime



Figure 3: Participant intervening in role play

ANNEX C – GROUPWORK FINDINGS

The group provided input as to what should be included in the manual:

- + The context of Seychelles as a SIDS (including geographical isolation, economies of scale, dependent on fragile of sources of income, debt burden and credit rating, financial capacity and human resources)
- + List of how we are affected by climate change
- + Definition of words for text.
- + Included projected impacts of climate change.
- + Priorities of Seychelles
- + Clearly identify the positions of Seychelles, through meetings with other sectors.
- + Preparations ahead of COP of participants and COP.
- + Set up a mechanism to provide feedback upon return from COP.
- + Understand the political realities of Seychelles; Allies of Seychelles in the negotiations.
- + How to take a diplomatic approach in negotiations.
- + What can we commit to as negotiators to sway support to our point?
- + What are the sensitive pieces of information that should never be revealed to outside parties?
- + What to keep in mind as a negotiator (e.g. open-mindedness, bigger picture, emotions in check, not too emotionally detached.
- + Be aware of what to look out for as a negotiator.