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MEDRC Webinar Brief

Determining how to effectively facilitate capacity building programs is challenging. Nuanced sensitivity and awareness needs to be extended in all phases of design, development and implementation of capacity building initiatives. Below are key takeaways from a webinar on [Approaches to Capacity Building in Environmental Peacebuilding](#) as part of MEDRC's Stabilization Mechanism Project.

Highlights and Key Takeaways

- Capacity building can act as a vehicle to support the development of an enabling environment toward peacebuilding in conflict environments.
- Capacity building should not ignore or be insensitive to the political environment.
- Where possible, political dialogues in capacity building partnerships across governments must adopt multi-levelled approaches informed by comprehensive conflict analysis.
- While multi-level capacity building initiatives may not be possible at any given time in a conflict context, capacity building initiatives on shared environmental issues can be used as entry-points to dialogue and collaboration between divided groups. Whether the entry-point is at a high political level, or a grassroots-level, there remains opportunity through which forward movement in the process can be sustained instead of it entering into a deadlock.
- Capacity building initiatives should adjust to build on feedback received from the contexts in which they are taking place. Without doing this, they stand to weaken instead of strengthen the community and institutional capacities.
- Capacity building initiatives that are resilient and adaptable to the conflict and peace dynamics wherein they function, can help third parties to overcome stalled processes by offering different pathways to engagement through both formal and informal processes.
- Capacity building initiatives can empower and provide space for civil society actors to engage with the international community and further establish and develop participation in peacebuilding spaces.
- The importance of strengthening forecasting and early-warning systems and integrating them into climate and conflict data and early action and dialogue mechanisms was highlighted. This can help to advance the coordination mechanisms and processes between all relevant governance institutions and provides agency and ownership to the communities using the data in local dispute resolution systems.
- Strengthening the capacity of civil society actors to be able to contribute to the drafting of revised legal frameworks around natural resources management. This requires the strengthening of capacities of governance structures and institutions to be inclusive - to involve and consult affected communities - particularly politically marginalized groups. Such support should also extend to strengthening the capacity of groups to monitor how legal frameworks are being implemented.

Sources for Further Insights

- Watch the webinar recording [here](#).
- For more information on capacity building and environmental peacebuilding in Colombia, further discussed by Héctor Camilo Morales Munoz from adelphi, please refer [here](#).
- For more information on capacity building initiatives by GWP through training programs in transboundary water governance and law in Africa, as presented on by Yumiko Yasuda, please refer [here](#) and [here](#).
- For more information on capacity building initiatives that EPLO's member organizations have been and continue to be engaged in, as discussed by Lorenzo Angelini, please refer [here](#).
- To stay up-to-date with MEDRC's Stabilization Mechanism Project and upcoming webinars, refer [here](#).