

### **Summary of Parallel Session Session 3: Building Local and National Capacities**

This session aimed at identifying local and national capacities in and entry points for promoting progress in international energy and climate policy and in implementing the Paris Agreement as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. The Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development are very valuable international frameworks that give an important orientation for a pathway towards a sustainable future for all. The implementation, however, has to take place on the national level and requires massive efforts. There are a lot of challenges involved, but at the same time, the focus should be on the chances that come with a transformation process towards sustainability for every country. The following key findings can be summarized for this session:

- 1) Non-State Actor Action is very important as it can create pressure to act faster. Those actors are key in supporting positive learning experiences. As learning processes have helped reach the Paris Agreement, transnational learning networks will also be important and necessary during the implementation phase. Non-state actors need to be involved in this process, especially on the local level.
- 2) Often times there are valid climate protection plans on a national level, but the vertical mainstreaming and integration seems problematic. It is very important to think outside political silos and engage in sector-crossing issues. Stakeholders on the local level - especially in developing countries - are key in implementing policies, therefore strengthening local actors, listening to them and taking their proposals into account is essential for successful policy implementation.
- 3) Inclusiveness and transparency are key requirements for climate negotiations as well as implementations on the local level. In addition, the respective climate change context on the local level has to be taken into consideration, thereby creating important synergies for a successful implementation of national climate and energy goals on the local level. Positive experiences in cooperation and dialogue can support learning experiences which in return can be used to raise climate action.
- 4) Communication matters! One of the key questions here is how narratives for ambitious climate action or a just energy transformation can be created and shaped in a positive way. In addition, conflicting narratives need be addressed properly. Bridging Languages and Communication Gaps between national and local level is very important in getting the message across and strive for more climate action.

- 5) There needs to be more research and action on how synergies between the different governance levels can be created and how synergies can be used to explore complementarities in plans for energy transformation or to tackle climate change. Negative policy implications and policy lock-ins need to be avoided at all times!