

Co-facilitators' note on possible elements of the review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention and future work on the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment

This note has no formal status

Background

At COP 25 the COP requested the SBI, at its fifty-second session, to launch the review of the implementation of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention, and to consider future work to enhance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement.

During the first informal consultation on agenda item 18(a) – Review of the Doha work programme, in response to the co-facilitators' request for views and expectations for this sessional period, including reflections on the informal note by the SBI Chair and whether or how it may be used, Parties expressed appreciation for the SBI Chair's efforts and guidance in organizing the informal consultations and expert group meetings prior to the May–June sessional period; and welcomed the Chair's informal note, which Parties considered appropriately captures the different ideas and perspectives expressed during those consultations and meetings.

Parties also expressed views on elements of the Doha work programme that had been successful, as well as gaps and challenges that need to be addressed. Some Parties stressed that future work on ACE should be informed by the outcomes of the review of the Doha work programme. Parties then entrusted the co-facilitators with capturing Party views in an informal note.

Accordingly, this note firstly captures the views of Parties on the successes of the Doha work programme, as well as gaps and challenges; and secondly sets out possible elements of future work, drawing from the informal note by the SBI Chair, documents prepared for this session and views expressed during the first and second informal consultations.

The possible elements have been prepared by the co-facilitators on this matter under their own responsibility. These elements are preliminary, are not exhaustive, have no formal status and should not be considered as final in any way. They are offered to assist in advancing discussion on this matter and do not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time.

The elements are submitted for the consideration of Parties during the third informal consultation to take place on 13 June. Written submissions from Parties and observers on the note are welcome and can be sent to the secretariat at ace@unfccc.int.

Review of the Doha work programme

Successes and possible elements to retain

- Overall, it provided a good basis and guidance for action.
- Many of the guiding principles still hold value, including that it is flexible, and country driven.
- Elements of the of the Doha work programme highlighted as particularly useful include:
 - Parties nominating national focal points for ACE
 - The annual in-session ACE Dialogue to share experiences, challenges and opportunities
 - A focus on children and youth
 - Parties developing and implementing ACE national strategies
 - The long-term, strategic perspective
 - Inclusive, multi-stakeholder, multisectoral and multilevel engagement in implementation

- Robust and streamlined list of suggested or recommended activities that cover all six ACE elements in a balanced manner

Gaps and challenges

- Gaps and challenges in implementation that have been repeatedly highlighted include:
 - Insufficient support and empowerment for national focal points for ACE, including building and strengthening skills and capacity; insufficient opportunities to communicate and network with each other
 - Lack of national institutional coordination and mechanisms to facilitate ACE as a cross-cutting priority in climate policy and action
 - Difficulty in securing adequate funding for the development and implementation of ACE programmes and activities, including ACE national strategies
 - Need to build institutional capacity for ACE implementation beyond ACE focal points and move beyond workshop and short-term impact modalities to achieve long-lasting, transformational building of capacities at the national and local level
 - Need for more consistency and ambition at the international level, including in relation to monitoring and reporting, to facilitate national ACE implementation, while maintaining flexibility and a country-driven approach

Possible elements for a successor work programme

Structure and time frame

- A framework with long-term vision and perspective (e.g. over 10 years) and for immediate action through shorter-term clear and time-bound activities (e.g. within a five-year period).
- A regular review process could be put in place for assessing progress, identifying remaining priority gaps and needs, and updating or renewing shorter-term activities at the midway point, guided by the long-term vision and perspective.
- To enable more consistency and ambition at the international level to facilitate national ACE implementation, additional structure may be beneficial, such as an action plan or road map for collective and international action.

Guiding principles

- Continue to follow the guiding principles identified in paragraph 14 of the Doha work programme, including a country-driven and flexible approach.
- Guiding principles could be streamlined and strengthened to better align with, and enable ACE to deliver on, the Paris Agreement, including:

Principles set out in paragraph 14	Possible streamlining and strengthening
A country-driven approach	
Cost-effectiveness	
Flexibility	
Gender and an intergenerational approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the role of ACE in delivering on key principles of the Paris Agreement, including human rights, just transition, gender equality, local communities and indigenous peoples and intergenerational equity • Meeting the needs of children and youth by integrating the needs and perspectives of children and youth across ACE activities and climate action

A phased approach integrating Article 6 activities into existing climate change programmes and strategies	
Promotion of partnerships, networks and synergies, in particular synergies between conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create synergies with other international processes outside the Convention, including Sustainable Development Goals, other Rio Conventions, Beijing Platform for Action, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Education for Sustainable Development for 2030
An interdisciplinary multisectoral, multi-stakeholder and participatory approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue and enhance engagement with non-Party stakeholders at all levels, including the scientific community, cultural and academic institutions, the private sector, local government, local communities and indigenous peoples, youth, vulnerable groups and people of all genders • Foster public participation of all stakeholders, especially vulnerable populations • Adding people with disabilities and the elderly as priority target groups for ACE
A holistic, systematic approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the six ACE elements in a balanced and integrated manner
The principles of sustainable development	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking an approach based on human rights, climate justice, and environmental democracy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being guided by the best available science; integrating science and research across all six ACE elements

Broad, open-ended and outcome-oriented activities at different levels¹

- The framework with long-term vision and perspective referred to under ‘Structure and time frame’ above could include activities that are broad, open-ended and outcome-oriented at different levels and across all six ACE elements in a balanced manner.
- While activities under this heading may be flexible in terms of delivery, they are intended to produce an outcome and impact if or when implemented, and some broad open-ended activities may benefit from complementary shorter-term, clear and time-bound activities in an action plan or road map (e.g. in the framework). The invitation to Parties to appoint ACE national focal points may be complemented by specific time-bound activities to strengthen the capacities of focal points or enhance networking opportunities.

Policy coherence

International

- Integrate ACE across/strengthen linkages with existing UNFCCC workstreams and processes, including capacity-building, gender, local communities and indigenous peoples, and loss and damage.
- Align activities under the ACE work programme with priorities and time frames under the UNFCCC process, including the submission cycle of nationally determined contributions and the global stocktake.
- Create synergies with other international processes outside the Convention, including the Sustainable Development Goals, other Rio Conventions (Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to

¹ Most of the activities under the Doha work programme fall under this heading.

Combat Desertification), Beijing Platform for Action, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Education for Sustainable Development for 2030.

National

- Enhance the integration of ACE into the development and implementation of national climate policies, plans, strategies and action, including nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans.
- Parties continue to develop and implement ACE national strategies.
- Parties continue to appoint and support ACE national focal points to implement ACE activities at the national and local level.
- Appoint youth national focal points to engage at the international and national level.
- Integrate climate change education into all school curricula.

Coordinated action

International

- Continue to organize an annual in-session dialogue under the UNFCCC to share strategies, tools, activities, best practices and lessons learned. The ACE Dialogue could be strengthened, for example to align with priority topics or areas of focus, monitor progress in implementation, enhance the sharing of implementation measures, annually assess gaps and needs pertaining to ACE or repurpose the annual event to be more useful to Parties.
- In collaboration with YOUNGOs, organize an annual youth forum.
- Establish a task force, expert group or advisory group to share information, produce guidance documents, facilitate financial support and monitor ACE implementation.

National

- Foster coordination and engagement between UNFCCC national focal points and ACE national focal points.
- Strengthen in-country coordination at different levels to avoid duplication of efforts and promote knowledge-sharing.
- Develop national institutional arrangements for coordinating and monitoring ACE activities undertaken by non-governmental organizations and civil society.

Multiple levels

- Build long-term, strategic and operational multilevel, multi-stakeholder, intergenerational partnerships to bring together different types of expertise, resources and knowledge.
- Promote collaboration between actors at all levels and leverage the resources and expertise of entities under and outside the UNFCCC, including the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, UNFCCC observer constituencies and other United Nations agencies.

Tools and support

International

- Recommend ACE as a transversal requirement for the climate finance projects of all relevant funds.
- Request the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other development financial institutions to allocate specific funding for ACE activities and invite them to participate in ACE workshops and meetings.

National

- Allocate resources in national budgets for ACE implementation.

Multiple levels

- Build capacity and raise awareness of Parties and non-Party stakeholders on ACE, including ACE national focal points, keeping in mind technological, language and other potential barriers.

- Share information and guidance documents and undertake peer-to-peer exchange with different stakeholders working on ACE.
- Enhance the understanding of ACE and fill the gaps in information about ACE implementation at different levels.
- Respect and integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems, including to enhance communication and knowledge-sharing.
- Provide long-term funding for ACE activities at different levels (e.g. international, national, local).
- Raise awareness on and promote existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives and programmes related to ACE implementation.

Harmonized monitoring, evaluation and reporting

International

- Report on all six elements of ACE consistently through UNFCCC reporting mechanisms (national communications, biennial update reports, biennial transparency reports, etc.) as a means of enhancing the sharing of good practices and lessons learned.
- Develop standardized systems or methodologies for Parties to use for monitoring, evaluating and reporting ACE activities, being cognizant of existing rules under the enhanced transparency framework.
- Enable recurring opportunities for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to share good practices on the development and implementation of indicators, methodologies and processes to track progress and report on national ACE implementation.

Specific time-bound activities intended to support a particular ACE element at a particular level or in a particular sector

- The immediate action through shorter-term clear and time-bound activities referred to under ‘Structure and time-frame’ above could be delivered through a clear, flexible road map or action plan following an incremental approach guided by the priorities set out in the framework. Activities could include indicators and milestones for each year (e.g. an ACE action plan, like the gender action plan linked to the Lima work programme on gender).
- Activities that could be incorporated in a road map or action plan may include the following:

Coordinated action

International

- Strengthen the network of ACE national focal points to exchange views, including via a platform or regular meetings.
- Organize workshops on engaging children and youth in climate policy and action.

National

- Establish locally anchored networks of ACE stakeholders that provide information to national and international processes.
- Promote greater involvement of non-Party stakeholders, including youth, in monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Multiple levels

- Establish an accountability and monitoring mechanism to support the engagement of marginalized groups.
- Share best practices of engaging children and youth in all elements of ACE.
- Organize “focus years” on various ACE elements.
- Organize formal and informal, in-person and virtual meetings, forums or consultations on ACE on a regular basis.

Other activities for specific ACE elements

National

- Build the capacity of teachers and university educators to integrate climate change across all curricula, including through North–South cooperation.
- Train government officials from different ministries/departments at different levels and local communities to enhance institutional and technical capacity.
- Improve public access to information at the national and local level, using various methods and tools, bearing in mind the differentiated climate impacts on communities, groups and individuals.
- Develop guidelines for public participation in decision-making for local governments and the public, including young people.

Tools and support

International

- Develop an ACE platform, network, repository, database, workspace or clearing house to facilitate collaboration and information-sharing.
- Produce a global report on funding for ACE, including information on baselines.
- Establish a clear distinction/definition of ACE financing.
- Develop a centralized support platform, such as an ACE marketplace, which can connect Parties and/or other stakeholders requiring support with donors and organizations offering support.

National

- Build the capacity of youth, including via youth delegate programmes and national youth conferences.
- Strengthen partnerships through South–South cooperation.

Multiple levels

- Facilitate research on the implementation of all six ACE elements to generate baseline data.
- Draw on institutions and initiatives that can support ACE at all levels.
- Develop a dedicated ACE fund or a seed fund to facilitate ACE activities and monitoring.

Harmonized monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Multiple levels

- Make information, knowledge and data more accessible and standardized for reporting.
- Invite other United Nations agencies to report on ACE implementation at all levels.
- Develop:
 - Standardized methods and templates for reporting on ACE activities, for all Parties.
 - Standardized evaluation process and presentation of results.
 - Clear indicators and targets at the collective level to show progress and change.

Specific time-bound activities related to the implementation of the ACE work programme

International

- Organize joint meetings and events in connection with other UNFCCC workstreams and processes to promote knowledge-sharing and dissemination of good practices on the implementation of the work programme.
- Invite all constituted bodies to include in their regular reports information on progress and to participate in in-session dialogues.
- Facilitate inclusive and technical conversations on the implementation of the work programme through annual in-session dialogues or intersessional gatherings.

- Undertake a midterm review of progress and remaining gaps and challenges under the work programme.
- Ensure adequate and sustainable funding for the secretariat to support ACE, including under the work programme.

Regular secretariat activities

International

- Prepare a report synthesizing the information provided by the constituted bodies on the integration of ACE into their respective workstreams.
- Prepare a regular report synthesizing the submissions from Parties and observers on their implementation of the ACE work programme.
- Prepare technical reports and background papers on the progress of ACE implementation.
- Prepare a synthesis report on the integration of ACE across national climate policy and action using information from reports and communications submitted by Parties.
- Prepare user-friendly and flexible guidelines/tools for ACE implementation.
- Organize international/regional training and workshops addressing different aspects of ACE implementation.
- Facilitate information exchange and mutual support among ACE focal points to build capacity and peer support on ACE implementation.