



Climate Action Network

Intermediate Review of the Doha Work Programme on Article 6

*Education, Training, Awareness Raising,
Public Participation, Access to Information &
International Cooperation*

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Climate Action Network International (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 950 members in over 110 countries. www.climatenetwork.org

Introduction

CAN welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the intermediate review of the Doha Work Programme on Article 6¹. CAN considers the elements addressed by the Work Programme are essential for the implementation of effective climate policies. As its member organizations are involved on a day-to-day basis in activities related to the six thematic areas of the Work Programme at the local, national and international level, CAN reiterates its commitment to support its implementation.

We are encouraged by the adoption of the [Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising](#) at COP-20 and by the [commitment affirmed by parties in article 12 of the Paris Agreement](#) to enhance the implementation of activities related to the six thematic areas of the Work Programme. Additionally, we have noted the commitment expressed by many parties in their INDCs to enhance climate education and public participation. We believe that these references provide an unequivocal mandate to strengthen the implementation of the Doha Work Programme in order to support the implementation of climate policies. We recall the [elements identified by parties during the 40th session of the SBI](#) as initial input to the intermediate review and remain convinced of the pertinence of these elements.

In order to strengthen the implementation of the Doha Work Programme we offer the following recommendations outlined in this submission.

¹ Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stipulates the commitment of parties to promote education, training, public awareness, access to information, public participation and international cooperation on climate change. In 2012, the parties adopted the [Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention](#) to promote the implementation of activities related to these six thematic areas between 2013 and 2020, with an intermediate review in 2016. At the COP-21, the parties agreed to the [terms of reference for the intermediate review](#) and subsequently invited parties and stakeholders to submit written input contributing to the review.

Executive Summary

The intermediate review of the Doha Work Programme provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the Work Programme and to increase its effectiveness, building on the experience of the past years. To do so, the Work Programme should:

1. Contribute to the **systematic integration** of education, training, public awareness, access to information and public participation in all activities implemented under the Convention;
2. Involve **more specifically each category of actors involved** in the implementation of Article 6 to guarantee more **thorough and action-oriented exchanges**:
 - decision-makers and high-level representatives during high level events,
 - experts and stakeholders involved in the implementation of the UNFCCC during in-session dialogues, and
 - actors involved in the Article 6 thematic areas at the local and national level during regional workshops;
3. Strengthen the **participatory** and **gender responsive** nature of the Work Programme, while also recognising the importance of the **participation of the poor**;
4. Enable greater implementation of Article 6 at the **national level**.

Recommendation 1: All thematic elements of Article 6 should be more systematically integrated into the implementation of the Convention.

- ***Balanced approach between the six elements of the Doha Work Programme***

CAN believes that all six elements of Article 6 are equally essential to support ambitious and effective climate actions. Parties have recognised the importance of ensuring that the Doha Work Programme enhances the implementation of all elements of Article 6: climate education, training, awareness raising, public access to information, public participation and as a crosscutting theme international cooperation. The organisation of in-session dialogues with specific focuses has ensured that none of these thematic areas becomes overshadowed by other issues.

Such an approach should remain during the second phase of the Work Programme in order to ensure that the Work Programme contributes to support the implementation of all six thematic areas, identifying good practices and knowledge responding to the challenges specific to each of them.

- ***Integrated implementation of the Framework Convention***

The integration of the six thematic areas in policies and projects related to mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology transfers and capacity building could increase the effective implementation of the UNFCCC. This would ensure that the commitments by parties are not addressed in silos but that synergies are identified and that policies and projects can address more than one of the pillars of the Convention in a coherent and resource effective manner.

The Doha Work Programme has a key role to play to promote such an integrated implementation of the UNFCCC by identifying relevant opportunities and exploring good practices, lessons learned and remaining challenges. The second phase of its implementation should focus more closely on this aspect in order to provide the greatest added value to the implementation of the Convention. Such integration should include a greater dissemination by the UNFCCC Secretariat of good practices relevant to the various mechanisms and policy areas addressed under the Convention.

Recommendation 2: Objectives assigned for events organised under the Work Programme should be identified more precisely and the format of these events should increase the engagement of the most relevant actors.

The capacity of the Work Programme to act as a platform for international cooperation and to enhance implementation would be enhanced if the activities undertaken during its second phase would better address the needs and opportunities associated with specific groups of actors. Consequently, we suggest the organisation of three main types of events to be held during the period 2017-2020 with specific objectives identified for each of these events.

- ***Regional/Subregional Workshops focused on Implementation of the Work Programme***

Between 2017 and 2020, workshops organised at the regional (or, where relevant, subregional) level should consider general issues and good practices related to the implementation of the Work Programme at the national level. These workshops should aim at gathering civil servants and members of civil society directly involved with the implementation of climate education, awareness raising, training, public participation and access to information in order to capitalise on their experience and to strengthen the exchange of relevant expertise. In order to ensure that the workshops are not too broad in scope, two such workshops should be organised in each region, the first one covering education and training and the second one covering public participation, access to information and awareness raising.

- ***In-Session Dialogue on the Mainstreaming of Article 6 Activities in the Implementation of the Convention***

The in-session dialogues organised since 2013 have demonstrated their added-value in providing a space for all relevant actors engaged in the climate negotiations to exchange more openly their perspectives and experiences on the thematic areas of Article 6. CAN sees the organisation of additional in-session dialogues as a necessary component of the continuation of the work programme.

However, the experiences of the past dialogues has also demonstrated some limits to this in-session format: in particular the fact that the majority of the intervenants and participants are climate negotiation delegates and might not be directly involved with the issues discussed during the dialogues. Recognizing this inherent feature related to the in-session nature of such dialogue, we suggest that future dialogues be more focused in scope in order to address more specifically the policies and projects that the delegates to the May/June UNFCCC sessions contribute to shaping and implementing. The dialogues could for instance address best practices and challenges related to the promotion of climate education, training, awareness raising, public participation and access to information in relation to the preparation of INDCs, NAPs, REDD+ projects and NAMAs.

As the most relevant decision makers and stakeholders could attend and contribute to these discussions, we believe that these in-session dialogues could really contribute to the implementation of Article 6 in fostering the mainstreaming of all its elements in the implementation of policies and projects implemented under the convention.

- ***Annual High-Profile Events during the COP***

These high-level events could facilitate the engagement of dignitaries and decision makers and ensure that the issues covered by Article 6 retain a high-level political commitment. Such events could offer an opportunity for key actors to announce relevant commitments. They could also offer an

annual opportunity for decision-makers and key stakeholders to discuss progress with the implementation of relevant commitments contained in the Sustainable Development Goals (in particular, Goals 4, 13 and 16) or resulting from the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development. The Education Day held during the COP-21 could provide an example of how such a “high-level event” could be organised, provided that all thematic areas of Article 6 are addressed by the events held during the second phase of the Doha Work Programme.

Recommendation 3: The participatory nature of the work programme should be enhanced during its second phase.

CAN believes that the strength of the Doha Work Programme lies in its participatory nature, as manifested for instance in the format of the in-session dialogues. This feature enables the Work Programme to build on the experience and expertise of all relevant actors with relevant practical knowledge and perspectives and ensures that the lessons learned through the Work Programme can be effectively integrated in the implementation of policies and projects.

- ***Systematic implementation of multi-stakeholders and gender-responsive approaches***

The Doha Work Programme emphasizes that gender should be a cross-cutting theme in relation to the implementation of Article 6 (para. 8) and that this implementation shall engage a broad range of actors, including: governments, the private sector, NGOs and other international organizations, decision makers, scientists, the media, teachers, the general public, youth, women, people with disabilities and indigenous peoples, among others (para. 9).

The transformational and empowering functions of the Doha Work Programme can be fully implemented only if it involves the active participation of people directly affected by climate change and by the impacts of response measures, including the most vulnerable and the poor. The importance of this specific focus must be recognised as a third guiding principle for the second phase of the Work Programme.

The role of these three principles should be strengthened during the second phase of the Work Programme, for instance collecting relevant good practices and experience. Additionally, these three principles should be systematically integrated in the planning and implementation of any activity organised in the context of the Work Programme, including through a specific reference in any concept paper or report in order to allow for the identification of any relevant lessons.

- ***Achieving greater participation in the planning of activities related to the Work Programme***

Negotiations related to Article 6 and related events have demonstrated the merits and added value of stakeholders engagement through the active role played by observer organisations and stakeholders, thus ensuring that public participation is not only a theme of the Work Programme but also one of its main features.

In order to strengthen this essential aspect of the Work Programme, we call on parties to establish a multi-stakeholders team to pilot the preparation of the activities related to the Work Programme. Such a team could include a limited number of representatives from parties, international organisations and observer organisations with expertise in the issues covered by the Work Programme. Its mandate would be to provide guidance to the secretariat in relation the planning of events organised in the context of the Work Programme and to further support implementation. As its work could rely on

electronic communications and meetings held in parallel to UNFCCC sessions, the establishment of this team could have very limited budgetary implications but would increase ownership among all key actors involved in the implementation of the Work Programme.

- ***Increasing the use of internet-based tools in order to promote participation by actors involved in the implementation of policies and projects***

As the second phase of the Doha Work Programme should aim at securing greater participation by relevant national decision makers, civil servants and local stakeholders, internet-based tools should be used to ensure that these actors have opportunities to provide input to Work Programme and strengthen the collection of good practices and perspectives from actors directly engaged with projects related to the themes of the Work Programme.

CAN believes however that the use of internet-based tools can never replace the value of direct interactions between relevant decision makers and actors and therefore calls for the increased use of these tools as complement, not as an alternative, for such interactions. Additionally, a greater use of such tools in a manner should take into consideration the disparities remaining in relation to the use of internet and online services in different countries.

- ***Increased contributions by expert institutions***

Expert institutions, including international organisations and academic researchers, could further contribute to the implementation of the Work Programme by filling knowledge gaps identified in the context of activities organised through the Work Programme. To leverage greater contributions from these actors and generate additional knowledge directly relevant to the implementation of Article 6, knowledge gaps could be identified on a regular basis through the second phase of the Work Programme (eg.

in the conclusions of the SBI). Practical opportunities could be provided at a later stage for expert institutions to report back on findings that would address these identified gaps.

This greater emphasis on knowledge generation should complement, not replace, the priority given to the participation of actors directly involved in the implementation of activities and projects directly related to the thematic of Article 6. Co-production amongst multiple stakeholders will ensure that activities and projects are fit for purpose. Knowledge could be drawn from the experience of the most vulnerable through participatory action research or focus groups.

Recommendation 4: Increased focus should be given on the implementation of Article 6 at the national level.

- ***Strengthening the role of the Article 6 focal point***

CAN welcomes the nomination by half of the parties of a national Article 6 focal point. We strongly encourage the rapid nomination of a focal point by the other half of the parties in order to foster the engagement of these parties in the implementation of Article 6.

Such focal points could play a crucial role in enhancing the implementation of Article 6. In particular, the focal points could play a critical role in fostering multi-stakeholders cooperation as well as coordination among relevant governmental departments at the national level. This role would be strongly facilitated if national stakeholders had an opportunity to contact their focal point. The

UNFCCC Article 6 portal should include the relevant contact information in order to make these exchanges possible.

The Work Programme should increasingly support the role of the national focal points, for instance by ensuring that the focal points are provided with relevant information and good practices on issues that they have identified as a prime importance for the successful implementation of Article 6. To increase knowledge about good practices and constraints at the national level, annual summaries of their activities should be compiled by the secretariat, for instance on the basis of responses submitted by the focal points through a short electronic form.

Additionally, the “Guidelines for National Focal Points for Article 6 of the Convention” prepared for the Secretariat in 2014 should be shared widely and made publically available in order to inform the work of the focal points as well as to serve as a reference document for national stakeholders wishing to support the role of the focal point.

- ***Mainstreaming Article 6 activities and commitments in the national contributions to the UNFCCC (national communications, INDCs)***

The increased integration of Article 6 thematic areas into existing reporting obligations, in particular in relation to National Communications, could increase the sharing of information related to the implementation of Article 6, including good practices and remaining constraints. Relevant guidelines should thus be updated in order to make sure that these national reports provide added value in the context of the Doha Work Programme in a resource efficient manner. Inclusion of people in vulnerable situations in knowledge gathering and generation will enhance good practices drawn from experience of implementing the activities and projects related to the elements spelled out in Article 6.

- ***Provision of adequate Financial Resources***

As parties have highlighted repeatedly that activities related to Article 6 are essential to the effective implementation of the convention, appropriate resources should be allocated to the implementation of the Doha Work Programme as well as to national actions. The financial mechanisms operating under the UNFCCC should continue to provide resources to further implement Article 6 in developing countries, in particular African countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States, and should evaluate how their procedures and modalities could contribute to the enhanced mobilization of funds for these activities.