



Joint Submission
by the Center for International Environmental Law and Nature Code,
also on behalf of Friends of the Earth (England, Wales & Northern Ireland) and the
Access Initiative

Article 6 of the Convention (Action for Climate Empowerment)

Views on the agenda for the 4th in-session Dialogue dedicated to public access to information, public participation and public awareness

Our organisations welcome the commitment by UNFCCC parties to enhance public access to information, public participation and public awareness and the recognition of the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under the Paris Agreement (Paris Agreement, article 12). We also welcome the mandate adopted in Paris for the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to explore ways of enhancing the implementation of training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Agreement (COP decision 1/CP21, para. 84).

We welcome the work accomplished by the secretariat with the organisation of the previous dialogues and look forward to engaging in the upcoming Dialogue focused on dedicated to public access to information, public participation and public awareness.

Purpose of the 4th in-session Dialogue

We believe that the 4th in-session Dialogue organised under the Doha Work Programme must contribute to the implementation of these provisions by considering key opportunities for further cooperation and by identifying initial suggestions of approaches that might inform future work under the paragraph 84 of Decision 1/CP.21.

Format of the Dialogue

Since the dialogue will be addressing three thematic areas of the work programme (international cooperation being addressed as a cross cutting issue), we strongly believe that the Dialogue should include three sessions in order to address all thematic issues adequately. The secretariat should continue to foster participation in the dialogue beyond the participants to the UNFCCC sessions, including through active social media engagement and the availability of webcasts in order to promote the visibility of actions undertaken to

implement the work programme. This active social media engagement should be organised in a way that allows input into the dialogue and key messages resulting from the social media engagement should be reflected in the report from the dialogue.

The dialogue itself should be organised based on a participatory, gender responsive and multi-stakeholder approach, ensuring that a great number of participants can intervene and contribute to the discussions. The facilitation of the dialogue should aim at avoiding the delivery of statements but focus instead in promoting a truly interactive dialogue, including through the use of multi stakeholders break-out groups.

Taking into consideration the importance of the integrated nature of article 6 and the need to establish linkages between article 6 activities and mitigation and adaptation actions, the Dialogue should aim at involving delegates directly involved with these actions to discuss experience related to these linkages (Doha Work Programme, para. 22(b)iii).

Issues to be addressed in relation to public access to information

In relation to public access to information, the dialogue should address

- Good practices in the release of climate information understanding what types of climate data governments are prioritising to be released and the forms in which release is most useful for stakeholders e.g. open data formats
- good practices related to the establishment of guaranteed and systematic access to information regarding the environmental & climate impacts of new and established development projects

Issues to be addressed in relation to public participation

In relation to public participation, we suggest that the dialogue focuses primarily on

- the best practices in promotion of the participation of all members of the public, in particular by marginalized groups and by those least involved in decision-making because of race, gender, poverty or other vulnerability.
- Experiences in developed and developing countries with public participation in the development of nationally determined contributions and plans to ensure consultation through implementation (through contributions from government and civil society based on clear baselines)
 - **Availability of process and timeline:** Whether countries made the details of their public consultation process and timeline available (at least online) prior to the consultation.
 - **Adequate notice:** Whether countries consulted the population with sufficient forewarning to ensure the accessibility of opportunities for citizens to engage.
 - **Awareness raising:** Whether countries undertook climate awareness-raising activities to enhance public participation in the consultation.
 - **Multiple channels:** Whether countries consulted through a variety of mechanisms—including online and through in-person meetings—to ensure the accessibility of opportunities for citizens to engage.

- **Breadth of consultation:** Whether countries consulted widely with the national community, including civil society, and to seek out a diverse range of views.
- **Documentation and feedback:** Whether countries produced a summary of the public consultation and all individual written comment submissions were made available online.

The dialogue should not include only individual examples of good practices related to a specific project or policies but also discuss the experience with the establishment of participatory processes and regulatory frameworks guaranteeing effective participation by all affected stakeholders - both in relation to national plans & policies and to specific projects.