



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

**SUBMISSION BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**

**Feedback on the organization of the 4th in-session Dialogue on Article 6 of the
Convention “Action for Climate Empowerment” (ACE), and views on the agenda for
the 5th in-session Dialogue**

The UNFCCC Subsidiary Body of Implementation at its Forty-fourth session (SBI44) in May 2016 invited Parties, admitted observer organizations and other stakeholders, to submit by 25 January 2017 their feedback on the organization of the 4th Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) and their views on the agenda for the 5th Dialogue, which will focus on climate change education, training and international cooperation on these matters (FCCC/SBI/2016/L.15 §7).

In response to the provision of feedback on the 4th Dialogue on ACE of the Convention, FAO recognises the success of the Dialogue in stimulating discussions, sharing good practices and lessons learned. The presentations made during the sessions covered a range of issues on public awareness, public participation and public access to information in relation to climate change actions. The presentations included a good selection of examples and experiences from developing and developed countries, as well as governmental organisations, non-state actors and international organizations. The sessions also allowed the presentation of innovative examples of methods to raise awareness and outreach on both adaptation and mitigation interventions.

Considering the success of the 4th dialogue, FAO welcomes the organization of the 5th Dialogue on ACE and provides the following suggestions on issues that could be considered when developing the agenda:

1. The 5th session could review the **contribution that Article 6 should have in the achievement of the Paris Agreement and how UN agencies can support countries in achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**. It would be useful to show examples where awareness raising and engagement of different stakeholder (including the general public) has achieved major contributions to the NDC.
2. It would be beneficial that the next dialogue highlighted **examples of adaptation, as well as co-benefit interventions, especially in rural communities**, which in the majority of countries are the most vulnerable to the challenges of climate change. The session should provide a platform for dialogue on effective measures to ensure the needed transfer of knowledge and capacities to ensure such communities are able to take action.

3. **Partnerships are a key component in achieving the goals of the Convention** and in particular the objectives of Article 6. It is suggested that the session highlight some of the key partners that are contributing to climate change and environmental sustainability interventions. For example, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), with memberships of 10 million and 40 million young people, have been undertaking non-formal education on the environment and social issues for over 100 years and their practices have demonstrated success in achieving the needed actions. WAGGGS and WOSM are ideal partners in international efforts to address climate change as showcased in the joint Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA) initiative, see: www.fao.org/yunga
4. The Dialogue should **highlight the right to universal access to quality education and recognise that climate change education needs to be inclusive** to enable all children and youth to have access to knowledge and information on climate change. Such information would not only help reduce vulnerability and risks from the impacts of natural hazards and climate change but also ensure that the next generation actively contributes to sustainable development and lifestyles. In this regard, the session should highlight the achievements that some countries have already achieved in their national education curricular but also the lessons learned that can be considered in the future.
5. Awareness raising, training, capacity building and education must have impact, however it is surprising how little **monitoring and assessment is undertaken on the effectiveness of different programmes and interventions**. When assessments are undertaken it is notable how many interventions have not had the desired impact originally envisaged. The optimization of environmental formal, non-formal and informal interventions is therefore key to ensure the needed changes and actions at individual, community and policy levels. It is therefore suggested that the 5th Dialogue continue the theme on effectively achieving behavioural change and that ACE act as a platform on knowledge exchange on this topic. For an overview to achieve effective environmental and climate change programmes see: www.fao.org/3/a-i4629e.pdf
6. **Gender and intergenerational equity** need to be priorities across all climate change interventions. The session should review how different community and family members are impacted and/or are contributing to climate change and how interventions and support mechanisms can be tailored to the specific needs of the different groups/individuals. For examples see: www.fao.org/3/a-i3947e.pdf and www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3385e/i3385e.pdf
7. Considering the recent launch of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other major international initiatives such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**, it is suggested that the session review the interlinkages between these initiatives and the Paris Agreement and assess how common goals can be achieved through coordinated messaging, communication and intervention strategies.

This submission call comes at a time where FAO is finalizing its first corporate Climate Change Strategy, which will be structured around three major outcomes:

1. Enhanced capacities of Member Nations on climate change through FAO leadership as a provider of technical knowledge and expertise.
2. Improved integration of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries within the international agenda on climate change through reinforced FAO engagement.
3. Strengthened coordination and delivery of FAO work on climate change

The success of these outcomes will be built on the principles underpinning Article 6: enhanced knowledge and awareness of what is at stake for food security if climate change goes unaddressed is crucial. Learning and sharing knowledge about what concrete steps can be taken to overcome these challenges will be key. FAO hereby reaffirms its commitment to supporting Action for Climate Empowerment.

FAO would like to take the opportunity to thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for coordinating efforts on ACE and looks forward to the continued collaboration with the other members of the United Nations Alliance on Article 6 and interested Parties and Observers of the Convention.