



YOUNGO Submission on Possible Elements of a Successor Work Programme of Article 6 of the Convention

February 2012

In its conclusion on Article 6, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation invited Parties and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as relevant stakeholders to submit to the secretariat, by 14 February 2012, information and views that may be relevant to the completion of the review of the amended New Delhi work programme. It invited the aforementioned entities to submit to the secretariat, by the same date, their views on possible elements of a successor work programme on Article 6 of the Convention [FCCC/SBI/2011/7]. The Youth Constituency (YOUNGO) welcomes this opportunity to share its views on this important issue.

The Youth Constituency represents the interests of young generations in the UNFCCC process and is committed to support parties in achieving the objective of the convention for the sake of all present and future generations.

Article 6 and the amended New Delhi Work Programme (aNDWP) are amongst the most promising commitments parties have taken under the UNFCCC. The implementation of Article 6 will contribute to enabling all of us to develop and put into practice a shared vision of real climate action. However so far we consider much of this commitment to be empty. Where the amended New Delhi Work Programme succeeds in calling for enhanced action on education, training and public awareness, it fails to deliver on this declaration as it lacks metrics and visible action. We consider below 11 areas to be lacking in the overall vision and implementation of the aNDWP, and share proposals for the new programme that we feel will make it more able to effectively deliver for young people around the world.

1. A Clearly Defined Target

An essential element to a new programme will be a clear measurable target. By stating ***a specific time-bound target, with processes for measurement and robust indicators***, the new programme could reinforce its proactive capacity. It would also increase the potential for up-scaling Article 6-related funding from Global Environmental Facility and other sources. Targets and indicators could include:

- Clear measurement of the up-scaling of funding and support for education, training and participation programmes.
- The number of adaptation and mitigation projects funded which have Article 6-related activities as the key objective.
- An indicator for the active involvement of stakeholders and youth in climate change decisions.
- The designation and support of a national focal point for Article 6 activities in every

country.

- Regular reviews of the focus on sustainable development as a theme throughout all subjects on national curricula.
- The number of non-formal education projects supported financially or with resources and training by governments, especially non-formal education as delivered by youth organisations.
- A qualitative study of the training of target groups such as teachers, journalists, youth and community leaders taking part in Article 6-related projects.
- The amount of financial and training support provided for youth participation at intergovernmental meetings, and the number of funded and supported non-annex I youth and Official Youth Delegates subsequently able to engage fully in decision-making.

2. A GCF Funding Window or a Specific Financial Mechanism

We do not need an empty work programme. Parties have urged the GEF to increase access to funding for Article 6 related activities, but we are still not seeing this money where it is needed most.

A new programme should create ***a more robust mechanism for requesting increased funding from the GEF***, and consider new sources of finance. This could include ***a funding window under the Green Climate Fund***, or a ***specific financial mechanism for funding Article 6 projects, managed through an innovative governance structure including stakeholders as full members of decision-making bodies***.

3. A Permanent Programme

As long as action is required to address climate change, the principles recognised in article 6 should form a core of governmental policies. Therefore ***the new programme implementing those principles should be permanent***, rather than foreseen for a five-year period as it is currently. Regular reviews could provide an updated framework for the programme in the following years, but the question of the existence of the work programme would not need to be addressed.

4. Mandatory Article 6 Focal Points and Yearly Plans

We note with regret that not all countries have a well-supported national focal point for Article 6 activities. Furthermore national Article 6 plans of action are neither widespread nor concrete enough. We believe that ***a dedicated and well-supported national focal point for Article 6 and yearly robust and accessible Article 6 plans for action should become mandatory for Parties*** under the new programme.

5. A Strong Mandate for Collaboration

Education is an important catalyst for change, and climate change is an issue that needs to be dealt with across sectors. As such, we believe that there is room for more cooperation with other intergovernmental agencies in the implementation of Article 6, particularly UNEP, UNESCO and National Sustainable Development Councils. There should also be mechanisms for collaboration from constituency groups through the year, not just at meetings of the SBI.

The new programme should give a strong mandate to the secretariat for working

with relevant organisations and stakeholders throughout the year in the design, funding, collaboration and implementation of Article 6 projects.

6. Sustainable Development as a Primary Driver for Curriculum Design

The new programme should seek to strongly encourage governments to take a systematic approach to climate change education, integrating it into all aspects and at all levels of the formal education curricula. It is imperative that climate change is not seen as specific to a small number of specialised subjects and interests. Climate change, and our response to it, affects all aspects of life on our planet, and as such, national curricula should reflect this.

A new programme should deliver this through ***a commitment by Parties to regularly review their educational curricula to ensure sustainable development is a core theme throughout all subjects.*** In addition to this, Parties should ***recognise the role of higher education institutions in equipping young people with the research, knowledge and skills to take an active role in the implementation of the green economy.***

7. Non-Formal Education

Climate education and awareness should not be limited to a school subject; climate change should form part of the public consciousness and filter into all aspects of daily living. Currently, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and especially youth organisations already play a fundamental role by being key providers of Non-Formal Education, which can be highly effective in engaging people in the subject. By using non-traditional methods and using peers to educate we consider that climate change can be made to feel more relevant on a personal and tangible level, thus providing an essential supplement to formal education.

A new programme must deliver a commitment to support, fund and collaborate with NGOs, especially youth organisations, in the extracurricular activities that facilitate non-formal learning and action on climate change.

8. Training of Key Groups

For a new programme to succeed, it is important that climate education be extended to teachers, youth, journalists and community leaders. ***The secretariat should be given the funding and mandate to collaborate with youth groups, NGOs and civil society to create and distribute online and offline tools and teaching packages to support these groups in their education efforts.***

9. An Instrument for Participation

The new programme for the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention should create an instrument for participation. ***This should explicitly include a strong mandate for the secretariat to act as an active knowledge-broker and facilitator for Article 6-related projects.***

10. Non-Annex I Youth Participation at UNFCCC meetings

In the intermediate review of the amended New Delhi Work Programme at COP16 in Cancun, Parties were invited to foster the attendance of youth at intergovernmental

meetings, including the COP/CMP and meetings of the subsidiary bodies. YOUNGO has successfully run two ad-hoc participation programmes for youth from non-annex 1 countries that have been very successful. Each time, we have funded these with grants from single annex 2 countries, but now there is an urgent need for more stable and continuous funding. In the new programme, we would like to see ***the support for the attendance of non-annex 1 youth at UNFCCC meetings formalised under a new programme.*** We would also like to see **a fund for non-annex 1 youth participation at UNFCCC meetings** established. This would encourage a more sustainable and effective programme, and allow groups of countries to collectively support this important project.

11. Official Youth Delegates

Youth participation at intergovernmental meetings could be further enhanced under a new programme by encouraging Parties to create and support Official Youth Delegates (OYDs). Young people should be included at all levels of the decision-making processes related to climate policy. The meaningful involvement of young people in decision-making could also support the implementation of national education, training and public awareness strategies. Parties could therefore ***give the secretariat a mandate to create best practice guidelines for the inclusion of youth delegates in official delegations.***

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