



CliMates

CliMates Submission on “ways of enhancing the implementation of training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Agreement”

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CliMates is an international think-and-do tank on climate change bringing together young volunteers from more than 30 countries, both students and young professionals. Its goal is to take on the climate challenge by:

- 1. Developing and promoting innovative ideas and tools*
- 2. Influencing decision-makers*
- 3. Training youth to become change-makers*
- 4. Engaging in interdisciplinary research and action-based projects*

This submission was elaborated by CliMates’ Negotiation Tracking Team. We are dedicated to following and analyzing international climate negotiations. An active member of the YOUNGO platform, we are a solid team of 20 young people from all over the world who work together regularly on various capacity-building and advocacy projects aimed at building and sharing expertise on international climate negotiations.

Introduction

The Negotiation Tracking Team of CliMates, cordially makes this submission to SBI-47 on decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 83, on ways of enhancing the implementation of training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information so as to enhance actions under the Agreement. Education is one of the penultimate expected outcome of these recommendations, as such we have assessed the Article 6 (Action for Climate Empowerment) of the convention in the following five priority components :

1. Training

Often it is felt that needs and demands of vulnerable communities and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are left behind, key reasons being lack of streamlined trainings to policy makers and media person. We believe trainings for policy-makers, especially in developing countries and LDCs is needed to ensure responsible decisions and actions are taken.

Furthermore, Media coverage of NDCs and climate change policy is scanty, especially in LDCs that, in turn, has lessened prioritizing climate change as a chaos at local level. The training process requires skilled resource person and experts that can drip their expertise to local, vulnerable people. One of the key stakeholders in training process are local people that are mostly unaware of adaptation and mitigation process. Motivating local people to understand key issues of the negotiation and ways to address climate change would strengthen the capacity-building process and help its implementation.

2. Public awareness

2.1 In order to achieve the objectives set by the Paris Agreement, it is known that public awareness must be enhanced. To do so, we believe enabling effective communication mechanisms, such as a poll or public survey, intended to information dissemination and feedback collection, are needed. Moreover, we believe those communication mechanisms must be developed locally taking into consideration each territory specificities and culture.

Public awareness is a refractory and cyclic process. The information dissemination mechanisms such as trainings involve incomplete absorption of the imparted knowledge by the trainees. It is their intuition, intellect and further discussions that shape up the concrete idea. The view of climate change by an expert and by a common individual is significantly differing, not totally, in certain aspects. It should, thus, be noted that public is aware only when there are certain feedbacks on the issue. That is why, feedback process should be well constructed while planning communication mechanisms for public awareness.

2.2 We, as a youth-lead organization, believe that Parties should develop national ACE strategies to be included in their respective NDCs. This proposal have been supported by YOUNGO and constitutes as key components to the Paris Agreement's success in terms of education and public awareness.

2.3 There is strong need for impact measurement in ACE-related issues in order to assess our potential for progression. We would like to push for the creation of a platform for exchanging on the progress of each constituency regarding ACE-related project. The Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment should be a platform not only to discuss best practices but also to exchange on challenges and impact measurements in order to encourage each Party and Non-Parties to deliver the best of their abilities.

3. Public participation

CliMates believes that mechanisms should be established to involve all stakeholders in climate decision-making and the implementation of climate action. We offer a few concrete proposals which we think would serve to expand public participation.

3.1 Continuing on the development of national ACE strategies that we mentioned in 2.2, we believe that they should ideally include national ACE focal points appointed with the express purpose of developing national strategies of action for climate empowerment. It is also important in our view

that these national ACE strategies include efforts to expand youth delegate programs to UNFCCC negotiations, as youth are some of the most important messengers on the issue of climate change.

3.2 Lastly, we think it is contradicting to see that women, despite lying in the front lines of vulnerability, have considerably low participation, be it in the negotiation desk or mobilization events especially in the developing countries from Global South. It is a high time that the national and international policies be gender responsive fostering equal participation in all form and levels.

4. Public access to information

4.1 As mentioned in 1, enhancing public access to understandable information about climate change is imperative to achieving ACE objectives and more broadly of the PA's objectives. We believe that local media and journalists are best-equipped to communicate climate change to their audiences, and thus our proposals on this matter primarily concern the ways the UNFCCC can support journalists and media in communicating climate change to the public.

We commend the recent partnership between the UNFCCC, the Fijian COP 23 Presidency and Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in sponsoring ten Pacific Island journalists to attend and report on COP 23. We believe that sponsoring local media, especially from more vulnerable regions, to participate in the COP is an excellent example of the type of program that CliMates hopes to see more of in the coming years. Extending these sponsorships and coupling them with additional training on communicating climate change could do a great deal towards enhancing ACE.

4.2 We believe public access to information should be regarded under public right to information. The key delegates representing the nation in COPs are primarily responsible for facilitating the policy level dialogues at national level. The next step is to effectively disseminate climate data, environmental information and key policies to local audiences. For instance, in a LDC, it is highly imperative to translate those information in respective native and ethnic languages for ensuring public access to information and public awareness.

4.3 We believe that Parties should ensure that environmental information, data and knowledge are accessible. That means that informations should be easily available, accurate, up-to-date and consistent. It is also important that this information should be easily understandable. That may involve a system which collects environmental information held by both the private and public entities.

5. International cooperation

5.1 We believe that a collective effort is essential while tackling the threats posed by climate change. Enhancing mechanisms for collaboration and cooperation amongst various member states is imperative to achieving the set objectives. We believe that partnerships between member States of the Global South and the Global North would be beneficial.

5.2 We support the creation of enhanced mechanisms to support and finance youth attendance to UNFCCC events, especially to those of the Global South. In this sense, we salute the newly created

Global South Scholarship Program, elaborated by our colleagues from YOUNGO and hope to see such programs grow in the future.

5.3 CliMates believes that the creation of a platform for citizens to get understandable information could make the policies behind the COPs less abstract and enhance climate change education, training and public awareness at the national level. This platform could include basic knowledge about climate change and various environmental issues, explain how daily decisions by individuals could impact global climate change and suggest good practices. In order to allow a real collaboration between member states and their citizens, CliMates suggests that this platform should be available in local and/or regional languages.

5.4 We believe that, to ensure effective implementation and enhancement, Parties should push for the inclusion of recommendations on ACE (training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information) to be reflected in the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement.