

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Chair's summary, informal technical expert dialogue on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Governance and timelines for 6.8 framework

Background

In relation to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement¹, The SBSTA Chair, Mr Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, organized an informal technical expert dialogue on the issue of governance and timelines for 6.8 framework on 7-8 October 2021. At the request of the SBSTA Chair, the dialogue was facilitated by Peer Stiansen of Norway and Hugh Sealy of Barbados. This summary is produced by the SBSTA Chair under his own authority.

This summary aims to capture possible options for further consideration by Parties and Heads of Delegation. It is informal in nature, has no status, and does not provide negotiation text. It does not attempt to provide a record of all views expressed during the dialogue and in submissions, nor indicate the support to each of the options appeared to have.

In relation to the topic of the dialogue, as at 20 October 2021, 2 groups had made informal submissions². This summary includes content from Party and group submissions and interventions that relate to options. Submissions made in 2021 by Parties during other informal technical expert dialogues/informal consultations covering the same or related issues are also referred to as necessary.

The informal technical expert dialogue

Parties generally agreed that the work programme should start as soon as possible and that 6.8 framework should be operationalized as soon as possible. Interventions in this dialogue and some submissions made, responded to guiding questions provided by the SBSTA Chair:

Guiding Questions

- What milestones does the work programme need?
- How will success of the work programme be assessed?
- How will the work be resourced?
- What are realistic options for governance arrangements?
- How do these issues relate to the rest of the package (Article 6/the wider Glasgow outcome) and how could resolving these issues contribute to reaching consensus?

Points for further consideration

Interventions focused on a number of possible text improvements, sometimes with different views such that there are options for consideration, as set out below. In each case, the option has been introduced by at least one Party/group, but this summary does not seek to indicate how much support there is among Parties for each option, as Parties are familiar with the views expressed in submissions and interventions. **Options identified below are bolded and placed together.** Non-bolded text represents proposals that did not appear to have alternative proposals or options. Argumentation is

¹ Documents relating to Article 6 negotiations since 2016 can be accessed here:

<https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation>

² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation/submissions-informal-technical-expert-dialogues-on-article-6-of-the-paris-agreement#eq-2>

not provided in this note given the high level of familiarity of Parties with this topic resulting from earlier work, including during the 2021 June sessional period.

Milestones

At CMA3 (2021)

- Adoption of the work programme
- Decision on the governance of the framework (see section "Realistic options for governance arrangements")

In 2022

- Launching work (See COP25 3rd PT cover decision)
 - Start work programme (See COP 25 3rd PT, para 2 cover decision)
 - Focus areas of work programme
 - Submissions on the focus areas of work programme activities and existing relevant NMAs, web-based platform, and schedule for the work programme activities by no later than March 2022 (See COP 25 3rd PT, para 7 (a) cover decision).
 - Development of a technical paper synthesizing the submissions (See COP 25 3rd PT para 8 (a) cover decision).
 - Organization of the workshop in conjunction with SBSTA56 (see COP 25 3rd PT para 9 (a) cover decision).
 - Development of report for the workshop to be considered by the governance of the framework at CMA4 (see COP 25 3rd PT para 9 (b) cover decision).
 - Developing infrastructure for recording and exchanging information on NMAs (see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 8 (b)(i)):
 - **UNFCCC web-based platform**
 - **With matching functions**
 - **Without matching functions**
 - **NMA registry and information hub**
 - Decision on the rules of the procedure to launch the work of the governance of the framework, if the governance of the framework is a body
 - Establishment of a unit in the secretariat to support the implementation of the framework and work programme
- Decisions for CMA4
 - Decision on the focus areas of work programme activities at CMA4
 - Decision on the schedule for implementing work programme activities at CMA4
 - Full operationalization of the framework at CMA4

In and/or after 2022

- Identification of the focus areas (see COP25 3rd PT, annex 8 para (a)(i))
- Identification of the relevant existing NMAs within those areas (see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 8 (a)(i))
- Identification of the existing linkages, synergies, coordination and implementation occurring between those NMAs(see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 8 (a)(ii))
- Identification of opportunities for the enhancement of existing linkages, creation of synergies, coordination and implementation of the NMAs in a local, national and global levels (see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 8 (a)(ii))

- Assessment of the results of the previous steps and draw conclusions on how to enhance existing linkages and create synergies(see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 8 (a)(ii))
- Practical enhancement of linkages and creation of synergies through the relevant governance of the framework(see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 8 (a)(ii))
- Annual reporting on the progress and outcomes of the work programme by the governance of the framework (see COP25 3rd PT, annex para (9))that could include recommendations on:
 - Additional focus areas of work programme activities (see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 9 (d))
 - Additional modalities of the work programme (see COP25 3rd PT ,annex para 9 (d))
 - Measures for enhancing linkages, creating synergies and facilitating coordination and implementation of NMAs programme (see COP25 3rd PT, annex para 9 (b))
 - Enhancing effectiveness of the work programme (see COP25 3rd PT annex para 9 (d))
- Decision on the review of the work programme including on the future reporting and institutional arrangements at CMA8 in 2026 (See COP 25 3rd PT, cover decision para 11)

Other points:

- Sequencing of the milestones is important
- The work programme needs to have sufficient time between launch and review – e.g. 5 years
- Merging of UNFCCC web-based platform with NMA registry and information hub could be considered, subject to how the NMA facilitative mechanism and the NMA network of coordination could be incorporated

How to assess success of the work programme

- Success criteria
 - Extent to which work programme has achieved the mandate/objectives of the work programme referred to in paragraph 39 of decision 1/CP.21
 - Number of Parties that have implemented NMAs under the framework, number of Parties with increased access to voluntary cooperation
 - Extent to which the work programme has mobilized technology, financial and capacity-building support for developing countries in enhancing mitigation and adaptation ambitions to meet their NDC targets, going beyond a knowledge sharing mechanism
 - Extent to which the work programme has reduced transition risk of SIDS
 - Consistency with ETF reporting framework including whether the programme has provided information on NMAs in terms of sector, country, specific activities, financial flow, mitigation achieved, funding for adaptation activity, technology transfer achieved, and gap to be filled by the framework on technology, finance and adaptation
 - Timely delivery of the targets and deliverables of the work programme
 - Extent to which NMAs have contributed to enhancing mitigation and adaptation ambitions of the Parties
- Assessment methods
 - Assessment of the success of the work programme with reference to the delivery of the criteria at the review of the work programme
 - Drawing on the information in the web-based platform, annual reports and submissions

How to resource the work

- UNFCCC budget
 - Voluntary contributions from Parties (See COP 25 3rd PT, cover decision para 14)
- Contributions from the Financial Mechanism

- GCF
- X % of the levies from Article 6.2 and 6.4 activities in the longer term
- Procedures for SBs that establish the resourcing
- CMA decision as the work programme evolves

Realistic options for governance arrangements

- **SBSTA**
- **NMA forum under the SBSTA/SBI with a review of the institutional arrangements (See COP25 3rd PT, annex paragraphs 4-6), with review in 2026**
- **Article 6 committee**
 - **Including a representative of the GCF**
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- **Task force³, NMA facilitative mechanism⁴ and NMA network of coordination⁵**
- **Ad-hoc working group⁶**

Relationship with the rest of the package

- Essential part of Article 6 package to be resolved at CMA.3
- Capacity building for Article 6 activities in developing countries, using coordination approaches

Other points

- It is necessary to identify how best to utilize information submitted to the web-based platform. SB Chairs can facilitate sharing and utilization of the submitted information including through technical papers and workshops.
- Synergies should not be duplicative but complementary given there are UNFCCC bodies already promoting and supporting non-market approaches. The work programme should scientifically identify gaps, inefficiencies and synergies without doing the work of other existing bodies to ensure value-added.
- Perspectives of just transition can be incorporated into the work programme to bring in marginalized people into voluntary cooperation
- Transition risks from emission-intensive technologies to low-emissions and resilient technologies for SIDS should be addressed
- Learning lessons from existing relevant processes, including the Nairobi Work Programme and the response measures forum, is useful. In case of the Nairobi Work Programme, the SBSTA Chair invites relevant constituted bodies for the topic to be discussed. This format could be important in the initial stage of the work programme to capture broad views and then subsequently narrow down the interest under the 6.8 framework.
- Scope of NMAs facilitated under the framework should be limited to those identified by the participating Parties.
- Participation of the private sector is highly important.

³ Undertake the work programme to make additional recommendations on the arrangements for the framework at CMA4 in 2022

⁴ Support Parties to implement their NMAs by mobilizing resources based on the information in the registry

⁵ Enhance communication among existing instruments of the UNFCCC on the NMAs in the registry

⁶ Implement initial activities and make recommendations on the institutional arrangements of the framework at CMA4 in 2022