

A6.4-SB011-AA-A07

Concept Note

Development of activity standard, validation and verification standard, and activity cycle procedure for programmes of activities

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1. Procedural background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), at its third session, adopted rules, modalities and procedures (RMPs) for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (Article 6.4 mechanism)¹ and requested the Supervisory Body to develop provisions for the development and approval of methodologies, validation, registration, monitoring, verification and certification, issuance, renewal, first transfer from the mechanism registry, voluntary cancellation and other processes pursuant to chapters V.B–L and VIII of the RMPs.²
2. The CMA, at its fourth session, elaborated some elements of the RMPs relating to the operation of the activity cycle of the Article 6.4 mechanism.³
3. The Supervisory Body, at its fourth meeting, considered the concept note “Development of activity standard, validation and verification standard and activity cycle procedure” prepared by the secretariat, and requested the secretariat to (i) draft activity standards, validation and verification standards, and activity cycle procedures, drawing on the corresponding documents developed for the clean development mechanism (CDM), with modifications to accommodate the requirements in the RMPs and the elaboration of the RMPs; as well as (ii) reflect the guidance provided by the Supervisory Body at that meeting. Such guidance included, among other things, that the secretariat should start with projects and programmes of activities (PoAs) as activity types to be covered by these standards and procedures, and develop two sets of the standards and the procedures (one for projects and the other for PoAs), noting that the Supervisory Body will start considering “other types of activity” that may be registered under the Article 6.4 mechanism in accordance with paragraph 31(b) of the RMPs, such as policy, jurisdictional or sectoral programmes, and may revise these standards and procedures to expand the scope or develop a new set of these standards and procedures, as appropriate.
4. The Supervisory Body further requested the secretariat, in presenting the drafts of these regulatory documents for the Article 6.4 mechanism, to highlight the differences from the corresponding documents developed for the CDM and refer to the practices under different crediting mechanisms, where appropriate.
5. The Supervisory Body, at its eighth meeting, adopted the set of standards and procedure for projects: “Article 6.4 mechanism project standard for projects” (AS-P); the “Article 6.4 mechanism validation and verification standard for projects” (VVS-P); and the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects” (ACP-P).⁴

¹ Decision 3/CMA.3, annex. Available at:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10_add1_adv.pdf#page=25

² Decision 3/CMA.3, paragraph 5(a).

³ Decision 7/CMA.4, annex I, chapters III–VI. Available at:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2022_10a02_adv.pdf#page=33.

⁴ Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle standards and procedures for projects are available at:
<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/article-64-supervisory-body/rules-and-regulations#ActivityCycle>.

2. Purpose

6. The purpose of this concept note is to:
- (a) Provide the drafts of the Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for PoAs (hereinafter referred to as ACP-PoA), the Article 6.4 mechanism activity standard for PoAs (hereinafter referred to as AS-PoA) and the Article 6.4 mechanism validation and verification standard for PoAs (hereinafter referred to as VVS-PoA) as contained in appendix 1, appendix 2 and appendix 3, respectively;
 - (b) Compare the key differences from the corresponding documents developed for projects (AS-P, VVS-P and ACP-P); and;
 - (c) Highlight the differences from the corresponding documents developed for the CDM.

3. Key issues and proposed solutions

3.1. General

7. Chapter V.A of the RMPs sets out design requirements for activities that may be registered under the Article 6.4 mechanism, as quoted below:

30. *The public or private entities participating in an activity (hereinafter referred to as activity participants) that wish to register the activity as an Article 6, paragraph 4, activity shall design the activity according to the requirements in this chapter and any other relevant requirements adopted by the CMA or the Supervisory Body.*

31. *The activity:*

- (a) *Shall be designed to achieve mitigation of GHG emissions that is additional, including reducing emissions, increasing removals and mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans (hereinafter collectively referred to as emission reductions), and not lead to an increase in global emissions;*
- (b) *May be a project, programme of activities or other type of activity approved by the Supervisory Body;*
- (c) *Shall be designed to achieve emission reductions in the host Party;*
- (d) *Shall also:*
 - (i) *Deliver real, measurable and long-term benefits related to climate change in accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 37(b);*
 - (ii) *Minimize the risk of non-permanence of emission reductions over multiple NDC implementation periods and, where reversals occur, ensure that these are addressed in full;*
 - (iii) *Minimize the risk of leakage and adjust for any remaining leakage in the calculation of emission reductions or removals;*
 - (iv) *Minimize and, where possible, avoid negative environmental and social impacts;*

- (e) *Shall undergo local and, where appropriate, subnational stakeholder consultation consistent with applicable domestic arrangements in relation to public participation and local communities and indigenous peoples, as applicable;*
 - (f) *Shall apply a crediting period for the issuance of A6.4ERs, that is a maximum of 5 years renewable a maximum of twice, or a maximum of 10 years with no option of renewal, that is appropriate to the activity, or, in respect of activities involving removals, a crediting period of a maximum of 15 years renewable a maximum of twice that is appropriate to the activity, and that is subject to approval by the Supervisory Body, or any shorter crediting period specified by the host Party pursuant to paragraph 27(b) above. The crediting period shall not start before 2021.*
- 32. *The activity shall apply a mechanism methodology that has been developed in accordance with chapter V.B below (Methodologies) and approved by the Supervisory Body following its technical assessment, in order to:*
 - (a) *Set a baseline for the calculation of emission reductions to be achieved by the activity;*
 - (b) *Demonstrate the additionality of the activity;*
 - (c) *Ensure accurate monitoring of emission reductions;*
 - (d) *Calculate the emission reductions achieved by the activity.*
- 8. The proposed framework of regulatory documents for Article 6.4 PoAs (A6.4 PoAs) follows the principles set by the Supervisory Body for Article 6.4 projects, and also envisages simplifications in order to facilitate the upscaling of the Article 6.4 mechanism.
- 9. The ACP-PoA describes the procedural steps and requirements envisaged for the activity cycle of PoAs and component projects (CPs). The ACP-PoA would be a document for use by all actors relating to PoAs and CPs that undergo the activity cycle, including activity participants, DOEs, host and other participating Parties, the Supervisory Body and the secretariat.
- 10. The AS-PoA elaborates and provides concrete means for demonstration of compliance with the activity design requirements for PoAs and CPs in chapter V.A (activity design) of the RMPs at all stages of the PoA cycle. The AS-PoA would be a document for use primarily by activity participants but would also serve as a reference for other actors in the activity cycle, including DOEs, when conducting validation and verification, host and other participating Parties for their approval and authorization, and the Supervisory Body for its decision-making in relation to specific PoAs and CPs under the activity cycle.
- 11. The VVS-PoA includes requirements for the validation and verification means and methods for DOEs to: (i) validate the registration, renewal and post-registration changes of a PoA; (ii) validate the inclusion of a CP, renewal of crediting period and post-registration changes to the included CPs; and (iii) verify the monitoring results for the issuance of A6.4 ERs. The VVS-PoA mirrors the requirements and provisions of the ACP-PoA and AS-PoA. The VVS-PoA is meant to “standardize” the validation and verification methods for DOEs.

3.2. Key features of programmes of activities

12. By developing the framework of an A6.4 PoA, through the inclusion of multiple component projects (CPs) instead of developing and registering multiple projects individually, activity participants can benefit from aggregation processes that involve effective, streamlined timelines and requirements such as:
- (a) Host Party approval and authorization of activity participants are to be provided for the registration of, and specific type of post-registration changes to, the PoA as a framework and such approval and authorization are not required for individual CPs. Participating Party authorization for activity participants is also to be provided at PoA level only;
 - (b) Processes such as global stakeholder consultation and host Party approval are mandatory only for the PoA as a framework, whereas the local stakeholder consultation, environmental and social impact assessments as applicable, and assessments of environmental, social and sustainable development impacts in accordance with the “Article 6.4 sustainable development tool” are to be undertaken for each CP. Continuous engagement of stakeholders and demonstration of compliance with integrity safeguards are the processes applicable at both local and global level and thus applied to both the PoA and individual CPs. Prior consideration notification is applicable at the PoA level, and notification of intention to include component projects is envisaged at the CP level;
 - (c) The processes for including a CP in a registered A6.4 PoA, notifying a post-registration change to the CP and notifying the renewal of the crediting period of the CP involve validation by a designated operational entity (DOE) and assessment by the secretariat on a sample basis. Due to these simplified processes for CPs compared to the equivalent processes for projects, robust safeguarding measures to ensure the integrity of CPs are provided as follows:
 - (i) The review of erroneous inclusion of CPs: under this process, if a designated national authority (DNA) of a Party involved in the A6.4 PoA or a Supervisory Body member or alternate member identifies information that may disqualify the CP from inclusion in the PoA, they shall request a review of the inclusion of the CP within one year after the inclusion of the CP in the PoA, or within 180 days after the first issuance of Article 6.4 emission reductions (A6.4 ERs) for that PoA;
 - (ii) The review of notifications of post-registration changes to CPs: under this process, any host Party, any other participating Party or any member or alternate member of the Supervisory Body may request a review of the post-registration changes within one year of the notification of change being reflected on the web page;
 - (iii) The review of notifications of renewal of crediting period of CPs: applies the process for review of erroneous inclusion of CPs, mutatis mutandis.

3.3. Fees

13. The fees charged for the inclusion of a CP, for notifying post-registration changes of a CP and for notifying the renewal of the crediting period of a CP are significantly lower than the fees charged at equivalent processes for standalone projects. Within the limit of these fees

set by the CMA in the elaboration of the RMPs as referred to in paragraph 2 above,⁵ it is proposed that:

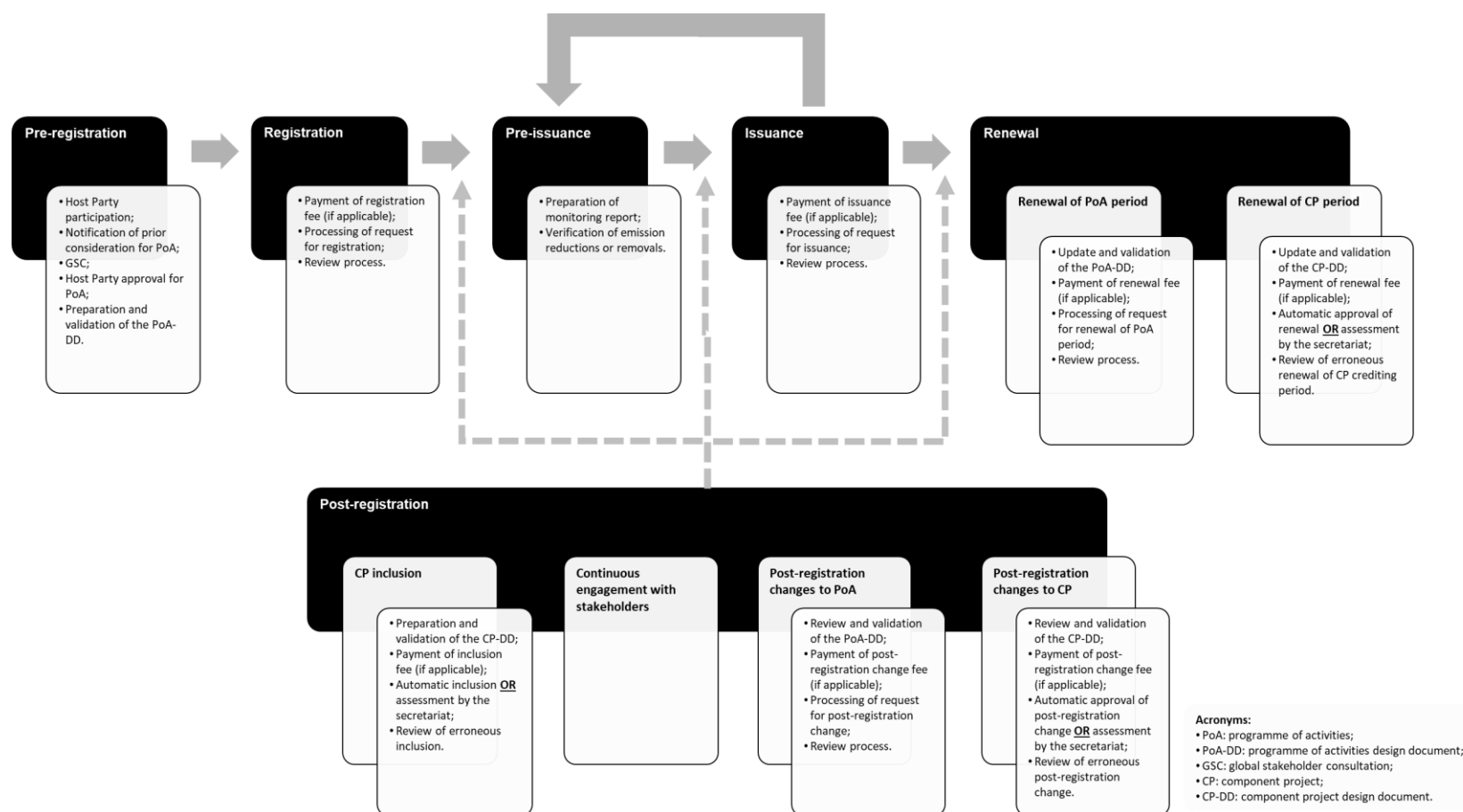
- (a) The fees for registration and renewal of a PoA are USD 10,000 each;
- (b) The fees for inclusion of CPs in a registered PoA and for the renewal of the crediting period of a CP are USD 800 each;
- (c) The fees for post-registration change to a registered PoA or an included CP is USD 500 per request;
- (d) The fee to be charged for a request for issuance for a registered PoA is a proportional levy to the amount of A6.4ERs requested for issuance, set at USD 0.15 per A6.4ER being requested for issuance.

3.4. PoA activity cycle

14. The PoA activity cycle as described in the ACP-PoA involves six main macro-processes, namely pre-registration, registration, post-registration, pre-issuance, issuance and renewal, each with a sub-set of individual processes and steps/tasks. The figure below provides an overview of all macro-processes and a sub-set of individual processes, and the subsequent sections provide details of each process, including key requirements, a comparison with the ACP-P and a comparison with the project cycle procedure for programmes of activities (PCP-PoA) under the CDM.

⁵ Decision 7/CMA.4, annex I, paragraphs 51-55 set the maximum fees relating to the PoA processes as follows:

- (a) The registration fee for a PoA: USD 12,000;
- (b) The inclusion fee for a CP: USD 1,000;
- (c) The post-registration change fee: USD 2,000;
- (d) The issuance fee: USD 0.20 per A6.4ER requested for issuance.

Figure 1. Overview of macro-processes under the activity cycle of a programme of activities

3.5. Pre-registration

15. Processes under the pre-registration macro-process are applicable to the PoA level only and involve the demonstration of compliance with the specifications by the host Party on activity types, methodological and crediting period conditions published as part of fulfilling the Party's participation requirements of the Article 6.4 mechanism, the notification of prior consideration for the PoA, the host Party approval of the PoA and authorization of the activity participants, the authorization of activity participants by other participating Parties, the global stakeholder consultation for the PoA design document (PoA-DD) and validation of the PoA. The processes are further elaborated below.

3.5.1. Host Party participation

16. This process involves the host Party ensuring the compliance with the participation requirements in accordance with paragraphs 26–28 of the RMPs.
17. The steps and requirements are the same as those of the ACP-P.
18. The requirements differ from the CDM modalities and procedures as the host Party participation requirements are different (simpler) under the CDM.

3.5.2. Notification of prior consideration

19. The activity participants shall demonstrate that the benefits of the Article 6.4 mechanism were considered necessary in the decision to undertake the PoA by submitting a notification of prior consideration to the Supervisory Body that contains minimum information about the PoA. The submission of this notification is mandatory at the PoA level and is used for determining the start date of the PoA period.
20. In the AS-PoA, it is clarified that the start date of the PoA period is the earlier of the preferred date indicated in the notification of prior consideration form and the first day of the publication of the PoA-DD for global stakeholder consultation. If a preferred date is not specified in the notification of prior consideration, the start date of the PoA period will be the date of publication of the PoA-DD for global stakeholder consultation. The establishment of the start date of the PoA period is important, as the start date of any CP to be included in the PoA shall be on or after the start date of the PoA period.
21. Within the process of prior notification, the activity participants are required to submit a summary of the information on the proposed PoA, which shall include the indicative maximum annual amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or net GHG removals per host Party expected to be achieved by CPs that may be included in the PoA during its lifetime as an A6.4 PoA.
22. The steps and the requirements under this process are the same as the requirements for prior consideration notification in the ACP-P, except for the requirement of including an indicative maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals that may be achieved by the PoA per host Party; under the CDM, this process was not mandatory.
23. Introducing a mandatory notification of prior considerations for A6.4 PoA and establishing a requirement for including indicative maximum annual amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or net GHG removals per host Party expected to be achieved by CPs

that may be included in the PoA during its lifetime as an A6.4 PoA is intended to facilitate the host Party(ies) processes of consideration of the PoA.

3.5.3. Global stakeholder consultation

24. The activity participants shall prepare a PoA-DD and submit it to the secretariat for publication to initiate the global stakeholder consultation (GSC) for a period of 28 days.
25. The steps and requirements under this process are the same as those under the ACP-P, however they are limited to the PoA level and are not applicable at the individual CP level.
26. Under the CDM, the submission of a PoA-DD for GSC was undertaken by the DOE contracted to perform the validation, and the duration of the GSC was 30 days except with respect to large-scale afforestation/reforestation CDM PoAs, for which the duration was 45 days.

3.5.4. Party approval and authorization

27. In this process, the host Party is to respond to the publication of the PoA-DD for the GSC and provide an approval or rejection of the proposed A6.4 PoA. The proposed regulatory provisions allow a PoA to be developed in more than one host Party and the respective requirement is that an approval from all host Parties shall be obtained.
28. The key differences with the process under the ACP-P are as follows:
 - (a) The approval by the host Party is limited to the PoA and is not required at the inclusion of each CP, whereas the ACP-P requires the approval of each project individually;
 - (b) The approval shall indicate the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals expected to be achieved by CPs that may be included in the PoA. This approach allows for the inclusion of CPs in the PoA without the need for host Party approval for each CP individually, provided that the accumulative expected maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals that may be achieved by all CPs already included and expected to be included are within the threshold. For a PoA covering more than one host Party, each host Party shall approve the maximum annual amount to be achieved by CPs implemented in the host Party under the PoA;
 - (c) The process also includes authorization of activity participants. The AS-PoA requires that each activity participant shall be authorized by the host Party of the PoA or by other participating Party. If the PoA is hosted by multiple Parties, the authorization by the host Party may be provided by any of the host Parties. At least one activity participant shall be authorized by each host Party.
29. The requirements and the processes differ from those under the CDM as follows:
 - (a) Under the CDM, it was not required to indicate the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals that may be achieved by the PoA. However, this requirement is introduced under the Article 6.4 mechanism due to the potential impact of approving the PoA on the host Party nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation;
 - (b) Under the CDM, the “coordinating/managing entity” (CME) that manages the PoA shall be authorized by all host Parties. However, under the Article 6.4 mechanism,

the concept of CME has been dropped entirely, leaving the flexibility to choose who or which activity participant to manage the PoA;

- (c) Under the CDM, the host Party approval of the PoA as well as the host Party and other participating Party authorization of activity participants were to be obtained by the project participants before submitting the request for registration. Under the Article 6.4 mechanism, the approval and authorization are to be done directly on the UNFCCC web interface as under the ACP-P.

3.5.5. Preparation and validation of programme design document

30. In this process, the activity participants shall finalize the PoA-DD, taking into account the comments received in the GSC and any corrective actions requested by the DOE, prepare the modalities of communication for validation by the DOE, and submit a request for registration of the proposed A6.4 PoA to the secretariat through the DOE.
31. The steps under the process are the same as those in the ACP-P. However, there are differences in the requirements for designing a stand-alone A6.4 project and an A6.4 PoA as follows:
 - (a) The design of the PoA covers a framework or policy that involves typical types of projects that will be included in the PoA. The PoA-DD includes a generic CP section where the activity participants shall describe the technologies/measures to be employed and/or implemented by the corresponding CPs, including a description of their common features and the conditions (or eligibility criteria) a CP should meet to be included in the PoA;
 - (b) The local stakeholder consultation and the assessments of environmental and social impacts and sustainable development impacts shall be undertaken for each CP individually, not at the PoA level;
 - (c) The PoA framework has the concept of 'start date of the PoA', which limits the inclusion of CPs only to those started after the start date of the PoA as part of the additionality demonstration.
32. In addition, another difference from the ACP-P relates to the preparation of the modalities of communication: the ACP-P allows 'joint', 'shared' and 'sole' focal point roles, whereas only the 'joint' and 'sole' focal point roles are envisaged under the ACP-PoA. By removing the 'shared' focal point role, it is ensured that any communication between the activity participants and the secretariat and the Supervisory Body is made through consensus from all focal point entities. 'Shared' focal point role allows any focal point entities to communicate with the Supervisory Body or the secretariat without requiring consent from other focal point entities, which does not ensure in sufficient extent the agreement of all focal point entities under the PoA and therefore this option is dropped under the PoA where insurance of management and control over the PoA is crucial.
33. The process under the CDM contained additional detailed guidance regarding changes after the publication of the PoA-DD for GSC and withdrawal of the PoA-DD as well as detailed guidance for requesting a deviation from an approved methodology or methodological tool. Under the Article 6.4 mechanism, it has been clarified that requesting deviation from an approved methodology or methodological tool may be submitted as a request for clarification in accordance with the "Procedure: Development, revision and clarification of methodologies and methodological tool" as part of the preparation of the

PoA-DD by the activity participants. Consequently, the provisions have been moved from the ACP-PoA to the AS-PoA.

3.6. Registration

34. The registration process is applicable to the PoA only and includes the submission of the request for registration, the processing of the request for registration and the processing of the request for review, if applicable.
35. The steps and requirements are the same as those in the ACP-P. The main difference from the registration process under the CDM relates to the deadlines for DOEs and activity participants to submit revised documentation when issues of editorial or substantive nature are identified in the request for registration during the completeness check and the substantive check.

3.7. Post-registration

36. The post-registration process is applicable to both the PoA and CPs and includes the inclusion of CPs in the PoA, the review of erroneous inclusion of CPs in the PoA, the continuous engagement with stakeholders, and post-registration changes to the PoA or the CPs.

3.7.1. Inclusion of component projects in a registered programme of activities

37. The inclusion of a CP in a registered A6.4 PoA includes the notification of inclusion of the CP in the PoA and the preparation of a CP design document (CP-DD) by the activity participants, and the validation for inclusion of the CP in the PoA by a DOE.
38. When compared with the equivalent process under the CDM, the process and steps are the same. However, there are key differences in the detailed conditions based on the following requirements:
 - (a) The DOE and the activity participants shall ensure that the proposed CP for inclusion would not lead to exceeding the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals expected to be achieved by all CPs, as approved by the host Party. The same check is to be conducted by the secretariat automatically upon submission of documents for inclusion of the proposed CP;
 - (b) Under the process of erroneous inclusion, the secretariat, based on the sample assessment of CPs proposed for inclusion, may bring to the attention of the Supervisory Body concerns regarding the inclusion of CPs in the PoA;
 - (c) Also, under the process of erroneous inclusion, if for any specific excluded CP, the Supervisory Body determines that the validating DOE failed to adequately assess the compliance of the CP with the requirements for inclusion of CPs, the DOE shall have its performance evaluated for all the CPs included by this DOE. Additionally, possible provisions requiring the DOE to compensate the amount of A6.4 ERs issued for all erroneously included CPs to the cancellation account in the Article 6.4 mechanism registry are proposed;
 - (d) The local stakeholder consultation and the assessments of environmental, social and the sustainable development impacts shall take place at the level of each CP individually, whereas under the CDM, there was a flexibility to undertake these at the PoA and/or CPA level.

3.7.2. Continuous engagement of stakeholders

39. This process allows the submission of comments on the registered A6.4 PoA or included CPs at any time of the lifetime of the PoA by Parties, stakeholders and UNFCCC-admitted observer organizations through a dedicate interface in the UNFCCC website. In addition, the activity participants are required to set up a similar communication channels for local stakeholders.
40. The requirements under this process are the same as those in the ACP-P. The CDM does not include such a process.

3.7.3. Changes to the registered programme of activities

41. This process includes the revision of the PoA-DD by the activity participants to reflect the changes, the validation of the changes by a DOE, the submission of the request for post-registration changes by the DOE and the processing of the request for post-registration changes and the processing of the request for review by the secretariat and the Supervisory Body.
42. The steps to submit and process and request the review of a request for post-registration changes to a registered A6.4 PoA are the same as the process for post-registration changes to projects described in the ACP-P. The differences from the project regulations contained in AS-P, VVS-P and ACP-P relate to the requirements for the types of post-registration changes, which are limited to the framework and not to the design of CPs, and include permanent changes (corrections, changes to the description of how to develop the monitoring plan for each CP, changes to the design of the PoA, addition of a generic CP), changes due to the revision of the methodologies, methodological tools or standardized baselines applied to the generic CPs, and registration under or overlap with another crediting mechanism. Another key difference from the project regulations is the revision of the PoA-DD due to the changes of the PoA, which would result in an increase in the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals expected to be achieved by CPs implemented in each host Party, which are subject to a new approval by the host Party.
43. The key differences from the CDM regulations relate to the requirements to submit and process the request and the addition of specific types of changes such as changes due to the revision of a methodology, methodological tool or standardized baseline applied to the generic CPs and registration under or overlap with another crediting mechanism and increasing the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals expected to be achieved by CPs implemented in each host Party, the last of which is subject to a new approval by the host Party.
44. An entirely new provision compared to the CDM regulations is introduced to clarify that any change of the applied methodology, methodological tool or other methodology regulatory document after the expiration of the validity of the previous version of these methodological documents requires the activity participants to undertake post-registration changes to the PoA if they wish to include any new CPs.

3.7.4. Changes to component projects

45. This process includes the revision of the CP-DD by the activity participants, validation of the changes by a DOE, and the notification to the secretariat of the post-registration change to the CP by the DOE.

46. The steps to submit, process and request the review of a request for post-registration changes to a CP are the same as the process for including a CP in a registered A6.4 PoA, including the assessment by the secretariat on a sample basis. The requirements for identifying and addressing post-registration changes to CPs are similar to those for the project regulations, especially for the capacity increase of the CPs in relation to the materiality thresholds as long as the increase results in GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals being within the maximum amount approved by the host Party.
47. The main difference from the project regulations relates to the requirements for post-registration changes to increase the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals expected to be achieved by CPs, which necessitates an approval by the host Party.
48. The key differences from the CDM regulations relate to the mandatory requirement for obtaining host Party approval if any changes result in increase the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals expected to be achieved by CPs.

3.8. Pre-issuance

49. Steps under the issuance process are applicable only to the PoA level and include the preparation of a monitoring report by the activity participants, and the verification of achieved GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals by a DOE.
50. The steps and requirements are similar to those of the project regulations, except for the possibility of preparing multiple monitoring reports for the same monitoring period for different batches of CPs and of preparing monitoring reports separately for different host Parties (if the PoA is hosted by multiple host Parties).
51. When compared with the CDM regulations, the Article 6.4 regulations do not require the publication of the monitoring report prior to submitting the request for issuance. Consequently, the opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the monitoring report is replaced by the processes of continuous engagement of stakeholders both at the global level and local level. Also, in contrast to CDM requirements, the monitoring reports under Article 6.4 shall contain only monitoring results of the CPs that apply the same version of the applied methodologies, standardized baselines and other methodological regulatory documents (i.e. monitoring results of the CPs that apply different methodological requirements as a result of a revision of the PoA-DD shall be separated into different monitoring reports).

3.9. Issuance of Article 6.4 emission reductions

52. Steps under the issuance process are applicable only to the PoA level and include the submission of a request for issuance by a DOE, and the processing of the request for issuance by the secretariat and the processing of the request for review, if applicable.
53. The steps and requirements are the same as those of the project regulations, except for the necessity to obtain a new approval by the host Party through the post-registration change process prior to proceeding with the request for the issuance, if the amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals requested for issuance and the cumulative annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals issued for the PoA exceeds the maximum annual amount approved by the host Party. Such check

is also conducted by the secretariat automatically upon submission of the request for issuance.

54. The main differences from the CDM regulations relate to the timeframe (deadlines) for DOEs and activity participants to submit revised documentation when issues of an editorial and substantive nature are identified during the completeness check or the substantive check, and the new requirement that the amount of A6.4ERs requested for issuance complies with the requirement relating to the maximum annual amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals approved by the host Party.

3.10. Renewal of programme of activities and component projects

55. Processes for renewing the PoA period and renewing the crediting period of a CP have separate requirements.

3.10.1. Renewal of the programme of activities period

56. For the renewal of the PoA period, the steps include the update of the PoA-DD by the activity participants, the validation of the updated PoA-DD by a DOE, the submission of the request for renewal by the DOE, and the processing of the request for renewal by the secretariat and the Supervisory Body.
57. The steps and requirements are the same as those of the project regulations and the CDM regulations, except for the timeframe for renewal: under the Article 6.4 mechanism, the PoA period is to be renewed every five years (every 15 years for a PoA involving removals) for a maximum of three times, that is, a maximum of 20 years in total (a maximum of 60 years in total for a PoA involving removals) in line with the provisions on the crediting period renewals contained in the RMPs.

3.10.2. Renewal of the crediting period of component projects

58. For the renewal of the crediting period of CPs, the steps include the update of the CP-DD by the activity participants, the validation of the updated CP-DD by a DOE and the notification of renewal of the crediting period of the CP by the DOE.
59. The steps and requirements are the same as the process for including a CP in a registered PoA, including the assessment by the secretariat on a sample basis and the review of renewal following mutatis mutandis the process of review of erroneous inclusion, which are the same as under the CDM.

3.11. Voluntary exclusion of component projects from a registered programme of activities

60. The process for voluntary exclusion of CPs includes the submission of a request for exclusion to the secretariat, the processing and finalization of the request for exclusion by the secretariat.
61. The steps and requirements are the same as those under the CDM.

3.12. Withdrawal of approval of a programme of activities or authorization of activity participants

62. The process for withdrawal of approval of the PoA by the host Party and for withdrawal of authorization of an activity participant by the host or other participating Party is applicable

only to the PoA level, and the process and steps are the same as those of the project regulations.

4. Impacts

63. The AS-PoA, the VVS-PoA and the ACP-PoA will form the regulatory basis for the operationalization of the Article 6.4 mechanism for PoAs.

5. Subsequent work and timelines

64. The secretariat will continue working on these draft documents following guidance provided by the Supervisory Body at this meeting and taking into account inputs to be received from stakeholders for the Supervisory Body to consider these documents at its thirteenth meeting.
65. The secretariat will subsequently develop a glossary of terms containing common and key terms used in these documents for the ease of use of these documents.

6. Recommendations to the Supervisory Body

66. The Supervisory Body may wish to consider the draft regulatory documents, launch a call for public input on the draft ACP-PoA, AS-PoA and VVS- PoA and provide further guidance to the secretariat on the development of revised draft versions of these documents.
67. Key issues for further guidance by the Supervisory Body can be summarized but are not limited to the following requirements:
- (a) Host Party approval and authorization of activity participants to be provided for the registration of the PoA and specific types of post-registration changes to the PoA and not for individual CPs;
 - (b) Mandatory notification of prior consideration of the PoA framework and proposed options for setting the start date of the PoA;
 - (c) The indicative maximum annual amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or net GHG removals per host Party expected to be achieved by CPs that may be included in the PoA during its lifetime as an A6.4 PoA, as well as any post-registration changes relevant to exceeding the established maximum amount are to be approved by host Party;
 - (d) Global stakeholder consultation to be conducted at PoA level, whereas local stakeholder consultation and environmental, social and sustainable development impacts assessments are to be undertaken at CP level;
 - (e) Having enforced liability of the DOE for erroneous inclusion of CPs and enhanced secretariat checks on inclusion of CPs and issuance;
 - (f) Any change of the applied methodology, methodological tool or other methodology regulatory document after the expiration of the validity of the previous version of these methodological documents requiring the activity participants to undertake post-registration changes to the PoA if they wish to include any new CPs;
 - (g) Proposed fees.

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Document information

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