

A6.4-SBM021-AA-A05

Concept note

Considerations for repurposing the
voluntary cancellation platform

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

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1. Procedural background

1. The Supervisory Body of the Article 6.4 mechanism, at its thirteenth meeting, took note of the concept note “Repurposing the clean development mechanism voluntary cancellation platform to serve the Article 6.4 mechanism”¹ and agreed to revisit this matter at a future meeting, taking into account the work undertaken related to the Article 6.4 mechanism registry.²
2. At its eighteenth meeting, the Supervisory Body further considered the topic on repurposing the United Nations platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions (hereinafter referred to as the platform) to serve the Article 6.4 mechanism and agreed to revisit it at its twentieth meeting.
3. At its twentieth meeting, the Supervisory Body, considered the concept note “Voluntary cancellation platform”³ and expressed views on the potential repurposing. The Supervisory Body requested the secretariat to provide an updated concept note reflecting the guidance received and to expand on the current presentation at its next meeting, with a view to reaching an agreed outcome by its twenty-second meeting.⁴

2. Purpose

4. The purpose of this concept note is to provide additional information to the Supervisory Body in response to its request. It builds on the concept note on the platform presented at the twentieth meeting of the Supervisory Body (SBM 020) and incorporates the guidance received. Specifically, it sets out how the platform could be repurposed to enable the request for voluntary cancellation of Article 6.4 emission reductions (A6.4ERs) in the mechanism registry.
5. In light of the complexity and costs associated with repurposing the platform, the secretariat proposes limiting the use of this platform to enable the voluntary cancellation of mitigation contribution units (MCUs) and certified emission reductions (CERs), and not for authorized Article 6.4 emission reductions (AERs).
6. This concept note also provides recommendations for repurposing the platform to serve the Article 6.4 mechanism following the winding down of the clean development mechanism (CDM) on 31 December 2026. While the relevant decision taken at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 20) (hereinafter referred to as the CMP decision) does not expressly refer to the platform, it provides that the cancellation of CERs and any other transactions in the CDM registry shall be discontinued after 31 December 2026, which will have an impact on the platform.⁵

¹ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/a64-sbm013-aa-a15.pdf>.

² Meeting report of the Supervisory Body at its thirteenth meeting (SBM 013), paragraph 22: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A6.4-SBM013.pdf>.

³ Concept note on the platform presented at SBM 020: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A6.4-SBM020-AA-A08.pdf>.

⁴ SBM 020 meeting report, paragraph 31: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A6.4-SBM020.pdf>.

⁵ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cmp20_5_CDM_AUV.pdf.

3. Key issues and proposed solution

3.1. The platform

7. Launched in September 2015, the platform⁶ is an online e-commerce service that enables project participants to offer CERs for voluntary cancellation to the wider public. It has facilitated significant voluntary climate action, with nearly 16 million CERs cancelled across a broad and global user base and participation from almost 300 projects.⁷
8. Under the CDM, the platform provides a free, globally accessible service for both providers and purchasers, enabling direct transactions, flexible pricing, and immediate issuance of cancellation certificates. It is available in English, French, and Spanish, and includes user-friendly features such as emissions calculators and integration with external platforms, facilitating broad participation across sectors.⁸

3.2. Repurposing the platform

9. Repurposing the platform for the Article 6.4 mechanism will require software upgrades to improve functionality, security and scalability and to enable the offering of different types of emission reductions. Moreover, PayPal will need to be migrated to a new payment module to ensure stable transactions.

4. Impacts and key considerations

10. Repurposing the platform will entail investments for upgrades to meet security parameters and for development to meet the Article 6.4 mechanism's requirements to handle two different types of units for cancellation, namely MCUs and CERs for the second commitment period (CP2 CERs).
11. An initial technical assessment indicates that although parts of the platform's architecture require modernization, its existing codebase, shared infrastructure with the CDM registry, and proven operational reliability make repurposing more cost-efficient than a full rebuild.
12. Repurposing a familiar system may encourage existing vendors to continue using the platform under the Article 6.4 mechanism, leveraging a customer base accumulated through more than a decade of operation. The enhanced cancellation features and safeguards offered under the new mechanism could appeal new participants and broaden the user base by attracting additional vendors and purchasers.
13. These considerations indicate that repurposing the platform with a vendor already familiar with United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes, infrastructure, and compliance requirements represents a pragmatic and resource-efficient option.

⁶ The platform can be accessed at: <https://offset.climateneutralnow.org>.

⁷ As at December 2025.

⁸ Further details on the platform (section 3.1) and user benefits (section 3.2) are available here: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A6.4-SBM020-AA-A08.pdf>.

14. Repurposing the platform for voluntary cancellation under Article 6.4 will address the requirement as per decision 3/CMA.3 to enable users to request voluntary cancellation of units in the mechanism registry.⁹ Repurposing the platform would provide a user-friendly option to fulfil this requirement.

5. Subsequent work and timelines

15. The first phase of the mechanism registry development completed, and the interim mechanism registry is available and operational. It is to be noted that a minimum viable product for the full-fledged registry is also available as a demonstration system and allows access to users to try out the system with minimal list of features.
16. In line with the CMP 20 decision, the CDM registry, together with the voluntary cancellation platform, will be closed for transactions by the end of 2026. Any decision on whether to repurpose the existing platform for use under the Article 6.4 mechanism should therefore be taken before at the earliest to enable a smooth transition.
17. For organizational purposes, and as agreed at SBM 020, a final decision should be taken no later than SBM 022 in July 2026. This would allow the secretariat to either initiate the necessary upgrades and/or adjustments with the vendor in a timely manner, should the Supervisory Body endorse the repurposing of the platform, or to comply with its contractual obligation if the repurposing is not endorsed.

6. Budget and costs for development and maintenance of the platform

18. Initial cost estimates for repurposing the platform cover both development and annual maintenance. Following the meeting of the Supervisory Body at SBM 20, and after consulting with the vendor based on the inputs received, the revised one-off development costs are estimated at USD 265,000, including software upgrades and integration with the Article 6.4 mechanism registry, while annual maintenance costs are estimated at approximately USD 120,000.

7. Responses to Supervisory Body questions raised at its twentieth meeting

19. At its twentieth meeting, the Supervisory Body raised several questions seeking clarification on technical, operational and cost-related aspects of the platform. This section provides answers to critical questions or questions that remained open.

7.1. Technical feasibility and vendor capability

20. *Can the current provider realistically implement all required changes for Article 6.4 functionality?*

Having re-assessed the questions raised at SBM 020 and following consultations with the vendor, the functionality of a repurposed platform should be limited to its original scope of voluntary cancellation of listed credits, in this case MCUs and CERs.

⁹ See paragraph 61, Annex, 3/CMA.3: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10a01E.pdf.

Providing the option to perform voluntary cancellation using the platform will address the requirement to enable to request voluntary cancellation of MCUs and CERs in the mechanism registry. Cancelled credits, MCUs as well as CP2 CERs for other purposes, would be placed in the account listed under paragraph 20(j) of the registry procedure.¹⁰

21. *Will the upgraded system be able to handle multiple Article 6.4 unit types?*

The repurposed platform would support two different unit types, MCUs and CP2 CERs for voluntary cancellation for other purposes. Given the complexity and cost of repurposing, the secretariat proposes to limit the platform to voluntary cancellation of MCUs and CERs, excluding AERs.

22. *Are there possibilities to explore partnerships?*

Yes, strategic partnerships with relevant public and private sector entities could be explored with the support of the relevant secretariat teams to possibly incorporate offset options for online purchases on different vending websites.

The existing partnership with a developer of an emissions calculator that is integrated into the current platform could be continued and enhanced to offer updated emissions calculators. Moreover, the secretariat can further explore partnerships similar to the existing one for voluntary cancellation of CERs via global carbon market exchange platforms.¹¹

7.2. Integrity, safeguards, and timing rules

23. *How will the repurposed platform handle the different cancellation timing rules, especially for MCUs?*

The upgraded system, along with process checks by the registry admin would allow for the implementation of rules-based logic that reflects the cancellation timing provisions. This could include, for example, the de-listing of offers on the platform after a certain deadline.

24. *How will the secretariat ensure strong security against attacks like the recent fake email blocking incident?*

The system upgrade will incorporate enhanced cybersecurity measures, including strengthened intrusion-detection systems, routine penetration testing, and updated server-level protections to prevent spoofing, phishing or other attack vectors that could replicate past incidents.

The current version of nopCommerce, an open-source eCommerce platform (version 4.2), leaves the platform exposed to high-severity flaws like CVE-2025-11699, which could allow hackers to bypass logins and take full control of the website's administration panel. Furthermore, vulnerabilities such as CVE-2022-33077 bring the risk of data privacy breaches if not upgraded.

¹⁰ See: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/A6.4-PROC-REGS-001.pdf>.

¹¹ See: <https://unfccc.int/news/unfccc-and-ctx-collaborate-on-global-climate-neutrality-initiative>.

7.3. Demand considerations and implications for certified emission reductions

25. *Will there be meaningful demand for the voluntary cancellation of A6.4ERs in 2027 and beyond? The current environment is very different from when the platform was created and there are currently very few projects in the pipeline and limited supply.*

Preliminary analysis suggests that while the precise level of voluntary cancellation of A6.4ERs, specifically for the proposed MCUs as well as for CP2 CERs, cannot yet be reliably projected, early signals indicate potential demand from entities seeking United Nations-verified mitigation outcomes with strong transparency and integrity assurances, positioning this repurposed platform to serve a distinct role within the voluntary market. Continuing existing partnerships and establishing new ones as stated above could provide an additional channel for voluntary cancellation as the Article 6.4 projects request more issuances over time.

26. *If no decision is taken, what happens to the platform at year end under the CMP 20 decision?*

If no decision is taken on this matter, then at the start of 2027, the platform will cease CER-related transactions entirely in accordance with the CMP 20 decision,¹² and no Article 6.4-related voluntary cancellation functionality will be available. The platform will have to be decommissioned, and necessary steps will need to be taken prior to 31 December 2026.

27. *Can eligible (Glasgow-compatible) CERs migrate to the Article 6.4 mechanism registry and continue to be sold?*

Yes, eligible Glasgow-compatible CERs may be migrated into the Article 6.4 mechanism registry. Once transferred, the platform will be able to support the listing and sale of those migrated units in alignment with mechanism registry rules.

7.4. Operational considerations, costs, timelines, and risk management

28. *Why prioritize this platform when private sector platforms already exist?*

Prioritizing a UNFCCC-operated voluntary cancellation platform ensures neutrality and alignment with Article 6.4 rules. These features complement, rather than duplicate, private sector platforms, which may not uniformly provide such safeguards. One primary difference is that the UNFCCC does not charge any commission on any transactions, and the platform directly benefits the project participants.

Prioritizing the existing platform would also provide a user-friendly option to fulfil the requirement of decision 3/CMA.3 to enable to request voluntary cancellation in the mechanism registry.¹³

29. *What will remain on the platform after CERs disappear at the end of 2026? How to communicate to users/public when A6.4ERs will most likely only be offered with a certain delay on the platform as issuances will only really start now and projects cannot be forced to offer on the platform?*

¹² See: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cmp20_5_CDM_AUV.pdf.

¹³ See paragraph 61, Annex, 3/CMA.3: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10a01E.pdf.

Following the discontinuation of transactions involving CERs in the CDM registry at the end of 2026 under the CMP 20 decision, the platform would continue operating solely for MCUs and CP2 CERs (Glasgow eligible credits). Existing vendors could seamlessly continue to use the platform as a means to sell units without having to go through additional processes.

To ensure clarity for users and the wider public, the secretariat could accompany this transition with clear communication and targeted outreach to ensure stakeholders understand the implications of the changes and can plan accordingly.

30. *Will new payment systems (e.g. PayPal upgrades) introduce additional operational expenses?*

Migration to the updated PayPal payment module and any future payment system enhancements does introduce some additional operational costs, including licensing fees, security compliance requirements, and maintenance of third-party integrations, which would need to be factored into the platform's annual service budget.

8. Recommendation to the Supervisory Body

31. The secretariat recommends that the Supervisory Body take note of the information contained in this document, provide guidance on the way forward and reach an agreed outcome no later than its twenty-second meeting.

Document information

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