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# Good Practices of Public Participation in Climate Policy Making

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ACE Regional Dialogue for Europe and Central Asia, 29 July 2020

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# Context setting

- **Civil society actors need to be fully engaged in developing and defining climate change policies at all levels.**
- **Public participation needs to go beyond the mere attendance and presence of civil society at workshops, and must ensure substantial inclusion of participation of the most vulnerable groups.**
- **In the same way, just transition must be underpinned by inclusive and participatory processes that enable communities to articulate the risks they face and to shape positive futures that are supported by comprehensive policy frameworks.**

# A Human Rights-Based Approach to Public Participation

A human rights-based approach to public participation can ensure inclusive, transparent and binding participatory processes, which can lead to solutions that address the main concerns and challenges of those affected by climate change and that have the potential for successful implementation.

- Environmental governance
  - Paris Agreement
  - Decision 1/CP.21
  - Other workstreams under the UNFCCC
  - Rio Declaration
- Human rights law
  - Aarhus Convention

# Good Practices

## Stakeholder Roundtables for the National Climate Agreement (the Netherlands)

- Early invitation, information and transparency
- Flexible reaction to participants' evaluation
- Adequate formats for cooperation, exchange & decision-making
- Capacity-building

## Workshop on the Participatory Process of Just Transition Planning (Estonia)

- State and non-state actors involved in the planning
- Results available after the workshop
- Transparency and capacity building
- Right timing

# Reflections on the Doha Work Programme

- **Full potential of ACE has not been unlocked yet...**
- **How ACE can strengthen public participation at the national level:**
  - **Mainstream ACE elements across other UNFCCC workplans and subsidiary bodies**
  - **Shorter action plan**
  - **Mandated events in line with UNFCCC process (e.g. NDCs)**
  - **Consistency in how Parties report on ACE**
  - **ACE Task Force**
  - **Increased support to ACE Focal Points**
  - **Finance available for ACE implementation**